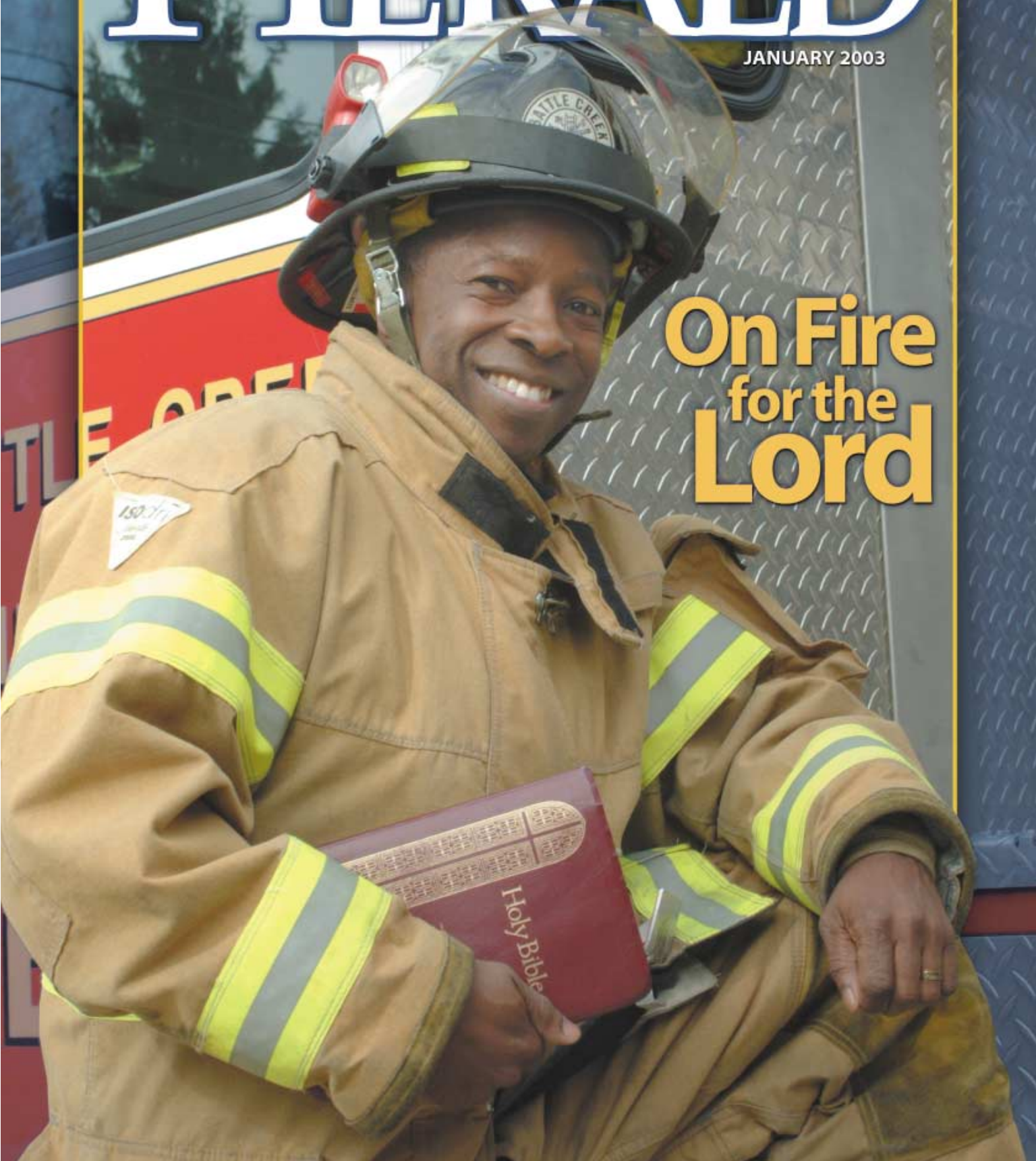


Lake Union HERALD

JANUARY 2003

On Fire
for the
Lord



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Cover

Cover: Because of his unique background as a firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT), Don Daniel feels compelled to preach. He spoke for the Niles Philadelphia Church in Michigan during *Hope for the Homeland*. Here he stands in front of his fire engine, in Battle Creek, Michigan. Photo by Richard Dower.

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EDITORIAL

BY GORDON L. RETZER,
LAKE UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Hope for the Homeland

It seems everyone in the Lake Union is talking about and telling stories about *Hope for the Homeland* evangelistic meetings. Whether it's at a church, church school, men's retreat, lay advisory, conference committee, school board, or academy—someone is sharing some good news about how people participated in a meeting, and how God worked in the lives of individuals who made decisions to become members of God's remnant church.

In fact, at our November Lake Union Executive Committee meeting, the first hour and a half was dedicated to testimonies about what God was doing in the cities and towns of our union through *Hope for the Homeland* meetings. Some of those stories are shared in this issue of the *Herald*. It's thrilling! This is God's moment.

We know we had well over 500 outreach event sites. We know we had more than 200 lay persons preaching evangelistic sermons. We know there were thousands of members supporting and assisting in the meetings. We know there were children preaching, and young adults, and youth, and grandmothers, and grandfathers, and pastors, and teachers, and literature evangelists, and hospital chaplains, and office personnel. In other words, we know that God answered our prayer for "reapers." I praise the Lord for you. What we don't know (yet) is how many people have been baptized and become members of our churches.

Some of the quotes I've heard: "We didn't know our church could coordinate such an event." "We've never been so united." "All I want to do is preach the message" (from a lay evangelist). "When we know so many churches are involved in evangelism, we feel like we're a part of something big." "We're already planning to have a meeting every year." "I fell in love again with Jesus and the truth He teaches in His Word" (from another lay evangelist). "I've been a pastor for several years but had never preached an evangelistic sermon. The New Beginnings DVD sermons were exciting to preach." "I just want my neighbors to be in heaven with me. That's why I invited them to my home for Bible studies."

I thank the Lord for the vision of conference administrators and leaders who provided organization, training, and encouragement. There was not only vision but accompanying implementation anointed by the Holy Spirit. Many of the conference leaders were personally involved in evangelistic meetings. I'm grateful for pastors/teachers who coached and modeled and coordinated and lead meetings. And I'm so thankful for you, committed Seventh-day Adventist members. You gave of yourselves, and the kingdom of God is enlarged and enriched because of your service of love. Some of you preached, some provided resources, some taught the children, some parked cars and hauled tables, some tuned the sound system, some provided music, some prayed through every meeting. Thank you. You give me hope.

Now, let's do it all over again. And again. And again. Until Jesus comes.

REACH Romania 2002 Mission Adventure

BY ERIN HELDSTAB

For 21 years, I've been an only child. But this past summer, my family was expanded, and I experienced what it's like to have brothers and sisters. Lots of brothers and sisters!

From July 31 to August 14, I was part of a group of college and high school students who traveled to Peretu, Romania, for the REACH Romania 2002 mission trip, sponsored by Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC) and REACH International. Oliver Archer, PMC youth pastor, and "Mama Jasmine" Jacobs, REACH director, were the individuals instrumental in the planning and success of the trip.

The group left Berrien Springs with 10 people and were joined in Romania by seven others from various locations in the U.S. and Europe. There were several in our group who were experienced mission trip veterans, having been to Romania three or four times. I was looking forward to finding out what it was that kept drawing them back.

When we arrived at the airport in Bucharest, Romania, I was eager to get to the orphanage to meet the children. But God had some plans for our group before we got to the orphanage.

Throughout our flights, we were reminded that our passports were our most important identifying documents, and that we should

always keep them close to us. Sometime during our layover in Zurich, Switzerland, one of our group members lost his passport. But he didn't realize it until we were ready to go through customs in Bucharest. Word soon spread through the group, and, knowing this wasn't something we could handle alone, we turned to the One who had sent us to Romania—the One who was holding our itinerary in His hands.

There was talk of sending our group member back home, so we prayed with even more fervor. When we finally walked out of the airport with our luggage and boxes for the orphanage, we also walked out with the entire group. In the end, the officials had decided to extend a little grace and let him enter the country on the condition that he would return the next day to apply for a temporary passport. They saw that we were a group of Christians coming into their country to work for the children there. God took that moment of panic and used it to show us He was in control, and to draw our group even closer together.

The wait to meet the children at the home was well worth it. When we got to Peretu, the children greeted us with hugs and kisses and shrieks of joy. Each of them wanted to know our names, and we did our best to remember theirs, despite our state of exhaustion. During our time there, we worked closely with our new brothers and sisters from Peretu and Mislea, another REACH orphanage. We were able to show them love, attention, and loads of fun while conducting a FLAG Camp (Fun Learning About God). Some of us were counselors and led a group of six or seven children within the same age group, while others taught classes, such as music, games, Bible, gymnastics, or art.



REACH Romania 2002 team members pose with the children they have come to love as their family.

In my opinion, the trip was a success! We gave the children what we could, but, as is the case with most mission trips, each of us walked away with a blessing as well. Best of all, my family was extended to include all the children and team members I grew so close to.

Erin Heldstab is an Andrews University senior communication major.

NEW MEMBERS

WISCONSIN

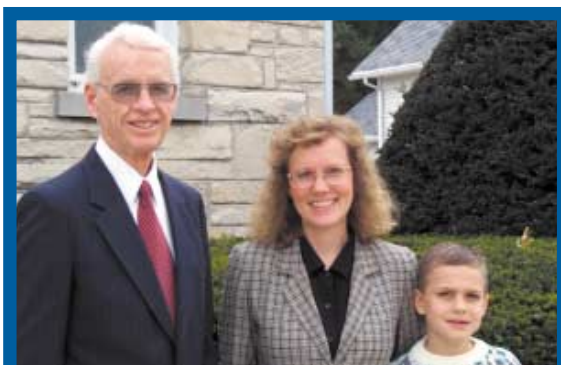
Susan Will was reared as an Episcopalian, became a Methodist during her teen years, and later met and married David, who grew up as a Catholic. Although she attended church with her husband, she was never spiritually satisfied with the church's teachings, and for this reason never joined the Catholic Church. When their two boys, Aaron (11) and Austin (9), were old enough, they began attending the religious education classes to prepare for their first communion and membership. However, they did not enjoy their classes, which included very little Bible instruction. After several years of this, she had them stop attending the church classes, withdrew them from their public school, and began a home school program.

All the while, Susan was searching for something to satisfy her spiritual hunger. She continued praying as she searched through reading materials, visited several different denominations, studied with a Jehovah's Witness who came to her home, and talked with an Adventist friend, Georgie Jensen, who worked at a local natural foods store which she often visited.

One day, Georgie told her about a new set of videos on Bible prophecy she had just purchased, and invited Susan to watch them. Susan accepted

her invitation and began viewing the "Millennium of Prophecy" series by Doug Bachelor of *Amazing Facts*.

Immediately, she was captivated by the presentations and knew in her heart that her prayers were finally being answered! However, since



Wendell Springer, Milton Church pastor, baptized Susan and Austin Will at the Wisconsin camp meeting.

Georgie was also sharing the videos with others, Susan was only able to view one video at a time. She was so anxious to continue learning that she went to the *Amazing Facts* web site and purchased her own set, allowing her to complete the entire set of video lessons in a very short time. When the seventh-day Sabbath was introduced, she believed it was truth, but her Sunday-keeping habits made the idea of a change difficult. However, the Holy Spirit soon convicted her, and she accepted the Sabbath truth.

Susan and her boys visited the Janesville Church with her friend Georgie, but decided to attend the

Milton Church, which was nearer their home. After the church service, she introduced herself and her boys to the church pastor, Wendell Springer. He asked where they lived, and they were very surprised to learn that they were next-door neighbors! They also discovered that there were several other Adventist families from the Milton Church in their neighborhood, as well as the Woodland Adventist School. She and her boys were amazed at how genuinely friendly the members were.

In April, Susan and her boys attended some Bible studies held at the Woodland Adventist School. These studies helped affirm her commitment to be baptized, and she and her son, Austin, were baptized on June 22, 2002, at the Wisconsin camp meeting.

Susan believes that God had a special purpose in planting her family in their home among the Adventist families in their neighborhood. And having Wendell and Jollet Springer as next-door neighbors has been an extra special blessing! Since her baptism, Susan has been active in the church's music ministry. She is also actively loaning her videos to others and praying that the Holy Spirit will use them to bring new members into a saving relationship with Jesus.

Bruce Babienco, Lake Union Herald volunteer correspondent

New Lake Union Conference Treasurer Elected

Glynn Scott has been elected as the new Lake Union Conference treasurer, replacing Norman Klam who has accepted a call to be the North Pacific Union Conference treasurer.

Glynn was born and raised as a Seventh-day Adventist on the island of Bermuda, attended elementary and high school at Bermuda Institute, and graduated from Atlantic Union College. He and His wife, Donna, who works in financial records at Andrews University, have two sons, Glenn Jr., a senior at Atlantic Union College, and Clifton, a sophomore at Andrews University.

Glynn has held several local church positions, including primary division leader/teacher, Sabbath school superintendent/teacher, personal ministries leader, family life director, and local church elder.

Before accepting the Lake Union treasurer position, Glynn served as associate treasurer responsible for the



Glynn Scott is the new Lake Union Conference treasurer. Both he and his wife, Donna, have dedicated their lives to serving Jesus and the Adventist Church.

(Photo by Olani Mills)

Lake Union Revolving Fund, plant facility/assets, and trust accounts. Prior to his invitation to the Lake Union, Glynn served as secretary-treasurer of the Bermuda Conference.

Glynn's private sector work experience includes the following: Fidelity International Limited, responsible for the \$350 million Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, portfolio; Fidelity Investments and Research Company of Boston, as an accountant, general

ledger manager, computer systems programmer, cost accountant supervisor, and company investments manager. Additionally, he has worked as a financial analyst for Children's Hospital in Boston, and as an auditor for Price Waterhouse Coopers in both Boston and Bermuda.

Glynn says, "I want people who interact with me in this treasury position to know that I truly believe that Jesus is soon to return, and I am committed to God and His command to take the gospel to the whole world. It is this living hope that will propel me to do all that I can to make a difference in building up God's kingdom."

Speaking of Glynn, Gordon Retzer, Lake Union Conference president, says, "Glynn Scott is a Christian gentleman with a heart full of desire to serve people. He is a leader of integrity, and I believe the Lord has led in his selection as treasurer of the Lake Union. Glynn and Donna are involved in the life and ministry of Pioneer Memorial Church and are respected and loved. I invite you to pray for Glynn as he assumes his new role."

Glynn and Donna love Jesus and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We welcome them to their new responsibilities on the Lake Union ministry team.

Fighting Fires and Finding Faith

BY REGGIE JOHNSON

It's not like what you see in the movies. When you're in a fire, you can't see anything but the flame in front of you. And when you put the flame out, you can't see anything because of the smoke. This is what Don Daniel, a firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) based in Battle Creek, Michigan, knew as he watched the footage from September 11, 2001. Don knew that as a firefighter, you go to work every day knowing that you might never come back—just as 343 firefighters never returned on that fateful day in New York. And Don felt the pain in a special way because of his occupation.

"You think about having people's lives in your hands; you think about the responsibility that you've been given," Don says of his job. "You don't think so much about the danger until after it's all over."

Don felt compelled to preach when he learned about the Lake Union's 2002 evangelistic series theme, and served as one of three speakers for *Hope for the Homeland* at the Niles (Michigan) Philadelphia Church. You see, Don's job and his faith have a unique interaction. His religion keeps him from becoming hardened to his job, and his job has instilled a sense of urgency for sharing his religious experience. The compassion that Jesus has shown for each of us has inspired Don to feel greater compassion for every individual who has been affected by the disasters he is called in to work on. And knowing that any day could be the last, especially in his line of work, has given him a passion for telling others about the salvation that God freely provides, before it's too late.

"After 9-11 our mortality became a little more real, just thinking about what could happen," says Don. "We go in after accidents, we go in after people do things on purpose to hurt other people, and being a firefighter in that atmosphere just made it all the more compelling for me to get involved with *Hope for the Homeland*."

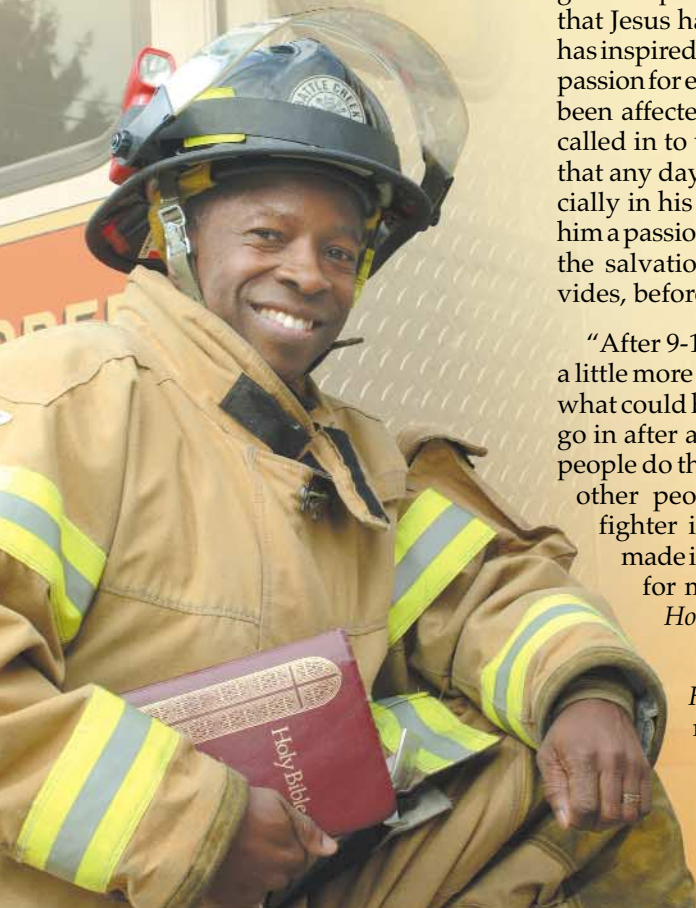
Don sees *Hope for the Homeland* as an experiment, with people who

have no training in speaking or preaching delivering messages while the Holy Spirit convicts hearts. "When you have somebody who doesn't do this for a living, and who's nervous the whole time, and even messes up during the message, it doesn't matter, because it's the Holy Spirit that is touching the hearts," he says. "We are able to see firsthand how 'casting bread upon the waters' does not come back void, empty (Eccl. 11:1). You can't deny what has happened here."

"With *Hope for the Homeland*, you have a series that is so well written that anyone who has the slightest bit of talent, the smallest bit of faith, and wants to share this message can do it," Don says. "I was amazed at the simplicity and the power that is contained in those messages (the New Beginnings DVD series) and how they're constructed. They're not heavy-handed, and by the same token, nothing is being left out."

His excitement for *Hope for the Homeland* is contagious, just like the message being presented. "I don't even know the numbers yet," exclaims Don. "I know that there are plenty of baptisms, and I know that there are going to be plenty of testimonies and people not only saying, 'I found this truth' and 'I came into this truth,' but also, 'I now need to share what I've learned.' That's the way this thing is constructed, and I appreciate it so much."

Don hasn't been an Adventist his whole life. Twenty-three years ago he attended an African Methodist Episcopal church in Battle Creek. His church repeated the Ten Commandments on most Sundays, including the entire fourth commandment. "I never gave it second thought until we were getting close to Easter time, and I read for the first time that Christ rose on the first day of the week," he recalls, "and that hit me like a ton of bricks." Don did the math, and, realizing that if Sunday was the first day then Saturday must be the seventh day, he turned around to the guy behind him in the choir, and asked, "If Christ rose on the first



Now you can read the *Lake Union Herald* online.

day of the week, what are we doing here then?"

Don went to the Adventist church down the street the next week, and that was it. He stayed there.

Don's faith was tested early, as within weeks of his baptism into the Adventist Church he was offered a job that would require him to work on Sabbath. It was during a time when jobs weren't plentiful, and this well-paying job was a good opportunity for Don who was 20 at the time.

When he shared his religious concerns, his prospective employer told him to go and talk to his pastor and see what he could work out. "I talked to them (the church), and instead of someone telling me what to do, they said, 'Well, read this: here it is.' I read it for myself from the Bible, and there were no two ways about it, no way to get around this."

The management tried to work around his beliefs, but ultimately it was the other employees who were unhappy with the idea of Don receiving special treatment. "Eventually I had to turn that job down," Don says. "At that time I had no faith of my own, I had no experience in standing up for the Lord in that way and having it turn out alright, because I never had to do it before."

"It was difficult at first, but getting an opportunity to try the Lord

and see that God comes through for you—it's just a magnificent feeling and experience!" Don took another job that wasn't as good, but allowed him to make ends meet. In the process, his faith grew and he learned something important about his new church. Everyone he talked to directed him to the Bible. There was no one telling



Don Daniel, one of three speakers for Hope for the Homeland at the Niles (Michigan) Philadelphia Church, is a firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) based in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Don Daniel said he was "amazed at the power and simplicity" of the messages presented through the New Beginnings DVD series.



Compelled to preach, Don Daniel's unique background has prepared him to be an excellent witness for God.



him what he had to do. "I appreciated that kind of teaching, and that's how I try to teach," says Don.

"I had a Bible that I had owned for a couple years that looked as new as when I first bought it," Don recalls. "A few months in the Adventist Church and I had to get a new Bible. It couldn't stand the strain!" Don has applied this philosophy in his preaching, telling his listeners, "This is not something that I'm telling you—

we're reading it here right from the Word of God!"

"I'm kind of looking at the last 20 years as my wilderness experience," Don says. "After having lived a little bit, I am able to talk from an actual point of reference." And because of his "wilderness experience" he is able to witness with a sincerity that cannot be counterfeited.

Don moved to Niles after marrying Patricia Stewart in October of 2001, and began attending the Niles Philadelphia Church. He is in his 13th year as a firefighter, and God's leading has been clear in his life. His faith has made him a better firefighter, and his firefighting has increased his faith. "God is very much in control," he says, "and I thank Him for this opportunity to share this message. I thank Him for what He's done in my life. I thank Him for the opportunities that are yet unseen that I know are coming because of being prepared like this. Being prepared

all those years isn't just for nothing, it is for something. And whatever it is, it's going to be wonderful for me and for those who benefit from God's working through me."

Don's job is to help in the aftermath of accidents, but in his own words, "It's no accident that I'm here now. It's no accident that all this came together at this particular time in my life." And it's no accident that there is hope for the homeland.

Don's job is to help in the aftermath of accidents, but in his own words, "It's no accident that I'm here now. It's no accident that all this came together at this particular time in my life." And it's no accident that there is hope for the homeland.

Reggie Johnson is the Lake Union Herald editorial assistant.

Focus on: Wisconsin Conference



Hope for the Homeland Breaks Baptismal Records in Wisconsin

BY JAMES FOX

Hope for the Homeland 2002 has finished! In Wisconsin, it included over 40 English-speaking evangelistic series opening on Friday, September 13; over 25 Hispanic evangelistic series opening during the fall after 20 plus meetings in the late spring; and major evangelistic meetings in Madison, featuring Steve DeLong, and in Eau Claire, featuring Verne Snow. Fifty percent of the meetings were conducted by lay people.

While reports are preliminary, our pastors report over 350 new members added in 2002, of whom 200 joined the church in the last three months of the year! This is an increase of nearly 100 baptisms above our growth rate in 2001! This is the first time since 1974 that we have seen more than 300 baptisms in any given calendar year.

Hope for the Homeland was bigger than the pastors alone could manage, requiring meetings to be held in nearly all of our churches. Therefore, the church equipped and trained its lay people to be evangelists. Working together with enthusiastic pastors, the results were awesome.

Dan Herwick, Frederic Church elder, held meetings in Hudson, Wisconsin, near the Minnesota border where there was no Adventist church. A new group of 10–15 Adventist believers now worships on the Sabbath day in Hudson.

Jim Wright, Dan Ringwelski, Bob Simenson, and Mark Graham, Rice Lake Church elders, took turns leading out in *Hope for the Homeland* meetings. Towards the end of the meetings, Mark gave an appeal for individuals to be baptized and join the church, and nine people came forward in response to the appeal!

Bill Boehm, Portage Church elder, and Everett Edminster, Oxford Church lay advisory leader, together with Mike Edge, Oxford Church pastor, held meetings and baptized two persons in each church!

Bill Ochs, Madison Church pastor, and Richard Moore, Madison Community Church pastor, report 32 baptisms from Steve DeLong's meetings in Madison.

Art Miller, Eau Claire Church pastor, reports that 20 people were baptized in Eau Claire from Vern Snow's meetings.



Dan Herwick, Frederic Church elder, held meetings in Hudson, Wisconsin, where there was no Adventist church.



A new group of believers now worships on Sabbath in Hudson.

The Milwaukee Northwest Church has not had its own evangelistic meetings in recent memory. Their new pastor, Ric Swaningson, just moved to Wisconsin in July. Before he had settled into his home, Pastor Ric launched *Hope for the Homeland* meetings. He reports 23 new baptisms in the Milwaukee Northwest Church.

All of our *Hope for the Homeland* meetings were successful; however, not all meetings resulted in baptisms. The Lord Jesus is the one who bids us to go and preach in His name. He takes responsibility for the fruitfulness of our meetings, and that is

why we praise the Lord whenever there are baptisms. Our task is to be faithful to our calling to preach the Word! We now have a large, well-trained group of successful lay evangelists. We need to work hard to prepare areas

for them to preach in with higher probabilities of a great harvest.

At the conference office, we see all of the presenters as heroes. They have put themselves at risk for Jesus, and they have done marvelously. By enlisting our lay people and training them to evangelize, we have exceeded our faith goal of 300 baptisms for 2002!

Camisha Montgomery's Story

Camisha Montgomery received a brochure on her doorstep, advertising the *Hope for the Homeland* seminar that was coming to the church right down the block from her. Here is her story in her own words:



John and Camisha Montgomery were baptized at a beautiful candlelight baptism.

I had been attending a church here in the local Milwaukee area for the past five years. Recently, I realized that I was not getting much spiritual food there, and I needed to continue my walk with the Lord and build a closer relationship with Him. I earnestly prayed that day that He would show me a sign, indicating which direction I needed to take. I came home and found a brochure for "Adventures in Prophecy" on my door! I knew that God was speaking to me, so I went.

I was so interested that I told my husband John that he needed to go and hear Ric Swaningson, Milwaukee Northwest Church pastor. Our girls do not like to be separated from us and could not stay in the provided child care, so we alternated nights. I would go one night, John the next. We would discuss with each other what we had learned after each meeting, giving us time to study together. My eyes were opened to many new truths. What was so encouraging was that Pastor Ric always said to go home and check out what he was preaching, not to take his word for anything, so we knew and read for ourselves what the Bible said. Never had we heard a preacher say that! Normally we would just listen and always go away believing what was preached.

When we started hearing what Pastor Ric had to say about death, the Sabbath, and many other things, we went home and studied it for ourselves. We found out the truth of the Bible, the way our God wants us to live, and what he has in store for us in heaven.

Before coming to the seminar, I never had the kind of peace and spiritual knowledge that I now have. I enjoy coming to church again and being spiritually fed. I enjoy my new church family and thank God for sending someone to deliver that brochure to my house!

On October 19, 2002, my husband and I were baptized in a beautiful candlelight baptism. It has truly been a wonderful blessing to us and has drawn us closer to our Lord and to each other. We look forward to studying with our new church family that has shown us so much kindness and warmth.

Annetter Hilliard's Story

My name is Annetter Hilliard and I am disabled. Before I came to the *Hope for the Homeland* meetings, I had a good Christian life. I've always enjoyed serving the Lord. The Holy Spirit has always led me to live the way God wants us to live, by loving one another and just being there when you are needed. Before I became disabled, I was very active in my church, but after becoming disabled, I became very limited as to what I could do.

After I came to the "Adventures in Prophecy" seminar and heard Pastor Ric, it was truly a great experience for me. One of my blessings that I received was learning to serve the Lord on the right day. I like the way Pastor Ric taught how to cross reference my Bible, and he is easy to understand. Everyone at the church made me feel so welcome and happy that I was there!

One of the biggest blessings that I received was that my son, Glenn, was baptized and became a part of the church along with me. It was the happiest day of my life! I enjoy my new church family.



Annetter Hilliard was baptized with her son, Glenn, (not pictured) after attending the Hope for the Homeland meetings in Milwaukee.

James Fox is the Wisconsin Conference communication director.

Focus on: Michigan Conference



Four Decisions for Baptism at Bessemer, Michigan

C. RAYMOND HOLMES

The Bessemer Church in the Upper Peninsula has a membership of 31. Two retired pastors, Gordon Frase and I, share the responsibility of providing leadership to this small congregation. When the decision to conduct the *Hope for the Homeland* series was made, we decided to share the preaching assignments with our wives, Shirley Holmes and Irene Frase. After much prayer and planning, September 13, 2002, arrived.

We had hoped for a full church, but were grateful for the ones that did come, especially those that stayed by for the entire series. The Lord blessed the little group with four decisions for baptism, all of whom are in the preparation stage.

Connie Cvengros, a young Roman Catholic lady, had studied with my wife and me for several weeks prior to the meetings. She in turn shared with a co-worker what she was learning and the transformation taking place in her life. Every workday they talked excitedly about the Lord and His Word during break times and lunch. The conversations continued as they commuted to work together.

Connie's friend, Char Buck, a devout Christian and member of a local church, was thrilled with the new insights into the Bible and began to look forward to the *Hope for the Homeland* meetings. They were both there for the first meeting.

Unrelated to the series, I had decided to preach three messages on the remnant, the first one scheduled on the Sabbath following the first Friday meeting. Both young ladies were in attendance that Sabbath. At the close of the message, I invited those who wanted to take their stand with the remnant people of God to stand up. Without hesitation, both Connie and Char stood quickly to their feet!

Later in the series, when the call for baptismal decisions was made, Connie and Char both came forward, along with my sister, Joanne Doyle, who had been attending for three years, and Tina Grunert, the sister of another Bessemer Church member. Spontaneously, the whole congregation joined them with tears and hugs of joy and welcome. We are now looking forward to a happy celebration of Christian baptism.

C. Raymond Holmes is the Bessemer Church senior pastor.

An Overheard Conversation Leads to Baptism

BY KAY COLLINS

Bill Apper, Houghton Church head elder, overheard a conversation between two mothers at the Head-Start program where he works. Elizabeth Moon, known as Libby to her friends, remarked to the other woman that she had been visiting various churches and was looking for a church home. She explained that she wanted to have a place where she and her son, Ryan, would feel welcome.

When the opportunity came, Bill told her his heart was stirred at the sincerity of her desire to find a church family. He then gave her a warm invitation to attend his church.

Libby and Ryan began attending the various church functions, and soon she was involved with Bible studies. When Dan Collins, Michigan Conference evangelist, began the *Hope for the Homeland* series in the Houghton Church, Libby determined to come the first night to check out the meetings. God's Spirit moved mightily upon her heart, and she and Ryan attended faithfully every night of the series.

The church members rejoiced as Libby expressed her desire to be baptized. Sabbath, October 19, 2002, Libby was baptized by David Tenold, Houghton Church pastor.

Kay Collins is a Michigan Conference correspondent.



Bill Apper, left, overheard Elizabeth Moon tell a friend that she was looking for a warm, caring church where she and her son, Ryan, could attend.

Careful Planning Yields Results

BY DALE WOLCOTT

Mt. Pleasant is a small church of 105 members, but they are rejoicing in the large blessings poured out during the *Hope for the Homeland* Prophecy Seminar.

Planning began around nine months in advance. It was decided to hold the meetings on the Central Michigan University (CMU) campus in preparation for a full-time campus missionary to minister at CMU. Arrangements were made for double seminar sessions—daytime and evening—in the 300-seat University Center Auditorium.

To prepare for the meetings, church members did door-to-door visitation in the neighborhoods surrounding the campus. During the months of April through June, six to 10 church members made a weekly two-hour round trip to the Saginaw Church for training. They were taught by Steve Vail, Michigan Conference evangelist, to be “Harvest Leaders” (small group leaders). To prepare the

facilities, the interior and exterior of the church building was also refurbished.

Peter Easton, Mt. Pleasant head elder, organized the whole church into task committees, following the plans provided by the Michigan Conference. These included a child-evangelism team and a prayer-ministry team.



Dale Wolcott, Mt. Pleasant Church pastor, presents the *Hope for the Homeland* message.

Thanks to this strong lay leadership, I was free to concentrate on prayerful preparation for my role as seminar presenter.

Fifty-four guests attended on opening day—less than hoped for, but more than anyone could remember in previous Mt. Pleasant evangelistic efforts. After four days, the seminar was moved to the church auditorium, and non-member attendance gradually diminished. At the end of the series, 14 guests were still attending regularly, eight of whom had attended all or nearly all of the meetings. Altogether, over 95 guests attended at least one meeting.

Throughout the series, church member attendance averaged 47, right up to the final sessions. At the close of

each evangelistic presentation, three to five lay-led small groups convened in various parts of the auditorium, producing friendships between guests and church members. The Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs attended nearly every meeting, often in uniform, serving as greeters, ushers, and assistants to the small group leaders.

So far, nine people have made decisions for baptism and church membership. One has been baptized already, and the others are preparing. Several are attending a follow-up “Personal Devotions Workshop” on Wednesday nights. Church members are also doing personal follow-up with those who attended regularly but have not yet made decisions.

The Mt. Pleasant Church has discovered again that loving relationships, careful planning, and clear Bible truth are a winning combination!

Dale Wolcott is the Mt. Pleasant Church pastor.

Hope for the Homeland Unites Family

BY MICHAEL NICKLESS

Because of their concerns about the public school system, Dave and Susan Reid enrolled their daughter in the Ann Arbor Church school several years ago. When the church took part in the NET '98 series, their daughter was asked to help out in the meetings. Dave brought her to the church and dropped her off. After a few nights of waiting for her, he made the decision to go into the meeting to see what his daughter was really doing. After hearing the message of truth, he made a decision to become a Seventh-day Adventist.

Susan, a Lutheran, would not join her husband in his decision. When the *Hope for the Homeland* series began, Dave finally convinced her to come to the first meeting. She made him promise not to ask her to come to another meeting.

Dave reports, “Without another word from me, Susan attended the rest of the meetings, has begun attending Sabbath services weekly, and is continuing to participate in Wednesday evening Bible studies.”

Susan is now asking to be baptized soon, uniting their family in the Adventist Church.

Michael Nickless is the Michigan Conference communication director.

Focus on: Lake Region Conference



Against All Odds

BY ARTHUR WEBB WITH JAMES WILLIS

Despite seemingly overwhelming obstacles, James Willis pushed ahead to hold his first evangelistic series during the *Hope for the Homeland* initiative. When the call went out for lay people to preach a series, James responded. He had preached several times through his involvement with Traveling Ministries, a Shiloh (Illinois) Church young people's group whose purpose is to spread the gospel. But he had never before held his own evangelistic series.

James sought endorsement from the Lake Region Conference to hold a lay series and submitted the requested budget. Several weeks later, he learned that there wasn't financial support available for his series. Time was running out. Not to be discouraged, he was even more determined to share the message of *Hope for the Homeland*.



James Willis, Shiloh (Illinois) Church elder, held his first evangelistic meetings during the *Hope for the Homeland* initiative.

James prayed, fasted, planned, and organized. He conferred with his brother, Philip C. Willis Sr., Shiloh Church pastor. Pastor Philip volunteered to be the singing evangelist and to review the Bible lessons with students. Also, Shiloh Church would provide the financial support for the series. James' prayers were answered.

With just two weeks before the meetings were to begin, witnessing teams were organized for street-corner ministry. The four teams covered selected areas on the Chicago East Side, witnessing and praying for individuals. These witnessing teams ventured out at least twice weekly, distributing pamphlets and extending invitations to the meetings. As a result, over 60 contacts were made for prayer and Bible study. Glenie Rozier, Shiloh's first elder, worked diligently as the Bible worker to organize and conduct Bible studies.

While few of these contacts attended the meetings, there were others who came and responded to the message. One man learned about the meetings from a *Hope for the Homeland* brochure he picked up on the bus. The first night he came, he responded to the appeal and made a decision to be baptized.

Twenty-two-year-old Dwight Robeson had been attending Shiloh as a member of the basketball team connected with the Christian Fellowship League. He began taking Bible studies with former coach, Ron Anderson. Still struggling to make a decision for Christ, Dwight came to the meetings. It wasn't until the series had ended that Dwight realized time was running out, and he needed to take his stand for Jesus. A friend died, and his funeral was on Dwight's birthday. Dwight came to James and said he was ready to go all the way for Jesus, and he was baptized.

Reflecting on the experience, James says that as he studied and prepared for the meetings, things he had studied before became clearer. He also learned something God had been trying to tell him for years. "I now realize that if you have abilities and gifts God has blessed you with, you shouldn't sit back and wait. You need to use them. My excuse was that since I wasn't a minister, I didn't have to do evangelism. But now I'm looking forward to next year."

Arthur Webb and James Willis are Shiloh Church elders.

New Beginnings

BY DEBBIE YOUNG

The *Hope for the Homeland* evangelistic series at the Niles (Michigan) Philadelphia Church offered a number of first-time experiences. It was a first for Gordon Retzer, Lake Union Conference president, to conduct an evangelistic series with lay co-presenters. It was a first for Jacqueline Lynch, a seminary student, to preach in a series. It was a first for church member and firefighter Don Daniel, who has taught Sabbath school and has acting experience, to preach in a series. Donald Bedney, church pastor, followed three weeks of four to five nights a week meetings with the final eight nights of the series. It was obvious that this was just the first of future evangelistic thrusts at Niles Philadelphia.

"The members were absolutely excited about the process," Pastor Donald says. "I know our church is different, just for having gone through this ... there was a reawakening to who we are as Adventists, and people fell in love with the message and Jesus again."

New relationships developed, not just with visitors, but with speakers. Gordon and Cheryl Retzer attended faithfully, even when Gordon was not presenting. He was there to offer expertise and build relationships with the people. "We were really delighted with his presence and appreciated his willingness to pitch in and do his part," said Pastor Donald.

The members discovered the gospel's real blessing. You can't share it and not be affected yourself. When

Jesus said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32), He meant everyone would be affected. Pat Stewart, one of the series coordinators and wife of speaker Don Daniel, reiterates Pastor Donald's sentiments. "We didn't have the numbers we thought we'd have, but it has been a rich experience, doing what God says and just sowing seeds for God."



Jacqueline Lynch (left) was one of the Niles Philadelphia Church Hope for the Homeland speakers. She is pictured here with Donald Bedney, Niles Philadelphia Church pastor.

Woodrow L. Gordon, a retired automotive worker, came to the church with no prior contact, except that he had been watching 3ABN. A World War II veteran, Woodrow didn't believe in the Old Testament and harbored anger toward God about some things. Yet, he came to every meeting. Elynda Bedney and Molly Gray befriended him, and others visited him regularly.

Through the love and warmth of church members, Woodrow's heart softened, and the seeds of truth took hold. At the end of the meetings, Woodrow was baptized. Others who came to the series continue to attend and study.

Some first experiences are worth repeating. Pastor Donald is certain this *Hope for the Homeland* initiative is one of them. "At the drop of a hat, the church would be willing to do this again," he concluded.

Debbie Young is a Lake Region Conference Herald correspondent.

Focus on: Indiana Conference



Seeds of Hope Planted in the Crossroads of America

BY DIANE THURBER

When the call was made for each conference in the Lake Union to join together for *Hope for the Homeland*, members from throughout Indiana—the “Crossroads of America”—responded with enthusiasm.

Careful planning by John Morrison, recently retired ministerial director, helped to lay a foundation for the events that would take place in Indiana throughout the fall. More than 50 lay persons received training. Many especially appreciated learning about the DVD series, *New Beginnings*, the latest evangelistic resource containing a complete set of multimedia gospel presentations with sermon outlines and scripts developed for use by the lay person.

In preparation for the approximate 80 meeting sites, thousands of customized handbills were distributed, 100,000 door hangers offering free Bible studies were placed in communities, and an additional 100,000 door hangers informed of community services available. Meeting spaces were obtained, varying among hotel conference rooms, American Legion halls, public libraries, homes, and churches. Cicero members preceded the meetings with 10 days of prayer, with small groups meeting three times daily to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the church and community. “On the Thursday before the meetings began, we had a day of fasting,” shared Ron Kelly, Cicero Church pastor.

It was evident that Indiana members, young and old, were eager to be involved in *Hope for the Homeland*. While some churches chose to offer words of encouragement, sympathy, and hope for three nights as attendees reflected on the events which took place on September 11, 2001, many other churches conducted three- or four-week series, offering a greater glimpse into truths that bring hope for the future.

Whether it was the Cicero Children’s Choir inspiring community guests with selections of patriotic songs and coordinated color graphics, seasoned pastors throughout Indiana

delivering time-tested messages of eternal hope, or lay persons experiencing the joy of teaching others for the first time, an obvious display of the Holy Spirit’s power was present.



Photo by Sheri DeWitt

The Cicero Children’s Choir, under the direction of Kathy Griffin, greatly moved listeners as they viewed colorful images coordinated with the choir’s patriotic and religious songs.

While it is too soon to encapsulate the results of Indiana’s evangelistic endeavors, we do know God was at work, bringing many long-time believers to realize anew their hope and helping visitors experience this gift for the first time—many accepting Jesus through baptism. We are grateful for each dedicated person who chose to be involved with this project.

Many incredible stories could be told, but here is a glimpse at a few of the churches and members who accepted the *Hope for the Homeland* challenge to corporately bring people to God.

YOUNG PEOPLE DELIVER MESSAGES OF HOPE

A remarkable young man, Bradley Bolejack of the Glendale Church, who just a year ago presented his first sermon at a youth rally held at his church, followed that experience with numerous opportunities to speak. Because he was a man of prayer, Bradley asked the Lord to confirm a calling to the ministry by making available more opportunities to share God’s Word. More invitations came, and Bradley kept preaching. The Glendale Church pastors and members enthusiastically approached this 17-year-old Brownsburg High School junior and offered their support if he would be a *Hope for the Homeland* speaker. After much prayer, he agreed.

Bradley’s handbill made two sincere promises as he reached out to the Carmel community and beyond: “The Bible alone will be your textbook. Jesus Christ will be lifted up—our hope for these last days!”

Each evening brought church members, family, and guests to a conference room at the Carmel Signature Inn. Using the *New Beginnings* seminar and incorporating personal stories and insights, Bradley nightly painted vivid pictures of the hope we have in Jesus Christ. One evening, Bradley’s mother invited a client from her beauty salon to visit after



Glendale Church member Bradley Bolejack, a 17-year-old Brownsburg High School junior, spoke enthusiastically nightly at the Carmel Signature Inn. Bradley (left) is shown here with his supportive family.

learning of the sorrow the client had experienced following the deaths of loved ones. Bradley's mother knew he would be speaking on the subject of death and was praying her friend would hear a message to bring comfort. Following the presentation, with tears streaming down her face, the client remarked, "I heard what I needed to hear tonight. Thank you."

Bradley's meetings have concluded, but the seeds he spread will continue to be watered and fed in the days to come. Follow-up studies are scheduled with individuals expressing an interest in baptism.

GOD'S TRUTHS HAVE NO LANGUAGE BARRIERS

Many Indiana Hispanic churches, companies, and branch Sabbath schools took seriously the opportunity to reach the Spanish-speaking population in their territories. While some churches chose to use lay speakers for the meetings, others invited guest evangelists from as far away as Santa Ana, California, and from the West Mexican Mission in Mexico. Still others shared messages of hope using *la RED* Spanish satellite evangelism with Alejandro Bullón.

Reaping meetings held at the Logansport Spanish branch Sabbath school resulted in 30 non-members attending—a tremendous response for a group of only 14 members. The Fort Wayne Hispanic Church welcomed four new members following a reaping meeting with guest speaker Ricardo Huerta. Gilberto Bahena, district pastor, shared that "three more are getting ready for another baptism in December." At the Indianapolis Hispanic Church, a special baptismal service brought together five lay groups who had been studying with several precious people. Gary Thurber, Indiana Conference president, was present as 17 new members were welcomed to the family of God and eight members were re-baptized. "It was a thrill," Gary stated, "to watch as those lay-led groups brought to the whole church body the people they had seen come to the Lord through their ministry. It was my first Sabbath in Indiana, and I couldn't imagine a better place to be."

FRIENDS REUNITE FOR GOD IN LOOGOOTEE

Thirty years ago, Wayne Moehnkaus and Travis Resler attended Loogootee Elementary together. During their sixth-grade year, Wayne moved away and they lost touch with one another, but memories of their friendship were held closely

in Travis' heart. Besides the fun adventures they shared, Travis also remembered that Wayne went to church on the seventh day of the week and was a vegetarian.

Twenty-five years later while living in Champaign, Illinois, Travis and his wife Sue learned of the three angels' messages on 3ABN. They were baptized into the Champaign Church after Mark Finley's NET '96 meetings. Following this life-changing decision, Travis began to feel a tug to move back to his hometown in southern Indiana. He wanted to put on a Bible seminar there and wished to become reacquainted with his former friend.

Arriving in Loogootee, Travis began looking for leads of Wayne's whereabouts, but found nothing. Travis prayed the Lord would bring them together again, and it wasn't long before that prayer was answered. One Sabbath, Wayne and his family visited the church where Travis and his family attend, but they missed seeing each other because Travis' family was home sick with the flu. Fortunately, Wayne left his name in a visitor registry, and they were soon able to make contact.



Childhood friends, Travis Resler and Wayne Moehnkaus, united their families to provide messages of hope and music at their Hope for the Homeland series in Loogootee, Indiana.

When the encouragement came for members to become involved during *Hope for the Homeland*, everything fit into place. Travis would present the messages, and he asked Wayne to join him as music coordinator. Wayne, his wife Melissa, and daughters Heidi, Karie, Hanna, and Katie, shared their musical talents. Travis' sons also helped with the singing, and his wife Sue prepared the children's programming.

Reflecting on this experience, Travis shares, "Although the crowd was small, a seed was planted, and, hopefully, a harvest will be made which will glorify Jesus." The Moehnkaus and Resler families aren't slowing down after this joint venture for God; they have been impressed to work together to plan and present a health seminar soon.

Without a doubt, many seeds were planted throughout the state—in populous Indianapolis, in rural communities, and in several "dark" counties. The Indiana church family eagerly looks forward to additional opportunities to serve in the rich soil here, realizing the harvest of this *Hope for the Homeland* effort will continue to be seen for years to come.

Diane Thurber is the Indiana Conference communication director.



Lay Speaker Responds to Her Own Baptismal Appeal

BY BRUCE BABIENCO WITH DALE BARNHURST

There was new excitement in the Marion, Illinois, Church as they voted to join the sisterhood of Illinois churches and conduct a *Hope for the Homeland* series. However, they chose to do it in a different style. Seventeen volunteer lay persons were found to be the speakers for the adult Bible DVD presentations. Everything was planned well as they moved toward the date for their public meetings to begin.

Shortly before the church began planning for this evangelistic series, Heather Hiebert began attending the church worship services, and from all appearances was a faithful member. She had been reared as an Adventist, and everyone believed she was going to be a blessing to their church family.

When it was discovered that the person scheduled to preach on the topic of baptism at the 19th meeting was not able to fulfill their commitment, Kerry Wilcut, the *Hope for the Homeland* coordinator, in consultation with the pastor and others, felt convicted to ask Heather to be the new presenter.

She accepted the assignment and began preparing her presentation, but was concerned about making a public altar call at the end of her message. On the night of her presentation, she was very nervous and asked Dale Barnhurst, Marion Church pastor, if he would be willing to come forward at the end of her presentation to make an appeal. He agreed to do it.

The meeting got off to a good start, and Heather presented the topic of baptism in a clear and convincing way. As her message was coming to a close, Pastor Dale started moving toward the front to present the altar call. However, to his amazement and joy, Heather

did not stop preaching, but went on, and by the Holy Spirit's power closed with a genuine heartfelt appeal for those who wanted to be baptized to come forward. By the time the pastor arrived at the front, there were three individuals who had come forward.

Then a blessed surprise took place. Heather turned the service over to the pastor and stepped down from the pulpit to join those who had made their decisions. Although she had been reared an Adventist, Heather had never been baptized. That evening the Holy Spirit had also called her to surrender, and she gave her heart to Jesus Christ.



Heather Hiebert, the substitute *Hope for the Homeland* series speaker, responded to her own appeal for baptism.

It was a beautiful service as two of those four were baptized on November 9, 2002, and joined the Marion Church family. The other two are preparing for baptism in the near future.

God works in mysterious ways. He used a providential opening for a new speaker to call one of His daughters to total commitment and to win others for Him. "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" Daniel 12:3.

Bruce Babienco is a Lake Union Herald volunteer correspondent, and Dale Barnhurst is the Marion Church pastor.

A Silent Prayer Brings God's Call

BY MICHELLE CATARAMA

On a Friday evening last August at the Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) convention in Columbus, Ohio, a group of young people shared their testimony and the amazing work of the Holy Spirit in the evangelistic meeting they had just conducted using the ASI-sponsored New Beginnings DVD sermon series. Sitting in the audience, I silently prayed to God, asking Him for guidance and to show me what work He wanted me to do. Not even two hours later, I was asked by Ken Denslow, Illinois Conference president, if I would

I started calling Hinsdale Church members, and over 40 responded positively, all willing to be used by God in this series of meetings. The plan was to assign responsibilities and rotate volunteers, since not all could attend five nights a week for six weeks. We had our first planning meeting the following Sabbath afternoon with 30 in attendance!

Over 21,000 flyers were printed and in the mail before we had our first planning meeting. In the weeks that followed, many more hand-written invitations went out, and a group of Hinsdale Academy students, teachers, and volunteers went out distributing flyers to the surrounding businesses and households. Bibles and nightly handouts were purchased, children's meetings were planned, and volunteers prepared for the meetings to begin.

A season of prayer preceded the series of meetings. In addition, the Hinsdale Academy students (K-12) became prayer partners and uplifted us daily in prayer. The children received periodic reports of God's Spirit working and answering their prayers, as well as specific prayer requests. A prayer chain was organized, and a group started praying every night before the meetings.

Our faithful group of attendees was made up of people that heard the message for the first time, some who had been baptized in the past but had not stayed close to God, and others that had been faithful for many years. The night we presented the baptism message, I received a double blessing as I watched my 10-year-old son join the group that came forward to prepare for baptism.

A team has been appointed to follow up and visit with those who are new in the faith and to continue studying with those requesting Bible studies. Our pastoral staff members have been very faithful in their support, following up on the interests. Our church office staff sent periodic letters and invitations to everyone that ever attended the meetings.

We were all blessed by God's Word and His Spirit, and we are all ready to do it again! A fire has been kindled in many hearts.



(Photo by Rick Remmers)

Michelle Catarama, Hinsdale Church and ASI member, spoke for the Hope for the Homeland meetings which were held in the Paulson Center conference room in Willowbrook, Illinois.

hold a series of meetings in the newly remodeled Paulson Center third-floor conference room in Willowbrook, where the Illinois Conference offices are located. I took this invitation as my call from God and His answer to my silent prayer.

A week later, we met with Rick Remmers, Illinois Conference executive secretary, to start the planning. That was when my husband, Viorel Catarama, and I found out that we had to do everything—all the planning, pulling the volunteers together, the advertising, the children's program—all that was needed to make this evangelistic meeting happen. September 13, 2002, was about three weeks away!

Michelle Catarama is a Hinsdale Church and ASI member.



Divine Intervention

BY STEPHANIE WINES

I can remember the scene as if it were yesterday. Our Village Church pastoral staff in Berrien Springs, Michigan, had assembled once again for the regular Monday meeting, with Larry Lichtenwalter, church pastor, leading out in worship. After the concluding prayer, he looked around expectantly at each of us and said he had an exciting announcement to make.

Our circle of “hands and feet for Jesus” didn’t respond with much life. Most of us couldn’t hide our droopy eyelids or slouched positions. Undisturbed by his lifeless crew, Pastor Larry proceeded to notify us that our pastoral staff would be conducting an evangelistic series in a year. His eyes were wide with excitement, and a wide smile spread across his face. A few grunts of “great” and “wow” echoed around the circle, not matching even half of his enthusiasm. Little did we realize what we were in for.



A large Hope for the Homeland banner was displayed outside the Village Church, inviting people to come to the meetings.

That was a little over a year ago. Now we are at the end of our *Hope for the Homeland* evangelistic series, not only seeing miracles happen, but wishing it wasn’t over. The lifeless bodies of last year have been incredibly transformed into batteries of energy. When you see the power



Stephanie Wines (right) serves as row hostess at the Village Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

of God working around and through you, there’s an irresistible urge to share with others and a spark that can’t be squelched.

Before the series began, I’d volunteered to be a row hostess. Basically the duties of a row hostess consist of getting to the meetings 45 minutes early, sitting in the same general area, welcoming people to the meetings, and handing out registration cards, bulletin announcements, coupons, etc. I was glad to be a hostess, because I really enjoy getting to know people personally; however, I hadn’t caught a vision of how God was going to use me, so I’d been pretty nominal in my attitude toward the whole series. About a week into the meetings, I tangibly understood God’s purpose for me.

I’d seen them come to a couple of meetings the week before, but thought nothing of it. That night, as I watched this mother-daughter pair walk up to the front and sit down, something hit me. Or maybe it was more of an impression from the Holy Spirit. I felt compelled to welcome them once the meeting was finished. After the benediction, I made my way up to the front of the church and introduced myself to this little family. The mother introduced herself as Barbara, and her daughter as Jessica. We didn’t chat long before Barbara mentioned she needed to pick up her younger daughter, Faith, from downstairs and get the girls home and into bed.

The next few weeks I kept an eye out for Barbara and Jessica, but the few times I saw them come, they had disappeared by the time I could get to them.

In a pastoral meeting during the fourth week of the series, Bayani Pastrana, our pastor in charge of evangelism, gave me another half-dozen interests to visit. As I scanned down through the last names, I recognized one

of them was Barbara's and Jessica's. That Thursday, I made an evening visit to see how they were enjoying the meetings. Jessica came to the door with a big smile on her face. I asked how she'd been doing, and she replied that she was doing well and was really happy to see me. And before I even asked, she said she liked the "religious" meetings she'd been coming to with her mom. Barbara wasn't home from work yet, so I left two tapes and said I'd look for her and her Mom that weekend.

Sunday night I saw Jess and her mom sit down a few rows ahead of me. As the evening progressed, I thought I saw Barbara get out a tissue, but wasn't sure. Afterward, I walked to where they were sitting and sat down by Barbara. She had been crying and was blowing her nose. We embraced, and then she said she really wanted to know more about the Bible. The Holy Spirit was at work on her heart, and it was wonderful to see! Our head elder, Primod Gaikwad, was sitting behind her and had been talking with her before I arrived. In response to her desire to know more about Jesus, he suggested the three of us get together and do Bible studies.

Since that evening, Barbara and I have been meeting regularly to understand who Jesus is and what He teaches in the Bible. She is desperately wanting to know Him more and follow Him completely—whatever it takes.

What a thrill to see God change other people's lives. But perhaps even more amazing is to see how God can reignite my own heart and tired soul, and to understand that if we are willing, He is faithful to complete the good work He's begun in us.

Stephanie Wines is an Andrews University English major.

Prayer Ministry: Evangelism's Power Source

BY KAREN PEARSON

At the Village Church in Berrien Springs, we had great expectations as we prepared and prayed for our *Hope for the Homeland* meetings. As prayer ministries leader, the cry of my heart was for the Holy Spirit to descend with power and to envelope not just our church, but the entire village.

In the months leading up to the campaign, a question kept repeating in my mind: "What is the essence of evangelism; what lies at the core of sharing Christ?" If I was going to coordinate the prayer ministry, I needed to be able to answer that question.

One morning, while wrestling in prayer for answers, I found the following statement: "The followers of Christ are to labor as He did. We are to minister to the despairing, and inspire hope in the hopeless" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 350). The words on the recently printed flyers came to mind: "Out of tragedy rises *Hope for the Homeland*." These words were being seen on billboards and flyers and heard on radio and TV stations across the nation by millions of Americans.

Before we knew it, opening night arrived. Flowers filled the front of the sanctuary. The church looked lovely. Each volunteer had been trained and knew exactly where to be, and what to do. I looked at the huge screen. It had been found in answer to prayer. The cameras, the projector, the lighting—all provided by the Lord in the most incredible 11th-hour answers to our prayers. As the music began, I slipped away to the prayer room where I joined the volunteers who had already started praying.

In the days and weeks that followed, the church witnessed amazing answers to prayer. We prayed for our entire village, and night after night people stopped by before the meeting began and shared with us how God was working in their lives and in their homes.



Karen Pearson, right, led out in the Village Church's prayer ministry during Hope for the Homeland. Harry Miller, left, was also part of the prayer group.

We prayed for victory over sin, and strength to overcome temptation. We wept over the lonely, hurting ones and rejoiced as we saw lives surrendering to Jesus. We discovered that it is impossible to bring others to Jesus, without drawing closer to Him yourself. Evangelism is not a spectator sport. I have come to believe that prayer and encouragement lies at the heart of all genuine evangelism.

The campaign is over, but as long as we are held prisoners in this sin-wracked world, there will always be a need to share the hope that is within us.

Karen Pearson is the Andrews University advancement administrative assistant.

Adventist Health System Midwest Region



Adventist Hospitals Receive National Recognition

Hinsdale and La Grange Memorial hospitals have received five-star ratings for excellence in cardiology from HealthGrades, the leading provider of health care quality information. The HealthGrades fifth annual hospital report card places Hinsdale and La Grange Memorial hospitals, both members of the Adventist Health System Midwest Region, among the best in Illinois for cardiology services.

HealthGrades also recognized Hinsdale Hospital for its exceptional stroke program with a five-star rating. Hinsdale Hospital ranked among the top five percent of neurological programs in the United States.

Another Adventist Health System facility, GlenOaks Hospital, received a five-star rating in obstetrics, placing it among the top 25 percent of hospitals nationally for obstetrics services.

Each year, HealthGrades independently analyzes over 5,000 hospitals nationwide, objectively grading their performance and quality, and publishes the ratings on www.healthgrades.com. The analysis measures whether patient outcomes are better than expected (five-star), as expected (three-star), or worse than expected (one-star). Receiving a five-star designation indicates that the hospital has generally scored among the top 15 percent in the nation for that category.

ROONEY HEART

Rooney Heart of Hinsdale and La Grange Memorial hospitals offers a full range of cardiac services, including open-heart surgery; complete invasive cardiac procedures such as cardiac catheterization, angioplasty, and stents; and a full complement of non-invasive services on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. Complete inpatient and outpatient diagnos-

tic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative cardiology services are available on both campuses. The health system's cardiac services are among the largest full-service heart care programs in the western suburbs.

NEUROSERVICES

Hinsdale Hospital has made a firm commitment to become a prominent leader and referral center in the treatment of neurological disorders for more than 20 years. A dedicated neuro intensive care unit offers specially trained nurses to provide care following the surgical treatment of brain tumors, aneurisms, and spinal disorders. Non-surgical treatment of aneurisms with coils is also offered at Hinsdale Hospital. Both Hinsdale and La Grange Memorial hospitals are designated stroke programs, offering the most advanced treatment and care for people with brain aneurisms, tumors, bleeding, and stroke.

OBSTETRICS

In HealthGrades' rankings, GlenOaks Hospital was noted for excellent clinical care in the area of obstetrics, following an analysis of obstetrics programs in nearly 1,800 U.S. hospitals. GlenOaks Hospital provides private labor and delivery rooms, board-certified physicians and nurse midwives, and a wide range of pain-management options.

HEALTHGRADES

"We provide our hospital report cards with the mission of helping consumers make better informed health care choices. Our goal is to improve the quality of health care overall," explained Sarah Loughran, HealthGrades senior vice president. "It is important for community members to be aware of this information. On average, mortality rates for one-star hospitals are double that of five-star hospitals. The high quality ratings earned by Hinsdale, La Grange Memorial, and GlenOaks hospitals reflect a significant level of excellence."

HealthGrades' 2002 quality ratings are based on raw data collected from 1999 through 2001 by the federal government's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Find out more about HealthGrades at: www.keepingyouwell.com.

*Lynn Larson, Adventist Health System
Midwest Region Lake Union Herald
correspondent*



▶ Hinsdale Hospital, located in Hinsdale, Ill., is the flagship of the Adventist Health System Midwest Region—one of the nation's largest health care systems. The 426-bed facility offers centers of excellence in neurology, cardiology, oncology, and women and children's services.



▶ La Grange Memorial Hospital, located in La Grange, Ill., joined Adventist Health System Midwest Region in 1999. The 274-bed facility provides quality medical care in a high-tech environment, while maintaining personal patient care.



▶ GlenOaks Hospital in Glendale Heights, Ill., is a 186-bed facility, which expanded its cardiology services this year with the opening of its cardiac catheterization laboratory ("cath lab").

MILEPOSTS

Within the Lake Union the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Former members who now live outside the Lake Union may contact the conference communication director where their membership was held when they lived in the Lake Union to obtain the forms for submission. Milepost forms are also available at luc.adventist.org/herald/herald-submit.html. Conference addresses and phone numbers are in the masthead on page 31.

ANNIVERSARIES

Lloyd and Mildred Hawkins celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Oct. 13, 2002, by having a reception dinner and program for family and friends at Mitchell Hall in the Inverness (Fla.) Church. They were members of the Adrian (Mich.) Church for 60 years.



Lloyd Hawkins and Mildred Pangburn were married Sept. 5, 1937, in Grand Ledge, Mich., by Pastor Leonard Lee. Lloyd and Mildred were dairy farmers for 55 years, retiring in 1992.

The Hawkins family includes David and Caroline Hawkins of Auburndale, Fla.; Shirlie and Fred Heiney of Ottawa Lake, Mich.; Betty Breakey of Eaton Rapids, Mich.; and JoAnn and Charles May of Owens Crossroads, Ala.; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Thomas and Genevieve Starkey celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Nov. 27, 2002, at a gala cele-

bration dinner with their family. They have been members of the Fairplain (Benton Harbor, Mich.) and Pioneer Memorial (Berrien Springs, Mich.) churches for 54 years.

Thomas Starkey and Genevieve Edgecomb were married Nov. 27, 1937, in Madison, Wis., by Roscoe Moore. Thomas has been a juvenile probation officer and probate court referee. Genevieve established and became director of volunteers at Lakeland Hospital, St. Joseph, Mich.

The Starkey family includes Barbara and James Martz of Darien, Ill.; Joan Banks of Berrien Springs; and six grandchildren.

WEDDINGS

Heidi K. Martens and Adrian T. Crabb were married Oct. 29, 2002, in Madison, Wis. The ceremony was performed by Pastor William J. Ochs.

Heidi is the daughter of Robert and Kathryn Schroeder of Tomah, Wis., and Adrian is the son of Thomas and Carla Crabb of Madison.

The Crabbs are making their home in Madison.

Amber D. Figgins and Shane E. Gass were married Aug. 11, 2002, in Centerville, Ohio. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Dave Evans.

Amber is the daughter of Wendell and Barbara Figgins of Stewardson, Ill., and Shane is the son of Larry and

Sandee Gass of Alamaso, Colo., and Theresa and Kurry Coker of Freedom, Ind.

The Gasses are making their home in Centerville.

Courtney D. Abrahamson and Brian J. Peters were married Aug. 25, 2002, in Gatlinburg, Tenn. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Travis Tatum.

Courtney is the daughter of Richard and Eve Abrahamson of Franklin, Ga., and Brian is the son of Pete (Elmer) and Mary Peters of Harshaw, Wis.

The Peterses are making their home in Franklin.

Letitia M. Scofield and Jason T. Randall were married June 9, 2002, in Kalamazoo, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor David Scofield.

Letitia is the daughter of David and Anita Scofield of Montfort, Wis., and Jason is the son of Charles and Barbara Randall of Lawton, Mich.

The Randalls are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif.

Mildred M. Jupe and Robert L. Selig were married Sept. 14, 2002, in Clare, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Russell C. Thomas.

Mildred is the daughter of the late Floyd and the late Stella Thomas of Edenville, Mich., and Robert is the son of the late Roy and the late Gladys Selig of Muskegon, Mich.

The Seligs are making their home in Sanford, Mich.

OBITUARIES

ANDERSON, Doris L. (Drawbaugh), age 90; born Feb. 23, 1912, in Omaha, Neb.; died July 22, 2002, in Russellville, Ariz. She was a member of the Pioneer

Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her daughters, F. Rosemary Maehre, Leta K. Miller, B. Joanne Rivard, Esther G. Key, and Sonya R. Bailey; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

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

BAKER, Harvey E., age 73; born Mar. 4, 1929, in Indianapolis; died July 26, 2002, in Louisville, Ky. He was a member of the Madison (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, N. Carol (Wheate); son, Steven D.; daughters, Marcia J. Baker and Gail L. Smith; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Joe McKay and Bill Humeniuk, and interment was in New Bethel Cemetery, Lexington, Ind.

BORG, Vera G. (Leary), age 95; born Aug. 15, 1907, in Allenville, Wis.; died Oct. 31, 2002, in Hobart Village, Wis. She was a member of the Green Bay (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Dale; daughter, Beverly; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Ray Fitzgerald, and interment was in Graceland Cemetery, Clintonville, Wis.

BOWLIN, Grace E. (Cartwright), age 89; born Feb. 27, 1913, in Dunn County, Wis.; died Sept. 20, 2002, in Eau Claire, Wis. She was a member of the Eau Claire Church, Altoona, Wis.

Survivors include her sons, Damon H., Royal M., and Monte Beau; daughter, N. Starr Ries; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

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Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Arthur Miller, and interment was in Waneka Cemetery, Eau Claire.

BUTE, Robert E., age 59; born Sept. 6, 1942, in Chicago; died Aug. 28, 2002, in Eau Claire, Wis. He was a member of the Eau Claire Church, Altoona, Wis.

Survivors include his wife, Joy (Bell); sons, Dan, Donald, and Matthew; stepdaughters, Kelly Bonner and Terri Erts; and 11 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Arthur Miller, and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Elk Mound, Wis.

CLARK, Ethel (McLouth), age 86; born July 19, 1916, in Ferry, Mich.; died Sept. 24, 2002, in Shelby, Mich. She was a member of the Shelby Church.

Survivors include her sons, Gary and Arden;

daughters, Arlene Eilers and Mayme Wyns; brother, Donald McLouth; 17 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Douglas Carlson, and interment was in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Shelby.

COWLING, Beulah L. (Denman), age 99; born Jan. 31, 1903, in Richland County, Wis.; died July 4, 2002, in Richland Center, Wis. She was a member of the Richland Center Church.

Survivors include her son, Vernon; daughters, Joy Marshall and Verla Pauls; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor David Scofield, and interment was in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Marshall, Wis.

DAUGHERTY, Reuben, age 98; born Oct. 29, 1903, in Tippecanoe County, Ind.; died Sept. 23, 2002, in Lafayette, Ind. He was a member of the Lafayette Church, West Lafayette, Ind.

Survivors include his son, Carl David; daughters, Marilyn Roudebush, Maxine Stonebraker, and Wilma Austin; 16 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Lark Brown, and interment was in Rest Haven Memorial Park, Lafayette.

DUGGER, Warren E., age 86; born Sept. 23, 1916, in Vermillion County, Ind.; died Oct. 3, 2002, in Terre Haute, Ind. He was a member of the Terre Haute Church.

Survivors include his sons, David M., Dennis A., Steven W., Stanley K., and

Jon P.; daughters, Mildred M. Jeffers, Zula E. Pratt, Karen R. Poppe, Rebecca A. Allen, and Rolena K. Lackey; sister, Maxine Francis; 40 grandchildren; 42 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor M. Ojeda, and interment was in Roselawn Memorial Park, Terre Haute.

HANSEN, Adaline (Rogers), age 95; born Oct. 5, 1906, in Milton Junction, Wis.; died Aug. 27, 2002, in Columbus, Wis. She was a member of the Madison (Wis.) East Church.

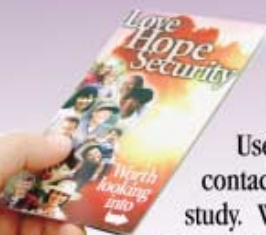
Survivors include her daughter, Norma Kittleson; sisters, Peggy Peterson and Betty Wake; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor William

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J. Ochs and Elder Darry Campbell, and interment was in Roselawn Cemetery, Madison.

HOSAM, Dorothy W. (Woonsam), age 89; born Nov. 27, 1912, in Guyana; died May 20, 2002, in Niles, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her daughter, Lynda Ronco; and brother, Ernest Woonsam.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Sy Saliba, and interment was in Union Cemetery, Berrien Center, Mich.

HUMMEL, Kevin, age 41; born July 15, 1961, in Fort Madison, Iowa; died Sept. 2, 2002, in Eau Claire, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Karen Sue (Reaves); sons, Steven and Michael; father, Eldon L. Hummel; mother, Dorothy W. (Reynolds); and sister, Connie J. Jackson.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Victor Brown and Skip MacCarty, and interment was in Mission Hills Crematorium, Niles, Mich.

MCCANTS, William E., age 93; born Apr. 8, 1909, in Herrick, S.D.; died Sept. 7, 2002, in Lebanon, Ind. He was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Janice (Pearce); and sons, William E. Jr. and Charles.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ron Kelley, and interment was in Cicero Cemetery.

MCCRACKEN, Lula (Edmonds), age 96; born Oct. 1, 1906, in Fowler, Ind.; died Nov. 4, 2002, in Lafayette, Ind. She was a member of the Lafayette Church, W. Lafayette, Ind.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Throstr Thordarson, and interment was in Dayton (Ind.) Cemetery.

NASH, James R., age 64; born Aug. 11, 1938, in Fort Mill, N.C.; died Oct. 10, 2002, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Rosalyn "Rosie" (Sherwin); son, Steve; daughters, Shari Smoot and Patricia Nash; father, Russell "Jack"; brothers, Jerry and Jack; sister, Carol Jordan; and six grandchildren.

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

NEAL, Charlotte R. (Haviland), age 59; born July 18, 1943, in Takoma Park, Md.; died Aug. 1, 2002, in Westminster, Md. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Gary N.; and daughters, Joynene S. Neal and Dawnita G. Posso.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Hugo Cotro and Dorothy Hayward, and interment was in Woodside Cemetery, Brinklo, Md.

PETERSON, Elmer D., age 73; born Nov. 21, 1928, in Muskegon, Mich.; died Oct. 10, 2002, in Muskegon. He was a member of the Shelby (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Eunice B. (Gibbs); son, Dale G.; daughter, Carol M. Perigard; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Douglas Carlson and Don Williams, and interment was in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Shelby.

SUGARBAKER, Leona Mae (Nichols) Gardner, age 80; born July 29, 1921, in Lake City, Mich.; died Apr. 28, 2002, in Muskegon, Mich. She was a member of the Muskegon Church.

Survivors include her son, John Gardner; stepson, Roger; daughters, Audrey Lawrence and Carroll Kilpatrick; 16 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder John A. Gardner, and interment was in Egelston Township (Mich.) Cemetery.

TRICKETT, Wilson L., age 83; born June 6, 1919, in Des Moines, Iowa; died Oct. 22, 2002, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his sons, Robert and Joseph; daughter, Barbara Gardner-Trickett; brother, Virgil; five grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Skip MacCarty and Elder George Akers, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

WALLINGTON, Ivia M. (Stevens), age 85; born July 25, 1916, in Clay Center, Ohio; died July 13, 2002, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her son, Conrad A.; daughters, Claudea W. Sowler and Denise L. Collard; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Ed Higgins, and interment was in Estabrook Cemetery, North Fond du Lac, Wis.

WILHELMSON, Alice I. (Heikkila), age 94; born Jan. 10, 1908, in Green, Mich.; died Sept. 14, 2002, in Arlington Heights, Ill. She was a member of the North Shore Church, Chicago.

Survivors include her son, Jerome; daughters, Diane Seidel, Janet Mueller, and Alina Althans; sisters, Ann Getz and Tekla Halme; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Reuel Bacchus, and interment was in Rosehill Cemetery, Chicago.

WORRELL, Jean, age 71; born Mar. 28, 1931, in Kenosha, Wis.; died July 29, 2002, in Chippewa Falls, Wis. She was a member of the Eau Claire Church, Altoona, Wis.

Survivors include her sister, Joan Walker.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Arthur Miller, and interment was in Lakeview Cemetery, Eau Claire, Wis.

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14-DAY INSPIRATIONAL & EDUCATIONAL ALASKA CRUISE sailing July 8, 2003, host, Pastor Dan Matthews; planning Australia/New Zealand tour, including Avondale College and Sunnyside, Ellen White's former home, autumn 2003, host, Charles White; 10-day Tahiti cruise sailing January 8, 2004. Mert Allen, Mt. Tabor Cruise; (800) 950-9234; (503) 256-7919; mallen@renpdx.com. —1-2003,01

Lake Union Members

Did you go on a mission trip over the holidays? Don't forget to tell us about it. The April issue of the *Lake Union Herald* will be focused on short-term mission projects. Help us share those inspiring stories with the rest of the union. Send your story with photos and captions to your conference communication department by Feb. 4. Find your local conference correspondent in the masthead on page 31.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Churches, schools, conferences, institutions, and organizations may submit announcements to the Lake Union Herald through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the Lake Union Herald website at luc.adventist.org/herald/herald-submit.html and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources, as these events are subject to change.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Jan. 6—Registration, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; **7**—Classes resume; **12**—Second annual Winterfest, 12:00–6:00 p.m.; **18–20**—Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration; **27**—Health Careers Fair, 10:00 a.m.; **Jan. 30–Feb. 2**—University preview weekend (for prospective students).

LAKE UNION

Offerings: **Jan. 4**—Local Church Budget; **11**—Local Conference Advance; **18**—Local Church Budget; **25**—Religious Liberty; **Feb. 1**—Local Church Budget.

Special Days: **Jan. 4**—Day of Prayer; **19–25**—Religious Liberty Week; **Feb. 2–8**—Black History Week.

MICHIGAN

Grand Rapids Junior Academy alumni: If you attended or taught at Grand Rapids Junior Academy over the past 100 years, please send your contact information to the alumni association right away. We'd like to hear from you! GRJA, 1151 Oakleigh NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 or grja@misda.org.

WORLD CHURCH

Union College homecoming weekend, **Apr. 3–6**, 2003. All alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to "Come Relive the Spirit of Union." Honor classes are 1933, '43, '53, '63, '73, '78, '83, '93. Contact the UC alumni office at 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; (402) 486-2503; alumni@ucollege.edu.

Kingsway College Alumni will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the school during alumni weekend **May 2–4**, 2003. You won't want to miss this opportunity to renew friendships and to make new ones.

For information on programming, rental cars and motel rates, or to register and receive a ticket for the banquet, please check at: www.kingswaycollege.on.ca/alumni.htm; or contact Wally Wasyluk, director of alumni affairs, by e-mailing him: wasyliukw@kingswaycollege.on.ca; or, Kingsway College, 1200 Leland Rd., Oshawa, Ontario, L1K 2H4; (905) 433-1144.

ADVENTIST COMMUNICATION NETWORK SCHEDULE

www.acnsat.org

Jan. 4—11:00 a.m.–12:00 noon ET, *Adventist Worship Hour*, Randy Roberts, "Destiny," Part 1; **7**—7:00–8:30 p.m. ET, Adventist Television Network (ATN) Uplink; **14**—7:00–8:30 p.m. ET, ATN Uplink; **21**—7:00–8:30 p.m. ET, ATN Uplink; **25**—5:00–6:00 p.m. ET, NET 2003 Training; **28**—7:00–8:30 p.m. ET, ATN Uplink.

Book of the Month



A practical guide for living in the last days.

US\$12.99, Can\$20.99.

Offer expires January 31, 2003.

Visit your local Adventist Book Center or call 1-800-765-6955.

Review and Herald® Publishing

BREATH OF LIFE

www.bolministries.com

Week of Jan. 5—"When God Steps In," Part 2; **12**—"The Accused Rebuked," Part 1; **19**—"The Accused Rebuked," Part 2; **26**—"Who Are You?" Part 1; **Feb. 2**—"Who Are You?" Part 2.

FAITH FOR TODAY

Lifestyle Magazine, www.lifestyle.org, **Week of Jan. 5**—"Child Abuse"; **12**—"Family Travel"; **19**—"Herbs"; **26**—"Controlling the Internet"; **Feb. 2**—"Youth Violence."

The Evidence, www.theevidence.org, **Week of Jan. 5**—"God, the Universe, and Everything"; **12**—"To God's Ear"; **19**—"Digging for the Truth"; **26**—"Art and Inspiration"; **Feb. 2**—"Through the Fire."

IT IS WRITTEN

www.iiv.org

Week of Jan. 5—"The Secret of Resilience"; **12**—"Too Fast for Faith"; **19**—"Unfinished Business with the Dead"; **26**—"Breaking Through Barriers to God"; **Feb. 2**—"The Hidden Invitation."

LA VOZ DE LA ESPERANZA

www.lavoz.org

Week of Jan. 5—"Seeing with New Eyes," (Con Ojos Nuevos); **12**—"A Book Like No Other," (El Libro Diferente); **19**—"The Art that

Lake Union Conference Tithes Comparison Year-to-date

43 weeks ending October 31, 2002, compared to 43 weeks ending October 31, 2001

Membership Basis			Average Increase (Decrease)		Per Capita			
10/31/02	10/31/01	Conference	2002	2001	% Inc.-Decr.	2002	2001	
12,101	11,881	Illinois	7,552,779	7,232,020	320,759	4.44%	624.15	608.70
6,540	6,459	Indiana	5,009,046	4,802,494	206,552	4.30%	765.91	743.54
25,903	24,925	Lake Region	8,594,071	7,777,149	816,922	10.50%	331.78	312.02
24,362	24,034	Michigan	21,478,434	20,717,857	760,577	3.67%	881.64	862.02
<u>6,494</u>	<u>6,393</u>	Wisconsin	<u>4,518,631</u>	<u>4,701,002</u>	<u>-182,370</u>	<u>-3.88%</u>	<u>695.82</u>	<u>735.34</u>
75,400	73,692	Totals	47,152,961	45,230,520	1,922,440	4.25%	625.37	613.78
Tithe per Week			1,096,580	1,051,873	44,708	4.25%		

Sunset Calendar

	Jan 3	Jan 10	Jan 17	Jan 24	Jan 31	Feb 7
Berrien Springs, MI	5:26	5:33	5:41	5:50	5:59	6:08
Chicago	4:32	4:39	4:47	4:56	5:04	5:13
Detroit	5:14	5:21	5:29	5:37	5:46	5:55
Indianapolis	5:33	5:40	5:47	5:55	6:03	6:12
La Crosse, WI	4:40	4:47	4:55	5:04	5:14	5:24
Lansing, MI	5:17	5:24	5:32	5:40	5:50	5:59
Madison, WI	4:35	4:42	4:50	4:59	5:08	5:17
Springfield, IL	4:46	4:53	5:00	5:08	5:17	5:25

Plases," (El Arte que Agrada); **26**—"Magic Wand or Punishing Rod?" (¿Varita Mágica o Vara de Castigo?); **Feb. 2**—"So You Want My Honest Opinion?" (Sin Pelos en la Lengua).

THE QUIET HOUR

www.thequiethour.org

Windows of Hope, Jan. 6—"Coals of Fire"; 13—"Four Hundred and Ninety Time"; 20—"Fragrance of Forgiveness"; 27—"Problem We All Can Solve"; **Feb. 3**—"Unforgettable Forgiveness."

VOICE OF PROPHECY

www.voiceofprophecy.org

Week of Jan. 5—Sun.: "Job: Caught in the Act—and Forgiven"; Mon.—Fri.: "Redemption Through the Roof," Part 1; 12—Sun.: "Proverbs: Wisdom for Today"; Mon.—Fri.: "Redemption Through the Roof," Part 2; 19—Sun.: "Meet the Man from Nazareth"; Mon.—Fri.: "An Elusive Eternity,"

Part 1; **26**—Sun.: "Ecclesiastes: Learning from Life's Lesson Book"; Mon.—Fri.: "An Elusive Eternity," Part 2; **Feb. 2**—Sun.: "Getting the Goods"; Mon.—Fri.: "A Free Extra Decade of Life," Part 1.

THREE ANGELS BROADCASTING NETWORK

www.3abn.org

Thursday LIVE, 9:00 p.m. ET, Jan. 2—Pacific Union College; 9—Gwen Foster, health director for the city of Philadelphia; 16—Ron and Nancy Rocky; 23—Musical Special, Linda Shelton; 30—Behind the Scenes at 3ABN.

More and more churches are taking part in campaigns to get 3ABN on cable. Let us help you. Call (618) 627-4651, ext. 3112.



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Photographed in 1959, the newly constructed Pioneer Memorial Church during its first winter season

As We Set Forth

BATTLE CREEK COLLEGE  EMMANUEL MISSIONARY COLLEGE

As We Set Forth, by Meredith Jones Gray, is the first book of a two-volume set, exploring in photographs and anecdotes the origins of **Andrews University** and the principles and ideals on which it is based. The cost of this beautiful, coffee-table style volume is \$65 (+ \$5 shipping and handling). **Purchase your copy** this holiday season by visiting our website at www.andrewsheritage.com or call the office of University Relations at 269-471-3322 for more information.

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EXTREME GRACE



Imagining Heaven

by Dick Duerksen

Lie back, stare into the clouds, and imagine ... the very best place you could ever hope to visit.

Now, imagine that it has been put together by the same person who designed kittens, thunderstorms, banana cream pie, and love. That's right, God the Creator has been busy creating a new heaven and a new earth, a place where He is the designer, architect, interior decorator, and cook.

Imagine—colors so brilliant your eyes can hardly sort them out, food so delicious it makes you wish you had three stomachs,

music so beautiful it makes your heart cry and sing at the same time. Imagine a place where everything is better than the finest picnic you could dream up.

Think of a day in paradise, where friends gather to laugh, play, and enjoy being together, where wolves and lions are best friends with sheep and gazelles.

A place where Great White Sharks give you swimming lessons, where gorillas take you swinging on grape vines, and eagles teach you to soar far above the prairies, forests, waterfalls, and mountains.

Imagine stroking the nose of a rhinoceros, cuddling with a tiger, and running with a cheetah.

And don't forget the flowers—every color of the rainbow has been painted across petals and planted near the pathway. Each perfumed far more lovely than Paris ever dared.

A place where every time the phone rings, it is someone you want to talk with.

A place where no one calls you home to practice piano, take out the trash, or complete an assignment for work.

Worry, sorrow, and pain have been replaced with peace, joy, and excitement. Jealousy, lust, and anger have been replaced with LOVE, real genuine unending "I love you" love.

There is a banquet table set and ready, delicacies arranged to excite each person's taste buds.

And there are chairs at the head of the table, chairs filled with our best friends from high school, from sixth grade, from the week we spent in Hong Kong, and from the years we lived in Kalamazoo. Everyone is there, laughing, embracing, and telling old stories in new ways.

The Creator sits in the center of the crowd. He stands when He sees us, reaches out His hand, and beckons for us to join Him. "Come," He gestures toward empty chairs by His side, "I've saved special places just for you."

Imagine, an eternity celebrating with best friends.

PROFILES OF YOUTH

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Contributors: All submitted copy must be channeled through your local conference or institution's *Herald* correspondent. Stories submitted online at luc.adventist.org are automatically e-mailed to the local conference communication director. When submitting stories by direct e-mail, copy your local conference correspondent into the address. *Writers' Guidelines* are available from conference correspondents and online.

New Subscriptions: Requests should be addressed to the secretary of the local conference where membership is held.

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Indexed in the *Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index*



Amanda Iattoni

Amanda Iattoni, 16, is a junior at Merrill (Wis.) Senior High School. She enjoys the outdoors, runs cross country, pole-vaults, rides motocross on a Honda CR 125, and enjoys camping, downhill skiing, and hiking.

Amanda is a consistent "A" student. Her favorite class is art for the gifted/talented. In her spare time, Amanda participates in the "Link Crew"—juniors and seniors who orient and tutor incoming Merrill High School system freshman. She also plays the piano and sings in her school's concert choir.

Amanda is the only Adventist in her school. "That doesn't bother me. Lots of people ask me questions, and I've brought a number of my friends to church with me. Track meets and activities are often on Sabbath, and I choose not to go." Amanda states, "I've been raised to honor God on His day, and that is most important." Her spiritual goal in life: "To be completely devoted to Christ!"

The daughter of Alan and Virginia Iattoni, Amanda is a member of the Merrill Church.

Matthew Anderson, 17, is a senior at Wild Rose (Wis.) High School. Matt enjoys playing the trumpet, singing (He is an accomplished tenor.), fishing, and camping. He also finds time for track and field competition with his school squad. Since his freshman year, Matt has been enrolled in the Fire Department Cadet Program going through the same training as every other firefighter.

Matt has earned his school's Academic Letter for high academic achievement and was inducted into the National Honor Society. He excels in drama and music and has won lead roles in his school's productions of *Guys and Dolls* and *The Sound of Music*.

Band and choir are Matt's favorite classes. A high point in his experience was to audition and win a place on the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) Honors Choir. Matt plans on going to college and becoming a music teacher.

Matt has learned, "that hard work and endurance result in great things." Matt and his parents, Cheryl and Alan Anderson, are members of the Almond (Wis.) Church.



Matthew Anderson

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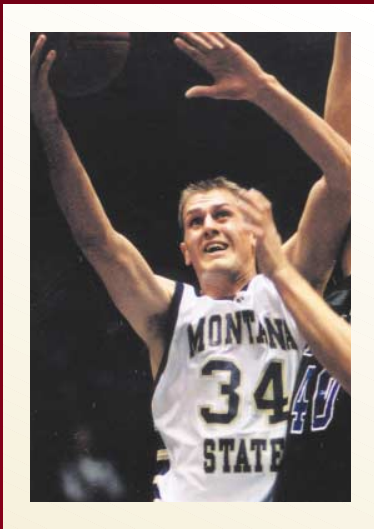
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 Plan six to twelve weeks for new address to become effective.

REMEMBER

ADVENTISTS *making a difference,*
in a changing WORLD



TOM DUFFY

Tom entered Montana State University on a basketball scholarship. When game days were changed by the NCAA to Friday night and Saturday day games he was relieved as starting "center" by the coach because he refused to violate his conscience and play during Sabbath hours.

CANDACE & CHAD YOUNG

In December 2001 this young couple was baptized together. Chad was immediately fired for refusing to work overtime on Saturday. His unemployment benefits were initially denied, but after citing *Hobbie* and *Sherbert* (see inside) the decision was reversed and Chad received his benefits. Candace ran into Sabbath work problems within 8 months of being baptized. At the time of printing both cases were still ongoing.



ANNA TATUM

With 15 years seniority, Anna works as a clerk and now a supervisor for a police department. She became an Adventist in January 2002 and within weeks found out a Saturday work schedule was in the plans. Anna's seniority should be enough to give her a Sabbath accommodation, but officials in the department have set an arbitrary rule that she must work on Sabbath. At the time of this printing, the case was still ongoing.

LIBERTY *A Magazine of Religious Freedom*
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