

Lake Union HERALD

AUGUST 2019



POWER TO FINISH THE WORK
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

ILLINOIS MEMBERS
ILLINOIS FOCUS
INSIDE



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In preparation for next summer's General Conference Session in Indianapolis, the Indiana Conference is embarking on a series of evangelism training. *It Is Written* Bible work program coordinator Jack Phillips led training sessions in May at the Carmel and Cicero churches.



On June 26, exactly one year from the opening of the General Conference Session (GC2020), Lake Region pastors conducted a prayer walk around the Indianapolis Convention Center and at the Lucas Oil Stadium.



Sue Nelson has accepted the call to serve as superintendent of Education for the Wisconsin Conference. She is coming from the Dakota Conference where she served as superintendent of Education since 2017 and director of Outdoor School for the Dakota Conference from 2011–2017.



As the school year came to an end in May, the Holland Adventist Academy school board received the astonishing news — anonymous donors had stepped forward to pay the tuition for any incoming high school student enrolled for the 2019–2020 school year.

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I was called into the ministry after a previous career in television; the focus of my ministry was on youth, serving in the Ohio, Michigan and Dakota conferences. This issue of the *Herald* features two members of our excellent team of youth leaders in the Lake Union, Charlie Thompson and Chad Bernard. I know you'll be inspired and encouraged by their stories. ■


Gary Burns
Editor

COVER ILLUSTRATION: SARAH DUVIVIER

ON THE COVER: Rebekah Helsius is captured finalizing work on the International Camporee signage. See p. 39 for more on her story.



Joshua Pedroza

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Let Down the Net

Luke chapter five relates one of my favorite stories from the Bible. But, that said, just about anytime Jesus works a miracle, I smile inside — sometimes outside, too.



▲ Maurice Valentine

In this story, Luke describes that on this day Jesus was teaching from Simon Peter's boat on the seashore, or in very close proximity to it. *And He entered into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. Now when He was through speaking, He said unto Simon, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draft." And Simon answering said unto Him, "Master, we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing. Nevertheless, at Thy word I will let down the net"* (Luke 5:3-5, 21st Century Version).

On this particular day, it appears Peter was tired of his occupation. Peter, and company, had toiled all night. I wouldn't be surprised if, that night, Peter was thinking, "I need to find something else to do with my life. After all, I'm a seasoned fisherman, but not one fish was caught in our net."

Have you ever wondered if God wants you to do something different than what you currently do to occupy your day? Is it possible that, at least for the time being, God wants you to stay put and make a deeper commitment to what you currently are engaged, but now for His glory?

Jesus instructed the disciples to let down the net when, tired and weary, they had already fished the entire night. Thank God they obeyed His command! God's commandments are not always convenient.

Over the last few weeks, my wife, Sharon, and I visited our many encampments in the Lake Union Conference territory. I was very pleased to see what God was doing in each conference.

On the grounds of Indiana Academy, we saw the great dedication that courses through the veins of our Indiana

elementary and academy teachers as each one being commissioned that day recounted their journey of how God called them into teaching ministry.

Earlier that week we witnessed Indiana Conference's quest to raise \$100,000 for evangelism and heard a stirring message by Elder Mark Finley, resulting in many rededicated lives.

Having started their encampment on Sunday, by Wednesday, they had \$29,000 committed to winning the masses for Christ. The concluding weekend of camp meeting was fast approaching, and they were not halfway to their goal. However, Sharon and I returned to Indiana that weekend to witness and participate in their reaching their worthy goal!

By Monday, we were on our way to Camp Wakonda for Wisconsin's camp meeting and enjoyed seeing the beauty of God's people coming together to hear the Word preached and enjoy each other's fellowship. Recreational vehicles filled the tree-lined roads, and the pathways between were teeming with campers who relaxed and were likewise refreshed under beautiful conifer canopies.

Breakout sessions abounded every day, so the people of God could be trained, resourced and inspired to go home to do greater works for Jesus. Year after year, Wisconsin enjoys representation from campers from close to half the states of the U.S. because of its picturesque beauty and feel of the old-fashioned camp meeting we remember.

We pressed on to Lake Region Conference's gathering to hear great mid-week preaching by Elder Eddie Allen. Again, the senior saints were out in full force and youth also abounded at the youth pavilion. There's nothing like seeing the people of God having a good time in the Lord.

The grounds were beautifully manicured as it was clear the administration, camp staff and pastoral work force had worked hard to make for a rich experience for all in attendance.

From there, we headed north to the grounds of Great Lakes Adventist Academy in the Michigan Conference to hear a very powerfully delivered message by John Bradshaw on salvation and grace! This encampment truly must be the greatest reminder of what I have been writing about this year in regard to the great organization the Seventh-day Adventist Church enjoys, as in multiple articles I have mentioned how impressed I am with what God has wrought in our faith community the world over.

There are so many campers at Michigan that there are three trollies that run all day, taking people in train-car fashion to their respective parts of the grounds where they reside. Pastor security teams line the roadways like sentinels shepherding the sheep as they do at all our encampments. It's a site to behold to see the great organization that goes into making the Michigan Conference encampment fun and comfortable for the campers.

As the week concluded, we returned to the Lake Region camp meeting to see the beauty of holiness on the beautiful grounds of Camp Wagner. Quite honestly, each camp meeting is different as are the grounds. All the properties looked great, even as the desert has a grandeur all of its own, even as does the mountain or stream.

The greatest blessing to me was being able to see the emphasis on finishing the work in varied ways and in all parts of our territory although, kind of like Peter, Sharon and I were very tired from crisscrossing the countryside to show support for each camp meeting event. We were very much inspired by what wonderful works the Lord is doing in each of our local conferences.

Our Lake Union Conference team also fanned out to support each encampment and enough can't be said about our staff for the way they assisted with communications support and by providing training to our local church treasurers by our Information Systems Director. Additionally, presentations were provided to our local conferences on the Equality Act, the Kosrae Project and stewardship by our Legal, Education and Treasury departments, respectively.

We serve alongside the local conferences, knowing God wants all of His children to hear the special messages of

His saving grace. No one has been tasked to tell the world Jesus is coming more than we, hence, by divine design, it's incorporated into our name — we are Adventists!


As we enter the summer season of reaping, will you join in the effort to launch out into the deep and let down your net? Going into the deep means risk. This is no dockside adventure. It's time to wade out into the waters and risk getting to know someone with the love that Jesus has placed in your heart for those who don't know Him.

Some camp meetings still await us this year as the Illinois, Michigan Upper Peninsula and our multi-ethnic camp meetings have yet to transpire. Yet, as the summer is in full swing and the autumn season of reaping awaits, it is certainly time for us to let down the net from every church, by every pastor and member, even members in the making. Let's make mission first, most and best, all because of the One we serve.

Let's face it. Soul-winning, like fishing, is hard work, and there are days when it seems like giving up is better than launching out further by faith into the deep, dark world around us. Remember, big fish are not caught in shallow water. Picture, if you will, Peter calling on his friends to help him pull the net into the boat after the many times it slipped back over the side of the boat because of the burgeoning catch.

Camp meeting is borrowed from the Feast of Pentecost in the Old Testament, where there was great singing and reviewing of the mighty acts of God commensurate with harvest time, and from the Day of Pentecost in the New Testament. Now that your spiritual batteries have been recharged by great singing and preaching, let's recount the goodness of the Lord and His mighty acts through Jesus our Savior and reach the lost. Remember, that was once you and me. That's why we sing, "Love lifted me!"

Jesus still instructs His disciples today to let down the net, even if we have fished the whole night. Because of what God will do for us through His Holy Spirit, once our season of reaping is concluded, we may be tired, but we'll also be inspired! ■



JESUS STILL
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Church-based Adult Mentoring

Mentoring may be conceived as a meaningful and trusting relationship between a young person (the mentee) and an experienced adult (the mentor) who takes on the responsibility of nurturing the spiritual, emotional, academic and social development of the mentee.



▲ Elvin Gabriel

The positive outcomes of mentoring have been substantiated by evidence-based reports, which revealed that (1) young people who had mentors, set higher educational goals and are more likely to attend college than those without mentors; (2) youth who had mentors, particularly those at risk, are more likely to report engaging in productive and beneficial activities than youth without mentors; (3) the longer the mentoring relationships lasts, the greater the value for youth; (4) young people believe that mentoring provides them with the support and guidance they need to lead productive lives; and (5) mentees want to serve as mentors, confirming that mentees feel empowered to make significant contributions to the world.¹

Inspired by the biblical mandate for mentoring, church leaders and members have been galvanized to provide this life-changing service to their youth. This dyadic relationship between mentors and mentees continues to play a crucial role in the dissemination of moral, ethical and spiritual precepts, from one generation to the next.

The Holy Scriptures are replete with examples of men and women who were strongly encouraged to fulfill their roles and functions as mentors. For example, Moses mentored young Joshua to succeed him as spiritual leader (see Numbers 27:18). Eli mentored Samuel to be priest and judge (see 1 Samuel 3:1). Paul mentored Timothy to assume the role of spiritual leader (see 1 Timothy 1: 1-20).

A primary goal of church-based adult mentoring is for mentees (under the guidance of their mentors) to

become politically and socially involved in improving the quality of life of men, women and children within their homes and local communities. An example of this form of civic engagement is found in the Bible. *The kind of fast I want is this: remove the chains of oppression, and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free. Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear and do not refuse to help your relatives. Then my favor shall shine on you like the morning sun, and your wounds will be quickly healed. If you give food to the hungry and satisfy those who are in need, then the darkness around you will turn to the brightness of noon* (Isaiah 58:6-8, 10 GNB).

Jesus Christ is the perfect mentor. He is always ready and willing to establish a trusting relationship with us, His mentees. He invites us to come unto Him with all our burdens, worries and cares, and He will provide rest for our tired souls (see Matthew 11:28). Through this union with Him, we receive strength and courage to face the myriad challenges of life and living. He promises, *Fear not for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness* (Isaiah 41:10, KJV). ■

¹Bruce, M., & Bridgeland, J. (2014). "The mentoring effect: Young people's perspectives on the outcomes and availability of mentoring." Washington D.C. Civic Enterprises with Hart Research Associates for MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership

Elvin Gabriel is professor of Educational Psychology and Counselor Education at Andrews University.

Hope in Despair

Emotional stress is a normal part of life. As a physician, not only must I deal with my own personal stress, but I am faced with helping other people manage their stress. Prayer, friendship and professional counseling have all, at one time or another, helped me stay grounded.

Attacks to our emotional well-being come in many different ways. Dealing with school, family, relationships, work or finances can be demanding. We all are faced with stressful situations and have moments of depressed mood or anxiety, but what symptoms signal that something more serious is occurring?

Common signs of major depression include depressed mood or loss of interest or pleasure in most or all activities lasting for two weeks or more and accompanied by changes in sleep, changes in weight or eating habits, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, thoughts of worthlessness or inappropriate guilt, or recurrent thoughts of death or suicide.

Common signs of anxiety include excessive or persistent worrying, problems with sleep, fatigue, difficulty relaxing, muscle tension, or intense fear.

What do you do if you experience these symptoms or recognize these symptoms in someone else? Ask for help. This is the first step in getting better. Remember you are not alone. God has promised, *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you* (John 14:18 KJV). God also has designed that we can get help from others such as trusted family and friends or trained professionals such as doctors, counselors, teachers or pastors.

Tips for overcoming depression and anxiety

- Get regular health evaluations by a trained professional healthcare provider
- Positive thinking
- Limit exposure to the media, including social media
- Avoid caffeine
- Regular exercise

- Get plenty of sleep at night
- Refresh your body and mind with the weekly rest of the Sabbath
- Eat a well-balanced diet, high in antioxidants and anti-inflammatory foods (plant-based diet)
- Get professional help when symptoms persist

There is no one more familiar with the emotional challenges we face than Jesus Christ. When Christ lived on this earth, *He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief* (Isaiah 53:3 KJV). Christ understands everything we go through, because He has personally endured it Himself. *Since He Himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to help us when we are being tested* (Hebrews 2:18 NLT).

Jesus invites us to come into His presence. He says, *Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls*" (Matthew 11:28-29 KJV).

We are counseled that "Satan may come to you with cruel suggestion, 'Yours is a hopeless case. You are irredeemable.' But there is hope for you in Christ. God does not bid us overcome in our own strength. He asks us to come close to His side. Whatever difficulties we labor under, which weigh down soul and body, He waits to make us free" (*Ministry of Healing*, pg. 249).

No matter what you are facing, always remember, there is hope! ■



▲ Christina Wells

Christina Wells, MD, Family Medicine; Health and Wellness director, Lake Region Conference

Righteousness by Faith and the Third Angel's Message — 7

The just shall live by faith. Rom. 1:17



▲ George R. Knight

Of special interest in what we read [in the previous issue of the *Herald*] is the fact that Ellen White noted more than once that the truth on righteousness by faith that Waggoner had been preaching was not new light — that she herself had been proclaiming it for 44 years. That idea agreed with Waggoner, himself, who noted that the message he was teaching had been that proclaimed “by all the eminent reformers” “from the days of Paul to the days of Luther and Wesley.”

In other words, according to Waggoner, what he presented was a recapturing of the evangelical viewpoint of justification by faith.

That was also Ellen White's understanding of at least a part of the contribution of Jones and Waggoner. In August 1889, she wrote that the doctrine of “justification by faith” had been “long hidden under the rubbish of error.” That error, she pointed out, had been exhibited by “the Holiness people” who had preached faith in Christ, but had also advocated “away with the law” (*Review & Herald*, Aug. 13, 1889). From that perspective,

the teaching of justification by faith had been in the “companionship of error” (Manuscript 8a, 1888).

On the other hand were the Adventists, who had maintained the sanctity of the law but had “lost sight of” the “doctrine of justification by faith.” In that context, she notes that “God has raised up men [Jones and Waggoner] to meet the necessity of this time . . . Their work is not only to proclaim the law, but to preach the truth for this time — the Lord our righteousness.”

The Adventists, she points out, had been doing a good job on the law, while the holiness people had been preaching faith in Christ. But both parties had error. The Adventists neglected faith, while the holiness people denigrated the law. The accomplishment of Jones and Waggoner was to get rid of the errors of each group while combining their truths.

In the process, they gave Adventism an understanding of the complete Three Angels' messages which it had been lacking (*ibid.*).

As a result, Ellen White could state that through Jones and Waggoner's emphasis on justification by faith “God has rescued these truths from the companionship of error [antinomianism], and has placed them in their proper framework [the Third Angel's message]” (MS 8a, 1888).

What a message! God doesn't want unbalanced law-oriented Adventists or unbalanced faith-oriented Adventists. He wants a people who have put both in proper perspective. ■

*George R. Knight is a retired professor of Church History at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. This article is from his book, *Lest We Forget*, a daily devotional, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, page 286.*



Whose Plans?

I've always been curious about Ellen White's comment about this statement Jesus made to the priests and rabbis. *The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do* (John 5:19 KJV).



Referring to the priests and rabbis, she reveals, “By their sins they had separated themselves from God, and in their pride were moving independently of Him. They felt sufficient in themselves for all things, and realized no need of a higher wisdom to direct their acts. But the Son of God was surrendered to the Father’s will, and dependent upon His power. So utterly was Christ emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself. He accepted God’s plans for Him and day by day the Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will (*Desire of Ages*, p. 208).

Christ’s example informs us. “So utterly was Christ emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself. He accepted God’s plans for Him, and day by day the father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will” (ibid.).

So, for all of us who claim to be followers of Christ (and, therefore, ministers of reconciliation), shouldn’t we follow Christ’s example? Could you or I claim full surrender to the Father’s will and totally depend upon His power? Could you or I honestly make the statement, “I make no plans for myself”?

So often I catch myself running full speed ahead on my own initiative, chasing some great plan or idea that is very much my own rather than God’s. Like the priests and rabbis, I have felt “sufficient in myself.” I mean, after all, aren’t we supposed to believe in ourselves and exhibit self-confidence? Isn’t that the message of our culture? How often do we as Seventh-day Adventist members and leaders fall into the norms of our culture? How often do we mirror the culture of our national political leaders?

Recently, I’ve been impressed by the leadership of Carmelo Mercado as our prayer team has been preparing for a number of initiatives in preparation for the General Conference Session next summer in Indianapolis. Our diverse team of representatives from each conference has demonstrated a desire to be in line with God’s plans rather than our own. Through prayer and honest conversations with one another, I sense God is leading us into something that is not our own initiative.

In Christ’s time, His people had chosen their own ways. They were not building according to heaven’s “pattern.” How is it going in your local setting? How are you building your church? Join us in our commitment to follow Christ’s pattern in being attentive to His Spirit, guidance and direction.

Would you please join us in the spirit of Christ to pray that we make no plans for ourselves, that we be open to seek and accept God’s plans for us, that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will? ■



▲ Gary Burns

Gary Burns is prayer ministry coordinator for the Lake Union Conference.

Healing a Community with Art

By Elijah Horton



Celia Anaya Coronado

▲ Milton Coronado
(A photo of the full
mural Coronado painted
is on page 11)

ON SUNDAY, MAY 19, AT 11A.M., Chicago artist Milton Coronado, equipped with paint supplies, arrived at the corner of 16th Street and Newberry Avenue in Pilsen, to begin work on a mural, dedicated to Marlen Lopez-Ochoa, the nine-months pregnant, Chicago mother who was strangled to death and had her baby ripped from her womb.

Since her disappearance on April 23, Coronado had followed the story on Facebook; on May 17, when the Chicago Police announced that the remains of Lopez-Ochoa's body had been found, he felt an undeniable duty to retrieve his paint brush. Little did he know, he and the victim shared the same faith.

Coronado's introduction to art began at the age of five when, after the passing of his mother, he began drawing. He graduated high school in 1998 and attended the American Academy of Art in downtown Chicago. There, surrounded by fellow graffiti artists, he immersed himself in the world of graffiti art. During his last year of college, at the age of 21, he devoted himself fully to graffiti.

During his last year at the American Academy of Art, another life-changing event transpired —

the untimely, tragic death of his father. Although Coronado had been a Seventh-day Adventist for most of his life, it was in coping with the loss of his father that he came to know God for himself. Here he turned to the Bible and Ellen White's book, *The Desire of Ages*. "Every chapter that I read would leave me bawling. I was crying. I was just in shock. I was humbled. I felt little. I felt undeserving, but at the same time, deserving of God's grace in my life."

Following this new-found conviction, Coronado resolved to be more involved with the youth ministry at his local church which resulted in his becoming the youth leader. This led to positions as assistant school dean, youth pastor and now case worker for the City of Chicago, serving on the front lines, assisting as many in need as he can.

When asked about his inspiration for the mural, Milton responds, "Two things: one, her story; two, my story. Let me start with the latter. When my father passed away, obviously I was in a very deep place of grief. I felt like I couldn't just give up on life. I felt like I owed it to my parents who taught me about Jesus, to learn more about Him. I realized art also can help me and help others."

Coronado decided he would draw a mural of his father. "It wasn't until three years ago that I was able to do the mural. I realized how healing it can be, like art therapy," he added. When his wife suggested it would be worthwhile to paint a mural of Lopez-Ochoa, he responded, "You know what? I should!" He began to reflect on his father's mural and how therapeutic it was for him. He reasoned a mural of Marlen could help her family in a similar way, as well as the rest of the City of Chicago. Coronado was right. "The stories that I've heard, that I keep hearing from strangers — God did His thing! God did His thing, man, and keeps doing it, through this art." ■

Elijah Horton is a Chicago-based freelance writer.

Cómo deben reaccionar los adventistas cuando se enfrentan al dolor y la injusticia

A mediados del mes de mayo de este año me enteré de una tragedia inimaginable en la ciudad de Chicago. Marlen Ochoa-Uriostegui, una joven de diecinueve años con nueve meses de embarazo, había desaparecido en el mes de abril.

Después de tres semanas de no tener ninguna noticia de ella se supo lo que le había ocurrido. Por medio de algunos mensajes de chat se descubrió que Marlen había hecho una cita para visitar a una familia que le iba a regalar ropa para su bebé. Cuando los detectives fueron a la casa y entrevistaron a los que vivían allí descubrieron que estos habían llevado al hospital a un bebé diciendo que era de ellos. Se llevó a cabo un examen de ADN para determinar con seguridad de quién era el bebé y se descubrió que no era de esa pareja sino de Marlen y su novio.

Al investigar más se descubrió que habían estrangulado a Marlen, le había abierto el vientre y sacado al bebé. Además, cuando los oficiales se presentaron en la casa para arrestar a los culpables hallaron allí el cuerpo de Marlen. Más tarde se supo también que el bebé ya estaba en estado crítico cuando la culpable lo llevó al hospital. Tristemente, el pequeño falleció luego de algunas semanas.

Me afectó mucho esta tragedia. Pero no fue hasta algunos días después que el pastor Ariel Padrón me comunicó que Marlen era adventista y miembro de su iglesia en Chicago. Agregó que estaban dando apoyo a la familia y la comunidad. Me dijo también que el fallecimiento había afectado a toda la comunidad hispana de la ciudad.

Gracias a Dios, el pastor Padrón no fue el único que trató de brindar paz y esperanza. Milton Coronado, un joven adventista que es pintor profesional, pintó un mural con el hermoso rostro de Marlen en una pared en

las calles de Chicago. Además del rostro escribió el texto bíblico que se encuentra en 1 Tesalonisenses 4:13-18 que habla acerca de la resurrección. Cientos de personas visitaron ese mural, el que fue televisado y transmitido por los diversos medios de comunicación de manera que millones de personas lo pudieron ver. Además, el mensaje fúnebre del pastor adventista Carlos Tamay fue transmitido por el canal de televisión Telemundo.

La Biblia describe que los últimos días de este mundo estarían llenos de dolor y sufrimiento. Al meditar sobre este triste evento, comprendí cuán crítico es el papel que nuestras iglesias adventistas tienen al compartir la esperanza que tenemos. Agradezco a Dios por los hermanos y pastores adventistas de Chicago que han expresado la esperanza bienaventurada de la que nos habla la Escritura. Que Dios nos ayude a compartirlo en diversas maneras en las comunidades donde vivimos. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



▲ Carmelo Mercado

▼ Éste es el mural pintado por Milton Coronado.



Made in His Image

Young girl discovers her worth in Jesus and makes award-winning film

By Alanna Rodriguez



Courtesy Naomi Morin

▲ Anah Ambuchi, a 12-year-old Hyde Park Church member, received an inaugural Rising Star Award for her short film called "Made in His Image" at the Diversity in Cannes Film Showcase in France.

SUICIDE WAS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN AGES 10–24 based on 2017 research from the National Institute of Mental Health. In other words, over 6,700 young people committed suicide in 2017. One young lady, at the age of ten, faced similar feelings but overcame through the love of her mother and understanding that she was made in God's image.

Naomi Morin is a Kenyan-American single mother raising Anah Ambuchi in the metropolis of Chicago. While attending school in the third grade, Anah was bullied because of her beautiful chocolate skin. However, the bullying escalated in the fourth grade. Each day she returned home with heavy heart and

derogatory lines repeating in her mind. Naomi comforted Anah, relating her own struggle as a child to recognize that God had made her beautiful. Even so, Naomi was deeply troubled and often sought her church friends at Hyde Park Church to pray for her daughter.

Naomi recounted, "Everyone was praying; our Wednesday Bible study was praying; friends and family were praying. It was not easy."

As Anah began to understand that God had made her beautiful, that He had a purpose for her life, she also realized the influence of bullying on suicide rates among her peers. She wanted to make a difference. She wanted everyone to know that they are made beautiful by God. Through her acting and dance classes, she was inspired to create a short film that would motivate other ten and eleven-year-olds, like herself, to take courage.

One day, when Anah told her mom of her plans, Naomi's first response was, "You want to do what?" Naomi admits she was not too open to the idea at first, but God made it clear that He was the one leading Anah to share what He had done in her life. Little did either of them realize where the film would take her. Anah finished writing, producing and directing the film, "Made in His Image," when she was eleven.

The professional team Anah found to film the scenes had only worked on action films. Yet, they were excited to work on her project. Naomi was quick to mention that this was a kid's film, and they had no money. The team assured them not to worry about the money. And God provided once again. But the most significant door was one of faith for Anah. She shared, "What God was doing for me when I was making the film, God was helping me to get my faith back. When I was bullied, I began to lose my faith in God." Then, she began to see God's providence in every step of the film production.

Originally, the purpose of the film was to have it shown in different schools, although only two

Anah's final words to those Adventists who may be facing bullying.

"You are fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image."

schools actually participated. In a charter school, the students were eager to ask her questions after watching the film. Anah now had a platform to bring awareness of bullying and, more importantly, God who helped her to overcome. The second school had not watched the video ahead of time and was angry with Naomi and Anah that God was mentioned in the film. However, this was just before they were to show the film at the assembly where all the students were seated. The film was shown, but Anah was not able to share as openly as at the previous school.

Although many schools did not take the opportunity to show the film, many organizations did and invited students her age. Anah was then able to answer questions and share from her heart how God had helped her overcome. The rejection by the schools led to the organizations featuring the film. Naomi admits that God used this as a catapult to get the film into the public eye, "It is not being shared the way we wanted it to be shared, ideally in the schools, but it is a reminder to us that God's ways are not our ways. This is much bigger than us."

In 2019, "Made in His Image" was nominated for awards at the International Film Festival in Cannes, France; the African Film Festival in Dallas; and the American Youth Film Festival in Atlanta. Since Anah is homeschooled, there has been some flexibility in her schedule, but Naomi is employed full-time. The finances for these trips and the production of the film was not cheap. There were times that Naomi prayerfully asked if God was leading and worried about how these items would be paid. God answered Naomi's question, "I would not open this door for you if I had not made a way for you." Therefore, every step has been an act of trusting God. God impressed hearts of individuals unknown to them to financially support the film and the travel to the awards ceremonies.

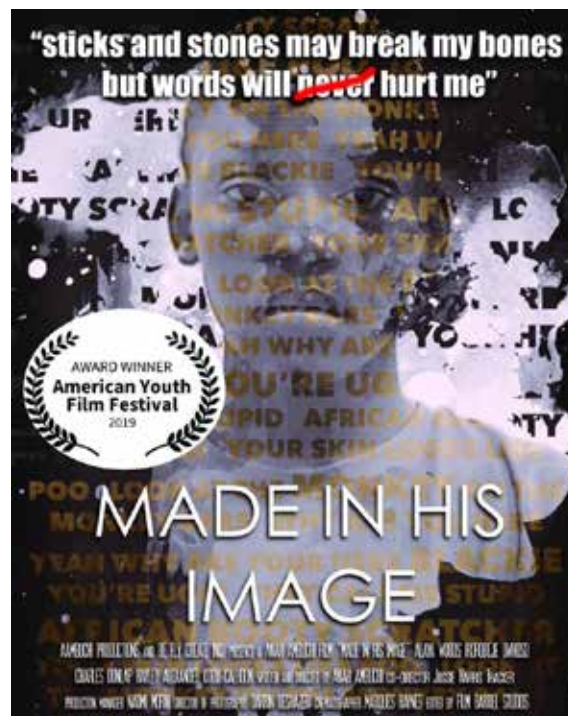
There are times Naomi had concerns regarding how her daughter's creative mind would be viewed in her Adventist church family. "Not everyone is meant to be a pastor, or elder, or Sabbath school leader. All of us are given a talent or gift from God. The gift that God has given Anah is public speaking and creativity. God using it in her generation to do things I would have never imagined."

Anah's final words to those Adventists who may be facing bullying. "You are fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image."

Anah is still a growing young lady who loves her Pathfinder club, church family, and finding creative ways to share God's message. Naomi is a faithful mother who loves God and seeks to raise Anah to truly know God. ■

Alanna Rodriguez, Michigan-based freelance writer

For more on Anah and to watch the movie trailer, visit: www.anahambuchi.com



Leading THE Charge

On a summer day in 1879, fourteen-year-old Luther Warren and seventeen-year-old Harry Fenner walked along a country road in Hazleton, a Michigan town between Flint and Lansing. They were worried about their friends who seemed to be slipping away from God and wondered what they could do to help them. The idea of establishing a boys' mission society began to develop in their minds so, right there, in a corner of a deserted field, they knelt down and prayerfully committed their plans to God.

Soon after, the first Adventist Youth Society, comprised of nine boys, was born in Luther's bedroom. From an inauspicious beginning, right here in the Lake Union, a worldwide movement was born.

In this youth and young adult issue, we set out to reacquaint (or introduce)

you to some of our dedicated leaders helping to further the mission that these two boys launched 140 years ago. Meet our longest-serving conference Youth director (since January 2001), Indiana's Charlie Thompson, and our newest (appointed February 2019), Michigan's Chad Bernard.

— Editors

Joshua Pedroza





Joshua Pedroza

Charlie Thompson

The parable of the talents in Matthew 25 teaches a multitude of lessons: the critical need to place complete trust in God, the rewards of using spiritual gifts in His service, the fulfillment that comes from completing even the smallest task with whole commitment. It is a product of the Master Storyteller with a unique interpretation for each reader.

For Indiana Conference Youth director, Charlie Thompson, and his wife, Trish, the story of the talents has defined their ministry. For them, this story is not only about self-improvement, but about self-investment. It is important, they believe, not only to emulate the dutiful servant of the story, but also to follow the example of the man taking the

journey, investing his life's energies in the development of others.

When approached about this article, their immediate protest was as expected: "Don't make it about us; make it about mentorship." The thing is, it's nearly impossible to explain mentorship without talking about Charlie and Trish Thompson, whose

lifework is defined by the Christ-like mentorship they have provided for countless young people through their work at Broken Arrow Ranch, Timber Ridge Camp, and a local ministry over the past three decades.

If you approach anyone who has ever worked for them, you're going to hear a single resounding theme: When you work with the Thompsons, you have mentors, not bosses. Bosses seek to control and scrutinize in pursuit of a bottom line, but mentors like Charlie and Trish nurture, making the journey every bit as valuable as the outcome.

Travis Stovall, camp staff at Broken Arrow Ranch in Kansas for five summers under Charlie and Trish's leadership in the early '90s, relays the epiphany that hit him after being entrusted with the directorship of the camp while Charlie was called away on staff orientation day. Without evident hesitation, Charlie turned over the reins to the young adult with confidence. Although Travis was nervous, he guided the new staffers through orientation with ease, and, like those servants awaiting their master's return in the parable, he was proud and excited to report his success to Charlie.

"Once Charlie returned, I remember the best advice he ever gave me when he said, 'Travis, our primary work is to take care of the staff. The staff are our customers. If we take care of the staff, they will always take care of the campers.'"

Charlie and Trish have been taking care of young people since they began ministry together in 1986. Charlie didn't hesitate in pinpointing the moment at which he wanted to do this kind of work. A person's timeline seems to be made of constellations of turning points, and the one of greatest impact for Charlie happened in a setting not unlike that of so many young people whom he would impact, years down the road.

In the summer of 1980, Charlie was an extremely shy teenager working at Broken Arrow Ranch. He was used to this scene: other camp staff guiding activities, leading songs, being the big personalities in the forefront, while he contentedly stayed in the background, seeking out duties that would allow

him to stay safely out of the spotlight. One Sunday, as campers began to arrive, all of that changed when his camp director pulled him aside.

"Charlie," he said, looking him in the eye, "we've got a problem. We haven't hired enough counselors to cover the group coming in this week."

"Oh? That's too bad," Charlie responded.

"I need you to be a counselor," the director continued flatly.

Charlie's stomach sank. Shocked and afraid, it occurred to him to simply repeat, "Well, that's too bad!" but the look on the director's face was one of confidence and trust, so when the director instructed, "You need to head straight to Shawnee cabin. You'll have campers waiting for you in three minutes," Charlie simply plucked up his courage and went.

Sure enough, three boys were there waiting for him. But before he had time to panic, each little boy had wrapped Charlie up in a hug that said, "*This is where you belong.*" This was the point of no return for his life working in youth ministry.

Not even a decade later, Charlie and Trish would return to Broken Arrow Ranch as camp directors, continuing the cycle of mentorship sparked that summer in 1980. In January 2001, they transitioned into ministry at Indiana Conference.

Since 2006, when I began working at Timber Ridge Camp, I've watched so many times as Charlie pulls aside that shy, withdrawn camp staff, places an empowering hand on their shoulder, looks them directly in the eye, and tells them where they're needed. More than once, that shy kid has been me. When I was just 19, Charlie placed me in charge of Timber Ridge Camp's sailing program. I, too, felt that sinking feeling of doubt, questioning Charlie's judgment in placing so much confidence in an awkward college kid like me. But he didn't flinch, and, so, neither could I. Ten years later, I can look back on that moment and recognize it with clarity as my own moment that said, "*This is where you belong.*" Like so many others, I'm certain my path to becoming a high school teacher may not have been realized without Charlie's choice to invest his confidence in my potential.



Joshua Pedroza

▲ Charlie and Trish Thompson with their pound puppy, Boo

“When I look at hiring a member of staff,” Charlie explains, his voice taking on the fatherly tone those who’ve worked for him know so well, “I try not to look at them where they are. I try to see where they could be.” This uncanny vision for potential has changed more lives than either of the Thompsons could possibly realize, and far more than could be documented here.

Sometimes, investment of those Matthew 25 talents doesn’t take the form of exclusively nurturing or time, it requires a heavy investment of faith as well. That’s what mentorship is.

Briana Payne, science teacher at Pine Tree Academy in Maine, also cites the Thompsons as pillars of influence in her path to serve youth: “Pastor Charlie set a standard for godly, grace-oriented, commissioning leadership that will forever be a reference point for me . . . He gave me opportunities to grow in my God-given talents and provided helpful feedback toward using those talents well.”

Like the human investments made by Charlie and Trish over the years, the camps and programs with which they’ve been affiliated have grown exponentially under their care. Travis Stovall noted that over the course of two years working with the Thompsons at Broken Arrow Ranch, teen camp attendance went from totaling just 16 to nearly 150, which Travis and his fellow staff attribute wholeheartedly to Charlie and Trish’s leadership. Similar

results have been seen at Timber Ridge Camp, and, more importantly, within the spheres of influence of the staff and campers as well.

That’s what happens when people are empowered — they grow. And that growth is contagious.

Another former Broken Arrow Ranch staffer, Regina Wehling Harvey, fondly remembers a fateful summer when the camp flooded, reducing the camp’s usable water supply to a spring in a hillside running into a canoe. Anxiety and discomfort were high, morale was low, and yet the Thompsons still managed to put a brave face on the situation and turn it into an adventure rather than a crisis. “The ministry that these two share has impacted many lives,” Regina asserts. “They weren’t afraid to be ‘real’ in front of us. We witnessed their struggles, hopes, dreams, and we saw their tears, laughed with them and shared many stories of God’s constant love for all of us.”

This is where the tenets of the Thompsons’ leadership find their roots: in being “real” and becoming anchors of love for those around them. Although they may not realize it, Charlie and Trish frequently become the figures who keep the young adults who have crossed their paths grounded in faith when the rest of the world begins to go sideways. Founder of the storytelling platform, “Humans of Adventism,” Kaleb Eisele, sums up their mentorship precisely: “[The Thompsons] have always been strong, safe mentors to a revolving cast of Adventist youth, myself included. Even today, most of my peers who have stayed involved in Indiana church life can trace their story back to a friendship with Charlie and Trish.”

When asked to define the best parts of the last 33 years, their answers were quick and simple. “You,” they grinned. “All of you who realized your potential and grew with it.” ■

Heather Reichert is entering her ninth year of teaching and loves spending her time working with teenagers at South Ripley High School in Indiana where she serves as an English teacher and drama coach. In addition to finding her passion for youth while working at Timber Ridge Camp, she also met her husband,, Conrad. They are still frequent visitors to both TRC and the Thompson home.

A close-up portrait of a man with a beard and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a blue jacket. The background is a blurred stone wall.

Chad Bernard

Chad Bernard joined the Youth Department of the Michigan Conference in the summer of 2017, as an associate to Ken Micheff, after several years of serving as the principal of Weimar Academy in central California. He prayerfully took the reins this past spring as Ken shifted his primary attention to Camp Au Sable.

Jonathan Logan



Daniel Mendez



RD Gallant

▲ Top photo: Chad (center) salutes youth at the Michigan Pathfinder fair; bottom photo: Chad and his wife Melinda, with their daughter, Adelaide and dog, Gus

Apostles, p. 600). He is convinced that event and strategy planning must both emanate from and reinforce this three-dimensional love.

Youth Ministry is not just about youth

Chad seeks to imbue the world church's emphasis on total member involvement into the Mitten State. Although he directs the Youth Department, he still desires total member involvement, not total millennial involvement. The niche he has carved into this specific generation does not in any way diminish the value he sees in intergenerational ministry. There is an undeniable proportionality between what the youth and young adults can accomplish for Christ and the willingness of middle-agers and seniors to contribute resources and wisdom to their efforts.

Chad did not espouse this concept from a theoretical impetus, but a firsthand, personal account. Soon after graduating from Andrews University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, he began his first teaching position at Oakwood Academy in Taylor, Michigan. As he got to know Joe Skrobowski, a long-time member and elder of the Oakwood Church, he became increasingly impressed with his consistent, infectious example of devotion to Jesus, his wife, kids and church.

Those who know Chad and have recognized his penchant for boldness will not be too surprised by the fact that he approached Joe, admitted that he wanted to be like him, and requested mentorship. Joe, with a warmth and graciousness with which many are familiar, gave a hearty thumbs up.

In underscoring the spiritual import of this type of relationship, Chad said, "I went up to him and said, 'Hey, can I just start hanging out with you?' And what I really was saying is, 'I want you to disciple me, I want you to mentor me,' which is what Jesus did. Jesus said, 'Hang out with Me, eat with Me, just hang around Me . . . I want you to do what I do.' I really think, in a basic sense, that's mentorship. It's just

During a conversation at Camp Meeting, where he spoke in both the youth and young adult tents, Chad shared what he sees and wants to see in the short-term and long-term. The short-term window included a recent community service project in Detroit that was conducted on July 27–28 (see sidebar).

Looking at the bigger picture, Chad effuses a tangible zeal for executing Christ's method of soul-winning (see *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143). Furthermore, he has identified that when youth ministry is going well, three factors are prevalent: a fervent love for the Lord, a fervent love for the church, and a fervent love for the community. These factors are intertwined in another one of Ellen White's inspired declarations: "The church is God's agency for the proclamation of truth . . ." (*The Acts of the*

spending time with someone, listening to them, gleaned the wisdom that they have to share, and practicing what they're practicing. I just feel so grateful for Joe's influence on my life. I think that's a perfect model."

That influence has had an exponential spread as Chad has impacted hundreds of lives inside and outside the classroom and helped build the Kingdom of God. Imagine if Joe had swatted that proverbial butterfly instead. Oh, how the course of history might have changed!

Chad urges everyone in the church, from ages 10 to 100+, to engage, one way or another, in the continual manifestation of this discipleship pattern.

To the youth: acknowledge that those who have seen the sun rise and fall more times than you have, have a lot to offer in the way of promoting your growth as a Christian and heavenly representative. Look for those who are doing things the right way, for the most part (nobody's perfect).

To the youthful at heart: consider it a privilege to take a student, recent graduate or young professional under your wing. Disseminate your counsels and experiences with liberality. Even if it amounts to many hours per week and many weeks per year, think of the time you invest into their development as a grain of sand in the hourglass of eternity.

Chad originally grew up in Flint and graduated from Great Lakes Adventist Academy. His Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction also is from Andrews, and eventually, his PhD in leadership will be, too. As dedicated as he is to impacting young people, no one else on earth holds a more special place in his heart than do his wife of 21 years, Melinda, and five-year-old daughter, Adelaide. ■

John Simon, Michigan-based freelance writer



FIELDWORK.LOVE

As of press time, the Michigan Youth Department, Ministerial Department and District 12 pastors are preparing to mobilize across the City of Detroit, by providing assistance to homeowners in need. This bold endeavor, dubbed "Fieldwork," is an opportunity to build lasting friendships with people in a town that, although it's on the road to recovery, still needs significant boosts in infrastructure, education, law enforcement and, most importantly, gospel presence.

Michigan Conference Youth director, Chad Bernard, indicates that Fieldwork was born out of his belief that young people genuinely want to help those within their spheres and positively change the world. Fieldwork and similar projects can be channels to say to those who are looking wistfully toward something better, "We care about you and love you." As their confidence grows, our offer of something better — nay, the Best — will drip with more substantive credibility.

Fieldwork is slated for the final weekend of July. On that Sabbath (July 27), participants will unite in worship and fellowship with the members of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth. A concise training session will happen mid-afternoon followed by the formulation of teams of five and initial disbursement throughout the neighborhoods.

All five members of a given team are expected to share the responsibilities of general labor. Additionally, two members carry certain designations: foreperson and connector. The foreperson, typically the one with the most extensive handy skillset and aptitude for repairs, is the first person to meet a family, assess their renovation needs, and ensure that the team purchases the proper materials.

Fieldwork is also known as the \$100 Challenge. Those who register to participate in the physical side of the project also commit to raising \$100 by appealing to whatever number of generous benefactors. With combined funds raised by the team, the foreperson makes the purchase.

The connectors are Detroit-area residents who serve as the relational liaisons between their teammates and the families they are helping. Their roles will continue beyond late July, as they seek to nurture these new bonds for weeks, months and, hopefully, years to come.

Work boots hit the ground Sunday as the teams return to their assigned homes to begin the projects requested. Afterwards, the entire Fieldwork staff will gather together to cap off the weekend with testimonies and prayer.

For more on Fieldwork, visit www.fieldwork.love. ■



▲ Associates at Bolingbrook have taken turns “adopting” the micropantry for a week to ensure it is stocked for community members. Pictured clockwise from left: Debbie Sweeney, ED and ICU manager; Diane Leonard, ED, ICU and OB director; Jeanne Anderko, unit secretary; Cardiology, Cahren Cruz, Cardiology manager; and chaplain Cristina Grys, manager, Spiritual Care Services.

Reaching further to provide holistic care

Then the righteous will answer Him, “Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink?” The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me (Matthew 25:37, 40 NIV).

Jesus’ answer to the righteous is always a fresh reminder that we, too, are called to meet the basic needs of *the least of these*. As those made righteous through Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we are often provided occasions to serve *these brothers and sisters of Mine*. But sometimes those opportunities may come in unique ways or may cause us to question if we should answer the call.

Chaplain Cristina Grys, manager of Spiritual Care Services at AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center Bolingbrook, learned of one such opportunity earlier this year. She fielded a phone call from a gentleman who was concerned about the homeless in Joliet, roughly 10 miles south of the hospital. He recounted to Grys that he and his friends had constructed and placed 43 “micropantries” in the area. His hope was that AMITA Health Bolingbrook would allow installation of one of these units on its property as well.

Each small wooden cabinet is filled with non-perishable, healthy food items. Individuals with limited resources can take

what they need with no questions asked. Then volunteers replenish the stock as necessary.

Grys loved the idea and brought it to the medical center’s nursing care committee who quickly approved it. The handmade cabinet now sits near the exit of the Emergency Department. Keeping the unit filled has been a labor of love for hospital associates. “We placed the micropantry at the beginning of March,” said Grys. “We asked departments to adopt the pantry for one week, and the idea was so popular that within a month we nearly filled the schedule for the entire year.” She believes that giving people a way to serve that is visible and easy to accomplish has been key.

Chief nursing officer Obed Cruz said this is a feel-good project for staff. “The speed at which we’ve gotten buy-in from associates speaks well to their willingness to quickly step in and lend a hand to make a difference for their neighbors in need,” he said. Cruz said he has seen conversations about donating to the effort from members of the community on Facebook.

With its location outside the emergency room entrance, the micropantry helps maintain privacy and dignity for those accessing it. Grys said occasionally the person who has fallen on hard times may be a staff member who could benefit from a bit of assistance.

“We provide health care to patients from all walks of life,” said Grys. “We’ve seen grandmothers raising three to four grandchildren who are worried about where their next meal is coming from. Our mission is to extend the healing ministry of Christ, so if people are hungry and don’t have enough, we can’t look the other way.” ■

Julie Busch, associate vice president, Communications, AMITA Health

Student's "Preacher-Girl" podcast spreads messages of hope

When Rachel Arner was out for a run last summer, she wanted to listen to a podcast to pass the time. As she searched specifically for a program that was faith-based and uplifting, she found nothing. Rachel began to pray, telling God she was willing to start a podcast to encourage others in their walk with Him, but only if it was something He wanted her to do.

Six months passed quickly, and life became busy. Then, that December, Rachel's parents gave her a microphone (they hadn't forgotten her idea) and so her "PreacherGirl" podcast began.

Rachel uploads a new episode every two weeks, more frequently when possible. She aims to leave people feeling uplifted and inspired to continue pursuing a relationship with Christ. "I hope to be a positive impact in people's lives but, most importantly, encourage people in the way I have been encouraged by women and men of faith in my life."

Rachel, an Andrews University senior Religion major with a minor in Communication, believes God has called her to ministry. She has been motivated throughout her time at Andrews by professors Susan Zork, Heather Thompson Day and Rahel Wells to always keep God first and never give up. She is able to take what she has studied and learned through the years to make her podcast the best it can be.

Rachel selects podcast guests based on what she sees in their lives — people who have faith and a relationship with

Christ who can share their experience with listeners. Typically, an episode takes 45 minutes to record and an hour to edit and upload. Rachel's audience has grown to 350 listeners. Several have left reviews saying how blessed they have felt after hearing her podcast. One listener, from France, shared how he found her podcast on YouTube. After listening to an episode about depression, he explained that, in the midst of his own struggle with depression, the information was just the encouragement he needed to hear. Rachel comments, "I am always so grateful to hear that the podcast is helping people in their walk with God."

Rachel is most rewarded by knowing that she is doing what God wants her to do right now. "If someone had told me two years ago (as I was so uncertain and unsure of my purpose) that I would have a podcast, I would have said, 'What?' But God has a great way of leading in our lives. Once we are willing and open to Him working through us, He will open doors for us to share His love with others in places and ways we would have never imagined."

She continues, "Faith motivates me to keep creating content for my podcast. It's called 'PreacherGirl' for a reason. I believe God has called everyone to spread His love and joy to those around them. People are seeking hope like never before, and I love encouraging people. Life has never been easy, and I've learned to lean on God in every situation. I want to share that



Joelle Elizabeth Photography

▲ Rachel Arner

hope and strength I've found in Christ with other people." ■

Gillian Panigot, Media Communications manager and FOCUS editor, Andrews University.



▲ Student engagement was high throughout the week, as the Ruth Murdoch Elementary junior high students were not only responsible for preaching, but leading out in singing, greeting, gathering contact cards and operating audio-visual equipment.

Thirty baptism decisions made during junior high school, student-led, evangelism meetings

MICHIGAN—For the sixth year in a row, junior high school students at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School pitched a tent on the campus of Andrews University and preached sermons directed to their peers as well as the general community.

As in past years, baptism interests were generated. However, this year, the baptism requests were the highest — 30 youth and adults! Some reconfirmed their decision over the course of several nights. “This wasn’t just a fleeting decision,” said Ben Martin, Pioneer Memorial Church pastor for Children and Family Discipleship. Plans for preparing these 30 candidates for baptism are now ongoing.

The Tent, as it’s known, was held as a collaborative evangelistic effort between Pioneer Memorial Church and Ruth Murdoch Elementary School. Before the first night of the meeting, Friday, May 10, it took several months of prayerful

advance planning. For instance, religion teacher, Christopher Davisson, explained that before the sermons were written, the 11 student evangelists met and spent time during the spring semester in prayer as they waited for the Lord to give each student a message to present.

There were several faith lessons the students learned as a result of the experience, including two dramatic cliffhangers. A few days before the meetings opened, Martin received a distressing call from an Andrews University Plant Services worker who was helping with the tent pitch. The incessant rainfall had made the ground too damp to raise the tent. In fact, workers were wading in ankle-deep water in some places. Martin had a meeting later that day with the elementary school students and asked them to pray for three things: 1) that the rain would stop; 2) dry ground would appear; and 3) The Tent meeting visitors would experience the latter rain. Miraculously, later that afternoon, the sun came out and the ground was dry enough for the tent to go up; followed later with an outpouring of requests for baptism. “It was really powerful for the kids to see all their prayers come true,” said Martin.

Two days before the conclusion of the meetings, one of the speakers scheduled to preach developed a high fever and other symptoms. There were doubts he would be well enough in time to arrive for his scheduled sermon, but that didn’t stop students from earnestly praying for his healing. The young preacher arrived a day later than scheduled with no fever, although nursing a sore throat. By the time he opened his mouth to preach, the soreness had disappeared, only to reappear after he concluded.

Miracles aside, student engagement was high throughout the week, as the junior high students were not only responsible for preaching, but leading out in singing, greeting, gathering contact cards and operating audio-visual equipment. “One of the things I love about The Tent,” said Martin, “is the body of Christ in action, where every student finds his or her place to serve and make The Tent possible.” ■

Debbie Michel, associate director of Communication, Lake Union Conference

Adventist Education to feature prominently at Camporee

Once upon a time Adventist education and the Pathfinder Club ministry shared a special bond. The Pathfinder curriculum was integrated into the classroom and many of the students were members of their local church club. Over the years, the two ministries diverged, but youth leaders and educators are now working to reverse this trend.

At the upcoming Oshkosh Camporee, in a cavernous 40,000-square-foot airplane hangar, Adventist education at all levels, K-12 plus university, for the first time will be on full display.

According to Center for Youth Evangelism and Lake Union Youth director, Ron Whitehead, statistics show that between 62 and 71 percent of young people who are involved in Pathfinders are either homeschooled or in public schools. By having the Education Department take such a central role at camporee is communicating that Adventist Christian education is supporting the youth's faith journey. "This shows that Adventist Christian education believes in Pathfinders, believes in the volunteers who spend countless hours helping kids, and is willing to join with the informal educators preparing our youth for eternity."

The theme of Hangar C is "A Path to Jesus, A Path to Excellence," and the organizers have created a space where educators can meet young people from all parts of the world. Representatives from grade schools, 18 academies and North American Division (NAD) colleges will be on hand. All 13 universities in the NAD have invested financially into this project — six will have a booth in the hangar, others will have a representative there even without a booth. Four international universities are participating as well. "This is one of the rare times that Youth evangelism and

Adventist education have come together in such a magnanimous way," says Ruth Horton, associate director of Education for the Lake Union and chair of the planning committee.

Among the 47 exhibitors is Andrews University, which will have seven departments represented at the Camporee. However, a few departments such as Aviation and Agriculture won't be located in the hangar because of the type of space required for their discipline. Exhibitors also will include Adventist Robotics, ADRA Education, the NAD Education Department, and Union Education departments. In following with the theme of Hangar C, the Lake Union Education Department has chosen for the theme of their booth as "Choose Jesus. Choose Excellence."

"We want to walk with young people on their turf and help plant seeds, little by little, of the lifelong benefits of choosing Jesus," explained Horton. "We want to show what Adventist education can do and what it can be in different contexts."

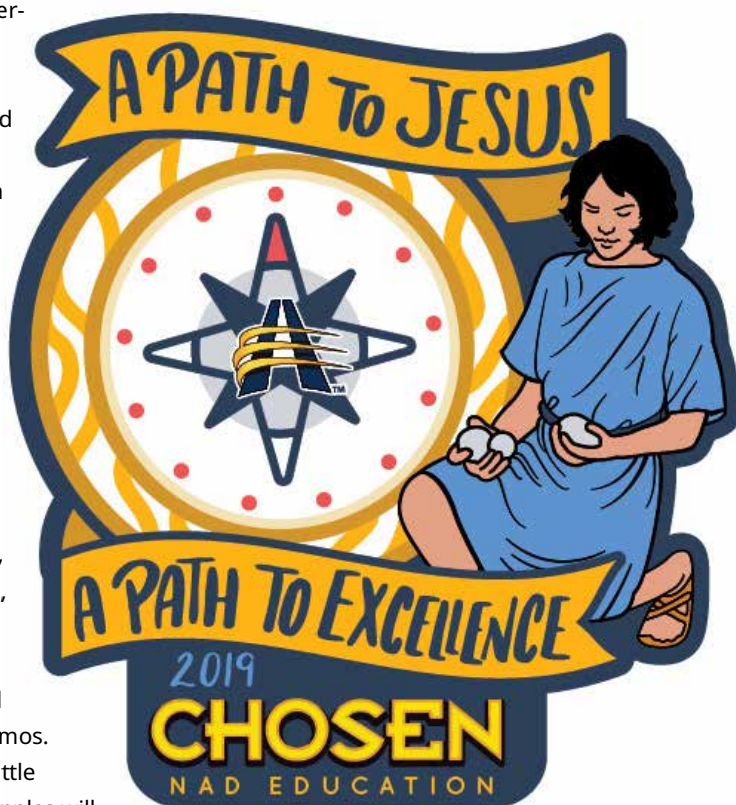
The entire hangar will be interactive and instructional with activities focusing on stretching the mind, collaborating and problem-solving. The activities planned include basic outdoor rescue, a climbing wall, an escape room, floorball, outdoor large canoe, green screen photos, Ellen White pulpit pictures, mini drones/robotics, and hands-on physics demos. Prizes like stickers, Little Debbie snacks and apples will

be given away. Thirty charging stations also will be available in the hangar for those needing to charge phones or smart watches.

Attendees will have the opportunity to earn honors in Hangar C, including Basic Rescue, Bible Markings, Foreign Mission Trips, Geocaching, Home Nursing, Lighthouse, Livestock and Flower Culture, Maple Sugar, Metal Craft, Pickleball, and Waterfalls. In addition to earning an honor, Pathfinders can also receive a special pin, patches, and passports.

"We want to meet and talk to young people," says Horton, "We want to hear their personal stories, to let them know we as educators are here to support them. We want to thank the Lord for the youth coming and pray that God continues to be with them. That's why we will be there: to hold up their hand in their walk with the Lord." ■

Leah Westfall, Michigan-based freelance writer



Academy students commended for their “Caring Heart”

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we believe that teaching young people to be actively involved in witnessing and service activities is central to the educational goals of the school and the mission of the church. For this reason, the secondary student “Caring Heart Award” for Christian service has been established to give recognition to those students who have demonstrated a personal commitment to active service and witnessing activities.

Through the Caring Heart Award, the importance of witnessing and service activities is emphasized and given appropriate recognition along with academic, athletic, music and other school awards and honors. It is the purpose of this award to not only give appropriate recognition, but to foster increased awareness and participation in witnessing and service activities by all students. To be eligible, the student should be a full-time junior or senior student with a strong citizenship record, who has given evidence of a personal commitment to witnessing and service activities by exhibiting initiative and responsibility for carrying through, serving as an overall example on the campus. Criteria also might include significant and varied participation in service-type activities, witnessing experiences, and mission trips (inside and/or outside the country).

The North American Division (NAD) Office of Education provides one Caring Heart Award to each NAD-accredited senior academy that has selected an eligible candidate. The award will consist of a special scholarship award certificate with a value of \$500, which is paid by the Union and accompanied by a plaque and engraved Bible provided by the NAD Office of Education. The scholarship award may be used by the student award recipient for either funding a mission trip experience, or as tuition assistance at the Adventist school of their choice.

The recipients for the 2018–2019 school year are:

Andrews Academy



JOHN KENT — What I (Ben Martin) appreciate about John Kent is not his kind heart, although he has one. It is not his ability to talk about God on the spot, which he is able. What I most appreciate about John is his willingness to serve. If there is ever someone who needs help, John is willing to put other duties and tasks aside to help. In a world where our schedules seem to fill up beyond all reasonable belief, John always has time to help. He is hardworking and committed. If John says that he is going to do something, it is as good as done. And regardless of how hectic his schedule might be, John does not pass by those who are suffering without stopping to help. When the question “Who is my neighbor?” is asked, the answer is John Kent.

Battle Creek Academy



MALLARY ANDERSON — Mallery is the Student Association pastor, and she has taken the role seriously and worked to encourage students to invest in the spiritual health of the school. She helped to organize a student-led week of prayer on miracles this past October. She also led the high school student body to pray together once a month. Beyond this, Mallery consistently exemplifies a compassionate, respectful and

responsible student. She carries around snacks for another student who may become tired or emotional with low blood sugar. She volunteered to help with finishing last year's yearbook without expectation of reward. She has spent the year cultivating a friendship with a younger student who needs a mentor. Mallery's initiative, kindness and constancy make this reward well deserved.

Great Lakes Adventist Academy



DENIELLE BABB — Denielle Babb is a committed, Christian, young lady with a quiet, gentle spirit. She serves others as a Christ-like, humble servant leader, always looking for the best in others. She has a compassionate heart and jumps at any opportunity to encourage others with a picture, note or Scripture. Although she is quiet, she is not afraid to try new things and is often found at the audio-visual booth, playing just about any instrument she can put her hands on, or writing uplifting songs of praise. Denielle truly lives out her faith in all aspects of her life!

Grand Rapids Adventist Academy



AMANDA OROSCO — Amanda Orosco was born and has lived all her life in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She has attended Grand Rapids Adventist Academy (GRAA) all 13

years and graduated in May. Baptized in 2014, Amanda's spirituality is never failing, and she will not hesitate to stand up for what is right. She has been on three mission trips, one in the Dominican Republic and two in Tennessee. Amanda also has volunteered at Gilda's Club, Habitat for Humanity, and does work for the disabled. She plans to attend Andrews University next fall. Anyone who knows her can attest to her bubbly personality.

Hinsdale Adventist Academy



ALEX NAVARRO — A few years ago, Alex Navarro, left the public school system and began attending Hinsdale Adventist Academy to follow in the path of his brother. In three years, Alex has completed high school and along the way, something marvelous transpired — his heart was transformed.

Throughout the last two years at HAA, Alex has been class pastor, gone on mission trips, spoken at his church for spiritual weekend events and for a week of prayer. He has initiated and led an early morning Bible study for teens and is a regular participant in the school's Friday after-school Bible study. He is the only student to have faithfully come to each of the school's early morning Wednesday prayer times.

In addition to all these activities, the National Honor Society scholar is involved in tutoring students for countless hours and serving in his Pathfinder club.

Indiana Academy



MELANIE TAINA — Melanie was selected for her demonstrated commitment to Christian service. When asked what service meant to her, Melanie, a graduating senior in the class of 2019, wrote: "Christ calls each of us to love and serve Him. In John 21:15, He told Peter that if he loved Him more than the world, he would feed His sheep. When I finally realized that [same directive applied to me] as a Christian, my life completely changed to imbed this new mission statement into my life. If I really loved Christ, I would take care of His people. I'm not a perfect shepherd but, because I love God, it's what I want to do. As I go into college this upcoming year, it will be His first service to us that will continue to compel me to serve others."

Peterson-Warren Academy



CHAUNTANIQUE BRIGGS — As the Student Association president, Chauntanique has been actively engaging her fellow students in different school community events. She has attended PWA since kindergarten and demonstrated excellence in every subject. In the spring of 2017, Chauntanique led out the Revelation Seminar at City Temple Church for nine weeks.

Chauntanique has participated in several community service projects, such as Habitat for Humanity–Western Wayne County and Meals on Wheels. She also ran track from seventh through ninth grades and participated on the cheerleading team during her junior year. She serves her church community as Junior Usher, Master Guide and Junior Deaconess, while maintaining a 3.99 GPA. She has worked very closely with the Detroit Zoological Society since the summer of 2018.

Wisconsin Academy



XIMONG THAO — Walk into the men's dorm at Wisconsin Academy and you'll see neatly trimmed hair. That's because Ximong Thao has taken on the role of dorm barber. He developed his haircutting talent while living as a refugee in Thailand. Now he shares it with fellow students.

Ximong's family came to America in 2016. He tried public school but they didn't have enough emphasis on academics. He came to Wisconsin Academy the 2018–2019 year as a Junior because he knows it will give him a strong platform for college and his dream of becoming an engineer.

Ximong has an outstanding work ethic and exemplary study habits. Moreover, he has become a cherished friend, especially to those who are struggling or disaffected. He's always ready to share his faith, cheerfulness and wise perspective.

Ximong says of his new school, "People are so nice." The nicest of all, perhaps, is Ximong Thao. ■

All content provided by respective academies.



▲ For years, the idea of black leaders from the African continent and regional conferences in North America coming together to share stories and strategies for mission and ministry was explored, but it never materialized for an array of reasons until now.

African church officials and U.S. regional conference leaders hold historic summit

LAKE REGION—History was made in April 2019 when a delegation of Regional Conference presidents traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, for a summit with Adventist church leaders of the East-Central Africa (ECD) and West Africa (WAD) divisions, and the vice-chancellor (president) of Adventist University of Africa (AUA). The delegation also included the executive secretary of the North American Division (NAD), the Regional Affairs director of the Pacific Union, and three regional conference treasurers.

Billed as a “Transatlantic Family Reunion Summit,” the venture was intended to build relationships and the Kingdom of God, convened on the sprawling, scenic compound that is home to the headquarters of the ECD, the AUA, and Maxwell Adventist Academy. For years, the idea of black leaders from the African continent and regional conferences in North America coming together to share stories and strategies for mission and ministry was explored, but it never materialized for an array of reasons.

Blasious M. Ruguri, president of the ECD, characterized the summit as the “realization of a dream” deferred. He welcomed the North American delegation with an electrifying charge which included a confession that misinformation and misconceptions had kept both groups apart, saying, “We must do the hard work of destroying the strongholds that still enslave so many millions of those that we serve.” Ruguri challenged the gathering to remain faithful to the vision and committed to the mission, as well as to serve “in a manner worthy of the sacrifice of our ancestors, and especially of our Savior.”

Elie Weick-Dido, president of the WAD, delivered an equally electrifying closing charge that called on the groups to embrace our common heritage and values, as well as to pursue common goals and ventures. Hosts of the next summit, the WAD includes 12 of the poorest countries in the world; Weick-Dido, who pastored in the Lake Region Conference before returning home to Africa, is uniquely qualified to bridge the two continents.

The summit included sessions in which missional growth was examined, and the concept of Total Member Involvement received much emphasis. African leaders

were eager to share how God is blessing the work in Africa, where approximately nine million Seventh-day Adventists currently live. Delbert Baker, the vice-chancellor of AUA under whose leadership the institution has experienced exponential growth in infrastructure, course offerings and enrollment, lauded the summit as being historic, helpful and heuristic. He claimed it represented something bigger than the two groups combined.

The logistics of the Summit were planned and executed by Emmanuel Pelote, special assistant to the ECD president, and Dana Edmond, executive director of the Office for Regional Conference Ministry, headquartered in Huntsville, Ala.

Many in the North American delegation had never visited the African continent before, and the trip evoked a spectrum of emotions. Safaris to wildlife in their natural habitats evoked exclamations of awe and wonder; particularly moving was the Sabbath visit to a Maasai village that included worship and a baptismal service in a nearby river.

On every hand and by every measure, the 2019 Transatlantic Family Summit was a constellation of powerful moments. There was broad consensus that the Family Summit should be a regular

venture, and the follow-up is already being planned.

Additionally, each African division was aligned or matched with three regional conferences, whose administrators

committed to inviting and hosting the African church leaders in the United States regularly. Lake Region Conference is happy to be aligned with the West Africa Division and looks forward to a

mutually beneficial relationship in mission and ministry. ■

R. Clifford Jones, Lake Region Conference pastor/president

Former North American Division and Lake Union president, Don Schneider, dies

Don Schneider, former president of the North American Division, passed away May 23 in Burleson, Tex. Schneider served as NAD president from 2000 to 2010 and president of the Lake Union from 1994 to 2000.

Lake Union Conference's executive secretary, Steve Poenitz, who served with Schneider before his Lake Union tenure, issued this tribute: "Having known Don and Marti Schneider from growing up under his leadership, I remember fondly his invariable sermon introduction. While he loved humor, nevertheless, Don would look seriously at his audience and testify, 'I love Jesus. Jesus is my Best Friend. And I'd like for you to become His best friend, too!'

"That testimony gives us a peak into his love for evangelism. I understand Don was one of the principals involved in the creation of the satellite seminars of the mid-to late 1990s with Mark Finley, Dwight Nelson, Doug Batchelor, etc. Don's skillset included that creative flair which only he could initiate with his infectious laugh. He loved to tell folks about Jesus. In fact, even those who had left the church were on his mind. He determined to reconnect with them and learn from them ways to avoid losing their presence. So, he would place an ad in the newspaper and ask for an interview with former Seventh-day Adventists, offering them \$100 for the interview. And they took him up on it. That's the innovative and creative Don I knew.



▲ Don Schneider

One who loved Jesus and loved people, especially young people."

Schneider began life in Merrill, Wis. He came to know Jesus, first when he was in the second grade and his family became Seventh-day Adventist Christians, and again when he renewed his commitment while a senior at Wisconsin Academy.

He completed his Christian education at two Adventist colleges and the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He and his wife, Marti, provided pastoral leadership to churches in Louisiana, Arkansas and Minnesota. He served in various conference ministries in Oklahoma, Oregon and the Central Union. These all led him

toward service as president of five conferences — Wyoming, New Jersey, Arkansas-Louisiana, Rocky Mountain and Northern California.

He and Marti, who worked for Adventist Missions at the General Conference, retired in 2010. During retirement, they pastored the Denver South Church for three years, and, in 2013, settled in Keene, Tex.

In addition to his wife, survivors include his daughter, Carol, a principal in Keene, and his son, Don, Jr., a physician in Alaska. ■

Debbie Michel, associate director of Communication, Lake Union Conference



D'Ziah Coddington

▲ Jason with his wife, Angie, and their children, Dijae, Jadae and Jason Jr.

Lake Region Youth director departs for Oakwood University Church

Jason North, who also serves as pastor of the Highland Avenue Church in Benton Harbor, is departing to assume the role of associate pastor of the Oakwood University Church, effective Aug. 1.

Over the last five years, North has successfully led several initiatives, including revitalizing the summer camp ministry and starting a young adult ministry, which included the first Lake Region public campus ministry group.

Other accomplishments during his tenure include: raising funds and installing permanent basketball systems at Camp Wagner, providing \$500 in matching funds to local churches for outreach and evangelism, and spearheading the Lake Union's Global Youth Day efforts each year.

North, who grew up in Berrien Springs, Mich., and has worked throughout the

Lake Union as a teacher, chaplain and pastor, said he appreciates the encouragement he's received, most notably from his parents, wife and children. "God has showed up during my ministry by allowing my family to be with me each step of the way," he said. "They were on my staff/team at events and kept me encouraged when I wanted to quit."

Lake Union Youth director Ron Whitehead said that North's contribution to youth ministry in the Lake Union cannot be underestimated. "He is an outstanding youth professional who knows how to lead and or support youth leaders at the local church," he said. "Jason, with the Holy Spirit, can see what needs to be put in place before others see a ministry need. He is a person who empowers others. He passes out title and authority to others to lead ministry."

One of the youth, North empowered was Jae'Bel Middleton, who along with her sister Jae'Ona' spearheaded a Lake Region youth council. Jae'Bel said North was encouraging and that "his love for

working with youth and young adults extended opportunities that we did not have previously." She continued, "It was nice developing a personal relationship with Pastor North and his wife, a relationship that allowed you to be yourself where you could laugh and joke with them."

Family is very important to North and is one of the reasons for this ministry change. "God has opened a door for my family and me to go to a place where we can be stable, week in and week out. Being a youth director means you don't have a home church really, and we have missed that. I'm also able to specialize in a local church context, which is rare, and be a part of a team of pastors at the Oakwood University Church under the leadership of Dr. Carlton Byrd."

North says he's been grateful for the support he enjoyed over the years and will greatly miss many, including his intergenerational summer camp staff who grew with him over the years and who participated with the Holy Spirit in bringing more than 250 people to the point of making decisions for Christ and resulted in 40-plus baptisms (17 in one summer!).

"I just want to thank everyone who has been encouraging me on this journey. There are too many to mention, but this part of the country is my home and many have played key roles at different phases of my life. I love each one for it. Let's continue to nurture, equip and deploy our youth for Christ, like so many did for me." ■

Debbie Michel, associate director of Communication, Lake Union Conference

Lake Union commits to putting mission first

At the executive committee meeting on May 8, Lake Union administrators and conference presidents renewed their vow to focus on evangelism and outreach efforts throughout the territory.

Highlights from the meeting include:

The Lake Union is committed to supporting conferences with additional funds to help spur growth: \$20,000 for church growth, \$15,000 for proclamation evangelism, and \$10,000 for discipleship training.

In 2019, the Union is targeting growth of an additional 1,800 members through efforts such as: church planting, Latino small

group evangelism, Oshkosh Camporee baptisms, major proclamation meetings, interstate "Jesus on Prophecy" meetings, discipleship training, GC 2020 prep, Adventist Community Health Initiative (dental and health fairs).

The Lake Union leadership is committed to equipping pastors and training members to make disciples for Christ.



Debbie Michel

▲ In 2019, the Union is targeting growth of an additional 1,800 members through efforts such as: church planting, Latino small group evangelism, Oshkosh Camporee baptisms and major proclamation meetings.

The year-to-date financial statement reflects \$425,000 in additional funding (above the general budget) that have been returned to the local conference for church growth, proclamation evangelism and discipleship training.

The North American Division-led campaign of small group leaders hosting “watch parties” in their homes to view evangelist Alejandro Bullón’s live preaching

on the internet concluded in April. The Division’s goal of 10,000 small groups was surpassed; over 13,000 signed up. Of that number, our conferences had a total of 334 groups: Illinois, 67; Indiana, 84; Lake Region, 79; Michigan, 64; Wisconsin, 40. The event was such a rousing success that a similar type meeting will occur Oct. 4–12.

Illinois and Wisconsin Conference presidents also presented reports. Illinois

president Ron Aguilera said there’s a renewed focus on prayer and evangelism. “We strive to encourage our churches to grow and we can’t reach people without focusing on the gospel,” he said. The conference has launched a YouTube channel to bridge the communication gap between churches and the conference. You can subscribe here: <http://bit.ly/IllinoisYouTube>.

Wisconsin president Mike Edge said they are currently focusing on four areas: Church Connect, Cross Connect, Education Connect and Community Connect. He highlighted several areas of growth, including the successful efforts of the new conference evangelist and the lay pastors’ seminary training. “The Lord is continuing to work powerfully in Wisconsin,” he said. ■

Debbie Michel, associate director of Communication, Lake Union Conference

Steady growth of Myanmar congregations in the Lake Union

During the first weekend in June, almost 600 people from around the U.S. gathered for the bi-annual North American Division’s Myanmar Multi-lingual Convention, held at Timber Ridge Camp in Spencer, Ind. Organized by Indiana pastor and church planter, Samuel Ngala, some of the speakers included Tony Anobile, North American Division Adventist Refugee & Immigrant Ministries; Rahel Wells, Andrews University Religion professor; Bill Wells and Julia Aitken O’Carey of ASAP Ministries.

Nine different languages from Myanmar (previously known as Burma) were present at the convention, along with visitors who represented Africa, Australia, South America and Asia. Hymns were sung, sermons preached, and prayers offered up throughout the weekend. As a result, there were nine baptisms of young people who chose to dedicate their lives to the Lord.



Felicia Tonga

▲ The NAD Myanmar Multi-lingual Convention was organized by Indiana pastor and church planter, Samuel Ngala (seen center in green shirt) and speakers included Tony Anobile, of North American Division Adventist Refugee & Immigrant Ministries (center holding mic)

The number of refugees in the Lake Union has grown significantly. Just 10 years ago, there were no Myanmar congregations in the Lake Union. Today there are 10! Therefore, there is an urgent need for laborers within the Lake Union. This year, there were two initiatives at the convention designed to

bring spiritual revival and equip laborers with tools needed to continue the work within the refugee groups.

A Critical Time

To bring this initiative full circle, one cannot ignore the grim history of what

the people from Myanmar experienced. Underneath the smiling faces are a people group who have experienced rampant ethnic strife and civil wars from their homeland.

"The government is intentionally doing an ethnic cleansing," said Terri Saelee, Ministry Special project coordinator of Refugee & Immigrant for the North American Division. "They are purposely ridding their country of those who do not hold the three Bs, which are people of Bamar-descent, Burmese-speaking, and Buddhist."

If asked about their experience, a smile followed by laughter is the common response by the refugees, but a spokesperson for the group revealed to Saelee, "We laugh so that we don't cry."

Over the last several decades, many have fled Myanmar to seek asylum in neighboring

countries. According to the Center for Immigration Studies/ Refugee Processing Center, from 2017 to 2018, a total of 3,555 refugees from Myanmar were settled in the United States.

Relying heavily on church plant consultants, Saelee said that the NAD believes in empowering people from the different refugee groups. "By doing this," she said, "you bypass language barriers and cultural misunderstandings."

Saelee works closely with Samuel Ngala, pastor of the Fort Wayne Karen Church and Hope Adventist Company (Indianapolis), who understands Myanmar and its history.

"Culture is beautiful, but culture also can bring division," Ngala said, as he explained the complexity of working with the different language groups. "Language may be poetic

but also can bring animosity," he continued. "With this convention and the theme 'United in Christ,' we are hoping to bridge those gaps with love."

Impressive Results

The results of the NAD Myanmar convention, which began 10 years ago, are undeniably impressive. Alongside spiritual growth, many church members have dedicated themselves to launching church plants for refugee and immigrants in different cities.

"Young people are studying theology in preparation for ministry and refugees are sharing their faith in Jesus with colleagues at work," Ngala said. ■

Felicia Tonga, Lake Union Media specialist



Tobias Bechtloff

▲ Steve Martin playing the lap dulcimer, one of 46 instruments he played at the North Shore Academy spring concert

FLUTES, FRENCH HORNS, AND ... FUNDRAISING?

ILLINOIS—You've probably heard of folks who think out-of-the-box to solve a problem, but this may blow your mind (and hopefully set a world record!).

North Shore Adventist Academy's long-time band director, Steve Martin, has recently perfected the incredulous feat of playing "Mary had a Little Lamb" on 46 instruments in just four minutes. And we're talking some

very different instruments — everything from brass and strings, to woodwinds and squeezeboxes (accordion-like gizmos).

The idea was composed from a few categories Martin saw on a world record site last summer. "I can go to a more difficult level than that!" he thought. A concept was born, just in time to serve as a unique fundraising idea during a dip in the school's enrollment.

Martin says donations started with a few fellow musician friends sending in a couple bucks here and there. At last check, the school had received nearly \$2,000 "and it's still coming in," Martin admits, incredulously.

It was at North Shore's recent spring concert when Martin proved his months of practicing had truly paid off. In front of a packed audience (and a professional photographer who would serve as proof for the world record evaluators), the teacher of 36 years reached his goal, averaging 5.1 seconds per instrument. "The whole place went nuts," says Martin chuckling.

The plan is to have the professional photos sent to RecordSetter.com (a world record-keeping organization, similar to

Guinness World of Records). Final notification is expected by mid-June.

Record or not, Martin says his stunt has been worth it — drumming up more musical interest amongst his students. "I want them to have love for music and for God, and use [music] to communicate with Him." It's a goal that certainly must strike a chord with The Music Maker.

The 46 Instruments Steve Martin played were: micro flute, cheeks, piano accordion, concertina, trumpet, F horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, kazoo, ukulele, mandolin, 4-string banjo, 5-string banjo, 6-string guitar, bass guitar, slide guitar, tenor sax, bass clarinet, lap dulcimer, soprano sax, oboe, soprano clarinet, bass recorder, piccolo, slide whistle, sopranino recorder, Filipino flute, Irish whistle, quena, alto recorder, Irish flute, silver flute, bamboo jaw harp, steel jaw harp, high G harmonica, low G harmonica, cello, violin, pan flute, thumb piano, nose flute, ocarina, electric piano, and between wind chimes and orchestra bells. ■

Cheri Daniels Lewis, Illinois-based freelance writer in the Quad Cities area

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Aug. 2, 8 p.m.: *Graduation — Consecration, Howard Performing Arts Center*

Aug. 3, 11:45 a.m.: *Graduation — Baccalaureate, Howard Performing Arts Center*

Aug. 3, 8:30 p.m.: *Graduation — Vespers, Howard Performing Arts Center*

Aug. 4, 9 a.m.: *Graduation — Commencement, Howard Performing Arts Center*

Aug. 18: *First Stop (registration for freshmen)*

Aug. 25: *Registration for returning students*

Aug. 26: *Fall semester classes begin*

INDIANA

Aug. 23–25: *Hispanic Camp Meeting, Timber Ridge Camp*

LAKE REGION

Aug. 10–11: *PARL: "Five Years After Ferguson," East St. Louis*

Aug. 17–18: *LRC Capacitación del Ministerio Infantil, Illinois*

Aug. 18–24: *LRC Evangelismo Verano (taking place in Hispanic churches around the Lake Union)*

Aug. 24–25: *LRC Capacitación del Ministerio Infantil, Michigan*

Aug. 30–Sept. 3: *LRC Campestre Hispano, Camp Wagner*

AUGUST

MICHIGAN

Aug. 9–11: *iShare Conference, campus of GLAA, Cedar Lake*

Aug. 29–31: *UP Camp Meeting, Camp Sagola*

WISCONSIN

July 28–Aug. 4: *Family Camp Meeting 2, Camp Wakonda*

Aug. 7–11: *Spanish Family Camp, Camp Wakonda*

Aug. 15: *CIC Camporee - Oshkosh, Wis.*

Aug. 23–25: *Public Campus Ministry Retreat, TBA*

LAKE UNION

Aug. 12–17: *"CHOSEN" — 2019 International Pathfinder Camporee, EAA grounds, Oshkosh, Wis.*

Aug. 25: *Free Dental and Health Clinic - Buchanan, Mich.*

Jesus & Politics

Christians, Liberty, and Justice Today

Andrews University Oct. 17–19, 2019

More info at: parl.lakeunion.org/jesus-and-politics-conference

A scholarly conference and community gathering sponsored by Andrews University, the AU Seminary and the Lake Union Conference; featuring experts in church history, theology and activism, seeking to translate biblical teachings to our day through careful study, thought, and dialogue.

SPEAKERS

Ronald Sider, *Palmer Theo. Seminary*

Calvin Rock, *Emeritus SDA Leader*

James Standish, *Former U.S. Int. Free. Community*

Ganoune Diop, *GC Religious Liberty*

Melissa Reid, *NAD Religious Liberty*

Michael Nixon, *Andrews University*

Timothy Golden, *Walla Walla University*

Claudia Allen, *Message Magazine*

Breakout tracks include:

1. *Jesus and the MeToo Movement*
2. *Jesus Among the Ethicists & Political Scientists*
3. *Jesus Among the Social Justice & Life Activists*
4. *Jesus and the Immigrant*
5. *Jesus Among the Religious Liberty Advocates*
6. *Jesus Among the Denominations*
7. *Jesus Among the Constitutional Lawyers*

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

ANNIVERSARIES



TERRY AND CHRISTINE CORNELL celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 28, 2019, in Grand Rapids, Mich. Due to their recent home sale and being in the process of establishing a new location, there will be no reception. However, they would love to hear from you with a note of how you know them and something you have enjoyed together. They have been members of the Reed City Church for 30+ years. Terry Ross Cornell and Christine Lynn Huizenga were married on Saturday, June 28, 1969, in Walker, Mich. by George Millar. Terry worked in drug prevention education through LISTEN Community Crusade Against Drugs, and Christine worked as a kitchen designer for Lowes. The family includes Sherry and Jon Reinbold of Grand Rapids, Mich. Please share your thoughts and congratulations by sending a card to 4590 Plateau View Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.



HERALD AND DONNA HABENICHT celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on May 19, 2019, by a reception come-and-go brunch, hosted by Larry and Debbie Jeffrey at their home in Berrien Springs, Mich. They have been members of the Pioneer Memorial Church for 49 years. Herald Habenicht and Donna Jeanne Lueenbeal were married May 23, 1954, at the Village Church, Berrien Springs, by Judson Habenicht. Herald graduated from Loma Linda University in 1958 with a medical degree and a specialty in pediatrics, a sub-specialty degree in allergies and immunology, and an allergy degree. Throughout the years, Herald served as a missionary in Puerto Rico, taught in the seminary, and opened an office on Niles Avenue in St. Joseph, Mich. Herald retired in 2001. Donna worked as a secretary, school teacher, Puerto Rico children evangelism, and taught for 27 years in the School of Education at Andrews University. The Habenicht family includes Larry and Debbie Jeffrey of Berrien Springs, Mich.; Nancy and Bruce Schilling of Collegedale, Tenn.; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



LARRY AND SANDY SLOAN celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 17, 2018, with a family lunch at the Pizza Ranch in Portage, Wis. They have been members of the Wisconsin Academy Church for 35 years. Larry J. Sloan and Sandra D. Kuhl were married on June 16, 1968, in Milton Junction, Wis., by L.R. Ellison. Larry has been in sales for most of his career and still works part-time. Sandy has been a secretary/receptionist and retired in 2018 from a garden center. The family includes Vanessa and Herb Gust of Stevensville, Mich.; Chris and Sheila Sloan of Fall River, Wis.; two grandsons; three granddaughters; and two great-granddaughters.

OBITUARIES

BAILEY, Bernard B.; age 94, born Nov. 2, 1924, in Leroy, Mich.; died Jan. 4, 2019. He was a member of the Wyoming Church in Wyoming, Mich. Survivors include his son, Larry Bailey; daughters, Nancy Dykgraft, Shirley Marsh, and Denise Bailey Bugbee; 11 grandchildren; 12 great grand-children; and five great-great grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dan Rachor; private inurnment was in Grandville, Mich.

BARTLETT, James Warren; age 75, born April 22, 1944, in Muskegon, Mich.; died April 7, 2019, in Wyoming, Mich. He

was a member of the Lowell/Riverside Church in Lowell, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Sandy Barlett; son, Carl; stepson, Troy Maxcy; daughters, Rebecca Whistler and Amy Bacon; sister, Betty Barlett; 17 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Larry Cruttenden; private inurnment.

BROTHERS, Carold Jeanette (Fugate); age 76, born Dec. 16, 1940, in Macomb, Ill.; died March 22, 2019, in Peru, Ind. She was a member of the Rochester Church in Rochester, Ind. Survivors include her husband, David E. Brothers; sons, Greg, Chad and Brad; daughters, Jenny Mistebauer and Lynn Mull; brother, Tom Fugate; sisters, Bonnie Eigenheer and Ellen Deeter; and ten grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Blake Hall and Keith Hanna; private inurnment.

CAMPBELL, Leon LaVern; age 84, born Feb. 19, 1935, in Spooner, Wis.; died April 21, 2019, in Alma, Mich. He was a member of the Alma Twin Cities Church in Alma. Survivors include his wife, Loretta LaVoy; son, Nolan; daughter, Lynette Barnum; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Alex Rybachek; private inurnment was in Elm Hall Cemetery in Elm Hall, Mich.

ERVIN, Leander B., age 63; born Jan. 19, 1956, in Kilmichael, Miss; died Jun. 19, 2019, in Gary, Ind. He was a member of the Brunswick Church in Gary. Survivors include his wife, Edythe (Brooks) Ervin; son, Vincent Ford; daughters, Vincenia Ford, Alisha Lane, and LaRisha Lane;

brothers, James (Beauty) Ervin, Clayton (Ella) Ervin, Clement (Denise) Ervin, William T. Ervin, and Curtis T. Ervin; sisters, Corine (Samuel) Adams, Charlene Ervin, and LuAnne Ervin; and four grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Dr. Philip C. Willis, Jr. at Mizpah Church; interment was at Wilmount Cemetery in Kilmichael.

LAVOY, Lois Arlene (Campbell); age 88, born March 6, 1931, in Spooner, Wis.; died April 29, 2019, in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. She was a member of the Alma Twin Cities Church in Alma, Mich. Survivors include her daughters, Rosemary Kummerow and Rebecca Zmich; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and four great-great grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Alex Rybachek; private inurnment was in Chapel Gardens Cemetery in Edwell, Mich.

LEBARON, William "Bill"; age 76, born July 8, 1942, in Kent County, Mich; died March 30, 2019, in Lansing, Mich. He was a member of the Saint Johns Church in St. Johns, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Vicki Schmidtchen; son, Shane; stepsons, Brian Decker and Matt Decker; daughters, Shawn, Shelly and Shannon; stepdaughter, Christine Smith; mother, Julia (Henreksen) LeBaron; half-brother, Dave Vereeke; sister, Nancy Allen; and two grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Daniel Towar and Monte Landis; private inurnment.

LEE, Joyce A. (Blalock); age 74, born Jan. 1, 1945, in Anderson, Ind.; died April

22, 2019, in Anderson. She was a member of the Anderson Church in Anderson. Survivors include her husband, Roger Lee; sons, Michael Head and Larry Head; stepson, Brent Lee; daughter, Mary Head; stepdaughter, Regina Lee; brothers, Kenny Blalock and Curtis Blalock Jr.; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and five step-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Lee Whitman; interment was at Vinson Memorial Cemetery in Summitville, Ind.

MANZANO, Daniel W.; age 69, born March 14, 1950, in Takoma Park, Md.; died April 12, 2019, in New Albany, Ind. He was a member of the New Albany Church in New Albany. Survivors include his wife, Rose Manzano; stepsons, Keith Wathen and Keven Wathen; stepdaughter, Jennifer Plaiss; father, David Manzano; and two step-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Eric Freking; private inurnment.

WILSON, Evanelle (Swartz); age 98, born Jan. 27, 1921, in Seafield, Ind.; died May 17, 2019, in Monticello, Ind. She was a member of the Monticello Church in Monticello. Survivors include her son, Bruce "Karl" Wilson; daughters, Ellen Pratt and Linda Fullerton; brother, Stanley Swartz; sister, Kay Abbott; nine grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Blake Hall; interment was at Bedford Cemetery in Monticello.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Aug. 2	Aug. 9	Aug. 16	Aug. 23	Aug. 30	Sept. 6
Berrien Springs, Mich.	9:02	8:54	8:44	8:33	8:22	8:10
Chicago, Ill.	8:07	7:59	7:49	7:38	7:27	7:15
Detroit, Mich.	8:50	8:41	8:31	8:21	8:09	7:57
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:56	8:48	8:39	8:29	8:19	8:08
La Crosse, Wis.	8:27	8:17	8:07	7:56	7:44	7:31
Lansing, Mich.	8:57	8:48	8:38	8:27	8:16	8:04
Madison, Wis.	8:17	8:08	7:58	7:47	7:36	7:23

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS 2019

- Aug. 3.** Local Church Budget
- Aug. 10** World Budget (*Emphasis: Oakwood University/ Andrews University/ Loma Linda University*)
- Aug. 17** Local Church Budget
- Aug. 24** Local Conference Advance
- Aug. 31** Union designated

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$36 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$46 per insertion for all others. A form is available at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org> for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org>.

AT YOUR SERVICE

MOVE WITH AN AWARD-WINNING AGENCY. Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves for you. Call us for all your relocation needs. Contact Marcy Danté at 800-766-1902 or visit our website: apexmoving.com/adventist.

TEACH Services: Helping **AUTHORS** make their book a reality. Call 800-367-1844 for your free manuscript evaluation. We publish all book formats and provide worldwide distribution. View **NEW BOOKS** at **TEACH Services**. com or ask your local ABC. **USED SDA BOOKS** at LNFbooks.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

MEN'S CHORUS FESTIVAL, OCT. 25-26 — Similar to one in 2014 (with 110 men on stage praising and glorifying God), the Hinsdale Men's Chorus is organizing another festival this fall in Hinsdale, Ill. Inviting other choruses to join us. Email HinsdaleMen@hotmail.com for more information.

PLAINVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY, SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY AND DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, Oct. 4-5 at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor classes: '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '80, '90, '95, '00, '05, '10, '15. For more information, call 701-751-6177 ext. 210 or visit our website at dakotaadventistacademy.org.

FARMERS AND GARDENERS (ADAGRA'S) 6TH ANNUAL ADVENTIST AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE (Jan. 14-18, 2020) High Springs, Fla. Since 2013, AdAGRA encourages, supports and mentors those who wish to follow God's agriculture plan. Great information and inspiration for how and why Adventists need to be in the garden. Registration and info: adventistag.org.

FOR SALE

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER CLUB NAME CREST: Order your Pathfinder and Adventurer club name crest at pathfinderclubnames.com. For more information, call 269-208-5853 or email us at pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com.

COME SEE OUR LARGE SELECTION OF USED BOOKS AT THE ABC CHRISTIAN BOOK CENTER. Located at 8998 Old US 31, Berrien Springs, MI. Call 269-471-7331. Operating hours are Monday – Thursday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Are you fall cleaning? We accept your used books by Pacific Press, Review & Herald and Southern Publishing, either as a donation or for a small in-store credit (no wet, moldy books).

TRAVEL

ISRAEL TOUR WITH PASTOR JIM GILLEY AND FRIENDS. November 17-25, \$3,295. Includes air, breakfast and dinner buffets daily, all tips, taxes. From New York, Chicago or Los Angeles; other departure cities available. Call Maranatha Tours at 602-788-8864.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT: BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI GUESTHOUSE: 2-bedroom cozy cottage (1 Queen + 2 Twin Beds). Fully furnished and equipped. Quiet location on Lake Chapin with gorgeous sunsets and wildlife. Maximum 4 people; no smoking, pets or children under 6 years old. \$90/night (3-night minimum); 6 miles from Andrews Univ. Call 574-532-9452.

SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

WALLA WALLA OFFERS MASTER'S DEGREES in Biology; Cinema, Religion, and Worldview; Education (including Special Education); and Social Work. Flexible completion times and

in-person, hybrid, and fully online formats available. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 509-527-2290 or visit wallawalla.edu/grad.

SPECIAL EDUCATION MASTER'S DEGREES ARE OFFERED AT WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY (M.Ed. or M.A.T.). Fully online format and flexible completion times available. Now offering a limited time 33% tuition discount. For more information, call 509-527-2290 or visit wallawalla.edu/SPED.

EMPLOYMENT

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY MEDICAL LABORATORY SERVICES. Full-time (12-month) tenure track medical laboratory science (MLS) faculty for a NAACLS-accredited MLS Program with skills to effectively teach university courses for undergraduate and graduate students and participate in appropriate scholarly and service activities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences. Candidate should demonstrate competence in both didactic and clinical education and curriculum development. Advanced degree preferred. Individual with extensive clinical laboratory experience also may be considered: andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_6.

FLETCHER ACADEMY, INC., SEEKS EXPERIENCED DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – Will be responsible for all IT functions enterprise-wide; Bachelor's degree (min.) in relevant field, plus technical and leadership experience required. Must be comfortable leading a team from a highly visible position, a member of the SDA church in good standing, and enjoy working with young people in a boarding academy setting. Send cover letter and resume to Gary Carlson, CEO, at gcarlson@fletcheracademy.com.

FLETCHER ACADEMY, INC., SEEKS EXPERIENCED LEADER FOR DIRECTOR OF THE LELIA PATTERSON FITNESS & AQUATIC CENTER – Will be responsible for management and growth of the business. Degree in Business Administration or Wellness Management preferred; demonstrated leadership required; managing/growing a similar facility a strong plus; must be a member of the SDA church and enjoy working in a boarding academy setting. Send cover letter and resume to Gary Carlson, CEO, at gcarlson@fletcheracademy.com.

LAURELBROOK ACADEMY URGENT! We are looking for a Woods and Grounds Manager, Cooks, and a Social Worker for our Nursing Home. For more details, please call 423-244-5430.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SEEKS QUALIFIED CANDIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH AND LEARNING. For a full job description and qualifications, visit our website: southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY IS SEEKING A CANDIDATE FOR CERTIFICATION OFFICER AND TEACHING MATERIALS CENTER DIRECTOR For a complete job description and list of required qualifications visit www.southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SEEKS QUALIFIED CANDIDATE FOR DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES. The Dean of Graduate Studies assumes a leadership role in all aspects of graduate education and provides academic, administrative and strategic direction to Graduate

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SEEKS TO FILL A FACULTY POSITION IN THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION — Candidate will bring his or her creativity, energy, and academic and professional excellence to the SJC. For a complete list of responsibilities, requirements and qualifications, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SEEKS QUALIFIED CANDIDATE FOR TEACHING FACULTY IN SCHOOL OF PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING. For a full job description and qualifications, visit our website: southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SEEKS DIRECTOR OF RECORDS AND ADVISEMENT — The Director of Records and Advisement has direct supervisory responsibility for management of all aspects of the Department of Records and Advisement. For a complete list of responsibilities, requirements and qualifications, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SEEKS QUALIFIED CANDIDATE FOR TEACHING FACULTY IN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK. For a full job description and qualifications, visit our website: southern.edu/jobs

STALLANT HEALTH RURAL HEALTH CLINIC IN WEIMAR CALIFORNIA IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A NURSE PRACTITIONER OR A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, AS WELL AS A LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER. Please contact Marva at marva@stallanthhealth.com for further information.

UNION COLLEGE SEEKS COMMITTED ADVENTIST TO ESTABLISH AND DIRECT AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM, effective Summer 2019. Essential qualifications include a master's degree in Occupational Therapy (doctorate preferred), being licensed and registered, and five years of professional experience. Email letter of interest and C.V. to Rick Young, Chair of Emergency Management and Exercise Science, rick.young@ucollege.edu.



ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO

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Around the world, our cell phone evangelists are sending the *Revelation of Hope* series to friends and family. However, many are still waiting to hear the Good News because it has not been recorded in their native language.



Altitude Adjustment

By Jephthah Ndlovu



▲ Jephthah Ndlovu

ONE OF MY EARLIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

is the fire in my belly to become a pilot. I had never boarded an airplane or visited an airport, but I was, interestingly, inspired by the birds that I'd see flying in the sky. Their graceful flight kept me thinking that one day I, too, could fly the boundless skies. Being cognizant of my dreams, my eternally optimistic mother would always look me straight in the eyes and say, "My son, God will make you fly a plane one day."

I am blessed to have grown under godly parents who are my secondary role models after Jesus Christ. My dad is an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister and, because of that, my childhood was adventurous. One of the early lessons that life taught me was the inevitability of change. My dad's pastoral ministry meant that we would frequently relocate homes when he was assigned to a different church. Eventually, my dad accepted the call to serve at Solusi University in Zimbabwe, the place which I now regard as my home.

In 2014, I had the awesome privilege of attending the Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and visited Andrews University. On my flight back to Zimbabwe, my prayer was, "God, you have placed this calling to be a pilot within me. Moreover, I've seen firsthand the fleet of planes at Your institution. Next year this time, I need to return to Andrews and

pursue aviation so I can fly and take the Three Angels' Messages to the whole world."

God saw to it that the next year, fall 2015, I enrolled as an aviation flight student at Andrews. I believe in a God who still answers prayer, and each semester has propagated a testimony. One of the many is God's mind-boggling intervention in my finances at Andrews. I received an email which I label as a "Divine hook-up." The email was from then-provost Andrea Luxton. At first, I thought it was one of the random messages we receive as students, but this one had my name on it. God had answered our family prayer. I had received the "Dare to Dream" scholarship which alleviated my financial burdens.

During my first semester, there were countless moments when someone would mistake me as a seminary student. Being a Religion major had never crossed my mind, but then I had a life-threatening experience during the second semester of my freshman year and was admitted to the ICU. After this experience and many other indications, I was convicted to add Religion as a second major to Aviation. I believe these two will complement each other well in my dream to be a missionary pilot. Since my time in the hospital, it has never been medically explained what actually caused the experience.

The Federal Aviation Administration interrupted my aviation journey because they would not risk me flying after that experience. They still have not cleared me to fly, although they have asked for information in an ongoing review process. As disheartening as that could be, my faith is unwavering because of the promise that He who has begun a good work in me is faithful to mold me into the missionary pilot He would want me to be.

Jephthah Ndlovu, a member of the contemporary gospel a cappella group, Watchmen, graduated Andrews University May 2019 with a BA in Religion.

Jephthah received a \$100 scholarship for his article. If you're a youth or young adult interested in submitting an article for consideration, please contact: herald@lakeunion.org

Drawn to Light

By Leah Westfall



▲ Rebekah Helsius

REBEKAH HELSIUS KNEW FROM A

young age that she wanted to pursue art as a profession. “I didn’t know where that was going to lead. But I did know God would have some sort of plan for me and that, wherever I ended up, He would use my talents for His work.”

After graduating from Andrews University in 2009 with a Bachelor’s in Fine Arts, she spent four years working various part-time jobs while working in her studio and creating artistic projects for the Wisconsin Conference. During that time, she also participated in art projects in the Middle East. At the end of 2013, Rebekah moved to Lebanon to work full-time as an artist, designing murals and assisting in coordinating community improvement projects. Her designs included murals for walls sometimes up to 600 feet in length, staircases and public spaces in many countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

At the end of 2017, Rebekah returned to the United States and has been doing freelance work. She is currently working on projects for the Wisconsin and

Lake Union conferences to be used at the upcoming Oshkosh Camporee. She is designing and painting a 27-foot-high lighthouse, each side of the structure will represent a different conference within the Lake Union. The sides of the lighthouse will show depictions of Pathfinders in various activities such as camping, various forms of outreach, marching in parades, induction, and Pathfinder Bible Experience. The project is being done in collaboration with her stepfather, Elgin Ziesmer, who is building the structure. They are designing the lighthouse so that it can be disassembled, stored, and reused at future events. “I find it interesting that the Great Lakes have more lighthouses on their shores than anywhere else in the United States, so it seemed a very fitting entrance for the Lake Union. And I love the symbolism of the lighthouse as both a beacon warning of the existence of danger and signaling a safe harbor.”

Rebekah, 32, has been doing artistic projects for the Wisconsin Conference since the Faith on Fire Camporee, at which time she was still attending Wisconsin Academy. She says her passion for working with Pathfinders comes from her childhood experiences. “I was fortunate to have a home church with an active club lead by dedicated and involved adults, including my parents. Because of those positive experiences, and the way in which I’ve benefited from them, I want to give back to young people currently involved and help promote the ministry as an area coordinator and an artist.” ■

A native of Wisconsin, Leah Westfall is a Communication professor and Michigan-based freelance writer.

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Contributors: Writer guidelines are available online at <http://lakeunionherald.org>.
 Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index



KEEP **KOSRAE** PRAYED CARED FOR

Run for Kosrae, a 5k Run & Walk

September 15, 2019

Wisconsin Academy
wisacad.org

September 29, 2019

Indiana Academy
iasda.org

September 21, 2019

Great Lakes Adventist
Academy
glaa.net

March 1, 2020

Andrews Academy
andrews.edu/aa

We invite you to:

- run • sponsor a runner
- donate at lakeunion.org



The Lake Union Conference has been invited by the North American Division to adopt Kosrae. A Seventh-day Adventist church was established on this small Pacific island in 1976. A school opened three years later.

The positive impact that the Kosrae SDA School is making in the lives of their 50 students, 36 of whom are from non-Adventist homes, is unmistakable.

We are encouraging everyone to work together in raising \$75,000 for a mission gym that will not only benefit the school and church, but will also provide opportunities to witness to others on the island.