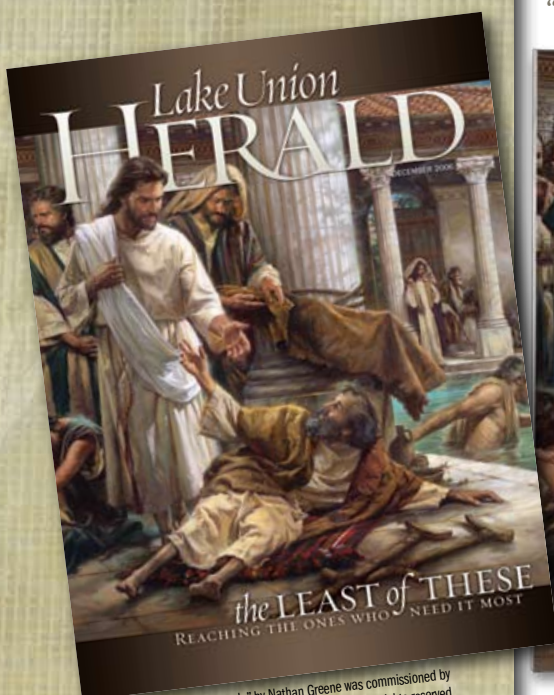


# Lake Union HERALD

DECEMBER 2006

*the* LEAST of THESE  
REACHING THE ONES WHO NEED IT MOST

"Telling the stories of what God is doing in the lives of His people"



"At the Pool of Bethesda" by Nathan Greene was commissioned by Loma Linda University. © Hart Classic Editions. All rights reserved.



18

in this issue...

The lonely, the hurting, the sick, and the disenfranchised were the special objects of Jesus' attention. Since throughout the Old Testament scriptures God calls us to join Him in loving and caring for them, we thought it would be good to remind ourselves just how dear they are to the heart of God.

May this season be better for them because of you.

*Gary Burns*  
Gary Burns, Editor



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Total paid and/or requested circulation . . . . .	150	150
Total free distribution . . . . .	0	0
Total distribution . . . . .	325	327
Copies not distributed . . . . .	200	200
Total . . . . .	675	669
Percent paid and/or requested circ. . . . .	32%	30%

The *Lake Union Herald* is available online.

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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY WALTER L. WRIGHT, LAKE UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

## “Unto One of the LEAST OF THESE...”

**T**he first time I saw Tommie he was lurching across the street toward the tent campaign I was conducting in a Midwestern city. It certainly was not unusual for the inebriated to frequent this type of public, open-air meeting. I had encountered that before. Sometimes they came in, usually finding a front row seat to generally make a nuisance of themselves. They laughed, cried, and talked during the proceedings, all at more than normal volume. The ushers, greeters, and deacons were briefed on how to relate to these situations.

But Tommie was different. After the meeting that night, I chatted with him a bit, and discovered he had been encountered earlier in the day. One of the sweet, loving elderly ladies in my church saw him lying in a doorway uptown. She had paused and asked him if he knew that Jesus loved him. He slurred out the response, “Jesus doesn’t care about me. Just look at me!” This dear saint assured him that Jesus does care, and then she invited him to the tent meeting.

Now I must confess that during my pastor/evangelist days, drunks were not my most sought after clientele. But Tommie was different. He sat throughout that first service. He seemed to listen intently, and only occasionally weaved in his seat as if to fall. He was treated with tenderness by the staff and invited to come to the church the next day for food and clothing.

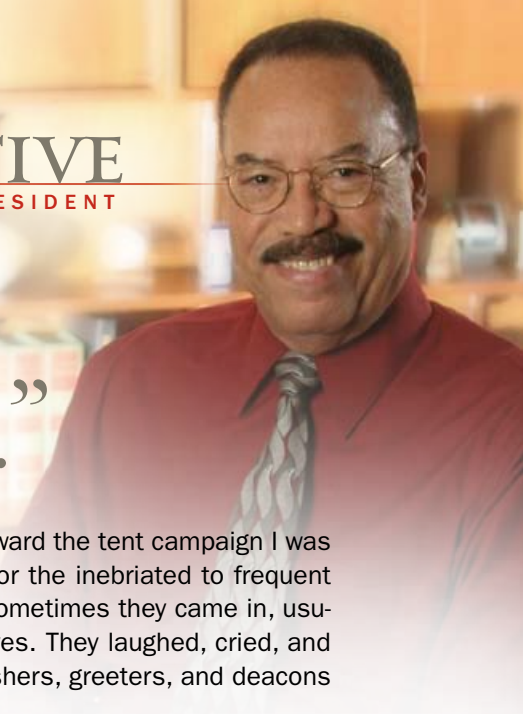
Tommie showed up at church bright and early the next morning, according to the Adventist Community Services Center director. He was fed and given a change of clothing, which he wore to the tent that second night. He didn’t miss a meeting after that. He was not always sober, but he was always on time.

As we neared the end of the five-week series, it was obvious that a change had taken place. Hair that had been matted and uncombed was now neat. By that time, he had a pretty complete wardrobe from the Center. He was clean and sober. The head elder in the church was a building contractor, and Tommie applied for a job and was hired. I had the extreme pleasure of baptizing him into the Remnant Church at the end of the summer.

I was transferred from that district and lost track of Tommie. Some years later, and two district transfers later, I had a phone call. It was from a lady who identified herself as Tommie’s sister. I had never met her, though I knew she had taken him in when he sobered up. She just wanted to tell me how much she appreciated the church taking the time and caring enough to rescue her brother from a seemingly hopeless spiral into alcoholism and homelessness. He was now doing fine.

Have you ever been guilty, as I was, to pre-judge a person and decide who is a likely candidate for discipleship? Our Christian commitment and duty demands that we present Jesus through our own loving-kindness and compassion.

What a wonderful surprise it will be one day as we stand on the Sea of Glass! “And the King shall answer and say unto them, ‘Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me’” (Matthew 25:40).



# Welcome NEW MEMBERS

**Indiana** When I (**Brittany Ward**) was in fifth grade, I took baptismal classes at the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist School. They only lasted for about half the year, but that was when I first thought about being baptized. In sixth grade, I switched from the Cicero School to Cross Street Christian School in Anderson. I also took baptismal studies there for about half a year, with two other members of my class. When I was in seventh grade, I started another baptismal class. That class really inspired me.



*Brittany Ward was baptized at Timber Ridge Camp by Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth director, with many friends and her family present.*

After school ended, my teacher still offered to have us come to her house on Tuesdays for a baptismal study with Peter Neri, Indiana Conference ministerial director. He had been teaching the classes during the school year. After our study at my teacher's house, we ate lunch and went swimming. I went to those studies as often as I could and really enjoyed them.

A certain study about the second coming got me thinking. Then one Sabbath, at the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church, the senior pastor, Ron Kelly, called for people who wanted to commit their lives to Jesus to come up front. I went forward, along with three other people in the church. That very day I decided to be baptized at Timber Ridge Camp, where one of my favorite pastors, Charlie Thompson (Indiana Conference youth director), could baptize me. I knew lots of my friends would be there.

I love Jesus so much. I want to spend eternity with Him, and I want everyone to know where I stand with Jesus. That's why I got baptized.

*Brittany Ward, Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church member*

**Lake Region** Seven new disciples of Jesus Christ were baptized into the family of God at the Bethel Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, last May. They were George Chivis, Austin Hawkins, Robert Hess, Carl Strickland, Debra Wilson, Mary Hairston, and Kina Barnes. Each surrendered to Jesus Christ through various means and different sets of circumstances, but all agreed this was the best decision of their life.



*Seven new disciples of Jesus Christ recently joined the Bethel Church family in Grand Rapids, Mich.*

**Robert Hess** was invited to a Bible Study hosted by a church member and Lucille Barnes, the church's Bible worker. The It Is Written satellite series, "Revelation Speaks Peace: Unlocking the Signs," was being shown in the church where he went for Bible studies. He began attending and thought he was simply going to learn about Revelation. He never missed a service, however, since the presentations were answering all his questions.

After making a decision about worshiping on the Sabbath, Robert notified his employer that he could no longer work on that day. He discovered one of the managers of his company is a Seventh-day Adventist. He arranged for Robert to not have Sabbath obligations, and also came to his baptism.

When he was baptized Robert commented, "I know this is what God would have me do."

**Debra Wilson** grew up in Chicago, Illinois, but moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan. There, friends began to invite her to their church. She kept putting them off because going to church on Saturday was strange to her, and it was also a work day.

When Debra finally began to attend, she discovered many new truths from the Bible, which ultimately led her to be baptized. Debra has the gift of hospitality, and her witness is so natural. Since she accepted Jesus into her life, she is so happy and has a new peace.

**Austin Hawkins** began to realize the Holy Spirit working in his life during high school. He was curious about Bible history and God's promise of a future life.

At Grand Valley State University, he met Jayne. They enjoyed many doctrinal discussions. Austin attended church with Jayne and took Bible Studies. As he came to understand how important the law of God is, he chose to become a Seventh-day Adventist and was soon baptized.

Today, he and Jayne are married. Austin says, "God is awesome!"

**Carl Strickland's** life had many ups and downs. He attended various churches as a young man. His lifestyle caused his marriage to finally end with divorce.

When his mother died, he became homeless, but his Adventist aunt gave him a chance to start over. He promised God he would come back and asked His forgiveness.

Soon, Carl began taking Bible lessons and keeping the Sabbath with a sincere desire to always please God. With his baptism came a new love for Christ and a new joy in obeying Him.

**George Chivis** is an astute Bible student who loves to sing. He is thankful to be back worshiping in church after being absent for three years. His new decision to be faithful to Jesus led to his baptism. Today, he is a blessing to the Bethel Church family.

**Kina Barnes** illustrates how the Holy Spirit comes into a person's life and makes it beautiful. Now, her desire is to know Jesus better. "I am studying my Sabbath school lesson each day," she says, "and I continually pray for understanding." This will be a blessing in her spiritual walk as she grows into the image of Jesus Christ, her Savior.

**Mary Hairston** noticed a co-worker who never worked on Saturday and asked why. She told Mary it was because of the Sabbath, and gave her some literature to study. She asked Mary to let her know if she understood it. Later, they talked about the Sabbath, and Mary was referred to the Bethel Church.

Meanwhile, the boss made Saturday work mandatory. Mary felt convicted she should not work on Sabbath and told another co-worker. This person also referred her to the Bethel Church, where she began studies with the Bible worker. The pastor wrote a letter asking Mary's boss not to schedule her on Saturday. It worked!

After completing Bible studies, Mary was baptized by William Lee, Bethel Church pastor. She said, "I love the kind and caring members of my new Bethel Church."

William Lee, Bethel Church pastor, and his new members, with Bruce Babenco, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent

**Michigan** **Krista Tait** wanted a deeper, more in-depth study of the Bible. While at summer camp, 14-year-old Krista filled out a card requesting Bible studies. After returning from camp, Krista was elated when Sandi Stewart, Metropolitan Church Bible worker, asked if she would like Bible studies.

By examining the life of Jesus and by completing the "Storicals of Prophecy" lessons, Krista began a more mean-

ingful, closer walk with her Lord. She especially enjoyed studying the Three Angels Messages and learning what it means to be prepared to meet Jesus when He returns. When the lessons asked if she desired baptism, she knew in her heart she was ready.

On June 3, Krista made her public declaration of her new life with

Jesus and was baptized. She said the Bible studies were a "defining factor" in her now having personal daily devotions. Krista is so excited about continuing to grow in her life with Christ. "I thought studying the Bible would be so boring, but it was great, and now I'm baptized. ... Now I know God so much more."

Fourteen-year-old **Marina Proksch** studied the Bible for a year prior to her June 3 baptism with her schoolmate, Krista. Marina first declined Sandi Stewart's invitation to study the Bible. Before asking Marina again, Sandi approached Marina's parents about studying with her, and they consented. When Marina said she would have to ask her parents as the reason she could not study with her, Sandi told Marina her parents had already given their approval.

Marina began to study the Book that would change her whole outlook on Jesus and being a Christian. After the first few lessons, Sandi sensed resistance and asked Marina what would convince her that God cared for her personally. Without hesitation, Marina said, "[If] I get an A on my biology test..." Marina was receiving Cs. Marina prayed with Sandi specifically about her grade. God, in His infinite love and mercy, enabled Marina not only to get an A on that one test, but also an A overall in the class for the school year.

Marina's doubts were gone, and she now craved more knowledge about the God who loves her and answers her prayers, even more than she asks for. Marina's face just lights up when she talks about her Jesus, and she looks forward to being a citizen of Heaven. Marina now reserves time daily for prayer and Bible study. She also realizes she has more patience and understanding with her younger brother, Gerhard. Her witness is working. Gerhard is now studying and preparing for baptism.

Joy Hyde, Metropolitan Church correspondent



*Krista Tait (left), Marina Proksch (middle), and Sandi Stewart, Metropolitan Church Bible worker (right), studied the Bible together before Krista's and Marina's decisions to be baptized.*

# Songs for Support

CONCERT BENEFITS LEBANESE REFUGEE

BY BONNIE MCLEAN

On the evening of September 2, the North Shore Seventh-day Adventist Church in Chicago, Illinois, hosted a benefit concert to aid the victims of the recent 34 Day War in Lebanon. During the evening, replete with songs of praise and worship, a number of local musicians, as well as members of the North Shore Church, lent their talents.

“The specific purpose of the [benefit concert] was to try to raise enough money to pay the tuition for [one] refugee child, a victim of the war, to attend BASS (Bou-chrieh Adventist Secondary School). This would benefit both the child and the school,” stated Glenn Russell, assistant professor of religion at Andrews University.

Glenn was himself an eyewitness to the hardships in Lebanon, having organized several student mission trips there, as well as including trips as part of the curriculum for his students. To send a child to BASS, the concert needed to accrue \$800–\$1,200. Glenn further noted, “Though there was not a large crowd present, a large spirit of generosity was manifested as \$1,500 was collected that night.”



Nestor Soriano envisioned a concert to help a refugee child from Lebanon.

Activities include Week of Prayer programs at the elementary, secondary, and university-level schools, as well as the surrounding community, in which all the students organize and participate in the programs.



Following a trip to Lebanon last May with his Introductions to Missions class, Nestor Soriano (third from right, back row) conceived the idea for a concert to help educate a refugee child, a victim of the recent 34 Day War in Lebanon.

people met the group had a real impact on his life, and he wanted to do something in return,” said Glenn.

Glenn further directed a message to the leadership of the Adventist Church in Lebanon as an extension of the team’s goodwill. He emphasized the students’ initiative in organizing and directing the concert, declaring, “They did this because of the friendships you have extended to them. It is a small gift of thanks from us to you folks who were so kind to the team.”

Kjell Aune, president of the Adventist Church in the Middle East, said, “There has been a huge wave of public concern over Lebanon, which is being manifested by prayers, gifts of money, messages of encouragement, and donations in kind.” He also acknowledged the heartfelt efforts of the university team with gratitude: “I’d like to publicly thank Nestor Soriano and his team for this tremendous gesture towards the people of Lebanon. I know that the Andrews University students and Pastor Russell make a huge impact whenever they visit Lebanon and get involved in practical ministry, sharing their gift of music, witness, and offering humble assistance as needed.”

Bonnie McLean is a student news writer for University Relations at Andrews University.



# Preaching by the Wayside

BY LEON EARL JR. WITH BRUCE BABIENCO

**M**y first trip to Africa was to Rwanda, in July 2005, with a group of lay speakers. Then, in June 2006, I went back to Africa, but this time to Kenya. Most of the donations for this adventure were received less than two months before I was scheduled to leave. My flight was paid for just two days before I left. It was a real test of faith.

My flight from Michigan to Nairobi took about 19 hours, and it was interesting because I met an Adventist nurse from Ohio in Brussels. She was on her way for a three-week project in Gambia. Because she was wearing a T-shirt from an Adventist organization in Alabama, I spoke to her. She said I was the answer to her prayers to meet another church member.

From Nairobi, I traveled to Kisii, the site for our meetings in the Nyamira District of Western Kenya. We checked in to the Damside Village Motel. I knew it would be different since they had to fire up a generator to get lights for our rooms. Living at the motel was a new experience for me. Most of the bathrooms did not even have a toilet seat.



After walking many miles, people sat and listened to the messages shared.

P.A. (public address) system had to be moved to another location for a later service. The 350 people who came were blessed by music from a small, local church choir. I used outlines provided by ShareHim, but had to cut out some illustrations because of time constraints and my desire to make the messages as simple as possible.



Leon Earl Jr. (right) preached on the main road in Metamywa, right in the middle of the business district.

People attending services at my location walked many miles. We held the meeting at 5:00 p.m. because they did not want to walk home in the dark. Some areas can be dangerous at night.

On the final Sabbath, 141 were baptized from my site, but the total for all nine sites was more than 1,500. These new members will become part of one of the eight exist-

ing churches which the local pastor shepherds.



Preaching through a translator, Leon Earl Jr. spoke to approximately 350 people.

For information about how you can participate in a ShareHim evangelistic initiative, visit their website: [www.sharehim.org](http://www.sharehim.org).

Leon Earl Jr. is a South Flint Church member, and Bruce Babienco is a *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent.

## Thou Shalt Honor...

ASSISTING AGING PARENTS

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY



It began with: “In sickness and in health....” It has been a promise, a commitment, and a way of life—a very personal part of couple relationships, as we care for one another in the marriage years.

Couples often believe the responsibility to care for each other is theirs alone. Older couples are generally reluctant to acknowledge that at some point one needs more care than the other can provide, or they may not be aware of it.

Many couples are capable of looking after one another, but as the years go by a time comes when changes must be addressed. Consider these ideas if you face these transitions for older couples in your life.

Remember to respect the relationships of older couples who understand each other’s needs and desires best, even though it may not seem apparent to you. Older parents can change, but they need to do it on their own terms and their own timetable. Even if you share a close relationship with your parents, they may not want you to know personal and financial details. They are entitled to as much privacy as possible.

Mark Edinberg, a gerontologist, believes that when adult children parent their parents, they experience subconscious feelings of sadness and frustration as they realize their parents are no longer the important figures of their childhood. This leads to a role reversal.

It’s important to focus on the present, assess the situation, and identify the parent’s current needs, from a true caregiver’s perspective rather than the adult child. The caregiving parent needs time to grieve as they confront their and their partner’s mortality, and also changes in their daily lives,

dreams unfinished, and trips not taken as they cling to their care-giving roles of their marital vows.

Older caregivers are often overwhelmed by their responsibilities, especially if their own physical stamina and psychological resilience have declined. Stress-related hormone levels tend to be significantly higher in older people who care for their spouses. Older caregivers are also at higher risk for depression, which may be manifest not as profound sadness, but unusual irritability or anxiety. Older spousal caregivers have a higher death rate than non-caregivers. So what is a concerned family member to do?

Recognize opportunities to step in, gently. Even when older couples refuse assistance, they may be more open to assistance when consistently approached in a respectful way.

Determine that frustration will not drive you away. Acknowledge your parent’s commitment and adaptability, and verbally recognize their accomplishments. Even when you don’t agree with some decisions, let the parent caregiver make decisions as long as they can, especially if decisions aren’t about serious health or safety hazards.

Look for little things you can do, such as making a favorite dish, rather than taking charge of the checkbook. Once parents realize their children are just trying to make their lives easier, it’s more comfortable for them to ask you to do more.

When it is time to intervene more directly, there are many supports. Contact your local Area Agency on Aging, or other community supports, books, and websites, including [www.thoushalthonor.org](http://www.thoushalthonor.org).

Susan Murray is an associate professor of family studies who teaches behavioral science and social work at Andrews University. She is a certified family life educator and a licensed marriage and family therapist.







*Going vegetarian could save the nation billions.*

## Green Is Better

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

*Food pathogens cause 5,200 deaths annually.*

Eating green is better and healthier. It is healthier for people, for animals, and for the environment. Eating a plant-based diet is associated with a longer life, less chronic disease, and less damage to the environment.

Vegetarians enjoy lower levels of blood cholesterol, lower blood pressure levels, less obesity, and less heart disease, hypertension, and cancer than those whose diet includes meat. Researchers at the Cleveland Clinic monitored patients with severe coronary artery disease who previously had angioplasty or bypass surgery. All those who ate a plant-based diet had no recurrence of coronary events over the next 12 years, and the coronary arteries of 70 percent of them became less clogged.

The risk of a fatal heart attack in non-vegetarian men is twice that of their vegetarian counterparts, while diabetes is twice as common in non-vegetarians. In addition, the risk of prostate cancer is 54 percent greater in non-vegetarian men than in vegetarians. A Finnish study observed that middle-aged men who ate the most fruits and vegetables had a 41 percent reduced risk of dying from heart disease than those who ate the least.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that food pathogens cause about 76 million illnesses, 325,000 hospitalizations, and 5,200 deaths annually in the U.S. Outbreaks of are most commonly linked

meats, poultry, seafood, and egg products. Ninety percent of all chickens leaving the food processing plant are contaminated with *Campylobacter* bacteria, while 2.3 million eggs are annually contaminated with *Salmonella*. Research shows that people who experience food poisoning are more than three times as likely to die in the following year.

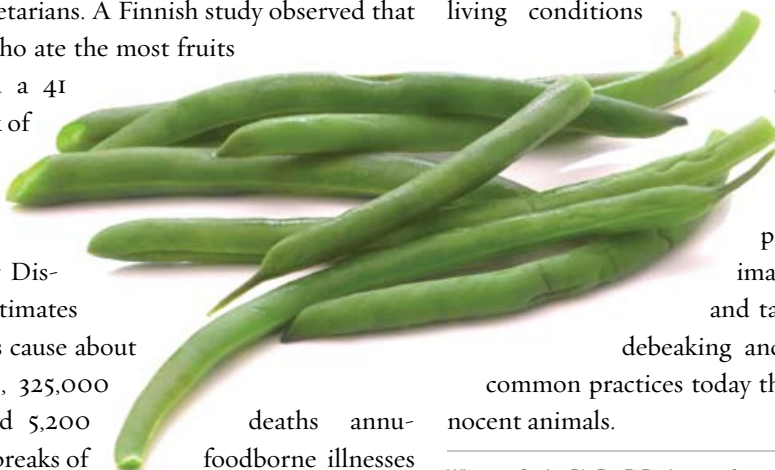
Disease related to a diet low in plant foods and rich in animal foods contributes to escalating health-care costs. One study estimated that going vegetarian could save the United States about \$60 billion annually.

It takes about 14 trillion gallons of water annually to water crops grown to feed livestock in the U.S. As much as 4,500 gallons of water are required just to produce a quarter-pound of raw beef. Just to irrigate hay and alfalfa, it takes more water than that required for all vegetables, berries, and fruit orchards combined.

The ethics of factory farming has been seriously called into question. Many animals are housed in very cramped living conditions

where they may have to sit in their own excrement and never see the outdoors.

Severe crowding in industrial factory farms facilitates the spread of pathogens from animal to animal. In addition, the dehorning and tail docking of cattle and the debeaking and detoeing of chickens are common practices today that cause a lot of pain to innocent animals.



deaths annually from foodborne illnesses to meat and luncheon

Winston Craig, Ph.D., R.D., is a professor of nutrition at Andrews University.



# EXTREME GRACE

## Jesus Carries a Cardboard Sign

BY DICK DUERKSEN

“Will Work 4 Food.”

“Please help me. I’m hungry. God bless you!”

“Need money for beer.”

The signs are as varied as the people who hold them. Usually scrawled on cardboard—often with at least one word misspelled to catch attention—they always plead for “Help!”

Occasionally, a lengthy message calls from the outstretched hands of a grizzled old man describing the loss of his job or a family awaiting dinner, needs that can only be read by drivers whose mad dash has been slowed by a stop light.

Four veterans work an intersection near our home, trading corners on the hour and adjusting signs to match the schedules of drivers. Morning messages for dads, softer afternoon appeals for moms and kids. Always, their bikes lay like forgotten toys beneath the old cypress tree. One wears a too-good Red Sox cap. Backwards. Rumor is they’re journalists researching a story about American charity.

One driver carries extra granola bars, handing them off like a waiter delivering an order of escargot. But Nature Valley doesn’t make enough granola bars to feed them all.

“What would Jesus do?”

“Please help me get drunk.”

Father Frank, a recovering alcoholic, wanders Honolulu corners calling the hungry home. Those who respond receive a warm meal of bread, beans, potatoes, and whatever

else Frank has been able to scrounge. An army of Dumpster Divers helps him transform the day’s trash into delicacies for the starving. Dinner is always at least four courses disguised by gravy.

A guitar-playing teen croons homemade harmonies beside a collection of coins in a broken shoebox. Nearby, an old woman draws stick-figure masterpieces “For Sale,”

and a young mother cuddles her baby beneath a store window filled with expensive chocolates. Her cardboard sign reads, “Her name is Maria and she’s hungry. Thank you.”

Genocide is happening in Darfur. Three thousand live in the woods near Orlando. Old men sleep on steaming sewer grates in Baltimore. People with their souls hanging out push shopping carts filled with trash in the U.S. capital. Three hundred million children go to sleep hungry each night. Every 3.6 seconds someone dies of hunger.

The devil is our enemy, and he is strong!

“Got any change?”

Here is today’s Extreme Grace assignment:

1. Help prepare dinner at a homeless shelter next Thursday.
2. Whenever you buy an apple or a candy bar, buy an extra for someone with a sign.
3. Read Matthew 25:31–46 every morning. Twice. It’s good sheep food.



Dick Duerksen is the “storyteller” for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact Dick at [dduerksen@maranatha.org](mailto:dduerksen@maranatha.org).

“The father has loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are his children” (1 John 3:1 NCV).

# ADVENTISM



## How God Saves People

BY JERRY D. THOMAS

**D**o you know what it means to be adopted? My family had a dog named Jazz that adopted a kitten named Tiger. When we brought little Tiger home from the animal shelter, Jazz didn't like her. Jazz barked once and then walked away.

Little Tiger didn't like to be alone, so when we weren't holding her, she would cry. When Jazz heard her meowing, she came to see what the fuss was all about.

Tiger liked Jazz, and she would try to follow the dog everywhere it went. At first, Jazz didn't care what Tiger did. She would run off barking or playing and leave the kitten behind. But every time Jazz lay down to rest, Tiger was there, purring and snuggling in beside her.

Before long, Jazz was treating Tiger like her own puppy. They would play together, eat together, and sleep in the same spot. Jazz adopted the kitten into her family—even though kittens didn't really belong there—and they were friends for years.

God does the same thing for us when He offers to give us salvation. Salvation is a big word that means “being saved” or “being rescued.” Just as you can rescue people from drowning by pulling them out of the water, God rescues us from sin by adopting us into His family.

All of us are sinners. We are born to be enemies of God. But God loves us anyway. The Bible says, “God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8 NCV).

Even while we were God's enemies and didn't belong in His family, God wanted us there. He adopts us into His family when we say, “I love Jesus, and I believe He died to rescue me from sin.” Then we ask God to forgive us for the things we've done that are bad or mean, and we ask Him to change us so we'll always be like Jesus.

That makes us part of God's family! And when we're part of God's family, we can plan on going to Heaven and living with Him forever.

God has a special plan to help us live like Jesus did. He sent the Holy Spirit to teach us. The Holy Spirit speaks in our hearts, helping us learn about Jesus and helping us remember to live like Jesus did, always being kind to others and always trusting in God.

### Teaching Tips

1. Share a story you have about unusual animal friends or ask the children for stories they may know. Remind them how God accepts us into His family.
2. Ask “Can you remember a time when you were in danger and someone rescued you?” or share a rescue story of your own. Then review with the children what salvation or being saved means.
3. Show the children how to create a family tree. Then tell them to make the tree with many branches because they can place on it anyone they'd like to have in their family. Remind them to include relatives, friends, church members, and God.

### Summary

Even when we were His enemies, God loved us and sent Jesus to save us. When we accept Jesus, He adopts us into His family.

Jerry D. Thomas is the Southwestern Union Conference communication director.

The above chapter is taken from the book *What We Believe* (2006) by Jerry D. Thomas, recently published by Pacific Press. To obtain a copy of the book, visit your local Adventist Book Center, or go online to [www.AdventistBook-Center.com](http://www.AdventistBook-Center.com).



# Appointment by the Side of the Road

BY JOE ARNER

**O**n my way home from an evangelism planning meeting, I noticed a van alongside the road. A lady was outside and obviously wasn't sure what to do. It was late, but I knew I must stop to help.

I proceeded about two miles down the road to the next vehicle turnaround, and was soon headed back where the car was parked. When I finally arrived, it soon became obvious that my encounter was not an accident. A mother in her early sixties, Jeane,\* and her twenty-year-old daughter, Jenny,\* had been to a funeral and were trying to make it back home when a tire went flat.

As I began changing the tire, I said, "I'm a pastor." I explained that we just had a planning session for evangelistic outreach in Mattoon.

"Oh," said Jeane, "Which church do you pastor?"

I responded, "Four to be exact—Mattoon, Stewardson, Noble, and Fairfield.

"I'm a Seventh-day Adventist pastor," I said, as I loosened the lug nuts on the wheel.

Jeane was quiet for a moment, and then she said, "I used to be a Seventh-day Adventist." Hearing her response, I knew for sure God had brought us together.

As Jeane continued her story, Jenny listened intently. "That was 25 years ago," she added. I asked her what had happened.

Jeane said, "I was baptized after coming to some meetings. I went to church for many years, faithfully. I went door to door and told people about Jesus and the Sabbath. I was the Adult Sabbath school teacher, among other things."

"What happened?" I asked again. Jeane told me how a "new" pastor had come to the church and decided he was going to "clean house." She said people

were removed from the church books rather than allowed to grow in grace and experience the redemptive power that comes through Jesus Christ. My heart broke as I listened to her broken heart.

The spare tire was on, and the flat tire had been placed in the trunk with the jack. "It's not by accident that we are here together on the side of this highway," I said. "That's just the way my God is," I told her. "God loves you and your family, and somehow He wants you to know that again," I continued.

As I put my arm around her, Jeane began to tremble from the brokenness inside. I asked her to come back to the church and trust God for the rest. We had already swapped contact information, so I asked if we could have prayer. She agreed.

Later that evening, I thought about Illinois Conference's plan to "Touch Every 1 for Jesus,"\*\* and it occurred to me that there may have been just such a plan years ago that led Jeane into the Seventh-day Adventist family of God. What happened after that, I really don't know. But I know this: Once you have touched someone for Jesus, it's not over. You must love them! (See 1 John 4:11, 12)

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Joe Arner is pastor of the Noble District in Illinois.

\*Names in this story have been changed.

\*\*Visit [www.touchevery1forjesus.org](http://www.touchevery1forjesus.org) for more information about this initiative.

*It was very late, but Joe Arner took a few minutes on his long ride home to help two women with a flat tire. He soon discovered it wasn't a chance meeting.*



## UN GRAN EJÉRCITO DE JÓVENES

POR CARMELO MERCADO

*“Con un ejército de obreros como el que nuestros jóvenes, debidamente adiestrados, podrían proveer, ¡cuán pronto se proclamaría a todo el mundo el mensaje de un Salvador crucificado, resucitado y próximo a venir!” (OBREROS EVANGÉLICOS, p. 67)*

**E**l otoño pasado tuve el privilegio de asistir a un gran retiro de Conquistadores de toda la Unión del Lago, que se llevó a cabo en Berrien Springs, Michigan. Más de 3.000 jóvenes se reunieron, tanto para recibir sus honores y mostrar sus habilidades, como también para ser animados en el camino del Señor. La Unión auspicia este retiro de Conquistadores cada cinco años y los jóvenes han venido siempre con mucho entusiasmo y energía.

El sábado de mañana vi un maravilloso ejemplo de la dedicación de los Conquistadores cuando se nos presentó a aquellos que habían logrado obtener el certificado de Guía Mayor. El programa de Guía Mayor tiene el propósito de fomentar el liderazgo y desarrollar líderes entre nuestros jóvenes para servir a la iglesia y a la comunidad. Al ver que más de cien jóvenes subían a la plataforma para ser investidos sentí un verdadero gozo al saber del compromiso de estos jóvenes para ser líderes para Cristo.



Los Conquistadores son investidos como Guías Mayores.

La Iglesia Adventista tuvo su comienzo con un grupo juvenil. Elena White comenzó su ministerio cuando tenía 17 años. Su esposo, James White, bautizó a más de mil personas cuando tenía sólo 21 años. J.N. Andrews, nuestro primer misionero adventista, empezó a guardar el sábado cuando tenía 17 años. Estos “jóvenes” tuvieron tal dedicación y pasión por la obra de Dios que su iglesia llegó a ser una de las iglesias más dinámicas del mundo.

En la actualidad Dios todavía espera que los jóvenes de la iglesia dediquen todas sus energías para hacer avanzar la obra y apresurar su venida. Una manera de cómo nuestros jóvenes pueden participar es al asistir al Primer Congreso

Mundial Juvenil de Oración que se llevará a cabo en Dallas, Texas, del 28 de febrero al 4 de marzo del año 2007. Se espera que esta nueva y singular experiencia congregará a más de 60.000 participantes para llevar a cabo una jornada de cinco días de oración. Bajo el lema “Sólo pídelo”, se anticipa que el resultado de este congreso sea el comienzo de un reavivamiento

que lleve a los participantes a una mayor consagración y que resultará en la conversión de muchas personas.

Los líderes de la Unión del Lago esperan que por lo menos mil jóvenes de nuestra Unión asistan a este evento especial. Recomiendo a los jóvenes que visiten el sitio web [www.justclaimit.org](http://www.justclaimit.org) para obtener más información y que luego hablen con los dirigentes de sus iglesias para hacer los arreglos necesarios. Este plan significará sacrificio y dedicación de parte de cada joven, pero en verdad valdrá la pena hacer el esfuerzo. Valdrá la pena porque sin duda resultará en una iglesia animada y fortalecida.

Mi oración es que nuestros jóvenes tomen la bandera del liderazgo para dar un fuerte impulso a la predicación del evangelio.

Carmelo es el vicepresidente general de la Unión del Lago.



# Reaching Through Cell Doors

SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH PRISONERS

BY JON ANDERSON

**I**n the Michigan Conference and across North America, Seventh-day Adventists work hard to find people who want to study the Bible. In Grand Haven, Michigan, Wanda Hanson is struggling with the opposite problem. “I’m coordinating about 280 Bible studies right now,” Wanda says. “I have a team of 20 people trying to keep up with these interests. I have more requests for Bible studies coming in all the time, and I don’t have the resources to respond to them.”

How has Wanda managed to find so many people to lead to the Lord? By reaching out to a group of people who know they need something better: men and women serving prison sentences in the Deep South.

“I got involved with the New Discovery Bible School when I was a member of the Adventist church in Gentry, Arkansas,” Wanda remembers. New Discovery, headquartered in Keene, Texas, has developed a series of Bible lessons specifically for prison ministry. When prisoners request Bible lessons, New Discovery instructors like Wanda send them the first three lessons, along with postage-paid return envelopes and a note of encouragement. The prisoner-students complete the lessons—mostly fill-in-the-blank Bible references—and mail them back.

Wanda and her fellow instructors correct the lessons; New Discovery supplies the answer keys, so anyone with



*Instructor Bryan Hall reviews a recently-received Bible lesson from a prisoner.*

basic Bible knowledge can participate. The instructor finishes by writing another note of encouragement and returns the corrected lessons to the student, along with three new lessons. To protect their identities, instructors use pen names, and the lessons are addressed to a post office box.

“After five years, I moved to Grand Haven, Michigan. I was working with about 30 students, so I established my own branch of the Bible school,” Wanda says. She continued to receive new requests for studies; existing students recommended the lessons to other prisoners and to family members on the outside. Soon Wanda couldn’t keep up with the demand, so she turned to her new church family for help. Today, 20 members of the Grand Haven Church serve as Bible instructors.

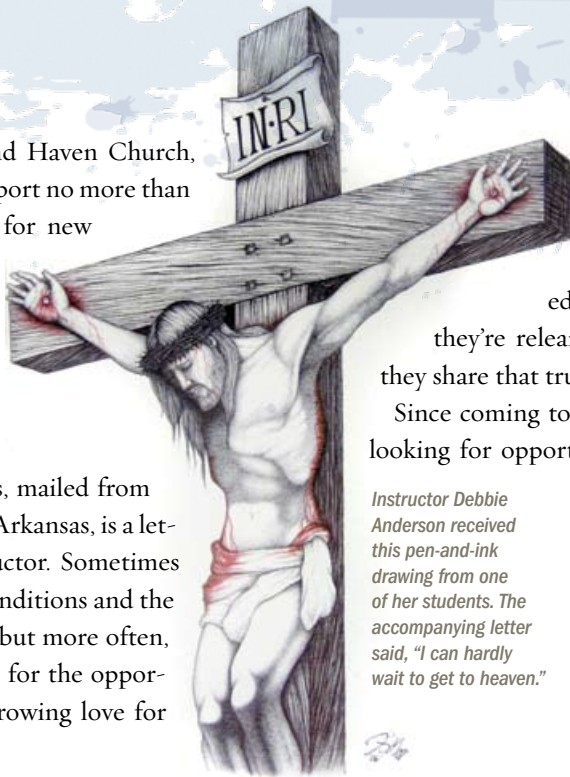
Based on the size of the Grand Haven Church, Wanda estimated that it could support no more than 300 studies. When the requests for new studies approached that threshold, Wanda presented the Bible school program to the nearby Muskegon church. Today, Muskegon has seven instructors working with more than 100 students.

In almost every batch of lessons, mailed from prisoners in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas, is a letter from the student to the instructor. Sometimes these notes talk about the harsh conditions and the isolation from family and friends; but more often, they reveal the student's gratitude for the opportunity to study the Bible and a growing love for and dependence upon God.

The students' letters also contain requests for prayer—for strength to overcome temptation; for a sense of God's presence to combat loneliness and fear; for patience to endure a long sentence; for family members facing challenges on the outside; and for a changed life, so they can start over when they're released. It's a rare Sabbath at the Grand Haven Church when prayer request time goes by without the plights and pleas of Bible students being laid on the altar.

Instructors find many ways to support their students' growth in Christ. "We send hundreds of truth-filled books to our students each year," Wanda reports. "We also send them birthday and Christmas cards. For many students, those are the only cards they will receive."

But the blessings of the program aren't limited to the students. "The Bible school has been a huge inspiration to members of our church," says Wanda. "Many



*Instructor Debbie Anderson received this pen-and-ink drawing from one of her students. The accompanying letter said, "I can hardly wait to get to heaven."*

of our instructors have never been involved in outreach of this kind before. They find that they are more interested in doing personal Bible study; they're relearning Bible truth themselves, as they share that truth with their students."

Since coming to Grand Haven, Wanda has been looking for opportunities to minister to Michigan prisons. For several years, she attempted to start Bible study programs closer to home, without success.

"But just in the last few months, God has opened the door for us," she says. "We have several students in Michigan prisons now—people we can work with personally when they are released." On a recent Sabbath, one of Wanda's students stood with her in the pulpit of the Grand Haven Church and talked about the importance of the Bible lessons in the lives of prisoners.

And every week, the requests continue to pour in. "We need to involve other churches in this outreach program," says Wanda. "This is a huge mission field. People are begging for spiritual help and inspirational literature. These people have reached the bottom; they are ready to turn to God. You don't have to hunt for them to share God's word. They come to you."

If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, please call Wanda at 616-850-2684 or send e-mail to [wandashanson@netonecom.net](mailto:wandashanson@netonecom.net).

Jon Anderson is the Grand Haven Church correspondent.



*Steve, a student of the New Discovery Bible School, recently joined Wanda Hanson to tell the Grand Haven congregation how much the Bible lessons mean to prisoners.*



*Grand Haven New Discovery Bible School instructors are introducing prisoners to Jesus. Pictured are some of the instructors: Front row (from left) Renee Junglas, Donna Schornack, Lois Spencer, Darlene Stephens; Middle row (from left) Dawn Moffit, Wanda Hanson, Debbie Anderson, Dora Quittelier, Ben Stephens; Back row (from left) Keith Shell, Jayne Flaska, Donna Peterson, Amy Frain, Sharon Hall, Bryan Hall, Steve Lomas*

# The HIV and AIDS Crisis: Binding Up the Brokenhearted

BY DIANE THURBER

**H**IV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). Each week, AIDS claims as many lives as American fatalities in the Vietnam War. Since its discovery, AIDS has killed more than 25 million people, nearly ten times the number of earthquake casualties in the last century.<sup>1</sup>

AIDS has also claimed the lives of more people than the Black Plague in the 14th century and the 20 million who died from the 1918 flu epidemic. The number of people living with HIV rose from around 8 million in 1990 to nearly 39 million worldwide in 2005, and the number is climbing.<sup>2</sup>

AIDS touches individuals of every race, gender, and economic level. AIDS sufferers may be your father, daughter, next-door neighbor, boss, or strangers in virtually every country in the world.

## HIV AND AIDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Citizens near the Great Lakes are also affected by HIV and AIDS. However, estimates could be higher because HIV infections remain undiagnosed (or anonymously diagnosed and unreported). Statistics from major cities more closely reveal the AIDS impact in our territory (see [www.avert.org](http://www.avert.org)).

Many individuals with HIV or AIDS are confronted with discrimination, misconceptions, and ignorance. They are often isolated at times when human intervention could provide tangible assistance and needed emotional support.

Many individuals do not become involved with HIV or AIDS sufferers because they believe it will bring shame upon the family or community, they are scared of contracting HIV, they fear the behaviors associated with the disease, or their religious beliefs lead them to assume that

personal irresponsibility deserves to be punished indefinitely.

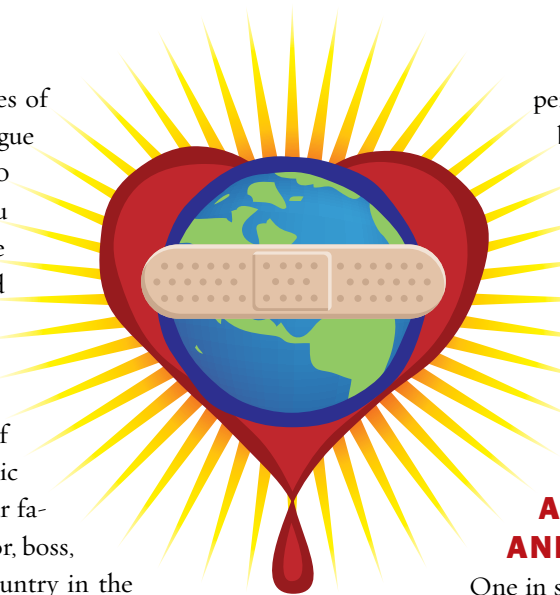
The Adventist church, other Christian organizations, private foundations, and world governments attempt to combat the stigma of this disease. However, as Christians, we need to do more to extend the healing ministry of Christ.

## ADVENTISTS WITH HIV AND AIDS

One in six regularly attending Seventh-day Adventist members in North America has a relative or close friend who is HIV-positive.<sup>3</sup> The "Adult Program Guide" published by Adventist Development & Relief Agency International (ADRA) suggests to: "Look at the children sitting in the pews next Sabbath morning, and count to 12. The odds are that one in 12 will become HIV-positive. When that problem develops years from now, they won't be in church listening to you, so whatever it is that you want to say to them, you need to say it now!"

Just as important, we need to communicate better about caring for those with the virus or disease. This month, ADRA launches a new section on its website, which will offer information about HIV and AIDS education, prevention, and care for afflicted children (see [www.adra.org](http://www.adra.org)).

ADRA also commemorates World AIDS Day annually on December 1 to join the global effort to stop AIDS. ADRA president Charles Sandefur said, "A disease that has killed 25 million people concerns everyone, everywhere.





AIDS can be stopped only when we realize it's everyone's challenge."<sup>4</sup>

ADRA offers a World AIDS Day Kit to give facts to you, your church, community, or school group, to help make a difference. The kit includes a poster, "Adult Program Guide," "Youth Program Guide," and "Announcement Sheet." Commemorative red ribbons and videos are also available.

## RESPONSES TO HIV/AIDS CHALLENGES

Sandefur and the authors of ADRA's online resources suggest ways to take up the HIV and AIDS challenge as your own. Excerpts from ADRA's online resources follow.

### Learn More

- ▶ Pick up resources from local AIDS counseling or testing centers, check out library books, or talk to health care professionals who works with AIDS patients.
- ▶ Make HIV and AIDS resources available at your church and school, and on your Web site.
- ▶ Organize a program to teach young people about healthy lifestyle choices and at-risk behaviors.
- ▶ Offer creative writing, speech, or poster competitions on the topic of HIV or AIDS.

### Care More

- ▶ Address discriminatory and uninformed comments that stigmatize people who are HIV-positive. Share the facts and make it clear you will not tolerate unkind or unjust attitudes. Encourage and model sensitivity and compassion.
- ▶ Write letters or articles for faith-based journals or newspapers, emphasizing the need for religious groups to provide a compassionate response and advocate for the rights of HIV and AIDS sufferers.
- ▶ March in the yearly AIDS Walk, a fund-raising campaign to help those with AIDS in your community. Consider wearing a T-shirt with a loving message that identifies your group.

### Do More

- ▶ Volunteer for a local AIDS ministry, which often delivers meals or offers support groups. Or start a support group for people who are HIV-positive and/or their family members, friends, and survivors of people with AIDS. Allow time for sharing personal stories, feelings, swapping information, and praying with one another. Invite health care professionals to give presentations and answer questions.

- ▶ Take a shift at an AIDS hospice or relieve a family member caring for a person with AIDS. Organize and train a volunteer team to provide counseling and support.
- ▶ Visit and pray with AIDS sufferers. Offer to bring food, pick up groceries or medicine, do laundry or yard work, or other household chores.
- ▶ Operate a food pantry or meals-on-wheels program especially designed for those struggling with AIDS.

### Give More

- ▶ Take a special offering for ADRA's worldwide HIV and AIDS initiatives, or partner with community organizations fighting AIDS.
- ▶ Select projects to really impact HIV and AIDS sufferers or help prevent growth of the disease. In ADRA's 2007 *The Original Really Useful Gift Catalog*, for just a few dollars, you can help a woman widowed by the AIDS pandemic to start a small business, give a hot lunch to a Namibian child orphaned by AIDS, save one Brazilian street youth from drug addiction, feed a South African child living with HIV or AIDS, save a girl in Thailand from sexual exploitation, and much more. To order the catalog, call 800-424-ADRA (2372), or view the catalog online at [www.adra.org](http://www.adra.org).

### A Call to Action

Several Bible verses implore us to become involved with human crises such as the HIV and AIDS challenges. One such verse, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these ... you did for me," reminds me of the significance Jesus places on each life (see Matthew 25:40 NIV).

Another convicting text is "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn" (Isaiah 61:1 NRSV).

I long for the day Jesus will comfort those who mourn, wipe away every tear from our eyes, and restore our body and mind to His image, don't you? Why not be the hand of God today, and wipe a few tears away for Him? Help someone with HIV or AIDS experience His loving-kindness, forgiveness, and grace in a tangible way.

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Diane Thurber is the *Lake Union Herald* managing editor.

1. Source: [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)
2. Source: [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)
3. Source: [www.adra.org](http://www.adra.org)
4. Source: [www.adra.org](http://www.adra.org)



# DIVINE INTERVENTION

FROM DRUG DEALER TO PREVENTION COORDINATOR

BY H. JEAN WRIGHT II

**H**is name is Joe. As I listened to his story, I was blessed beyond belief. Speaking through Joe's experience, the Holy Spirit touched my heart and taught me how precious each of us is in God's eyes, no matter who or what we are.

Joe was born into a healthy, happy family with several siblings and both parents present. His father's work provided a comfortable upbringing. Joe's life was going just fine until his early teen years when he started hanging around an uncle five years his senior. That's how he was introduced to marijuana.

Joe dove headlong into drug use, abuse, and eventually trafficking. Rejecting his middle class background, he relished his new identity as a "hustler." Everyone knew him as "The Dope Man." He dove headlong and never looked back!



A dozen years of hustling drugs eventually took its toll. At age 25, an assailant shot Joe in the back, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. The assailant was only 15 years old. You would think that being paralyzed would put an end to Joe's hustling, right? No sooner was Joe released from the hospital than he went back to the streets to sell drugs. Only then, he did so from his wheelchair.

Needless to say, this presented some problems, and Joe was robbed several times. Joe's mother was worried about him being out there in the streets, unable to adequately protect himself. So, even though she did not approve of the life her son was living, she allowed him to live with her, her husband, and the rest of Joe's siblings. Joe continued to use and sell drugs from his mother's home!

The ups and downs of drug addiction got worse. Coming down after a high left Joe depressed and discouraged. It was then that he felt especially sorry for himself, for being confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. On one occasion, he decided to commit suicide by taking an overdose of a prescribed medication, and planned to burn down his house—family included! Joe's plan was to leave a cigarette burning on the bed and allow the carbon dioxide from the smoke and the flames to put him out of his misery! Evidently, God had another plan! One of Joe's sisters heard him coughing and raced upstairs to find him passed out. The cigarette had burned out, barely staining the bed where it lay. Divine intervention!

At age 25, an assailant shot Joe in the back, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. The assailant was only 15 years old. You would think that being paralyzed would put an end to Joe's hustling, right?

As Joe lay in the hospital, he had time to think. He was stunned by the reality of what nearly happened—what he had tried unsuccessfully to do! That time to think was a turning point in Joe's life. After he was released from the hospital he was determined, with God's help, to make a change. He went back to his parents' home, but this time he stayed upstairs to avoid seeing any of his old partners in crime. Joe's mother was tight on security, and let his old acquaintances know that under no circumstances was he available. Joe's mother became his protection through the God that strengthened her! When we tell the Lord we want a change, He will respond by putting His plan into place!

Many prayers ascended straight from Joe's heart to the God of the universe as the days passed in his little upstairs retreat. No longer a drug user or dealer, he needed employment and sought help and direction from God. Joe had never worked a legitimate job in his life. He didn't know how to work or what it meant to be responsible.

Part of Joe's rehabilitation was to receive vocational training. As he neared completion, one of the staff members told him about a job at a local rehabilitation center. When Joe went to check on the job, he found out that it was no longer available. God had something else in mind.

Joe learned another position had become available—receptionist for a rehab center. When asked if he was interested, Joe said not only was he interested, he could start

immediately. In his eagerness and excitement about the prospects of a job, Joe forgot he had no experience dealing with the public, and that he couldn't speak correctly. The only language he knew was the slang from the streets. He felt awkward facing this new role.

However, Joe was determined to take advantage of this opportunity. He was convicted in his heart that he should share with the staff person his sordid history of crime and drug use. Joe explained everything about his past and promised that if given the opportunity, he would give them the very best he had to offer. Joe got the job! His first job ever was in a spinal cord injury rehab center. Divine intervention again!

Now, you may be asking yourself, "Where is the miracle in this?" Lots of people have been able to turn their life around and start fresh! Well, not so fast! The miracle is not just in what God does for us, it is also in what God allows us to do for others through His will! Joe was working in a rehabilitation center that could help him manage the difficulties of being paralyzed and in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. This was a godsend. God was helping him get through his own trial, but also had Joe in an environment where he would learn to help others. However, before Joe could be effective reaching out to others, he had to face the reality of his own existence. It was through this process that Joe began to see his life as a blessing and not one that should end prematurely.

Joe is not shy to tell any and all who will listen that he considers his being paralyzed and in a wheelchair an act of divine intervention. How can this be? What about the hurt, pain, and disappointment of his life? What about the periods of loneliness and discouragement? What about the isolation, disenfranchisement, and "invisible" treatment he receives from time to time? Joe says that none of that matters because

he has found his calling. He tries to help others avoid the mistakes he has made in life and is a prime example of what God can do even while we are yet lost!

Joe is now fifty years old. He still works at the rehabilitation center where he first began, but now he is the Outreach and Prevention coordinator for the *Think First* program. This is an anti-violence program that targets at-risk youth in Philadelphia. Joe has a tight schedule, speaks all over the city and state, tells people his story, and reaches out to young people who may be heading down the wrong path as he did in his youth.

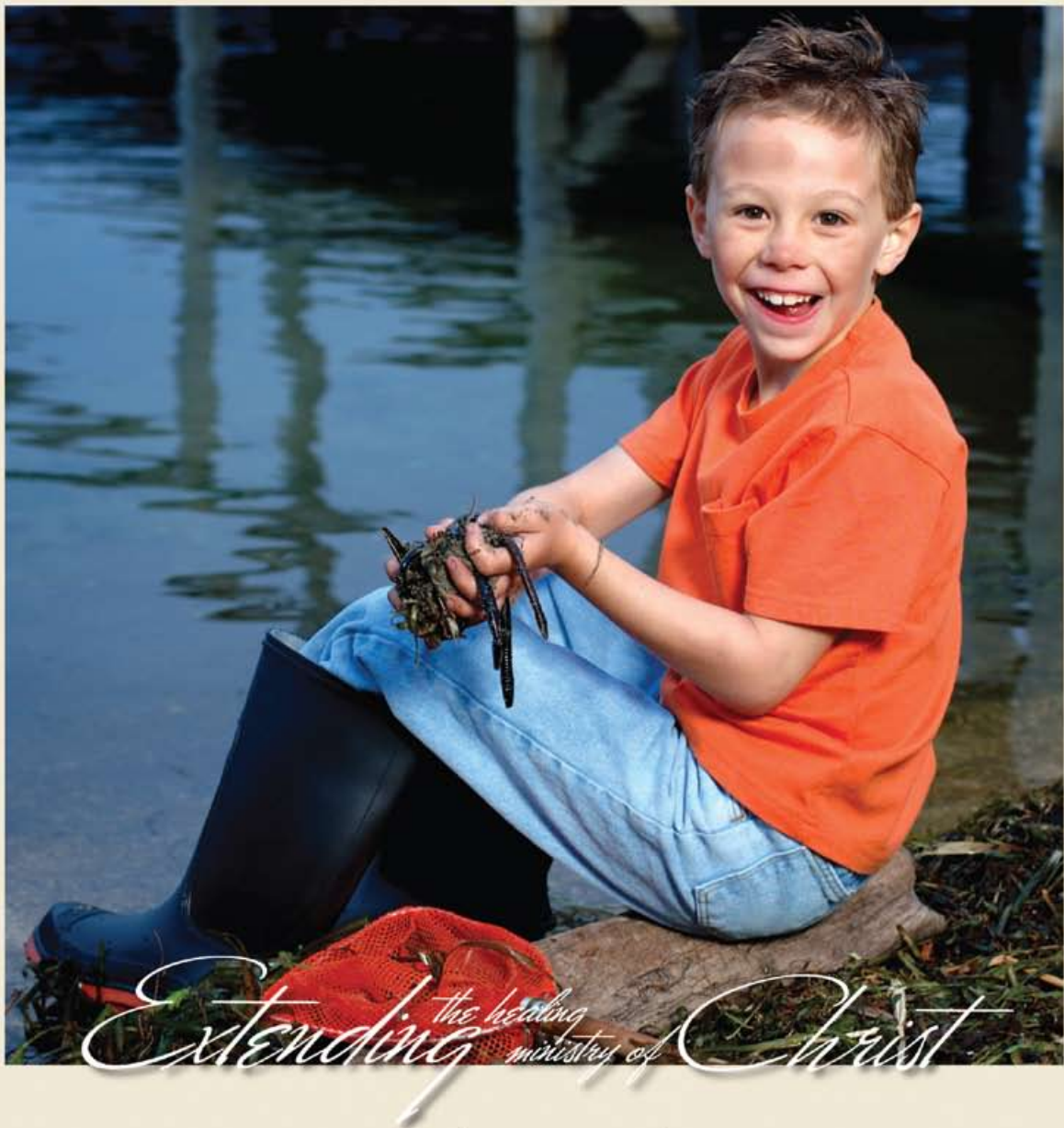
Joe says that God's divine intervention placed him in a wheelchair to save his life and prepare him for the work of helping others. No more loneliness! No more isolation! Joe's life is a gift from God! I am one of several thousands who are extremely grateful that Joe has allowed God to use his life.

We live in a time where people are suffering with all manner of afflictions: physical pain, ambulatory limitations, emotional pain, personal discouragement, loneliness, fear, and disappointment. People experiencing these types of challenges are often isolated in our society in one way or another. Their lack of mobility, mental/physical health issues, homelessness, or incarceration may separate them from friends, family, or community. Plain old apathy from those of us who are too busy to notice that a fellow human being is suffering right in our very midst may be the cruelest isolation of all! What many of us fail to see is how isolation—self-imposed or otherwise—creates a subculture of lonely, disenfranchised people too often invisible to the rest of us, but vitally important to the Savior of the universe!

“And he said unto me,  
My grace is sufficient for  
thee: for my strength is  
made perfect in weakness.  
Most gladly therefore  
will I rather glory in my  
infirmities, that the power  
of Christ may rest upon  
me. Therefore I take  
pleasure in infirmities, in  
reproaches, in necessities,  
in persecutions, in  
distresses for Christ's  
sake: for when I am  
weak, then I am strong”  
(2 Corinthians 12:9, 10).

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H. Jean Wright II has earned his doctorate degree in psychology and works with young people for the City of Philadelphia as a clinical and forensic psychologist.

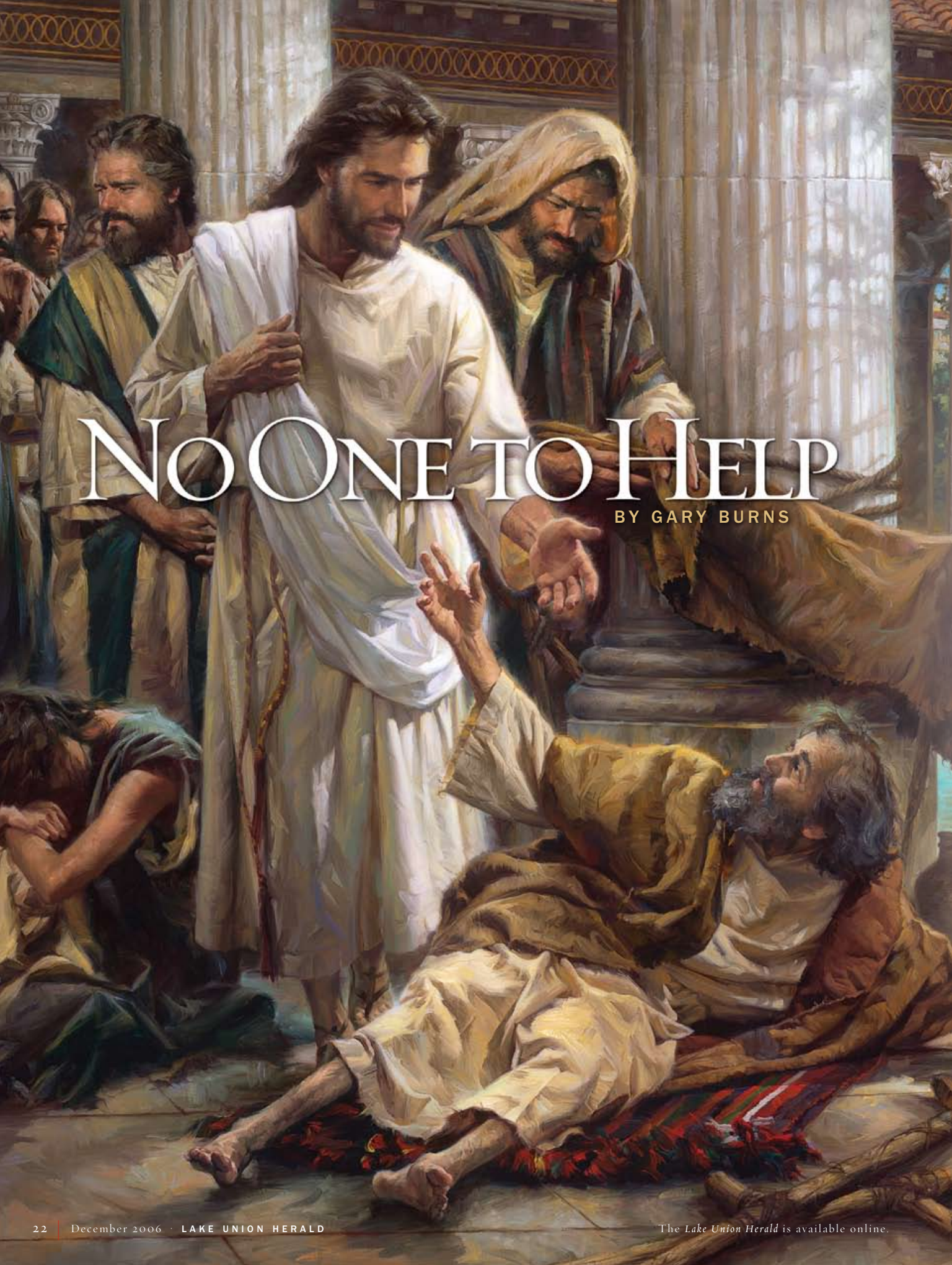


Motivated by the mission to “Extend the Healing Ministry of Christ,” Adventist Health System touches the hearts and lives of more than 4 million patients each year through the care and commitment of more than 44,000 employees and nearly 7,000 physicians.

Adventist Health System serves communities large and small through 36 hospitals, 19 extended-care facilities, and numerous home health and hospice agencies.


*Hospitals benefit entire communities in ways as simple as teaching active children how to get rid of the germs without getting rid of the fun.*





# NO ONE TO HELP

BY GARY BURNS



The bright rays of the mid-day sun bounced off the placid pool to create a slow, hypnotic motion on the ceiling of the colonnade. He lay on his back and stared at the glow—eyes glazed, fighting back the stupor that could rob him of his only chance to be healed.

For 38 years he languished by the pool, hoping against hope. He was not alone. Hundreds of afflicted—the sick, the blind, and the lame—had journeyed to this place, desperate for a miracle. At certain times an unexplained force mysteriously agitated the calm surface of the water. It was commonly believed that the first one to dip in the pool would be healed.

He had seen the waters troubled many times. Each unfulfilled quickening of hope left him feeling discouraged and more desperate than before. As he stared at the light, his thoughts drifted in review of the choices that had led him to his debilitated state. Rather than leading him to repentance, the consequences of his actions prompted feelings of self-pity. *God must hate me*, he thought.

As a group of visitors to the feast passed by, his attempts to manipulate them his way failed. Each would-be sympathizer was grieved away—if not by the grotesque sight and foul smell, by his begging punctuated by a long litany of complaints. He was unpleasant to be around. It was easier to flick a denarius onto the mat than spend a few moments in the company of this pathetic man.

As the pilgrims slipped out of sight a fresh wave of disappointment flooded his heart.

Amidst the crowd, he felt alone and beyond the reach of God's mercy.

Exhausted, he breathed out a sigh. Staring at the ceiling once again, a tear hung momentarily at the corner of his eye before spilling down his temple and into his ear.

A flickering of the light suddenly arrested his stupor. His heart leapt, but his legs were like weights holding him down. He reached for a crutch to pull himself up. He strained to reach the water's edge, but before he had made any progress, the languid crowd stirred into a frenzy. The mass of broken humanity lunged forward, pushing and shoving, crawling over one another. The chorus of excitement was punctuated by the cries of children trampled underfoot, separated from their mothers.

With every ounce of strength he could muster, he pulled himself up. His chin almost reached the top of the crutch when suddenly someone's foot tripped, causing the base of the crutch to slide out from under him, sending him sprawling across the ground. His elbow smacked against the hard stone as he reached out to break his fall. As the knot on his elbow began to swell, someone jumping to reach the water's edge stepped on his fingers, rolling and twisting them between the sole of the sandal and the smooth stone floor. He winced in pain as they began to throb.

The disturbance immediately drew a curious crowd—heads weaved and bobbed as they peered to see if anyone had been healed. He listened intently beneath the stand of legs that surrounded him. All was confusion until one by one the people disbursed and went about their hurried business of preparing for the Sabbath. He lay motionless with his cheek pressed against the mat. Bits of sand and dust flipped into his face as the sandals flopped past. Then, to his good fortune, someone laid a piece of bread in his hand, and quickly disappeared. He would not go to sleep hungry.

As another day drifted into the west, he began to feel the encroaching chill that would come with the night. It was quiet now, except for the bleating of the sheep in the market nearby.

He pulled his thin blanket around him as best he could. He ached for comfort. Sores had formed where his bones pressed against the cold slab. Sleep came hard. The promised Sabbath rest eluded him.

The smell of smoke from a nearby fire hung in the air—a welcome diversion from the stench of the stale urine in his garment. How he longed to warm himself by that fire, or better yet, to soak in a warm bath. Maybe a clean robe. He could only dream. And dream he did, of splashing in the water and coming up healed; of running and dancing for joy; of not being alone.

The crowing of the rooster awakened him to his harsh reality. It was still dark and colder now. He pulled his blanket over his head to retain some heat, only to expose his legs and feet. Sleep came slowly.

The beautiful panorama of colors that painted the dawn went unnoticed, but the warmth of the sun felt so good on his back. It provided momentary deep sleep and sweet dreams. Sabbath rest!

A visitor had returned to Jerusalem that day. Walking alone in the morning sun, the stranger appeared to be in meditation and prayer as he wove through the streets of the city. When he came upon the Pool of Bethesda, his heart went out to the multitude of suffering ones who had made the pilgrimage to what they believed to be their only hope of a cure. How he longed to employ his healing power and instantly make every person whole.

Crowds of people were passing by the scene on their way to worship at the temple. He knew that such a benevolent and dramatic act of healing would stir up the prejudice of the Jews and cut his work short. Obedient, he held in check his intense longing.

But his eyes were drawn to the thin and twisted legs that protruded from a blanket. His heart felt their pain. Occasionally the man would lift his head from the mat to gaze at the pool. Then, in disappointment and fatigue, he would rest his head on the mat again, closing his eyes.

A shadow cast over him, and he looked up into the tender and compassionate face of a man who said, “Would you like to be made well?”



The ray of hope that shone in his eyes soon faded. He remembered his disappointment the day before and felt that he may not live long enough to see the waters troubled again. His eyes dropped to the mat. “Sir, when the water is troubled, I have no one to help me into the pool. I have no one to help. Others push past me and plunge into the water before me.”

Without a moment’s hesitation, the man simply said, “Get up. Take your mat, and walk.”

Instantly, every nerve and muscle in the man’s body quickened with life and vitality. Faith was born at hearing these words. His muscles started to respond to his will, and he sprang to his feet. He was amazed and thrilled beyond belief.

He gazed down at his once lifeless and twisted limbs that now glowed with health. In obedience, he stooped to pick up his mat and blanket. He turned to look again into the wonderful face of his Deliverer, but the man was lost in the crowd. In desperation, he began searching through the crowd. Amazed at the ease of his mobility, praises to God spontaneously erupted.

As he made his way with ease through the crowd, he came upon several Pharisees and immediately began to tell them of his good fortune. But to his astonishment, they did not share his enthusiasm.

Scowls formed on their brows. “Why are you carrying your blanket and mat on the Sabbath?” they queried. “You know it is not lawful to carry burdens on the Sabbath.”

With boldness and no sense of condemnation for what he has done, he said, “The One who made me whole told me to pick up my mat and blanket and walk. So I did.”

“Who was it?” they asked, all the while knowing it could only be one man.

“I don’t know. I wish I did,” the man replied with a sense of loss.

The conversation ended and the man went on his way.

Grateful for the unmerited mercy he had received from God, he made arrangements for a sin offering and a thank offering and brought them to the temple. It was there that Jesus revealed himself to the man and said, “Look, now you are well; stop your sinning or something worse will happen to you.”

His heart was full of joy, for that’s exactly what he wanted—to live a life free from sin. Somehow he felt the One who made him well could now make him whole.

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Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director.





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## Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital Provides Aid in Guatemala

Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital (ALMH) is providing health care aid to people in Guatemala through a generous donation to the Common Hope organization. The hospital donated 31 boxes of medication, valued at more than \$6,000, to



Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital donated 31 boxes of medication, valued at more than \$6,000, to aid people in Guatemala.

Common Hope, offering specific drugs requested, along with vitamins and antacids. A team from Common Hope, made up of residents from the Western Springs area, took the medications to its clinic in Guatemala November 1–10.

Common Hope promotes hope and opportunity in Guatemala, working with the people there to improve lives through education, health care, and housing. “This is the second year ALMH has donated medications to Common Hope,” said David Tsang, pharmacy director. “The physicians at the clinic put together a wish list of ten drugs,” he said. “We evaluated which ones we could send and which ones would be cost-prohibitive, and then put the packages together. We tried to do our best.”

Tsang said, “Tim Cook, ALMH CEO, has been very supportive of the effort and Common Hope’s mission.” He added, “Part of our mission is to promote wellness. We try to provide

quality health care wherever we can, even if it is to a needy country. They lack the resources, and we have the means to do it, so it works out well for everyone.”

Conni Ainslie, pharmacy buyer, said the hospital sent oral diabetes medication, multiple vitamins, and adult-strength aspirin. “Because the diet there is high in fat, the number one disease is diabetes,” she said. “They also have high blood pressure, which is a precursor to heart attacks. We also sent TUMS, an antacid that is also a good source of calcium.”

Ainslie said Common Hope team members had an open spot on the team and invited her to go along. “I’ve always wanted to do something to give back,” she said. “I want to be there in the clinic to help people. I told them to count me in next year.”

It’s great to see an employee touched by this mission, Tsang said. “That’s even better if we can contribute more than materials and labor,” he said. “I think all of us have a little bit of charity in our hearts.”

Julie Busch, public relations specialist  
for Adventist Midwest Health

## Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital Recognized for Improving Health Care for the Elderly

Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital (ALMH) has been recognized as a partner of Aging Well to improve access of health care and community resources for the elderly. Aging Well is a Greater Lyons Township-based group dedicated to working with communities to create an environment in which people can age well. The partnership consists of hundreds of older



Jim Durkan, director of Community Memorial Foundation, and Susan Siorek, EMS coordinator for ALMH, are working with local fire departments and other community health resources to identify issues affecting the elderly and seeking solutions to those problems.

adults and at least 130 community-based organizations and businesses.

“We’re working with the local fire departments and other community health resources to identify the issues affecting the elderly and seeking solutions to those problems,” said Susan Siorek, EMS coordinator for ALMH. Sometimes it could mean small things, like training firefighters to look at the outside of the refrigerator to see if the patient has a Vial of Life, a packet containing a health history and medication list.

Working with the hospital’s Foundation, the group will approach larger issues as well. “We do have a large elderly population,” Siorek said, “and they have health care needs as well as other needs like transportation—how they will get a ride to the doctor’s office. Sometimes, they just call 911, which obviously is not a good use of resources.

Our work with Aging Well will help the hospital determine if we can assist by increasing training, or by offering new services to better serve this population.” Aging Well is an integral part of Community Partnerships For Older Adults, a national program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Aging Well is supported locally by Community Memorial Foundation and the Township of Lyons.

Julie Busch, public relations specialist  
for Adventist Midwest Health

## Fortin Appointed New Dean of the Seminary

Andrews University recently appointed Denis Fortin the new dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Fortin replaces John McVay, who left Andrews this summer to become president of Walla Walla College. Fortin, professor of theology and chair of the Department of Theology and Christian Philosophy, has been a member of the Seminary faculty since 1994.

Fortin previously served as the Seminary's associate dean for four years, from 2000–2004. He was also the director of the master of divinity program from 1999–2001.



*Denis Fortin is the newly-appointed dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.*

A native of Quebec, Canada, Fortin received his bachelor's degree in pre-ministry from Canadian University College (formerly Candian Union College), College Heights, Alberta, in 1982. He went on to receive a master of divinity degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews in 1986 and a doctorate in theology from the Université Laval, Quebec, Canada, in 1995.

Before coming to Andrews, Fortin served as a pastor in Quebec. He has authored several publications on Adventist history and theology, including his 2004 *Adventism in Quebec: The Dynamics of Rural Church Growth, 1830–1910*. He is co-editor of the *Ellen G. White Encyclopædia*, a forthcoming publication by the Review

and Herald Publishing Association.

“The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary is one of the most dynamic and diverse seminaries in the United States and Canada,” Fortin stated. “With an enrollment of [more than] 800 students hailing from dozens of nations, a well-qualified faculty, and the diversity of programs offered, it is the leading seminary in our denomination. It is a privilege to serve this institution and to facilitate the theological and ministerial education of the next generation of pastors for the Adventist church.”

Fortin and his wife Kristine Knutson, coordinator of advising services in the university's Student Success Center, live in Berrien Springs, Mich. They have two daughters and a son.

Beverly Stout, University Relations  
media relations coordinator

## Mattingly Appointed New Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

The Andrews University Board of Trustees appointed Keith Mattingly the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) at their annual October meeting. The CAS is the university's largest school with 18 departments. Mattingly is replacing William Richardson, who retired this past summer.

Mattingly has been a member of the Andrews faculty since 1984, serving as chair of the Department of Religion and Biblical Languages since 1998.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Mattingly holds three Andrews degrees: a bachelor's in business and religion

(1969), a master's of divinity from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (1972), and a Ph.D. in biblical studies (1997).

Before coming to Andrews, Mattingly served as a pastor in Arkansas and Louisiana from 1971–1977 and in Florida from 1977–1979. He also served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserve for 28 years (1971–1999). Ranking as a lieutenant colonel at his retirement, he served tours of duty both in Germany and the Persian Gulf War.

Mattingly is a member of the Society of Biblical Studies, Theta Alpha Kappa, the Adventist Society of Religious Studies, and the Schools of American Oriental Research.

“I come into my position with three goals for the College of Arts and Sciences,” Mattingly states. “First, to promote excellence in two areas—each academic discipline taught and being a Seventh-day Adventist; second, to be the provider/protector for faculty, staff, and students; and finally, to ensure adequate physical space, with the first emphasis being a replacement for Griggs Hall.” Griggs Hall, the oldest academic building on campus, is the current home to the departments of religion and international languages.

Mattingly's wife, Margarita, is chair of Andrews' physics department. They have a son, Sean, and a daughter, Claudine.

Mattingly's wife, Margarita, is chair of Andrews' physics department. They have a son, Sean, and a daughter, Claudine.



*Keith Mattingly is the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.*

Beverly Stout, University Relations  
media relations coordinator

## [ EDUCATION NEWS ]

### Students Learn Importance of Time to Build a Relationship with Jesus

Michigan—Fall Week of Prayer at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA) was held September 24–29, with Mark Farrell, a pastor. Taking time to spend with your personal Savior, Jesus Christ, is the most important thing you can ever do, and during the GLAA Week of Prayer everyone learned how to have a personal, practical relationship with Jesus Christ. Courtney Tait, a senior, best summed up the week when she said, “I was really impressed by the way Pastor Farrell presented everything. Not only did I learn fascinating proofs for the Bible, I was also challenged to revitalize my personal devotional life.”

Farrell came all the way from San Francisco, Calif., to speak to us. He is an uncle to Ronnie Bedford, a junior. At 37 years old, Farrell works for Stanford LifeFlight, a rescue program, and volunteers as a pastor. Farrell earned his degree in nursing at a community college in Tennessee.

During Week of Prayer, Farrell sought to teach everyone “how to have a practical relationship with God.” The reason he chose this theme was because “eighty percent of young people leave the church after high school,” he said. During the week, Farrell gave many biblical examples of how to have this relationship, and gave students the five components to having a relationship: Communication, Understanding, Trust, Love, and Loyalty.

This Week of Prayer was a huge spiritual renewal for GLAA; several

students gave their heart to Christ for the first time. On Friday night, at vespers, many students committed to having a personal devotional time with God every day, and during Afterglow everyone signed a pledge to God of what they would do to make a difference this year.

The week ended with a church service at the Cedar Lake Church.



*In response to Mark Farrell's challenge, students and church members alike raised their hands on Sabbath to commit to spending time with God on a daily basis.*

Farrell challenged everyone to seek the deepest experience with God. “We should desire to see God,” said Farrell. Everyone was greatly challenged.

Nadine Betat, Great Lakes Adventist Academy senior

### Students Organize Run/Walk for Breast Cancer Research

Wisconsin—The practice of helping others, what should be an everyday activity, is somewhat non-existent in



*A group of students, faculty, and community supporters walked for a cure for breast cancer!*

today's society. Sure, there are those times the little old lady needs her groceries carried, Mom needs the dishes done, or for the real go-getters, opening the door for the complete and total stranger.

On Sunday, September 24, Wisconsin Academy accomplished a slightly more significant selfless act of responsibility toward our fellow humans. The first annual Run/Walk for Breast Cancer showed just what an impact a person can make if they are willing to give up their time for the sake of others. The idea for this activity was formulated by the current Student Association president, Jaci Martinez. When asked where the idea originated, she said, “I originally got the idea from my sister, who had participated in a previous Run/Walk. [She] said it was a great experience, so I thought it would be a way to bring the community and the school together to help others.”

The day started with registration for all participants, which was followed by a quick worship thought by Michelle Shufelt, Wisconsin Academy development director. After the shotgun start, the journey consisted of 3.3 miles, and every so often participants encountered pit stops with water available, if needed. As the group came back, they were met with the sweet tunes of the musical guests GEM (God's Eternal Mercy), who serenaded everyone while they ate.

Quite a bit of thought and preparation helped this event be successful. Shufelt, who also helped make everything possible, said, “I couldn't be more proud of the leadership and the initiative taken by Jaci and everyone involved, to make everything run smoothly.” A feeling of contentment was shown in everyone's face as they realized they had raised more than \$1,400 and counting for the cause of breast cancer research.

Peter Gust, Wisconsin Academy sophomore

## A Spiritual Awakening Occurs at Indiana Academy

Indiana—This year at Indiana Academy (IA) I have experienced many nights during which I had difficulty sleeping, not from stress and worry, but from excitement and anticipation. Like a little boy waiting for Christmas morning, I have found myself unable to fall asleep quickly.” What has robbed my sleep,” you ask? It has been the excitement of the spiritual journey that we have traveled so far this year at IA.

I have always looked at the Christian walk as a life through which the Holy Spirit flows like water in the rivers and lakes around us, an idea that originated with Jesus as He spoke to the woman at the well. We are first to allow the Living Water to flow in, and then we must allow that Living Water to flow out to those around us. This is the very thing that is exciting to me this year at IA. We have rearranged our schedule to allow students the opportunity every morning to have the Living Water flow in from above, and then we have provided outreach programs that enable students to let that Living Water flow out to those in the community.

Every morning after breakfast, students report back to the dorms where twenty minutes of quiet time is devoted for students to refocus on God in Bible study and prayer. This time is built into the schedule as personal devotion time. It is our goal to help our young people establish the habit every morning of meeting with God and

allowing the Living Water to flow into their hearts and brace them for the battles of the day.

Bodies of water only stay fresh as they are able not only to receive, but also to send water out of their borders. In the same way, we are emphasizing outreach opportunities for students so that the Living Water can flow out to bless others. First, we instituted the Magabook program to allow students the opportunity to see God work as they go door to door selling religious books. Students learn how to be “seed sowers” as they distribute books like *The Desire of Ages*, *The Great Controversy*, *Christ Object Lessons*, vegetarian cookbooks, and a list of other inspirational books for young and old.



Ten IA students are participating in the Magabook program this year. Christian Pinango (left), Larry Brooks (center), and Edsys Acuna (right) are learning valuable lessons as they earn money for tuition.

As a former Magabook director, I know firsthand the valuable faith lessons these students will learn as they put God to the test and pray from door to door. These lessons cannot be taught in a textbook, and they cannot be learned sitting in a church pew. They are the faith lessons that can only be learned in the field of

spiritual battles that they encounter every day at the doors of their potential customers. We currently have ten students who participate in the Magabook program, and as I write this article they are completing their canvassing work in Arcadia, Ind.



Peter Cousins, principal, is excited to see the student-led spiritual initiatives at IA this year.

Aside from the importance of the spiritual benefits of this program, students also learn practical lessons in salesmanship, communication, and hard work. As they learn to approach people in a courteous manner and lead them to a sale, they learn basic life skills in dealing with people of different personalities and backgrounds. This practical knowledge will assist them in all fields of occupation.

The student Magabookers complete their outreach in two shifts per day, which are 8:00–11:20 a.m. and 1:15–4:30 p.m. In spite of the fact that these are daytime hours when fewer people are home, they are still having great experiences and making a decent wage as well. One student, on her second day, turned in \$102 in sales for a three-hour morning shift. We praise God!

Second, we have instituted a Bible study field-training program that allows students the opportunity to experience firsthand the harvesting aspects of evangelism. Students are being trained in personal evangelism, which includes learning how to prepare and give Bible studies, learning to answer Bible questions, learning to conduct door-to-door surveys to locate Bible study interests, and learning to follow up lead cards that are returned from Magabooks customers. Our prayer is that they will come to a deeper sense of commitment to God and the truth as it is in Jesus, as they experience the joy of sharing the Living Water with others.



IA students initiated a day of prayer and fasting for their school at the beginning of the year. They gathered around the flag pole to pray.



IA provided space in the daily schedule for students to participate in devotions.

Our students are also encouraged to participate in mission trips that take them outside our country. Through the Cicero Church, some of our students will travel to India and/or Ecuador during the course of this school year. The opportunity to experience other cultures, where students will have yet another opportunity to let the Living Water flow to those around them, will prove to be valuable to both the students and the persons with whom they share Jesus.

This philosophy of allowing multiple opportunities for the Living Water to flow in our students is already bearing fruit. I wish you could have been on our campus during the second week of school. You would have seen several of our students—on their own—commit to a day of prayer and fasting. I wish you could have seen the commitment and desire as students, staff, and Conference members fasted and prayed for revival on our campus, all initiated by students. I wish you could have been on a trip to the park the following Sabbath to see a group of our students gather in a prayer circle with two strangers who they met there. I truly believe God is at work on our campus, and He has great plans for IA.

We have also reinstated the CNA program, which will give students the opportunity to become Certified Nurse Assistants. Students who participate in this program can earn up to \$12.50 an hour. This is an incredible opportunity for our students, because students earning this hourly wage could pay their whole school bill at IA. Aside from paying their bill, this opportu-

nity has helped many students determine if a medical career fits their personality and life calling.

Pray for us at IA as we give our students an education that they can find nowhere else in the state of Indiana—an education that is balanced in the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of our students. As our primary goal, we aim to prepare our young people to get ready and to tell others about the soon return of Jesus. There is no other reason that we exist as a school.

Remember, every month, that your \$10 donation will help educate our young people to let the Living Water flow through their lives so others might see and believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Peter Cousins, Indiana Academy principal

## [LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

### Members Witness at the DuQuoin State Fair

Illinois—Three hundred thirty thousand people attended the DuQuoin State Fair August 25–September 4. The members of 13 southern Illinois Adventist churches staffed a booth and tried to meet them all. What an incredible opportunity to “Touch Every 1 For Jesus.”

A mother walked into the tent late one evening looking for something for her son to read. He had recently been incarcerated. What an opportunity to share not only a *Steps to Christ*, but also prayer and encouragement!

The touch of Jesus could be felt everywhere. From the enthusiastic Pathfinders who gave away balloons



Daniel Juarez blew bubbles the hard way to attract visitors to the fair booth. The arrival of a bubble machine created just what was needed to get folks to stop by.

and tracts to the silver-haired seniors witnessing for their Lord, the joy of working for Him was felt. Only God knows how many seeds were planted during the fair. Dale Barnhurst, Eldorado and Marion pastor, said: “Our job is to scatter those seeds far and wide, and the DuQuoin Fair afforded us that opportunity.”

Further information about the DuQuoin State Fair effort and photos from this year’s fair booth are available at [www.marionadventist.org](http://www.marionadventist.org).

Kenneth A. Denslow, Illinois Conference president

### Church Members Walk for Hunger

Michigan—On September 24, 20 Buchanan Seventh-day Adventist Church members participated in a CROP Walk, a world-wide walk of “neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world.” Members who could not walk were sponsors, prayer warriors, or helped at stations, giving out water, M&Ms, and apples to the walkers.

This 5K walk, sponsored by Church World Service (CWS) and supported by churches in the Niles-Buchanan area, started at the Grace United Methodist Church in Niles



Gertlyn Jones

This year Buchanan Church walkers raised \$1,437 for the CROP Walk. Front row (from left): Erin and Christopher Norton; Aaron DeLand; Michael Farmer; Esther Jones, CROP Walk coordinator for Buchanan Church; and Natalie Colburn. Middle row (from left): Karl Tsatalbasidis, pastor; Jim Freeman; Beverly Leffler; Doris Biggs; Walter Biggs; Launa Bradley; Gyl Bateman; and Savannah Stowe. Back row (from left): Christine DeLand; Carl DeLand; Harold Leffler; Charles Jones; Brad Bateman; and Avaline Stowe.

and included the river walk along the St. Joseph River. This year marks the 60th anniversary of CWS, which “grew out of a desire by U.S. churches to provide assistance for families in need in post-World War II Europe and Asia.” Continuing today, CWS works worldwide to help those in need help themselves.

The Buchanan Church has participated in the CROP Walk for more than ten years and has raised approximately \$15,000 during those years. The communities of Buchanan and Niles benefit from 25 percent of the money raised for local food banks. Sponsors can choose to contribute to several charities, including ADRA (Adventist Development & Relief Agency International), for 65 percent of the money raised. The remaining ten percent goes to CWS to help stop hunger in the world. This year, with many sponsors, Buchanan Church walkers raised \$1,437 for the CROP Walk. Buchanan walkers and sponsors are helping to stop hunger one step at a time.

To find out more about how your church can join in the annual CROP Walk, visit the website [www.church-worldservice.org/CROP/index.html](http://www.church-worldservice.org/CROP/index.html).

Judi Doty, *Lake Union Herald* circulation/back pages editor and a member of the Buchanan Church

Quotations are from the Church World Service website.

## Youth Present Evangelistic Series

Indiana—A spiritual revival was held by the Northwest Church youth in July.

The youth worked with great enthusiasm, meeting one to four times a month for eight months. They received a special blessing from pastors, elders, and church members at the Timber Ridge Lay Evangelism Conference in April. The Northwest Church gave their blessing to the youth with prayers and a budget.

The work was done by the youth—planning, ordering, and design-

ing printed material and fliers. They updated the sound system and worked on every aspect of the program. Each youth was appointed a section to be responsible for, and they all did well. The music section echoed with uplifting songs accompanied by guitars and drums.

Working very hard, more than 900 pamphlets and books, with stamped cards, were delivered house to house in the area by the youth.

Peter Neri, Indiana Conference ministerial director, opened the series with a testimony about his first evangelistic meeting and prayed for a blessing from God.

Blessings were received as we listened to David Rosales present “Jesus, the Light of the World,” “Sin and a Saviour,” “A Portrait of Jesus,” “Prodigal Son,” and “Walking with Jesus.”

A light snack was served after each meeting, and the visitors enjoyed time to socialize. During this time, some Bible lessons were also given.

A visually challenged man attended from South Bend. We also had visitors from Arizona, Texas, Michigan, and the residential areas near the church. Attendance averaged 45–50 each night.

Bible studies are still in progress, and we pray that many seeds were planted, and God will bring in the harvest.

Pat Kubib, Northwest Church correspondent



Northwest Church young people held a spiritual revival in northern Indiana. Front row (from left): Amanda Valentino, Courtney Woodruff, Jenny Rosales, Melanie Mikulski, Jamie Moore, and Joe Mendez; back row (from left): John Codespoti, Nick Scalzitti, David Rosales, Brian Mikulski, Rich Mendez, and Lindsay Valentino

## Edwardsburg Members Hold Groundbreaking Ceremony

Michigan—The sun shone bright and the swallows swooped overhead as people gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking for the Edwardsburg Seventh-day Adventist Church in the field where they plan to build. During the opening prayer, a gust of wind that sounded like I imagine the rush of the Holy Spirit carried away the tarp that was erected to shield those present from the sun.

Forty people were present, including Leroy Bruch, Michigan Conference treasurer; Isaias Santos, pastor; Bill Davidson, Building Committee chairman; and Jim Griggs, architect.

The gold and silver shovels flashed in the sun as the dirt was turned. “Now the people of Edwardsburg will know we are serious,” said Santos. “They will see we are here to stay!”

In November 2004, the church closed on a five-acre parcel of land on the main highway (U.S. 12), just west of town. In March 2006, the debt was



*Pictured are building committee members (from left): Esther Lucas; Larry Rentfro; Paul Runnals; Scott Mark; Jim Griggs, architect; Rick Palmisano, treasurer; Bill Davidson, Building Committee chairman; Leroy Bruch, Michigan Conference treasurer; Isaias Santos, pastor; Ken Scribner, head elder.*

paid in full. The Edwardsburg Seventh-day Adventist Church is temporarily meeting at the Beacon Baptist Church in Nilus, Mich., while they wait for their new church to be built.

Kathryn A. Scribner, Edwardsburg Church correspondent

## Grand Blanc Company Reaches Out to Community

Michigan—It is always exciting to start something new that the Lord has been preparing for a long time. The weekend before Easter, the Grand Blanc Company began the first four-night Spanish series on the life of Christ. Daniel Scarone, pastor and Michigan Conference Hispanic Ministries coordinator, took the initiative and preached very engaging meetings.



*The Grand Blanc Company is looking for ways to reach their Spanish-speaking neighbors. Recent meetings spawned an interest in spiritual matters.*

The group of Spanish-speaking people who attended the meetings were grateful, very interested, and desired to continue learning about the Bible. They requested that Scarone

return to teach them Bible truths. He made a commitment to preach on subsequent Saturday nights since then.

On Saturday, September 9, Scarone challenged the Grand Blanc Spanish-speaking audience to an excellent, very well-researched presentation entitled “The DaVinci Code: Christianity and Culture.” This pre-

sentation attracted newcomers to the already-organized group.

Every Saturday night, people continue learning about salvation and choosing a life in Christ. How marvelous the Lord works in people’s hearts

to stimulate a desire to discover His Word.

Friends, there are people in our communities who “hunger and thirst for righteousness.” Let us be the first to come to meet their needs and desires to know our Lord and Creator, Jesus Christ. Pray that the Lord will help us find those who long for His kingdom.

Liesbeth Fernandez, Grand Blanc Company Spanish personal ministries coordinator

## Illinois Members Witness in the Park

Illinois—Illinois members and pastors have committed to “Touch Every 1 for Jesus.” Here is one way this is being accomplished.

Members of the Beacon of Light, Belvidere, Freeport, Rockford, and Savanna churches gathered at the Severson Dells Forest Preserve for worship on August 12, with visitors from Itaska and Oregon, Ill., as well as several from California and Minnesota.

Two of the visitors were young men with little exposure to the Adventist



*Members from five churches participated in the outdoor convocation. Joan and Russell Waterman were among worshipers representing the Freeport Church.*

church. One joined the group for “fellowship and singing in the park.” With no transportation, he invited the other friend to go with him. Neither of the young men knew what to expect, but were glad they came.

Spending Sabbath in the park is an excellent way to “Touch Every 1 for Jesus.”

Rachel Terwilligar, Illinois Conference assistant to the president for communication



## Wisconsin Conference Update

Wisconsin—On October 1, 366 delegates from Wisconsin Adventist churches gathered at Wisconsin Academy to do the work of the Church. These delegates heard reports, elected leaders, and voted direction for the work of God in Wisconsin. The following individuals were re-elected: Don Corkum, Conference president, personal ministries director, and A.S.I. coordinator; Roger Driver, Confer-



Don Corkum (center), Wisconsin Conference president for the past 11 years, prayed with Lake Union officers at the beginning of the Session.

ence secretary-treasurer; Mike Edge, youth ministries, Sabbath school, health and temperance, and children's ministries director; James Fox, communication director, ministerial director, and evangelism coordinator; Richard Habenicht, stewardship and trust services director and Corporation secretary; and Ken Kirkham, education superintendent and men's ministries coordinator.



From left: Mike Edge, Richard Habenicht, Roger Driver, Don Corkum, James Fox, and Ken Kirkham were re-elected at the Session.

Jaci Martinez, Wisconsin Academy Student Association president, reported about the September 12 Walk for Breast Cancer Research fund-raising drive she helped organize. The fund-raiser was well attended by the community. Martinez showed a video



Don Corkum, Wisconsin Conference president, interviewed Ko Saelee (center), Hmong ministry coordinator, and his wife Terry, about plans for reaching the Hmong people.

clip from Madison's WMTV 15 News that reported the church and academy in a very favorable manner.

The president's video report profiled the Conference's growth and vision for the work in Wisconsin through four brief stories reported. The work for the Hmong people, an initiative voted at the last constituency session, was profiled and new Hmong members were present at the video's close.

A DVD of the WMTV news clip and the president's video report will be mailed to each Wisconsin Conference church.

Plans for the new Camp Wakonda Camp Meeting Pavilion's construction are well underway. We are awaiting State approval of certain aspects to begin construction. The metal structure will be 100' x 180' with 20' high walls. Some walls can be raised, much like a garage door, to experience the outdoors while sheltered within. The floor will be cement. There will be no heating and no air conditioning for the structure. Cost estimates suggest \$350,000.

The Conference office property sale has been delayed until the end of November. This delay was requested by the City of Sun Prairie, which hopes that a lawsuit against the State of Wisconsin by adjacent property holders will be resolved to permit their development plans. The site for the future Conference office is on Conference-owned property about three-fourths mile from the academy on Highway 16. The

constituency voted to construct the new office for \$2.5 million or less. This should provide approximately \$2.5 million to renovate Wisconsin Academy dormitories when the sale becomes final. Additional donations and fund raising will follow. It was voted to call a special constituency meeting within 12 months of the sale of the Conference office property to decide on plans for academy dormitories.

In the midst of elections and exciting discussions, delegates voted without debate the goals for the next four years.



Union officers assisted Conference staff as they counted the ballots on stage at the Session.

**Church Life**—Transform churches into vibrant and healthy ministry centers, focused on seeking, reaping, and keeping people for God's Kingdom.

**Church Planting**—Plant ten new churches by 2010.

**Community Involvement**—Encourage each church in Wisconsin to be known for involvement in its community.

**Education**—Increase enrollment in Wisconsin Adventist schools from 330 to 400.

**Growth**—Increase membership from 6,800 to 7,500 by 2010.

**People Groups**—Develop work among Native American, Hmong, and Hispanic groups.

**Youth**—Encourage churches to provide weekly programs for their youth and involve them in church life.

These voted goals define our direction and focus for the next four years. May God bless the Wisconsin Conference so we might be faithful and achieve these goals for Jesus' sake!

James Fox, Wisconsin Conference communication director

Within the Lake Union, the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Forms are available in print format, or they can be filled out and submitted directly online. Milepost forms are available at [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org). Conference addresses and phone numbers are in the masthead on page 43.

## Birthdays



**Ethan Barrett** celebrated his 100th birthday on Sept. 17 by a big family get-together on Sept. 2, 2006, combined with he and his wife's 75th wedding anniversary, at the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Central Church. He has been a member of the Grand Rapids Central Church for 65 years.

Ethan is married to Irene (Curtis).

Ethan has been a teacher for ten years, then worked 30 years at the American Feeding Co., retiring at age 63.

Ethan has two children: Eldean and Anita Barrett of Phoenix, Ariz.; Merrill Barrett of Grand Rapids; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

## Anniversaries

**Ethan and Irene Barrett** celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on Sept. 2, 2006, by a big family get-together at the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Central Church. They have been members of the Grand Rapids Central Church for 65 years.

Ethan Barrett and Irene Curtis were married Aug. 16, 1931, in Edmore, Mich., by Elder Lanson. Ethan has been a teacher for ten years, then worked 30 years at the American Feeding Co., retiring at age 63. Irene has been a teacher, mother, and homemaker.

The Barrett family includes Eldean and Anita Barrett of Phoenix, Ariz.; Merrill Barrett of Grand Rapids; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**Ben and Erma Breen** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 12, 2006, by a card shower from their friends and family, receiving more than 110 cards and letters, at Cedar Lake, Mich. They have been members of the Riverdale (Mich.) Church for many years.



Ben Breen and Erma Root were married Aug. 12, 1941, in Coopersville, Mich., by Elder Hankins. Ben has been a farmer, bee keeper, and wholesale dealer. Erma has been a homemaker and mother.

The Breen family includes Wavajean and Marvin Watkins of Cedar Lake, Mich.; Sylvia and Terry Boves of North Star, Mich.; Cynthia and Dean Voss and Miriam and Ken Henson of Cedar Lake, Mich.; the late Emily Bendler; ten grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; nine step-great-grandchildren; and two step-great-great-grandchildren.



**L. Eugene and Ruth Merkel** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 10, 2006, by a trip with their daughters and families to Oak Haven Resort in Sevierville, Tenn. They have been members of the Pioneer Memorial (Mich.) Church for many years.

Gene Merkel and Ruth Vitrano were married June 10, 1956, in Milton Junction, Wis., by Dr. Floyd O. Rittenhouse. Gene has been a certified public accountant for over 40 years. Ruth has been a homemaker for many years and also worked as an administrative assistant to four different presidents of Emmanuel Missionary College and Andrews University. She recently authored a series of children's books entitled *Hannah's Girls*.

The Merkel family includes Elaine and Dann Hotelling of Lebanon, Ohio; Marcia

and Ben Irwin of Zelienople, Pa.; and three grandchildren.

## Obituaries

**BISHOP, Robert S.**, age 86; born May 1, 1920, in Kalamazoo, Mich.; died July 15, 2006, in Eau Claire, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Jeanne (Selleske); son, Terry; daughter, Marcia Bishop; sister, Cheni Wise; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Michael Wise, and interment was in Cedar Lake (Mich.) Cemetery.

**CLARK, M. Margaret (Wilson)**, age 90; born Mar. 25, 1916, in White Cty., Ind.; died Sept. 19, 2006, in Monticello, Ind. She was a member of the Monticello Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Blake Hall, and interment was in Bedford Cemetery, Monticello.

**COLE, Estelle P. (McReynolds)**, age 87; born Nov. 24, 1918, in Gibson Cty., Ind.; died Aug. 30, 2006, in Lafayette, Ind. She was a member of the Lafayette Church, West Lafayette.

Survivors include her sons, Dennis, Daniel, Donald, and David; daughters, Deanne Collins, Debbie Johnson, and Dorothy Keiser; sisters, Mary Thompson and Ruth Reinhart; 14 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Arthur Collins, and interment was in Dayton (Ind.) Cemetery.

**EMLANDER, Hazel (Rhoby)**, age 83; born Nov. 19, 1922, in Stanwood, Mich.; died June 25, 2006, in Hasting, Mich. She was a member of the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Central Church.

Survivors include her son, Philip Rhoby; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Mark Howard, with private interment.

**FIKE, Blanche (Hynek)**, age 93; born Apr. 2, 1913, in Hillsboro, Wis.; died Sept. 17, 2006, in Wyocena, Wis. She was a member of the Portage (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Gordon M. and Richard L.; daughters, Dorothy Russell, Mary Maier, Betty Jean Wicks, and Bonnie J.

Sanford; 13 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Charles Byrd, and interment was in Oak Grove Cemetery, Portage.

**HELM, Herbert W.**, age 83; born Mar. 11, 1923, in Gary, Ind.; died Sept. 26, 2006, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Doris D. (Covert); sons, Herbert W. Jr., Michael R., and Steven K.; daughter, Nancy L. Church; and ten grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Don English, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

**KOUDELE, Mary E. "Betty" (Brooke)**, age 81; born Apr. 18, 1925, in Dalworth Park, Texas; died Sept. 8, 2006, in Kalamazoo, Mich. She was a member of the Dowagiac (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Katherine A. Koudele and Elizabeth J. Perkins; four grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor William Dudgeon and Terry Perkins, and interment was in Riverside Cemetery, Dowagiac.

**MWINGA, Exilda**, age 39; born Aug. 16, 1966, in Mumbwa, Zambia; died July 21, 2006, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her father, Job Mwinga; brothers, Maybin, Larry, Crawford, Marvin, and Kennedy Mwinga; and sister, Beatrice Majele.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor M. Harris, and interment was in Sinanda Farm Cemetery, Lusaka, Zambia.

**OLIVER, Benoni B.**, age 65; born Oct. 10, 1940, in Acre, Brazil, S. Amer.; died Sept. 22, 2006, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Suzanne Y. (Wilk); sons, Isaac and Benjamin; daughters, Agador Miboa, Ava Kprdamoa, and Ana Queila; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dwight K. Nelson, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

**PHILLIPS, Austa May (Whitlow)**, age 93; born Dec. 26, 1912, in Wichita, Kan.; died Aug. 30, 2006, in Williamston, Mich. She was a member of the Lansing (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Monty P. Max G., and Marshal A.; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Inurnment was in Maple Grove Cemetery, Wichita.

**SLOAN, Dolores G. (Owens)**, age 75; born Feb. 5, 1931, in Belgrade, Minn.; died Aug. 30, 2006, in Columbus, Wis. She was a member of the Wisconsin Academy Church, Columbus.

Survivors include her sons, Larry and Joshua; daughters, Nancy Stronach, Susan Reed, and Teena George; brothers, Wayne and Warren Owens; sisters, Marjorie Hoffman and Shirley Cenkush; 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Steve Aust, and interment was in Fall River (Wis.) Cemetery.

**THOMAS, Helen E. (Capener) Roetsens**, age 82; born Sept. 7, 1923, in Baraboo, Wis.;

died June 21, 2006, in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was a member of the Wyoming Church, Grand Rapids.

Survivors include her husband, Elmer H.; stepsons, Darrell, Tim, and Larry; daughters, Jo Ellen Mortenson, Kathy Ann Nelson, and Bobbi Kay Bishop; stepdaughter, Cheryl Smith; nine grandchildren; ten step-grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and ten step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Philip Colburn, and interment was in Oakwood Cemetery, Grand Lodge, Mich.

**WILCOX, Patrick D.**, age 75; born Mar. 9, 1931, in Mich.; died Sept. 22, 2006, in Green Bay, Wis. He was a member of the Green Bay Church.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara (Bishop); son, Robert; daughters, Bonnie Neshek, Kris Birkholz, and Karolyn Wied; seven grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Delmar Austin, and interment was in Elm Lawn Cemetery, Twp. of Lessor, Wis.

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	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 29	Jan 5
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:16	5:14	5:15	5:18	5:22	5:28
Chicago	4:21	4:20	4:20	4:23	4:27	4:32
Detroit	5:01	5:00	5:01	5:03	5:07	5:13
Indianapolis	5:21	5:20	5:21	5:23	5:28	5:33
La Crosse, Wis.	4:29	4:28	4:28	4:31	4:35	4:41
Lansing, Mich.	5:06	5:04	5:05	5:07	5:12	5:17
Madison, Wis.	4:24	4:23	4:23	4:26	4:30	4:36
Springfield, Ill.	4:35	4:34	4:35	4:37	4:41	4:47

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## Historic Adventist Village

**Historic Adventist Village** is closed during the week except for specially scheduled tours. The Village is open every Sabbath afternoon from 2:00–4:00 p.m. for tours of the James and Ellen White House. To schedule a tour, call Stanley Cottrell at 269-209-2915 or 269-965-3000. The Village will open again for full tours in Apr. 2007. Donations (\$5/person is suggested) support the Village.

## Illinois

**Advent Chamber Orchestra Concert Series, Feb. 10, 2007**, 8:00 p.m., sponsored by Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, Roxana Pavel Goldstein, music director. All Schubert program with Schubert Transcriptions by Cliff Colnot; Arpeggione Sonata, Trout Quintet; Eteri Andjaparidze, piano. Concert to be held at the Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church, 201 N. Oak Street, Hinsdale IL. For more information, call 630-261-5746.

## Indiana

**Prayer Retreat** will be held at Timber Ridge Camp **Jan. 12–13, 2007**. For additional information, contact Peter Neri, ministerial director for the Indiana Conference, at 317-844-6201, or e-mail [sdewitt@indianaadventist.org](mailto:sdewitt@indianaadventist.org).

**Winter Ski Fest** will be held **Jan. 25–28, 2007**, at Timber Ridge Camp, for youth in grades 7–12. Fri. and Sun. skiing at Paoli Peaks. Fri. evening and Sabbath will be a time of fellowship and spiritual challenge with David Hall from Andrews University. You can download and print an application and all other paperwork necessary to apply at [www.indianaadventist.org](http://www.indianaadventist.org), or you may

contact Trish Thompson in the Indiana Conference Youth Department at 317-844-6201.

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## Lake Union

### Offerings:

- Dec 2** Local Church Budget
- Dec 9** Inner City
- Dec 16** Local Church Budget
- Dec 23** Local Conference Advance
- Dec 30** Local Church Budget

### Thirteenth Sabbath:

- Dec 23** East-Central Africa Division

### Special Days:

- Dec 2** Bible Sabbath

## North American Division

**Union College (Neb.) Homecoming:** Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to *Meet Me at the Rock Pile*, **Apr. 5–8, 2007**. Honor classes are 1937, ‘47, ‘52, ‘57, ‘67, ‘77, ‘82, ‘87, and ‘97. For more information, contact the Alumni office at 402-486-2503; 3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or e-mail [alumni@uncollege.edu](mailto:alumni@uncollege.edu).

## Southwestern Adventist University's

**Homecoming Weekend** is **Apr. 12–15,**

**2007.** Alums and friends are invited to participate in the 25th year reunion concert of the *Keene Camerata*, Apr. 14. Honor classes: 1932, ‘37, ‘42, ‘47, ‘52, ‘57, ‘62, ‘67, ‘72, ‘77, ‘82, ‘87, ‘92, and ‘97. For more information, please e-mail [bevm@swau.edu](mailto:bevm@swau.edu), or visit our website at [www.swau.edu](http://www.swau.edu).

## “Developing People Through Libraries,”

the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians Conference, will be held **June 17–22, 2007**, at Helderberg College, Somerset West, South Africa. Librarians of all specialties are welcome to attend. For registration information, visit [www.asdal.org](http://www.asdal.org); contact Sabrina Riley at 402-486-2600 ext. 2154; or e-mail [sariley@uncollege.edu](mailto:sariley@uncollege.edu).

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## PARTNERSHIP with GOD “Suffer the Little Children...”

BY GARY BURNS



Every time I hear or read that old English expression, “Suffer the little children...,” I can’t help but misinterpret the word suffer. I think of all the children throughout the world who know nothing but suffering. Whether in war-torn Iraq, the streets of Ciudad del Este, or the home that is not safe from mommy’s boyfriend, millions of children suffer every day.

I’ll never forget the images I saw while traveling with “Momma Jasmine” of REACH, International, on our way to the train station in Bucharest, Romania. Several children crawled out of a manhole—the door to their underworld shelter from the cold.

At the station, I saw three children working together. The oldest, a girl about eight or nine years of age, created a distraction

while the younger two, a girl about five and a boy three, tried to snatch a snack from a nearby vendor.

A policeman also observed what I saw and cornered the two little ones. He grabbed both of them with one hand by the scruff of their necks, reeled back, and kicked them with his big, black boot across the floor of the station. I didn’t understand Romanian, but I had no need of a translator to get his message.

I can’t be in Romania, Cambodia, or Lebanon to care for all the suffering children, but I can partner with churches, schools, clinics, orphanages, and relief agencies who every day give these children a chance. When I partner with them, I partner with God.

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference Communication director.

# God's Protection Is Real

BY ANDREW BAKER

**T**his story happened last year, when there was snow on the ground and the roads were slippery. My parents own their own store, and ever since I got my driver's license, they have sent me on errands so they can stay and watch the store.

One day, I was to go to Dowagiac (which is about 25 minutes away from where I was) to deliver something to another store owner. I was expecting to pick up some boxes after my errand was finished, so I took my dad's truck because the boxes wouldn't fit in my car.

I started the truck and set out on my way to Dowagiac. Mind you, the roads were very slippery, and it was snowing very hard. I didn't know how slippery the roads were, so I was going the speed limit, which was about 55 miles per hour.

Everything was going fine until I was about half way to my destination. I was about four yards behind the car in front of me when the car started to slow down. Like the good driver I am, I stepped on the brakes (because that's what usually slows down the vehicle). Unfortunately, the truck didn't stop.

The truck started sliding toward the vehicle in front of me, so I turned the steering wheel to the right to avoid rear-ending the car in front

of me. I started fishtailing down the road, sliding to the left and the right. As I fishtailed down the road, I slid into the oncoming traffic lane, straight toward an SUV that was heading my way.

At this point, I was so scared; I couldn't even talk. I do remember saying in my mind, "God ... I could use some help with this one." I was sure I was going to run head-on into the SUV.

God had other plans for me, thankfully, and gave the driver of the SUV the reaction to steer to the left side of the road. I ended up just clipping the rear fender of the SUV. I also ended up on the side of the road instead of in the middle when I was swerving.

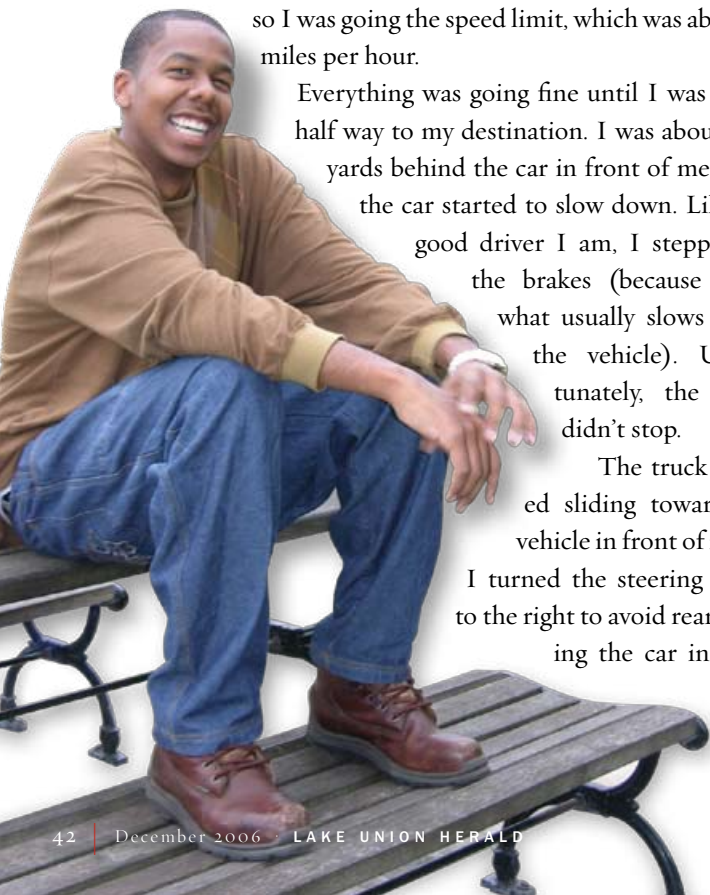
As I looked around and checked myself to make sure I was okay, I sank down in the back of my seat and laughed a little bit. I said to myself, "Ha, devil! You missed me!"

Despite all the things that had just happened, I was fine. The driver of the SUV was fine, and nobody else was outside to get hurt.

This whole situation made the protection that God gives real to me. Anyone can say some things in an article, and anyone else can read it. But, until you need God's protection, it may not seem real. Trust me, it is.

---

Andrew Baker is a senior at Andrews Academy. He will receive a \$100 scholarship since his story was selected for publication.



**Robert “Bobby” Lawston Everett III**, 16, from Grand Rapids, Michigan, is a junior at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy (GRAA). Bobby has been a student at GRAA since kindergarten, and has served as sophomore class treasurer.



Bobby Everett

Bobby enjoys the guitar, sports, and working on his car, and would like to be a mechanical engineer some day. He enjoys his British literature class because all the old stories relate in some way to the Bible. The most important thing he has learned in school is to never give up and to try to do everything to the best of his abilities.

His commitment to God is reflected in his desire to be known as a servant for God. He remembers fondly a time when some of the guys went to a camp for underprivileged kids to help renovate some of the cabins.

He is an active member of the Grand Rapids Central Seventh-day Adventist Church and serves as a deacon. Bobby is the son of Robert Everett II and Kim Cooper.



Ashley Krohn

**Ashley “Ash” Marie Krohn**, 16, from Grand Rapids, Michigan, is a junior at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy (GRAA). Ashley has been a student at GRAA since first grade. During her academy years, she has served as secretary/treasurer for both her class and the Student Association. This year she is president of the Student Association. Ashley is an active member of the Three Angels Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Ashley is active in sports and enjoys singing, babysitting, drawing, and hanging out with family and friends. The most important thing she learned from her academy experience was to be a good example to the younger students. Her most memorable experiences involved Bible Camp and LIFT (Lifestyle Improvement for Teens) weekends. She is hardworking yet fun, crazy, and easy to get along with.

Though Ashley would like to be a professional singer and a pediatrician some day, she wants to be remembered most for her friendliness and her love for God and others.

Ashley is the daughter of Hans and Manuela Krohn.

These students were selected and profiled by faculty members at their school. To recommend outstanding students for recognition, speak with your pastor or a faculty member. Visit [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org) for selection criteria.

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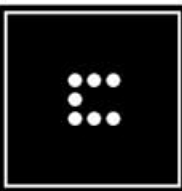
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