

Lake Union HERALD

OCTOBER 2019



REPORT INSIDE

MODELING THE SHEPHERD
PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

ILLINOIS MEMBERS
ILLINOIS FOCUS
INSIDE

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Visits to the Historic Adventist Village swell in August. During a three-week span in August, 6,253 Pathfinders from around the world traveled to the Historical Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Mich., on their way to and from the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis.



New edition of Andrews Study Bible released. Andrews University has released for sale the long-awaited New International Version (NIV) of the landmark Andrews Study Bible. In addition, nearly 700 new students at Andrews received a complimentary copy from the University, continuing a tradition that began in 2011.



Abraham Henry is the new Lake Region Youth and Young Adults ministries director. "As someone who has had the benefit of exceptional mentors over the years, I look forward to ministering to youth in relevant ways, training them to lead their local churches, and challenging them to impact their communities," said Henry.



Chicago's Epic Church company celebrated becoming an official church of the Illinois Conference. Seven years ago, a core group planted a congregation in the city of Chicago and, now, a second congregation in the city of Lombard.

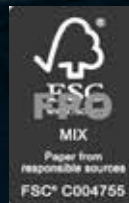
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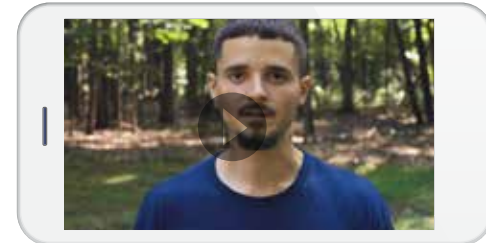
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Let's Stay in Touch!



The Lord used Dino, a literature evangelist, to witness to Daniel who is now a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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One size does not fit all. Jesus selected twelve apostles, having different personalities, talents, experiences, perspectives and, yes, challenges and weaknesses, yet each one's name will be on one of the twelve foundations of the New Jerusalem. Oh, and by the way, there is a gate in the Holy City named after each one of the sons of Jacob. Why would God do that?

We are all different, and different is okay. So, as we celebrate God's gift of pastoral care, let's celebrate God's variety of gifts talents and perspectives our pastors bring to us. ■

Gary Burns

Gary Burns
Editor



Andy Im

FEATURES

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High Calling:
Inside look into the life
of our pastors

By Cheri Daniels-Lewis



Matthew Lucio

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Worthy of Emulation

Pastor's appreciation month is fraught with perils as people just don't believe the hours that pastors work, yet they and their families are held to higher standards that are hard to reach for the best among us.



▲ Maurice Valentine

Enter stage right: the apostle Paul — a loose comparison by any standard as pastors are not apostles and should never be presumed as such. Yet Paul sets an example worthy of emulation. He recognized his frailty and wanted attention only for Jesus Whom he well knew was the One who worked the miracle of giving a man born lame the ability to stand on his feet in response to Paul's brief command.

He [the man born lame] listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: "*Friends, why are you doing this? We, too, are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them*" (Acts 14:9–15 NIV).

Yet, lessons can be learned from words Paul stated that never should be forgotten. When the people of Lystra saw an undeniable miracle worked by Paul and Barnabus, they were moved to commit sacrifice to these two great missionaries.

I appeal to all leaders, pastors, elders and church workers to remember that we, although earthen vessels, are privileged to work miracles every time we speak. It is evidenced that the wonderful works of God follow our words. We can see that the sick are healed

as we visit their bedsides, marriages are repaired as we speak words of biblical counsel to them, children are reunited with parents and, most importantly, people give their lives to Christ, the greatest miracle of all. We are called upon to speak life, but the power always is in God's Word — not in us! The best sermons, in my estimation, are those that stay closest to the Word of God, because the power does not lie within our human abilities.

So why, then, should we pray for pastors, thank them for their service, and lift up their families in prayer? Well, Paul has given good counsel. The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For Scripture says, "*Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,*" and "*The worker deserves his wages*" (1 Timothy 5:17–18 NIV).

While the church leader should never expect a gift in the month of October (as we are simply servant-leaders following Jesus), everyone wants to know that their labor of love is valued and appreciated. Thus, Paul is instructing us also that we should never take people for granted. The pastors' hours are long because they pick up the pieces when we are in distress. They help us cope with loss. In addition to being there for us, they pray for us and even love us when we are truly unworthy of that love. Quite simply, much of what they do can never be mentioned to protect the privacy of families. Theirs is possibly the only discipline in which they are on call virtually all the time. So, Paul encourages a thoughtful approach to supporting church leaders. It is not one quickly executed because a month

of appreciation is upon us but, rather, one that comes from a deep-seated sense that God provides leaders to grow His work. We should recognize, "Where would the work be without them?"

During the years I served as a local church pastor, I asked the church (myself included) to simply give a gift of appreciation to the local elders. I didn't do this every year, but looking back on their labor of love and now knowing that on any given Sabbath there may be more elders who have labored over a sermon that week for the benefit and blessing of the people of God than pastors, I wish I had done so much more often.

Pastors, thank you for preaching like Paul. Thank you for presenting the wonderful message of the Three Angels of Revelation 14, which also recounts Who made the heavens, earth and seas. While we are in no wise perfect, attempt to live lives that are worthy of emulation, wrapped in the humble garb of servant leadership. Never run from service and never be afraid to lead because, when serving and leading, you are doing as Jesus did.

But also remember that, while it is nice to be appreciated, the best gift is recognizing others for their contribution to the finishing of the work. Share with them your words of encouragement.

The calling of God on the life of servant leaders may be much tougher than you can imagine. For those of us who may not love or appreciate our leaders, let's ask

God to fill our hearts with gratitude and lead us in ways that we can support and encourage. If we pray with a sincere heart, God will answer that prayer.

Pastors, their families and all church leaders are people, too. James reminds us with the words, *Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three-and-a-half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops* (James 5:17, 18 NIV).

If Elijah, too, was a human being like us, yet stopped the heavens from giving up their abundance of rain resulting in torrents of rain to come at his simple command, then maybe we can pray for an overabundance of the rain of love in our churches. I can think of no better place to start than with your church leaders. I think we can be hard on our leaders because we want them to be something we are not. There's a word for that. It's called hypocrisy. Indeed, all church leaders are fractured with faults and foibles, yet we should appreciate them. If for no other reason, we should be grateful that they were courageous enough to follow the calling of God on their lives. Remember Moses?

We, the followers of Jesus, will always have extensive flaws, failures and frailties, yet, together, we can change the world through our faith. ■

Maurice Valentine, Lake Union Conference president



Building a Solid Relationship

Relationships built on a firm foundation are much more likely to thrive. When that foundation is a belief in God, following biblical principles and worshipping together, relationships usually do well.



▲ Alina M. Baltazar

Unfortunately, Christians often struggle spiritually and have difficulties applying what we know to how to behave in our intimate relationships.

Drs. John and Julie Gottman are well-known researchers and psychologists in the field of relationships. John Gottman is famous for being able to predict divorce with a 94 percent accuracy based on his observations of couples when they fight. Although some challenge this claim, much of what he has found in his research rings true. The Gottmans have written several books guiding couples in improving their relationships. Here is a summary from one of them that may help you build – and maintain – a solid relationship.¹

1. A solid relationship has many levels that often build on each other. The Gottmans suggest developing a **Love Map** to your partner. Get to know your spouse’s inner world, his/her needs, feelings, values and dreams. The best way to do this is to just ask. Your spouse may not know how to answer all of your questions, but will likely love that you cared enough to ask.
2. **Expressing fondness and admiration** for each other is often done during the dating years, but is frequently forgotten in marriage. You may have fond thoughts for your partner, but you need to actually say it. It also should be expressed with physical touch.
3. **Turning towards your partner** when he/she has something to say or show you is a way to express that you care to connect with your spouse.
4. **Positive perspective.** Your spouse has made mistakes and, of course, so have you. Give your

partner the benefit of the doubt. Challenge negative thoughts. Negative thoughts about your spouse is one of the ways Satan breaks the marital bond.

5. **Manage conflict** to where there is only one negative comment for every five positive comments, even in the middle of the fight. Instead of saying “You always . . .” which typically leads to a defensive response or an attack, say “I feel . . .” (use real emotion words) “about . . .”(treat the problem as separate from your spouse); “I need . . .”(what do you need in order to address the issue). This is called a soft start-up. It doesn’t guarantee a positive response, but it is definitely more likely.

6. **Honor each other’s dreams.** Find ways to fulfill your spouse’s dreams and life goals.

7. **Create shared meaning.** Talk about what is meaningful to you and what gives your life a sense of purpose. This is important to do in our spiritual lives. Then help each other fulfill those desires.

Your spouse may be resistant to make any changes but, when one partner changes, it can improve the interactions the two of you have. Continue to pray for your relationship to keep the tempter at bay who wants nothing more than to destroy your marriage. ■

1. Gottman, John and Gottman, Julie Schwartz. 10 Principles for Doing Effective Couples Therapy. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2015.

Alina M. Baltazar, PhD, MSW, LMSW, CFLE, is a licensed clinical social worker, associate professor of Social Work, and a certified family life educator who has been married to her high school sweetheart for 26 years

The Grind Redefined

This Post Is About That One Time I Got A Chance To Chill With Kawhi and LeBron.

Did I say chill *with*? Oh, my bad, I meant to say “chill like.” Yeah, chill like. That’s better.

So, what had happened was, I made a decision to go on a sabbatical. Right? Because I was burned out. My mind and body were just — OFF.

While on my sabbatical, I’ve had a lot of time to think. And, one of the things that came to mind is one of the keys to staying on the grind and not wearing yourself out. You see, most people think that the grind is all work, work, work. So many people are working their lives away, missing out on precious time with their significant other. Missing time with their kids. All in the name of the grind.

Don’t get me wrong. I realize that being successful, being great at anything, requires hard work, dedication and sacrifice. I recognize that doing what it takes to be a champion demands a serious work ethic, a commitment to the grind. But this sabbatical time has helped me redefine the grind.

Let me explain.

We’ve all heard ‘em before: No days off. All gas; no brakes. 25/8. Everyday I’m hustling. Team no sleep.

As a pastor/motivational speaker, not only have I said these phrases before, but I have tried to live by them, but in the wrong way — in a misinformed way. That’s why I’m grateful for these two NBA champions, LeBron and Kawhi, because they have taught me a valuable lesson.

Over the past few years these guys have done something that has never been done before in NBA history. (Dare I say, that if you start doing this one thing that they did on the regular, then you will be able to accomplish something that has never been done.)

Kawhi is the first player ever to win Finals MVP for an Eastern conference team and a Western conference team. LeBron is the first player ever to lead his team

back from being down 1-3 in the Finals to win a championship. Guess what they had in common when they did it. A season of rest!

Kawhi sat out nearly an entire season to rest up due to an injury. Unlike many of us workaholics, he put his health above all else, because all else doesn’t matter when you’re not in good health. And even when he played this past season, he took load management seriously.

Did you know that the year LeBron led Cleveland to win that ‘ship was the same exact year that LeBron took off for two weeks right in the middle of the season to just rest?! By the way, this wasn’t during the off-season. He missed seven games. Let me just pause right here and say this: When you get serious about taking care of yourself, you will have to overcome the fear of missing out on some things.

Lebron took some time off. I encourage you to do the same. Don’t kill yourself in the process of chasing your dreams. Take care of yourself. Make rest a habit. The grind includes rest.

Now that I truly understand that the grind includes rest, I have the chance to *chill like* the champions The Klaw and The King. And who knows, maybe one day I’ll get the chance to *chill* with them, too. ■

Adapted with permission. Taurus Montgomery. <https://www.taurusmontgomery.com/post/my-battle-with-burnout-part-2-the-grind-redefined>. July 31, 2019.

Taurus Montgomery is author of Set On Fire and pastors the Harbor of Hope Church in Benton Harbor, Mich. A longer version of this blogpost originally appeared on his website, www.TaurusMontgomery.com.



▲ Taurus Montgomery

What About the Trinity?—1

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, NASB).

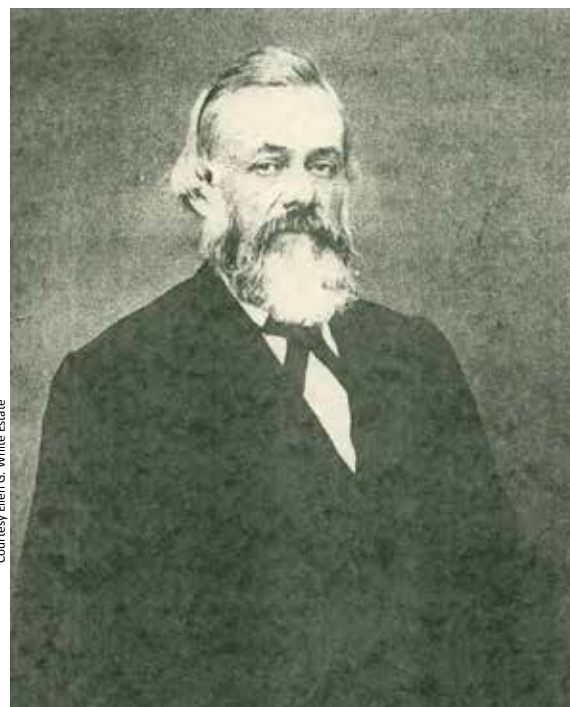


▲ George R. Knight

It comes as a surprise to many present-day Seventh-day Adventist that most of the founders of the denomination could not join the church today if they had to agree to the 28 fundamental beliefs. To be more specific, they would have rejected belief number 2, on the Trinity, because they were antitrinitarian; they would have spurned number 4, on the Son, because they held that the Son was not eternal; and they would have denied number 5, on the Holy Spirit, because to them the Spirit was a force rather than a person.

To a large extent, the Christian Connexion had shaped their understanding of these points. In 1835, Joshua V. Himes, a leading minister of the Connexionists, wrote that “at first they [the Connexion believers] were generally Trinitarian,” but they had moved away from that belief when they came to see it as “unscriptural.” Himes noted that only the Father is “unoriginated, independent, and eternal.” Thus, of necessity, Christ was originated, dependent, and brought

► Joshua V. Himes



Courtesy Ellen G. White Estate

into existence by the Father. The Connexionists also tended to view the Holy Spirit as the “power and energy of God, that holy influence of God.”

Joseph Bates, James White and other Connexion adherents brought those views into Sabbatarian Adventism. White, for example, referred to the Trinity in 1846 as that “old unscriptural Trinitarian creed” and, in 1852, as that “old Trinitarian absurdity.”

J.N. Andrews shared White’s views. In 1869, he penned that “the Son of God . . . had God for His Father, and did, at some point in the eternity of the past, have a beginning of days.”

Uriah also rejected the Trinity, arguing in 1865 that Christ was “the first created being” and in 1898 that God alone is without beginning.

Here we have kind of a Sabbatarian Adventist Who’s Who on the Trinity. Only one name, you may have noted, is missing — that of Ellen White. It’s not that she didn’t have anything to say on the topic. Rather, it is impossible to tell exactly what she believed from what she said, at least in the early decades of the movement.

How could most of the early Adventist leaders have been wrong on so important a subject?

Here is part of an answer. God leads His people step by step, and as they progress their vision becomes clearer and clearer. In the next few [issues of the *Herald*], we will see a transformation take place in Adventist thinking on the Trinity. ■

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 288.

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, Ellen 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, 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 can we claim to be totally dependent 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 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?

Our Lake Union Prayer Conference is scheduled for March 6–7, 2020, in Plainfield, Ind., in preparation for the General Conference Session. You can get more information and register at: ourunitedcry.org. ■

Gary Burns is Prayer Ministries coordinator for the Lake Union Conference.



▲ Gary Burns

Thank You, Pastors

By Bryan and Becky von Dorpowski

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH was established in 1992 by a group of pastors and church leaders to honor those who serve in ministry. They grounded the celebration in Paul’s words to Timothy: The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching (1 Tim. 5:17). In honor of our pastors, I’d like to share a story about how they ministered to our family last summer in a way we will never forget.

Our 21-year-old son, Michael, loves surfing. When the north winds blow down Lake Michigan and the waves begin to swell, you will most likely find him in St. Joseph [Michigan], with a whole community of surfers from northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan.



Claudia Davison

▲ Michael von Dorpowski’s surfing friends gathered at the hospital for prayer.

After surfing one July evening last year, Michael called home to let us know that he would be late because he was replacing a broken leash on his surfboard. Around 12:30 a.m., our landline phone rang. My wife, Becky, heard Michael slurring his speech and having trouble communicating. She eventually understood that he was in his bathroom on the other side of the house in need of our help.

Becky found Michael lying on his bathroom floor, breathing with difficulty, sweating, vomiting, and complaining about the pain in his head. Becky yelled for me and, as I called 9-1-1, Michael became unresponsive.

At the hospital, doctors immediately ran a CAT scan and discovered a small brain bleed. Over the next few hours, the brain bleed nearly quadrupled in size and they immediately took him to the operating room for brain surgery. It was during this time that two of our pastors, Dwight Nelson, senior pastor at Pioneer Memorial Church, and Skip MacCarty, a retired Pioneer pastor, visited to pray with and support us during the entire four-hour surgery.

What I never imagined was how Michael’s hospitalization was an opportunity to minister to his surfing friends, most of whom aren’t familiar with the Adventist church. Two other Pioneer pastors, José Bourget, with help from Ben Martin, organized a prayer service in the hospital garden. The Third Coast Surf Shop placed the invitation out on their social media pages and many from the surfing community joined Michael’s other friends in prayer. Some of the surfers didn’t know how to pray but prayed anyway. As we look back, we can see how God used our pastors to not only support us, but also to witness to this surfing community.

Michael spent the next few weeks in a medically induced coma. One Sabbath, Pastor Dwight stopped by to pray with us. He leaned over Michael and said, “Michael, this is Pastor Dwight. Can you hear me?” To our shock and surprise, with eyes closed, Michael nodded his head. Pastor Dwight then asked, “Michael, can I pray with you?” Once again, Michael nodded.

At the end of one month, Michael left the hospital and spent one week in extensive therapy. We praise God for saving and healing our son, and for the support of our church pastors. God ministered to us through each pastor in a unique way, and we appreciated their creativity in ministering to Michael’s friends as well. When we think of our pastors, we share in Paul’s proclamation: I thank my God every time I remember you (Philippians 1:3 NIV). ■

Bryan and Becky von Dorpowski are the head elders at Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich.

¡Ánimo en el Señor!

“Vestíos de toda la armadura de Dios, para que podáis estar firmes contra las asechanzas del diablo, porque no tenemos lucha contra sangre y carne, sino contra principados, contra potestades, contra los gobernadores de las tinieblas de este mundo, contra huestes espirituales de maldad en las regiones celestes.” Efesios 6:11-12

Al leer y ver las noticias del tiroteo y los fallecimientos que tomaron lugar en el mes de agosto en El Paso, Texas fue algo muy impactante y personal para mí. Hay un Walmart que está cerca de mi casa y cuando voy allí veo muchos Hispanos con sus familias haciendo sus compras. Pensándolo ahora me doy cuenta que lo que yo veía como un lugar seguro, ahora no se puede ver así tan fácilmente. No obstante, pasan cuatro días y escucho de las redadas masivas en Mississippi, sólo cuatro días después, se sintió como un doble golpe para los hispanos.

No hay duda que lo que ha pasado y lo que viene es parte del plan de Satanás para desanimar al pueblo Hispano. Satanás sabe que Hispanos cristianos, en especial Hispanos Adventistas en este país, están teniendo éxito al ganar almas para Cristo por medio de campañas evangelísticas, grupos pequeños y plantación de nuevas iglesias. Por lo tanto, estoy convencido que el ambiente que se ha creado en contra de los inmigrantes es parte del plan de Satanás para estorbar la predicación del evangelio.

Como consecuencia de lo sucedido, los líderes hispanos a nivel de unión nos reunimos para desarrollar una declaración, donde expresamos nuestra preocupación por el racismo existente y enfatizamos la posición Bíblica de amar a nuestro prójimo y a la vez dar nuestro apoyo completo al pueblo hispano. A continuación, la declaración oficial:

Considerando que, muchos inmigrantes latino-americanos en los Estados Unidos, sienten temor y angustia por sucesos recientes;

Considerando que, la Biblia nos enseña a amar al prójimo sin importar su raza o nacionalidad (Juan 17:21-23, Juan 13:34), que Dios ha hecho a toda la humanidad de una sola sangre (Hechos 17:26), merecedores todos del mismo respeto y consideración;

Considerando que, la iglesia tiene la responsabilidad moral de cuidar del desfavorecido (Levítico 23:22) y denunciar la opresión, el abuso o el maltrato en cualquier forma (Salmo 82:3-4; Isaías 1:17).

El liderazgo hispano de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en Norteamérica, declaramos nuestra determinación a:

condenar el racismo en todas sus formas, especialmente cuando se lo expresa en violencia, rechazar las prácticas que inspiran humillación y temor en el corazón de las personas, e inspirar a nuestros miembros de iglesia y vecinos a crear un ambiente de aceptación en nuestras comunidades, anhelando y esperando el día en que el Creador de todos los seres humanos establezca su reino definitivo de paz y libertad eternas.

Al concluir pido a mis apreciados lectores que sigan orando y que se vistan con toda la armadura de Dios para poder vencer las asechanzas del diablo con el poder del Espíritu Santo. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



▲ Carmelo Mercado



Jean-Ir s Michel

From Prisoner to Pastor

By Michelle Odinma

CHRISTOPHER CLARK was an easy target to spot at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. In the morning hours before the bustle of passing students, he was usually found at 6 a.m. seated in the common area completing classwork. To some, this may not look spectacular but to Christopher, every moment he spent in the building was a reminder of God's constant blessings. While the seminary has allowed him the freedom to study and follow God's calling, things weren't always this simple.

A few years after graduating high school in '93, Christopher enlisted in the Marines. He completed six years in the service and arrived home in July of 2003, only to run into deep trouble. "I got out of the Marines and really tried to find employment, but I wasn't able to get anything," he said. With his first child on the way but no means to support his growing family, he returned to his Chicago neighborhood looking for work. His search led to one wrong phone call with the wrong person.

Unknown to Christopher, his associate was under surveillance. "The FBI was listening to him and they heard

us talking and pulled me in for questioning," he said. He had no information to give but, as he would discover later, the police assumed he was simply refusing to cooperate. In order to avoid going to trial, he took a 12-year plea agreement for conspiracy, fearing his sentence would become 24 years, if convicted in court.

Christopher's wife, Ebony Clark, was more than devastated. After the couple had received an answer to prayers in the birth of their first son, her husband was now headed to prison. "I didn't want to have to raise our child on my own," she said. But with the reality of the situation, Ebony put her faith in God. She worked as an accountant to support herself and their newborn son.

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUE SABBATH

From childhood, God had always been a big part of Christopher's life. He grew up in the Baptist faith and regularly attended service on his own. During his teen years, Ebony had introduced him to Seventh-day Adventism. "One Friday night, she couldn't come outside, and she explained to me why," he recalled from

their conversation. "That was the first time I had ever heard about it."

During his time of incarceration, Christopher spent time reading about God and reflecting on life. Being imprisoned could have easily crushed his spirit, but God had other plans. He began studying the Bible in prison, seizing the opportunity to "finally sit down and really focus." It was during this time that he finally understood that Saturday was the true Sabbath day.

After a year in prison, Christopher was released on bond and immediately headed to Independence Boulevard Seventh-day Adventist Church to continue studying the Bible. In November 2005, he was baptized, becoming an official member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Clark invested his short time out of prison serving as a church deacon and studying for an associate degree in electrical technology. When November 2008 arrived, it was time to serve the rest of his sentence. Letters from friends, family, church members and even a moving statement from the prosecutor were put forward to decrease his sentence time, but the decision was final. Christopher recalled the words of the prosecutor during the sentencing: "This man fought for his country, came home and tried to find a job, and here we are convicting Mr. Clark today. This is a tragedy. It just doesn't make sense."

From November 2008 to May 2015, Christopher spent his days in prison attending the Seventh-day Adventist worship services held for inmates. Friends from his new home church sent the Conflict of the Ages series to Clark. He began using them as a resource to conduct worship. The lifeless chapel sessions transformed into invigorating Bible studies. The visiting Adventist pastor recommended that Christopher consider attending the seminary once he was released. It seemed like a long shot, but he tucked the thought away. Attendance at the prison worship began to multiply. It was evident to both the inmates and the guards that he was anointed by God.

ROAD TO THE SEMINARY

Upon his release, Christopher looked for a sense of normalcy again. Months of searching led him to night-time custodial work with the Salvation Army. While cleaning he thought to himself, "Lord this can't

be my life." To his surprise, God responded. "You're doing that because you want to do that. I already told you what you are supposed to be doing. Trust Me and have faith." Christopher's late-night conversation with God promised a hopeful future and work in ministry. It wasn't long before he began to see God making a way.

One week later, local pastor, Robert Best, encouraged Christopher to consider applying to the seminary. Even though Christopher only had an associate's degree and little money to submit the application, he proceeded in faith and completed the laborious application process.

After intense review from the seminary committee, he was elated to discover he was accepted into the Master of Divinity program. He wondered how such a miracle of God could happen to someone who seemed so unqualified. But the miracles didn't stop there. He was advised to check if his past military service could still assist with his tuition costs. Despite being out of the military for some time, he was pleasantly surprised to learn of a new program for veterans which would cover 85 percent of his tuition.

He began his studies at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in January of 2016 and graduated May 5, 2019, four years to the day he was released from prison. "When the Lord authors your story, He gets the glory," said Christopher. He is reminded of God's perspective: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT)."

His future is undoubtedly filled with bright hope. Shortly before his graduation, he was hired as a pastor for the Lake Region Conference and currently serves two churches in Robbins, Illinois, and Gary, Indiana.

When looking back on his experience, Christopher is amazed. "God keeps making a way where you can't explain it. You can't in any way shape or form say, 'Well, the only way that happened was because of this or that.' No, it's just God." ■

Michelle Odinma is a singer/songwriter, completing her third year at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

HIGH CALLING

INSIDE LOOK INTO THE LIFE OF OUR PASTORS

Everyone is busy these days. Retirees, young children — and most in-between — can feel pulled from different directions with all sorts of demands requiring time and energy. Your pastor/ministerial couple is no exception. You may think you know what they're juggling, but do you truly understand how much many of them travel, break up squabbles, smooth over hurts, counsel marriages, prevent suicides, coordinate events, act as PR reps, conduct human resource duties, manage projects, financially advise, serve as child caregivers, advocate for social justice, recruit, lend funds, respond to mechanical/maintenance calls, and wrestle in prayer over you and your burdens?

By Cheri Daniels Lewis

Obviously, it can be hard to capture all of this with just a few profiles. It's not our intent to suggest this group alone deserves acknowledgment. Consider it a snapshot. The following shepherds have been recommended by conference leadership as representing (and often conquering) some unique challenges (perhaps personal, geographic, economic, and/or congregation-wise). We recognize there are many, many others who also would represent ministry well. Our hope is to at least pull back the veil a bit on why pastors and their families, in general, may deserve some special appreciation. We're about to journey through the wonderfully busy, heart-wrenching, rewarding world of pastoral service.

PROFILES

It's Sabbath – a day of rest, rejuvenation, and spiritual focus for many, but for this Michigan pastor Steven Silva, his wife and two young daughters, it's one of the busiest, most hectic days of the week. For the Silvas, it's also a day of schedule differences and

decisions (which activity/service will we attend? Will we grab lunch together or will an unexpected meeting/crisis come up?).

He and his wife, Mia, have learned there is less stress if they take separate cars. To be clear, though, this is very much a partnership. "My dream is to have a family ministry — not a solo practice" says Silva. Mia is onboard with that. The two

met 10 years ago while giving Bible studies, preaching and conducting evangelistic meetings together at the Mission College of Evangelism in Oregon.

"Before I had kids, I was super involved," admits Mia. Today, the realities of corralling Gianna, four, and Natalia, two, in a timely manner is, well, difficult. That said, Mia appears pretty engaged. While the registered nurse juggles parenting and nursing (at least two days a week), she also coordinates a major children's outreach each year. On the day of my visit, you'd be hard-pressed to find a mom and kids with

whom she didn't greet and coordinate an upcoming play date.

So many spouses enhance the ministry of their partner, amidst demanding professions and responsibilities of their own. Take Abigail and Pastor Nikolai Greaves. Abigail is a Respiratory and Sleep Lab director in Central Illinois. She's also a mother of two little ones (Zion, almost four, and Zanwe, one). Within their congregations though, she may be best known as the creator of their dynamic Children's Church program, or perhaps as the assistant director of Adventurers.

She does it all and admittedly finds her tank empty at times. But then a young girl, who has never read the Bible before, starts to connect the stories and God's hand in it all . . . "Those moments just re-energize me. I'm ready to go to the next thing! It gives me just the spark I need," explains Abigail.

Abigail's husband, Pastor Nikolai, was sure in need of a spark when they first started their full-time ministry two years ago. After it became dramatically clear that God was calling them to serve (that's a story for another time), the former MBA and financial analyst with an MA in Divinity, jumped in head-first. "When I started," says Greaves, "I worked every day with no days off. I went to every board gathering, prepped several hours for every sermon, attended every prayer meeting . . . Then I remembered Moses and Jethro. I hadn't seen my family; I wasn't sleeping. Now, I use technology. I delegate. I use the people around me. They're gifted, too!"



Andy Im

It's extremely rare, these days, for a pastor to be assigned to just one church. In fact, each pastor highlighted here serves multiple congregations. Pastor Greaves has three churches in his district. Each one has distinctly different personalities and needs, and is at least an hour from each other. "Shepherding everybody may have to look different in a 2019/2020 context," says Greaves.

Innovation and service are important to the Greaves family. They've done everything from changing the times of worship and encouraging kids to draw the sermon, to renting out community centers and building intentional relationships with barbers and others who have a pulse on the community. It's all for naught, though, if they haven't held on to one fundamental truth, admits Pastor Greaves. "I see my role, not just as a shepherd, but an under-shepherd

— leading [others] to the actual Good Shepherd."

Despite degrees, titles, sacrifices and successes, often the most effective pastors highlight all of it with humility and pointing upward.

Like the Greaves family, the Silvas have a church located in a bustling college town. In fact, their East Lansing University Church is literally in the shadows of Michigan State University, student population: 50,000. There has always been a "Campus House" next door, connected to the church (with students training for outreach and conducting Bible studies),

Pastor Silva refers to his ministry approach as two-fold. "If I just focused on students the church would die...they're so transient in this area. I focus on young professionals and families, too. I'm not trying to separate the age groups - I'm trying to have one mentor the other."

but Pastor Silva wanted to do something on a larger scale in hopes of having a wider net. He soon started “Crave.” He admits the concept is largely borrowed from Billy Graham’s old campus tent meetings. Silva and his team put up a large tent in the middle of campus. They offer free food, live Christian music, a prayer table, solidarity wall (supporting survivors of sexual assault/abuse), free massages, and sermons. The first opening “Cravenight” had 50 students.

Pastor Silva then connects many of them to small study groups, additional Friday night vespers, and

eventually the church itself. He’s adamant about church being a special place for the students — a home for them, away from home.

He proudly declares, on any given day

Pastor Greaves sees himself as a “change agent.” “I can do maintenance, but all my (previous) jobs have been, ‘Here’s a complex problem, now fix it!’ One of the best ways congregants can show their appreciation is not to resist change!”

during the typical school year, one would likely find a student or two napping somewhere in the church. They come there to craft and print term papers . . . or simply hang with Pastor Silva and ask for dating advice.

“Hanging out” for the Tenolds in Indiana is pivotal to the way they serve as well. I meet the couple (who have been in full-time ministry for 21 years) in a booth at a bustling restaurant. I discover that’s their M.O. They regularly eat and socialize with their members, their acquaintances, and perhaps, most importantly, those with whom they are hoping to witness. “I believe in a very Christ-centered approach,” says Pastor David Tenold. “It’s all about genuinely caring for people . . . creating community, hearing their story.” Both Pastor Tenold and his wife, Marie, have a reputation (with growth numbers to prove it) of working hard to make that kind of culture contagious. At least one of their churches actually builds a line item into the budget for eating and connecting. “Members take new members out. It’s not always

Matthew Lucio



Christa McConnell



LAKE UNION HERALD

us. Love forms between them. The leaders become very protective. They shepherd them and ask them to share their story. They find out their hobbies,” explains Pastor Tenold.

Being so invested in people has a particular risk for pastors. The more you get attached, the more things can hurt.

Marie Tenold describes an aspect of ministry where her husband is particularly vulnerable. “Some funerals are very taxing. He’s had to bury young people . . . toddlers. I’m not sure they [the pastors] ever get over it. Like an EMT or a nurse, he lives part of their grief. It becomes *his* grief. You really bond with people through grief and joy and pain,” confesses Marie.

Then there’s the call to minister elsewhere. She admits she can initially be griefstricken with word they must move, but processing it with her kids in a healthy way often helps turn “bad” news on its head.

“The first thing I love to do is get the kids library cards and go to the local pool so they’re a part of something. I don’t think anyone thinks about that. But all the kids like adventure. That’s why, when we get somewhere new, we soak in the place as soon as

possible. You’ve just got to embrace what the Lord gives you,” says Marie.

Pastor/Hispanic coordinator/church planter Evelio Miranda can relate. His oldest, a recent college graduate, describes the rollercoaster the entire family can go through when they face a transfer. “It’s so emotional when we leave a church. He actually cries,” admits Madeline Miranda. “He gets so attached, puts so much work into a congregation . . . , so it makes me cry, too.”

Madeline, now in her 20s, grew up primarily in Oregon, where the family served for many years. Then her dad got the call to come to the Wisconsin Conference. She was 13 and devastated to leave her house, school, friends — everything she had known. “I begged my parents to let me stay,” says Madeline. She admits it was two or three years before she was finally able to settle in and consider Milwaukee her home.

Pastor Miranda is originally from Guatemala. He met his wife, Noemi, at the University of

Pastor Tenold says he feels most appreciated when members/attendees see the big picture. “It’s exciting when people catch the vision of discipleship...when they say, ‘soul-winning is so much fun!’”



Jean-Irès Michel

Pastor Miranda says, “If you want to gain a good member, you have to visit them. Whenever I get a new church - for the first seven months I’m focusing on visiting all the members at least twice.”

Montemorelos, in her native Mexico. Individually, they had already been serving and now prepared for a life of ministry together in Central America. But God had other plans. They had just bought a house and Noemi was pregnant when Pastor Miranda got the call to come to California. “I was a little disappointed,” Noemi

confesses, “but I would support him wherever he goes.”

Rolling with the punches and being flexible is a must when it comes to ministry. Pastor Miranda was primarily in publishing work in the States until it was discontinued in the California area. He was given a church to pastor, but it was technically a part-time position. For the next two-and-a-half years, he supported his family by painting houses on the side.

More than one family member tells me there’s often an expectation that the pastor is a jack/jill-of-all-trades, and many *do* have various gifts. Pastor Miranda, who currently shepherds three churches of his own, oversees 16 Spanish-speaking churches, and has recently coordinated five church plantings. He also has regularly dug out parishioners who were stuck in the snow. He often counsels on immigration matters, working closely with area immigration lawyers. And, more than once, he’s received the dreaded late night call.

“I remember it being 2 a.m. The first thing they said was, ‘My son committed suicide,’” says Miranda.

Having the rejuvenation, strength and discernment of the Holy Spirit is key when it comes to pastoring. Miranda says the support of his family is also critical. “Part of my success is my wife working by my side.”

But pastoral ministry can be lonely work. Pastor Larry Clonch is in his 33rd year of ministry, all of them served within the Illinois Conference. Clonch,

perhaps, debunks the myth that things start getting easier toward the end of one’s career. When it’s a calling — well, more may be asked of you. He is currently serving 5-plus churches, the largest district and distance to cover of his entire ministerial career. “[I’m] going here and there — it’s like the circus act with the spinning plates. I see my role more like a coach,” says Clonch. It’s typical for him to be on the road 10 to 12 hours a week, which is just one piece of the puzzle. “I have to factor in preparation and drive time, plus I have to account for the fact I’m by myself.”

Clonch is single. He admits he’s felt on the fringes because of his marital status, but it’s been something else altogether that’s knocked the wind out of him at times. “To me, what wipes a pastor out is in-church fighting — when they can’t get along and I have to referee.” But that’s exactly when his counseling background can shine. “I have a way of often interpersonally relating to them, calming them down, and focusing everyone on what’s more important — what’s best for the Kingdom of God,” says Clonch. That can be simply showing God’s love or some initiative.

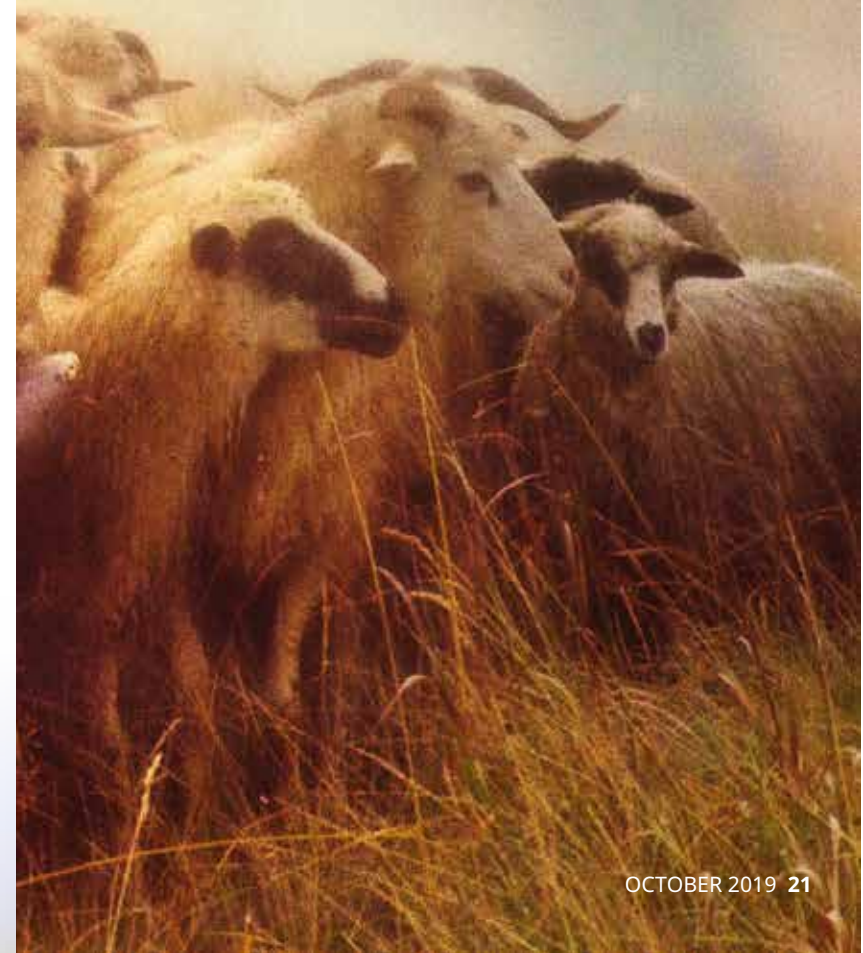
Clonch says what feeds him is the Holy Spirit’s fire, a team atmosphere, with everyone working toward the same goal. He’s not naïve to think everyone likes him or his style, but, as with many pastors, he calmly, quietly would rather put self aside. “You don’t need to like [your pastor] to support the ministry, or the church, or get the vision moving forward,” Clonch says earnestly.

Being part of the solution is not only Scripture-driven, but one of the best ways to show appreciation to your pastor.

We all have a testimony. Have you ever asked your pastor about hers/his? What about their spouse? Chances are there are several riveting sermons woven through those stories. Here’s Pastor Silva’s opening line: “Some find God at the lowest points of life. I found him at my highest point.”

Silva had obtained his RN, BSN, and even an MBA, specializing in healthcare administration, well on his way to becoming an oral surgeon, but “I was unhappy and unfulfilled,” admits Silva. His father encouraged him to clear his head and get back to his spiritual roots. So, he headed north from California and not

“Just as soon as a church is organized, let the minister set the members at work. They will need to be taught how to labor successfully. Let the minister devote more of his time to educating than to preaching. Let him teach the people how to give to others the knowledge they have received. While the new converts should be taught to ask counsel from those experienced in the work, they should also be taught not to put the minister in the place of God. Ministers are but human beings, men compassed with infirmities. Christ is the One to Whom we are to look for guidance. ‘The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, . . . full of grace and truth.’ ‘And of His fullness have we received, and grace for grace.’ (John 11:14, 16; 7T 20.1)



Lake Union Pastor Count

Conference	full-time	part-time	lay
Illinois	40	6	5
Indiana	27	7	4
Lake Region	52	6	4
Michigan	96	4	1
Wisconsin	22	2	6
TOTAL	237	25	20



only found God and his calling, but also met his soon-to-be wife. He and Mia married in 2011.

The Silvas have been in the Michigan Conference for three-and-a-half years. Prior to that, they served in Guam, giving them nearly a decade of pastoral experience. “For me,” says Silva, “I’m in ministry ’cause I love people. When they cry, we cry. When they’re doing bad, spiritually, that impacts us deeply. Ultimately, it’s not about sermon prep or planning events — it’s the people,” confesses Silva, passionately.

Ironic as it may sound, in order for most pastors and their families to stay so other-focused, there must be a focus on self, as well. “It’s so important to keep our personal faith, so when you’re sharing with others it’s genuine. Faking it has you missing out on the Holy Spirit’s power that can change others,” says Mia. And true transformation is what keeps so many pastoral teams going. “What re-energizes me most in ministry is when I see lives change. That makes me feel like I’ve slept, worked out, and had awesome personal devotions for a solid week!” exclaims Silva.

It was difficult/nearly impossible to get any of the pastors we spoke with to complain. They recognized challenges, certainly, but, as with a good parent or engaged teacher, the rewards seem to overshadow it all. When Pastor Silva was asked what the biggest personal sacrifice was, he said, “It’s such a privilege. I don’t even like that term for ministry. It feels like we’ve been given a privilege to serve. If I wasn’t a pastor, I would be just as engaged in church,” he insists. But he did give a warning to fellow service leaders. “If you feel you have to be the extrovert, the studious scholar, the marriage counselor, and lead all youth to Jesus, if your philosophy is “It’s all on you,” it will be daunting, suffocating. If you understand it’s a calling and everyone in the church has a role . . . well, . . .” He trailed off, leaving the impression that if everyone in ministry got that, it would be a place of bliss, of contentment, of true peace and balance.

For those who may still be looking for reasons to appreciate their pastor, your family should consider these parting, personal words from the Silva family. “They may not understand how much we care. We marry, do funerals, home blessings, we’re at the hospitals, help them through relationship and health problems . . .



Melissa Harden

we’re there for graduations. They’re our family!” Just as with God toward us, the time and energy invested by pastors can be constant, but for most it’s not a burden. It’s a privilege and a fulfilling purpose, and we can actually bring pleasure and joy to a ministering servant by embracing the Lord as they do.

We’ve run out of space to tell you the “little” things — how pastors never get to sit with their families during church; how the spouse can feel like a single parent at times; how humbling it is not to have all the answers; how much pastoral couples struggle to squeeze in a date night; how kids and spouses can lose their identity and simply become “the pastor’s family”; how very few are pastoring the pastor; how spouse’s careers can be stunted because of the constant moving; how difficult it can be to motivate others to serve; and how full days off are hard to come by. Perhaps keep these revelations in the back of your mind — not because pastors are better or even busier

than the rest of us, but simply as a reminder that they’re human, too. ■

Cheri Daniels Lewis is a Quad Cities-based freelance writer. On a personal note, I'd also like to publicly appreciate my husband, best friend and committed pastor – John Lewis. Thank you for passionately teaching about “ridiculous” Love that goes after the one lost sheep.



When talking about his hours on the road, Pastor Clonch chuckles, “I’m fulfilling Bible prophecy. I’m running to and fro.”

◀ The author’s husband, Pastor John Lewis



▲ Nurse Kristina Sagaitiene washes the feet of a patient.

Go and Do Likewise

As Jesus prepared the disciples for His imminent crucifixion, He said, *If you love Me, you will keep My commandments* (John 14:15, ESV). This came shortly after He told them of *another commandment to love one another* in John 13. In these two passages, Jesus was saying that if we love Him, we will show that love by caring for others.

When Jesus knelt down after His last earthly Passover meal, towel wrapped around His waist to perform the task of a lowly household servant, He was speaking volumes about how love looks — the care, humility and vulnerability that is embodied in foot washing. If the act wasn't enough to get the disciples' attention, He then told them to, *Go and do likewise*.

Associates and physicians at AMITA Health are taking Jesus' message to heart. In April, the system hosted its second annual Mission at Home event where more

than 100 people in an underserved neighborhood in Harvey received free health care and clothing donations. Many physicians and associates contributed time and resources to the one-day event, offering orthopedic, pediatric, psychiatric, family and emergency medicine, dermatological and podiatry care.

Yet there was more to the event than attending to each person's physical needs. One of the services offered was foot washing. Participants were surprised to learn the service was not in preparation for a visit with the podiatrist, but to show them the love of Jesus.

"Foot washing leaves a deep impact on the soul," said Leeroy Coleman, chaplain at AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center Hinsdale. "In receiving, people feel deeply cared for, and in giving, staff feel honored to be able to care for another child of God



▲ AMITA Health hosted its second annual Mission at Home event and one of the services offered was foot washing.

in such an intimate way." Coleman said foot washing levels the playing field; it removes status and race, and is a meeting of two equals.

"When someone allows me to wash their feet, they are being very vulnerable with something so personal," he said. "Jesus knew foot washing would stretch us out of our comfort zone and help us be real in caring for one another."

AMITA Health Adventist Medical Centers Bolingbrook, GlenOaks, Hinsdale and La Grange have all sponsored Spiritual Emphasis Week events that include the opportunity to wash one another's feet.

Ismael Gama, senior vice president and chief Adventist mission officer, said offering the service is a testimony of Jesus' unspoken presence.

"We are all called to be servant leaders, and when we act on that call, it fills the soul like nothing else," said Gama. ■

Julie Busch, associate vice president, Communications, AMITA Health

Social work students provide education on emotional trauma

The Andrews University School of Social Work has partnered with Advocates for Southeast Asians and the Persecuted (ASAP) Ministries to design an initiative called "STEPS" (Sensory Trauma Education Programs) that brings awareness to trauma, promotes emotional healing, and provides training sessions and presentations specifically for local refugee churches and groups.

Over the last few months, Master of Social Work (MSW) students have shared STEPs presentations with a number of Seventh-day Adventist refugee groups in the Lake Union, including the Hmong in Milwaukee, Wis.; the Zomi in Battle Creek, Mich.; and the Karen, who gathered for camp meeting in Cassopolis, Mich. "It's amazing to see students becoming passionate about restoration," says Ingrid Slikkers, assistant professor of Social Work. "In this work, faith and science intersect for healing. Our goal is to help transform others, but in the process I see students being transformed themselves."

In Milwaukee and Battle Creek, trauma presentations were given for Sabbath School and a trauma-oriented sermon was shared for church. Interactive sessions involving skits and games provided practical ways for adults and children to reduce stress, to better understand their brains and stay emotionally healthy.

For two days in Cassopolis, approximately 450 Karen refugees participated in trauma training seminars. During these sessions, Jimmy Schwe, leader of the Karen Seventh-day Adventist ministry in North

America, told of how, when he was a young boy, Burmese soldiers burst into his home at night. The rest of his family escaped, but he was left frozen in terror, closing his eyes as he hugged a pole in the house. He opened his eyes to see a soldier's face full of rage and hate and covered in black paint and sweat. The soldier held a gun to Jimmy's head. Jimmy shared that when he sees a man in uniform, it can trigger memories of his past traumatic experiences.

AJ O'Carey, an MSW student and intern at ASAP Ministries who facilitated the training for the Karen, notes, "Those listening saw hope in Pastor Jimmy's story because he has not been stopped by the trauma he has experienced, but has become stronger. Pastor Jimmy was the perfect illustration to bring to the discussion of resiliency, hope and healing."

The STEPs information has proven beneficial for many. One program attendee shared, "Now I know what happened to my father and why he cannot work. I will go home and be a missionary right in my home. I will share with him about trauma, and I will help him heal."

Bill Wells, refugee ministry coordinator at ASAP Ministries, says, "After nearly every event, it is common to hear from several individuals about how such presentations have increased their awareness about trauma and then given them some basic skills to address any challenges they may experience when triggered."

Listeners, however, are not the only ones impacted by the STEPs work — those leading out experience change, too. Katelyn Campbell, an MSW/MDiv student and intern at ASAP Ministries, presented in both Milwaukee and Battle Creek. She says, "I chose to participate because I want to help people live their best lives possible. Jesus is in the business of bringing people restoration. If I can have any part in His ministry of healing, I consider that an honor." ■

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



▲ Refugees participate in a STEPs program facilitated by Jasmin Wilson, Andrews MSW student.

“CHOSEN”

2019 International Pathfinder Camporee

August 12-17
Oshkosh,
Wisconsin

BY THE NUMBERS

55,000+ attended

5,000 from the Lake Union



6,000 Pathfinders fanned out into the community, undertaking **30,000+ service hours** in **57 “Compassion” projects**, such as a blood bank, animal shelter, health clinic, rehabbing a food pantry and giving out **4,000 special issues** of *Guide* magazine

29 core actors were in the play focused on the life of David; more than **40 extras** were involved. It took **3.5 years** to write and produce the script.



20 minutes of fireworks display closed out the camporee on Saturday evening.



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

13,309 came together on Sabbath afternoon to form the world's largest human cross. This drone shot was used to confirm that the shape was in a cross and that the group stood in formation for five minutes. Prior to this feat, the largest human cross was achieved by 13,266 participants at an event organized by the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines, on March 9, 2011.

300 feet of fabric was used to make the largest scarf and slide (called neckerchief and woggle). Fashioned in the traditional yellow fabric, the Master Guide scarf measures 300 feet by 150 feet, and weighs about **800 pounds**. Pathfinders in Texas created the scarf; the shield for the slide was designed by Arkansas-Louisiana Conference church members, and measures about 10 feet tall and weighs about **500 pounds**.

7 tons of leftover items collected by Wisconsin Pathfinder area coordinator, Becky Ziesmer, and her team. Food items were donated to local food banks; some sleeping bags, tents and mats went to a local homeless ministry.



Center for Youth Evangelism and Lake Union Youth director, **Ron Whitehead**, was joined on stage by Oshkosh mayor, Lori Palmeri, who thanked the Pathfinders for their acts of compassion and positive impact on the city.



55 years – average age of a pastor in the North American Division. In the next seven to ten years, 2,500 of the 4,300 pastors in the Division will retire. At the camporee, the NAD Ministerial Association hosted an ice cream social to meet youth and young adults sensing a call to ministry. Carmelo Mercado, Lake Union vice president, prayed with one of these Pathfinders

\$20 million dollars

– the estimated amount of funds injected in the local economy. It's an enormous boost to the area with people spending on food items, buying gas, shopping, etc. Walmart reports that during the Pathfinder Camporee, the Oshkosh store is its busiest in the entire U.S.

5 issues of *Pathfinder Today* newspaper were produced and sponsored by Andrews University. Photographed here (left to right) are the paper's staff: Justin Jeffery, designer; Patricia Spangler, editor; and Hannah Gallant, student writer.



92 – William Zehm, age of the oldest Master Guide. Zehm, (third from left), is a member of the Stevensville Church and currently lives in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was invested in April 1959 with 500 others at the largest Pathfinder investiture at that time in Lincoln, Neb. He had the honor of investing his grandson, Nathan Roe, in May 2017. His son, Ken, and daughter-in-law, Tonya, are Master Guides and active in the Stevensville Challengers club.

91 – Petronila Gabriel, age of the oldest female from Illinois. Gabriel, (second from left), is an active member of Chicago's North Shore Church, serving as the Children's Ministries director and still teaching Pathfinder honors to this day! She was invested as a Master Guide in 1951 (back then they called it Master Comrade), by then General Conference Youth Director Theodore Lucas; her husband was invested in 1949. Their three daughters and son-in-law are all Master Guides; most of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have been in Pathfinders.

100 COUNTRIES represented including, for the first time, China

Laïen Hao, Youth director of the Chinese Union, brought 30 youth – and half the group was hosted by Michigan Eau Claire Pathfinder Club.

"Our goal is to broaden their horizons to see the possibilities and stimulate their creativity. They've been enjoying their time."

450,000 Adventists in China and 4,000 are in Hong Kong Macau. The Church is facing difficult times with crackdown on any kind of groups organizing. However, a youth leader told me, "There's no Pathfinder Club at our church but, after this week, we're starting one!"



We have several Oshkosh-related videos, which you can access by going to: www.vimeo.com/lakeunionherald or www.facebook.com/lakeunionherald



▶ **TWO SETS OF TWINS FROM THE LAKE UNION BAPTIZED:** Landon and Kendahl from the Holly Herons (Michigan), and Jae'Bel and Jae'Ona' from the Hyde Park Constellations (Illinois)

▶ **FULL RESTORATION:** South Flint Club had its trailer stolen three weeks before the event. Generous donors stepped in to provide everything they needed.

▶ **GARDEN TRIBUTE:** Four days before Christmas 2018, Lake Union Adventist Community Health director, Randy Griffin and his wife, Kathy, lost their 22-year-old son, Nick, in an automobile accident. For the camporee, Randy and his dad designed and built a tribute garden where Pathfinders no longer with us could be remembered. The garden featured a wall where names could be added and an eternal flame that burned for the duration of the camporee. "We have this hope . . ."

▶ **ILLINOIS ENTRANCE:** Four days to build. One day to paint. See the Illinois Conference Pathfinders entrance – built by

Sebastien Jimenez, Matthew Healy, Livorio Puntos, and painted by Milton Coronado – transformed in a flash.

▶ **INDIANA COMMUNITY KITCHEN:** It's called "The feeding of the 500." Each day at Oshkosh, Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Pathfinders were served from a communal kitchen, which avoids the stress of each club preparing their own food. As seen in this time-lapse video capturing the Sabbath lunch, the line moved smoothly with campers fed in three shifts.

▶ **DRILL TEAMS RANKED TOPS:** Drill team precision takes lots and lots of practice. But what do you do when it's two months before Oshkosh and you're just getting started? This first-time drill team from the Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers Pathfinder Club learned the valuable lesson that when you take one step forward, God will see you through.

▶ **PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY FOOD TRUCK:** The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists estimates that

more than 80 percent of our Adventist young people are attending non-Adventist colleges and universities. By the time these students graduate from these institutions of higher learning, only 50 percent will remain Seventh-day Adventist Christians. Lake Union PCM is aiming to create a "One Year in Mission" program. See story on p. 32 for more.

▶ **THE LIGHTHOUSE:** Michigan has more lighthouses than any other state – 140, with 50 of them around Lake Michigan. So, it stands to reason that the Lake Union entrance featured this structure for its entrance. It took Wisconsin resident, Rebekah Helsius, 700 hours to paint the 27-foot-high lighthouse. Each side of the structure represents a different conference, with lights representing the location of each Pathfinder club. The drawings depicted Pathfinders in various activities such as camping, various forms of outreach, marching in parades, induction and Pathfinder Bible Experience.

4+ YEARS is how long it took to develop the 2024 "Believe in the Promise" theme and logo which will explore the story of Moses.



1,311 baptisms | 94 from the Lake Union



FOR MORE PHOTOS, PLEASE VISIT

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nadadventist/albums>



▲ Serving up food at Oshkosh to raise funds for Public Campus Ministry were (left to right): Israel Ramos, Titus Ramos, Judy Ramos, Michael Reynolds, Nicole Braxton, Rachel Colwell, Julianna Dunn

Campus ministry food truck enroute toward mission

The Lake Union's Public Campus Ministries (PCM) program is planning to join the General Conference (GC)'s "One Year in Mission" program with a unique form of ministry: a food truck.

Operational in a number of divisions within the Adventist World Church, the One Year in Mission initiative is focused on reaching the unreached with the help of volunteer missionaries, building centers of influence, particularly in large cities. Although other divisions have been engaging with this program, Lake Union PCM coordinator, Israel Ramos, says that it has been less active in the North American Division (NAD). The Lake Union, which is the only NAD Union that has

organized a union-level public campus ministry, is hoping to get the ball rolling in the NAD. Public Campus Ministries, which focuses on Adventist outreach on public university campuses within the Lake Union, particularly wants to involve young adults with a "passion for ministry" to take a year off and serve as missionaries with PCM. "[The missionaries] will help run the food truck, and help engage in the community and hold programs for the community. We're going to combine this One Year in Mission with the food truck. The idea is to also use it as a way to train missionaries to do a modern approach to mission," Ramos explains. Public Campus Ministries is aiming to receive these missionaries within the Lake Union in 2020–2021.

"One of the most effective ways of doing ministry is by having food. Food is the most critical component of ministry

outside of the Bible study," Ramos says. PCM successfully debuted their new food truck at the Pathfinder Camporee at Oshkosh, Wis. This was part of an "experimental phase," Ramos explains, to help PCM know whether this idea was viable, how popular it would be, and help perfect logistics of the operation. The next step is to discuss how this can be used in Detroit and elsewhere, in growing centers of influence around the Lake Union. "The city of Detroit is one of the largest cities in our Union, outside of Chicago," Ramos says. "It has the third largest university in Michigan. It has an inner-city population. It has a wealthy population. It has a strong Muslim population. All of these are significantly unreached people groups in the North American Division. We felt this was a great place to start a center of influence." If they find success in Detroit, PCM hopes to expand the food truck ministry into a "mobile center of influence" by spreading to other cities and, potentially, obtaining more food trucks.

Ramos said that it is hoped that this first step at Oshkosh serves as a launching pad for more engagement on college campuses in the Lake Union. "We're using that as an opportunity to be able to give this more promotion, give it a little bit more attention and, by God's grace, give us a success story for the North American model."

Ramos appeals for prayers for this food truck ministry as part of the One Year in Mission program. More information is available here: <https://bit.ly/2ZuO0ZW>. ■

Andrews University journalism graduate Shannon Kelly serves as a freelance writer.



Revolving fund fills ministry needs across the Lake Union

During the course of one's career, there are usually highlights that stand out in your mind where you feel that what you did, or were a part of, really made a difference. Such were the thoughts of a retired Union treasurer when he reminisced about the part he had in establishing the revolving fund in his territory in the mid-1970s. "Of all that I accomplished, that is what I am most proud of! What a blessing the revolving fund has been for our organizations over the years!"

The Lake Union Conference Revolving Fund was established in 1976 to assist Seventh-day Adventist organizations, located in Lake Union territory, with loan funds for building purchases, building construction and improvement, and emergency projects. Funding came from church members and organizations that shared the vision to have attractive and user-friendly facilities for our churches and schools. The revolving fund had a name change in 1993 to the Lake Union Conference Revolving Fund Trust. This was done to better protect the assets of the fund. This year marks its 43rd birthday!

When a church or school has a project that requires funding, a loan may be

obtained from the revolving fund. The organization completes a loan application provided by their local conference and then submits it for conference and union approval.

The terms for loans range from two to ten years, depending on the amount borrowed. Loans above \$25,000 may be spread over 30 years, however, the loan must be renegotiated every 10 years. The good news is there are no loan initiation fees, prepayment penalties, late payment fees, or refinance charges.

Because the revolving fund is not FDIC insured, safety nets have been established to protect the interests of those who have deposited funds in the revolving fund.

- Organizations are unable to borrow 100 percent of their project. They must have at least 50 percent of the cost in hand for new projects and 30 percent for remodels, equipment, and emergencies.
- The local conference cosigns on all loans given to organizations within their jurisdictions.
- Whenever loans are past due more than 60 days, payments are automatically deducted from monthly appropriations sent to the conferences.
- All loans over \$10,000 have liens or mortgage deeds recorded on the property.
- The revolving fund maintains healthy reserves (currently 63 percent of

funds loaned) and invests these funds conservatively.

A question that is asked occasionally is, "Why does the revolving fund charge interest on loan funds?"

The funds that are loaned to organizations belong to depositors — not to the revolving fund. The revolving fund merely provides a service that matches depositor funds with Lake Union organizations needing projects funded. Rightfully, depositors are paid a modest interest rate on money they deposit in the revolving fund and that expense is passed on to the borrowers. Otherwise, we would not be able to operate the revolving fund. Our goal is to cover the costs of running the revolving fund and have reasonable reserves.

We can be thankful that many of our Lake Union members believe in the mission of the revolving fund — some have for years! They have made a tremendous difference by sharing the resources with which God has blessed them. Now and then they say something like, "We feel good about having our money in the revolving fund. We like having it used to build and remodel churches and schools."

The establishment of the revolving fund has been instrumental in creating a win-win situation. It has provided funding for projects at a reasonable interest rate while compensating church members and organizations who have provided those resources. It truly has been, and continues to be, a blessing as it fills a mission and ministry need within the Lake Union!

"This is not an offer to sell our securities to you and we are not soliciting you to buy our securities. We offer and sell our securities only in States where authorized, and solely in accordance with the terms of our offering circular." ■

Jon Corder, associate treasurer and Stewardship director of the Lake Union Conference.

October

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

GENERAL EVENTS

Oct. 6–7: *October Preview*

Oct. 7–Dec. 13: *Wellness Transformation 3.0 (The Lift Project)*

Oct. 16: *Lake Union Senior Day Preview Event*

Oct. 16: *Chew ‘n’ Chat with Dominique, 12–1 p.m.*

Oct. 17–20: *Jesus and Politics — Religious Liberty and Biblical Justice Today Conference*

Oct. 23: *Kingman Lecture — David Reitze, Howard Performing Arts Center*

Oct. 25: *Celebration of Research & Creative Scholarship*

Oct. 27–28: *HMS Richards Lectureship*

Oct. 31–Nov. 1: *5th Annual Wellness Fest*

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER EVENTS

For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, call 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or visit howard.andrews.edu.

Oct. 13, 7 p.m.: *Howard Center Presents...Committed*

Oct. 19, 8 p.m.: *Andrews University Wind Symphony Fall Concert*

Oct. 20, 4 p.m.: *Sunday Music Series: Schubert Cello Quintet*

Oct. 26, 8 p.m.: *Andrews University Symphony Orchestra Fall Concert*

Oct. 27, 7 p.m.: *Andrews University International Cultural Showcase*

Oct. 29, 6 p.m.: *Andrews University Crayon Box Annual Program*

LAKE UNION

Oct. 11-12: *Children's Leadership Conference and Pathfinder Leadership Training, Andrews University*

Oct. 17–20: *Public Affairs Religious Liberty Conference, Andrews University*

ILLINOIS

Oct. 4–6: *Prayer Retreat, Camp Akita*

Oct. 11–13: *Pathfinders Skills Campout, Camp Akita*

Oct. 25–26: *“One Day” Youth Rally, TBA*

INDIANA

Oct. 25–27: *Public Campus Ministry Retreat, Timber Ridge*

LAKE REGION

Oct. 5–6: *Motor City Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Rally (PARL), Burns Church, Detroit, Mich.*

Oct. 11–13: *Chicagoland Community Service Federation (Fri. 7 p.m. @ Bethlehem French; Sabbath, 11 a.m. @ Emmanuel Chicago Heights)*

Oct. 11–13: *Motor City Youth Federation, TBA*

Oct. 12: *Detroit (PARL), Burns Avenue*

Oct. 19–26: *LRC Semana de Oración (elecciones de nuevos dirigentes), todas las iglesias hispanas*

Oct. 20: *Michiana Youth Federation, TBA*

Oct. 26–27: *Chicago PARL Rally, Shiloh Church*

MICHIGAN

Oct. 4–6: Marriage Retreat, Camp Sagola

Oct. 6–9: Life Improvement For Teens (LIFT), Camp Au Sable

Oct. 11–13: Mother-Daughter Retreat, Camp Au Sable

WISCONSIN

Oct. 4–6: *Women's Retreat, Camp Wakonda*

Oct. 18–20: *Pastors' Spouses Retreat, Camp Wakonda*

Oct. 25–27: *JAWHI Retreat, Camp Wakonda*

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.

OBITUARIES

AITKEN, Judy M. (Olson); age 75; born May 2, 1943, in Joplin, Mo.; died Dec. 10, 2018, in Eau Claire, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include son, Jay Aitken; daughters, Jolene Roosenberg, and Julia O'Carey; brother, Jon Olson; sister, Jane Berry; and eight grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Scott Griswold; interment was at Rose Hill Cemetery in Berrien Springs.

BECK, Liz; age 90; born April 2, 1929, in Mobile, Ala.; died Oct. 30, 2018, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include daughters, Sharon (Kenneth) Straw, and Connie Smart; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Note: A memorial service will be held (and livestreamed) on November 9 at 4:00 p.m. (EST) at Pioneer Memorial Church.

COLWELL, Pauline J. (Sommerville); age 77; born March 12, 1941, in Jeffersonville, Ind.; died Nov. 23, 2018, in Scottsburg, Ind. She was a member of the Scottsburg Church in Scottsburg. Survivors include sons, William J. (Roberta) Colwell, and Curtis J. Colwell; daughters, LoriAnn (Richard) Adler, and Nickoa (Roger) Bush; and foster child, Timothy K. Barger. Funeral services were conducted by Joseph Quiles; inurnment was in Stewart and Hoagland Funeral Home.

COVELL, Arthur L.; age 100; born Feb. 26, 1919, in Carversville, Penn.; died Aug. 3, 2019, in Kingsley, Mich. He was a member of the Traverse City Church in Traverse City, Mich. Survivors include sons, Douglas Covell and Dennis Covell; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Jeff Akenberger and

Wes Peppers; interment was at Barnum Cemetery in Mayfield, Mich.

DANIEL, George R.; age 82; born Jan. 26, 1936, in Madras (Chennai), India; died Dec. 1, 2018, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include his wife, Vimala (Miller); daughters, Sabeulah Bates, Lynda Daniel- Underwood; brother, William Daniel; five grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Yamilet Bazan; interment was at Rose Hill Cemetery in Berrien Springs.

JENSEN, Joanne (Metzger); age 81; born Nov. 12, 1937, in Berrien Springs, Mich.; died June 26, 2019, in Graceville, Fla. She was a member of the Bonifay Church in Bonifay, Fla. Survivors include son, Joey Jensen; daughter, Jennifer Winekoff; and five grandchildren.

KIMMITT, Donald L.; age 83; born Nov. 29, 1935; died Feb. 3, 2019, in Galesburg, Ill. He was a member of the Park View Church in Galesburg. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor John Lewis; inurnment followed.

LIU, Yutong “Bradley”; age 22; born Aug. 18, 1997, in Tianjin, China; died Sept. 4, 2018, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include his father, Gang Liu; and mother, Xinhua Yang. Memorial services were conducted by Laurence Burn; interment followed.

LOGAN, Margaret E. (Bohn); age 93; born June 1, 1925, in Pontiac, Mich.; died Dec. 18, 2018, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include son, Kenneth Logan; daughter, Carol Stringer; seven grandchildren; and three

great-grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Dwight Nelson; interment was at Rose Hill Cemetery in Berrien Springs.

MASHNI, Fuad B.; age 93, born Oct. 29, 1924, in Ramallah, Palestine; died Sept. 12, 2018, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include sons, Samuel, Peter, and Joseph; two brothers; three sisters; and six grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted and interment was at Allred Funeral Home in Berrien Springs, Mich.

OWENS, Joyce P. (Williams); age 82; born March 6, 1937, in Scott County, Ind.; died May 15, 2019, in Scottsburg, Ind. She was a member of the Scottsburg Church in Scottsburg. Survivors include sons, Desi (Karen) Owens, and Billy (Peggy) Owens; daughter, Betty Bogard; sisters, Violet Davis, Jane Bridgewater, and Kay Allen; nine grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Billy Owens; interment was at a cemetery in Scottsburg.

SHULL, Virginia A. (Strudwick); age 89; born May 13, 1929, in Muskegon, Mich.; died April 25, 2019, in Lansing, Mich. She was a member of the East Lansing University Church in East Lansing, Mich. Survivors include her husband, Vivion E. Shull; sons, Donn A. (Laila Mashni) Shull, David S. (Judy Van Duinen) Shull, and Brian D. (Talley Joyner) Shull; daughters, Julie J. (Donn A.) Clark; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Elder Jay Gallimore and Steven Silva; private inurnment.

SIMMONS, June (Shasky); age 88; born June 7, 1931, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Aug. 20, 2019, in Battle Creek. She was a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle Church in Battle Creek. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Bruce Moore; interment was at Fort Custer National Cemetery.

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>.

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FOR SALE — Country home with 7.6 acres adjacent to church school and woods. 6-bedroom; 2.5-bath. Roof and siding new this year. Heated one-car garage with attached carport. Work area with 6-plus bay garage. Located in Sheridan, Ill. Contact 815-474-6601.

MISCELLANEOUS

FARMERS & GARDENERS (AdAgrA's) — 6th annual Adventist Agriculture Association

spent on things you don't really need and give it to the Annual Sacrifice Offering for Global Mission to reach people who don't know Jesus. Your gift could help start Urban Centers of Influence in large cities and support Global Mission pioneers in starting new groups of believers among the unreached. On November 9, mark your tithe envelope "Annual Sacrifice Offering for Global Mission" or visit <https://Global-Mission.org/mysacrifice>.

EMPLOYMENT

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY

PHYSICAL THERAPY — The Clinical Sciences Coordinator/Professor holds a faculty appointment in the PT Department and has academic service, scholarship and administrative

responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the Physical Therapy Department. This individual demonstrates competence in clinical sciences teaching and curriculum development. In addition, the Clinical Sciences Coordinator's primary responsibilities are to plan, coordinate, facilitate, administer, and monitor activities on behalf of the academic program. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_12

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY

PHYSICAL THERAPY — Holds a faculty appointment and has administrative, academic, service and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the School of Rehabilitation Sciences. As a faculty member, primary responsibilities are to teach in the Physical Therapy Post-professional and/or Entry-level programs. Serves as a track coordinator in the assigned track General Medicine. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_13

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SEEKS CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

LIBRARIAN — The Public Services Librarian provides principal information literacy instruction and serves as a reference librarian as part of the research coaching team. They coordinate Campus Research Day, provide library tours, and contribute to managing the expert systems of the library. Qualified candidates will have a Graduate degree in Library/Information Science from an ALA-accredited program (or international equivalent). Experience with public services and information literacy instruction, preferably 3 years; working knowledge of current reference and database applications, as well as knowledge of various library expert systems. For a full list of responsibilities and qualifications: www.southern.edu/jobs.

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responsibilities and qualifications, visit us at www.southern.edu/jobs.

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WANTED — Bright, young, mission-minded professionals to help expand a Michigan-based, natural foods business with tremendous growth potential. Do you want the challenge and satisfaction of successfully competing with cutting-edge technology companies in a growth market while doing it to advance the Kingdom of God's Grace? Contact John LaVanture at john@clnf.org

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Berrien Springs, Mich.	7:21	7:09	6:58	6:48
Chicago, Ill.	6:26	6:15	6:03	5:53
Detroit, Mich.	7:08	6:56	6:45	6:34
Indianapolis, Ind.	7:21	7:11	7:00	6:51
La Crosse, Wis.	6:40	6:27	6:16	6:05
Lansing, Mich.	7:14	7:02	6:50	6:40
Madison, Wis.	6:33	6:21	6:09	5:58
Springfield, Ill.	6:35	6:24	6:14	6:04



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awr.org/wisam
Wisam's own family tried to stone him for his belief in God, but today he is an Adventist pastor in the Middle East.





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Why I Canvass

By Veronica Penny



▲ Veronica Penny

Courtesy Veronica Penny

“I NEED PEACE,” THE YOUNG MAN SAID SOFTLY as he stared at the book I had just handed him. The book was *Peace Above the Storm*, which is *Steps to Christ*. It was my first summer as a student literature evangelist. And it was the first time I had seen God use me to reach someone with the gospel.

I don’t want to make it seem like walking up to strangers’ doors eight hours a day for a whole summer is easy for me. Just like most people, I hate being rejected. I get discouraged pretty easily, too. Even after four summers of Youth Rush canvassing programs, I still stumble over the right words to say to the people I meet. But the reason that I keep canvassing is not because it’s easy — I keep canvassing because the testimonies make the trials all worth it.

For example, on one of my school’s canvassing trips in Texas, I was so discouraged by a few harsh rejections that I almost didn’t talk to the man who was walking up the street toward me. But I felt impressed to show him *Peace Above the Storm*. As soon as he saw the cover, he asked excitedly,

“How did you know that this book was exactly what I needed?”

Of course, it wasn’t me who knew this man needed this book. The man explained to me that, after coming to the States from Nigeria, he lost his job and was now walking around looking for work. He saw so much value in that book that he gave his last few dollars just to have it.

Canvassing is rewarding not only because I sometimes see the impact I am making, but also because I know God is working on people’s hearts after I leave. This summer I heard that a woman who got *The Story of Hope* from me a year ago enjoyed the book so much that she decided to get a whole set of books from a canvasser this summer. If that little book was able to bless that woman so much, I can’t imagine how much the hundreds of other books I have distributed are blessing someone right now.

It has been four summers since I started canvassing. There has never been a summer without trials, but there has never been a summer without powerful experiences. I canvass not because it’s always fun, but because I’m “addicted” to the testimonies. I never get tired of hearing how God is working. I encourage you, no matter how old you are, to get involved in literature evangelism. Whether it is handing out tracts or signing up for a summer program, find a way to give people literature that can help them find true peace . . . because even more rewarding than seeing the testimony here on this earth will be the testimony of seeing them in heaven. ■

Veronica Penny just completed her fourth summer canvassing with Michigan Youth Rush and is studying literature evangelism and outreach leadership at SOULS West Evangelism School.

Servant of God

By Malissa Martin



Gerald Morgan

▲ Henry Lowery

AFTER OBSERVING HIS OLDER SISTER AND BROTHER when they attended their Pathfinder club meetings, Henry Lowery was anxious for his turn. “I would see everything they would do with drills and all the classes they were doing,” said Lowery. “I couldn’t wait for that!” What sparked his interest was the club’s structure and discipline, which was enough for him to join the club at the age of nine.

Over the years, Lowery experienced the positive impact this ministry can have on young lives and, today, the 22-year-old is Pathfinder leader of the Burns Church in Detroit, the director to 18 Pathfinders. Eleven Pathfinders are in the Team Leadership Training program, a four-level program that teaches members how to be leaders.

Just as the club shaped him to take on a leadership position, he’s hoping to impart that to the club’s members. He believes many of today’s youth just want to have fun in life without consequences, and that type of behavior can have a negative impact. Becoming a Pathfinder teaches affirmative characteristics.

“In the end, it might take a while to appreciate those things that you have — the discipline, how to carry yourself in society. They probably won’t appreciate these things at the time but, as they get older, they’ll be like, ‘Oh, I’m glad I have this because it’s better for me to have this now that I’m an adult instead of having to learn these things the hard way,’” said Lowery.

He is grateful for the mentorship he received from church members. This is what drives him to a life of service. “I feel like that’s what helped me — the relationship with my Pathfinder director and the guidance in everything in life,” said Lowery.

Ricky Fuller was Lowery’s Pathfinder director and is one of his mentors. Another mentor is Terence Standifer. “Elder Standifer helps me so much — not with just the Pathfinders, but he helps me personally to be able to stick with it, because I think it’s easier dealing with the kids than the adults,” said Lowery.

Lowery wants people to know that being a Pathfinder is a great way to prepare for real life. He says, “Even though it’s a lot of structure, we have a lot of fun, we learn, and we grow. You get so much out of it. It’s definitely worth it!” ■

Malissa Martin, Detroit-based writer.

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