

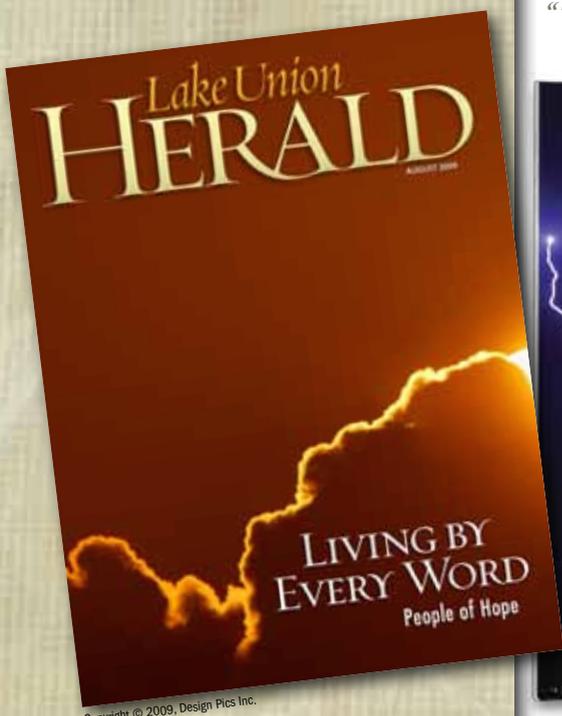
*Lake Union*  
**HERALD**

AUGUST 2009

**LIVING BY  
EVERY WORD**

**People of Hope**

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



14

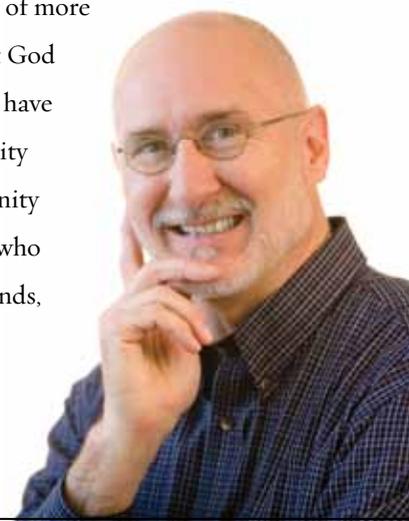
*in every issue...*

- 3** President's Perspective
- 4** New Members
- 6** Youth in Action
- 7** Beyond our Borders
- 8** Family Ties
- 9** Healthy Choices
- 10** Extreme Grace
- 11** Conversations with God
- 12** Sharing our Hope
- 13** ConeXiones
- 22** AMH News
- 23** Andrews University News
- 24** News
- 30** Mileposts
- 31** Classifieds
- 34** School Notes
- 36** Announcements
- 37** Partnership with God
- 38** One Voice
- 39** Profiles of Youth

*in this issue...*

Greetings. You are reading the *Lake Union Herald*, a Christian magazine that for the past 100 years has been uniting people in the Great Lakes area by providing information on innovative and effective ways of helping people respond to the challenges of life. With a circulation of more than 36,000, we continue to tell the stories of what God is doing in and through the lives of His people who have discovered abundance and joy in a world of perplexity and fear. This is your invitation to join this community of faith and become a part of our family of readers who have something transforming to share with our friends, neighbors and co-workers.

  
Gary Burns, Editor



*features...*

- 14** The Issachar Factor *by Dwight Nelson*
- 16** People of Prayer *by David Butts*
- 18** When God Speaks *by C. Raymond Holmes*

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## Taking a Risk

I've come to understand something about myself. I'm not a risktaker by nature. I get nervous when I see a gas gauge edging toward empty. I feel better knowing there's an extra dress shirt hanging in my closet at the office. When in a small plane, I am comforted by the fact that it has dual electrical systems to keep the engine running.

I like working with wood; and when building a piece of furniture or a simple cabinet, I feel better when I use both screws and glue to keep the joints holding strong for the long-term. While a seminary student, I enjoyed working with a very special retired friend, Joe Iverson. He used to tease, "I cut that board twice and it's still too short," as a simple reminder that it's better to measure twice and cut once. Reduce the risk!

It can be a risk to share an experience with someone else—something as simple as sharing your endorsement of a favorite product or restaurant. You can never be sure if their experience will match your glowing descriptions.

Jesus tells a story about risk-taking to a lawyer in Luke, Chapter 10. The main point of His story of the "Good Samaritan" is to expand the lawyer's concept of being neighborly—to go beyond family, close friends, people of like culture, race and nationality—to be especially neighborly to those who need help the most. To take a risk!

In His illustration, the Good Samaritan risked life and belongings to help an injured person along the road. Not only did he take a risk to provide emergency aid, he took the risk of a long-term commitment.

I learned of a modern-day example of this attitude at the recent SEEDS Conference held at Andrews University. Many dedicated risktakers were there for encouragement and instruction on how to make a difference in the lives of more people. At the close of the meeting Don Schneider, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, interviewed Stacy and Rustin Sweeney about their experiences in their community in Atlanta, Georgia. Although their income would not dictate such a move, the Sweeneys chose to live in an at-risk, low-income neighborhood for the sole purpose of making a difference. Their humble apartment is often host to unlikely visitors, and they are building relationships with people whom they would have never otherwise encountered. They are risktakers.

Although their low-value car has been stolen and recovered three times, they remain—motivated by the goal of establishing their "house church" and seeing lives changed. They are in the truest sense being neighbors according to Christ's definition.

God is calling all of us to be risktakers, maybe not in the same way as Stacy and Rustin, but He's calling each of us to take a risk and reach out to others. We cannot keep to ourselves the joy and assurance we have in a loving God who risked it all for us. I've been challenged to take more personal risks for the sake of others. How about you?

By the way, Stacy and Rustin returned home from the SEEDS Conference with the goal of establishing ten additional house churches by this time next year.

# Welcome NEW MEMBERS

**Indiana** **Mary Lee Atkins** was born in Birdseye, Indiana. Her parents did not practice any faith, but when she was nine her aunt took her to a meeting at a church in their community. By the time she was a teenager, Mary Lee began attending another church outside of Birdseye, and continued until she married Jack Atkins at the age of 18.

In 1960, Jack's employer relocated him to New Albany, Indiana. Mary Lee tried several churches there, but never found one where she felt comfortable. Sporadic attendance soon changed to no attendance at all. Six years later, when the Atkins moved back to Birdseye, Mary Lee decided to return to her previous church and began attending with her sons, David and Darin.



The first time Mary Lee Atkins (center) entered the Huntingburg Church, she says, "I felt loved, at peace and the Holy Spirit's presence letting me know this is where I should be." Also pictured: Brian Wilson (left), head elder; and Justin Childers (right), pastor

Ten years went by and Mary was still looking for something missing from her church experience. A friend invited her to attend a meeting at a church in nearby Huntingburg, Indiana. At the end of the meeting, Mary Lee rededicated her life to Jesus and became a member of that church. She remained there for the next 24 years before attending another church in Birdseye, which became her next church family.

Three more years went by and Mary Lee began watching some programs on 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network). She was excited about what she was learning and felt "at home" with this television church family, so she started looking in the newspaper for the nearest Seventh-day Adventist church.

Mary Lee found the Huntingburg Seventh-day Adventist Church and attended for the first time on July 19, 2008. Commenting on her first visit she said, "The first time I walked in, I felt loved, at peace and the Holy Spirit's presence letting me

know this is where I should be." She took some of the booklets available from the church foyer and began to read and study. Within two months she began the Voice of Prophecy Bible studies she saw advertised on 3ABN. Just as she began this new dimension of her spiritual journey, Jack became very sick. In September his doctor discovered cancer in his lungs and gave him only a short time to live. After 50 years of marriage, he died on October 23, 2008.

Mary Lee's new church family was there to provide love and support. For the next several months, she continued her study of the scriptures with the help of the head elder, Brian Wilson, and her new pastor, Justin Childers. Mary Lee committed her life to God with a greater understanding of who He is by being baptized on March 21, and she continues to grow in her knowledge and understanding by reading *Steps to Christ*, *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*, and completing more Voice of Prophecy lessons.

Now Mary Lee prays God will lead her to share what she has learned about Him so others can enjoy a new relationship with Him.

Brian Wilson, Huntingburg Church elder, as shared with Bruce Babienko, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*

**Michigan** **Darlene Stilson** can see how God has led her on a spiritual journey that brought her to March 28, the day she was baptized and became a new member of the Jackson Church family.

For 25 years, Darlene worked in political and governmental positions, including as a county clerk, veterans' counselor, representative for foreign exchange students and facilitator for divorced persons.

Her pathway was a rocky, winding one as she was in and out of a number of different faith groups in search for a life surrendered and devoted to God's will. Darlene was very busy searching for God, a search that included a mission trip with the Resurrection Touch Ministries of Indiana to help families of displaced steel workers.

God also blessed Darlene with four daughters and three stepdaughters, sons-in-law to go with them, three foster sons, two stepsons, a daughter-in-law and 21 grandchildren. In what she describes as the "golden years of my life," God added Stan to Darlene's life, "a wonderful, loving husband."

As she looks back at her spiritual journey, Darlene recalls, "God knocked on my door a few years ago with an Adventist prophecy seminar brochure, but I didn't have time to fit the meetings in to my very busy schedule. So, I just kept on keeping on with my life. Then last fall He sent another prophecy seminar brochure to my mailbox. By this time I had developed an



Darlene Stilson (left) says, "My Bible baptism in the Adventist church is much more meaningful today, as now I can see more clearly the way to walk with my Lord." Also pictured: Gene Hall, Jackson Church pastor

interest in studying the Bible more deeply. I had been in several Bible studies, and had an interest but not a thorough understanding of the prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation.

"With Stan's encouragement, I went to the prophecy seminar. It was there I learned new Bible truths and deepened my belief in Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I also learned about keeping the Bible's seventh-day Sabbath from a different perspective."

As Darlene reflects on her past experiences, she observes that her journey has been a walk by faith in varying degrees as God led her through blessings and adversities. "I believe I experienced being a born again Christian at the age of four," Darlene recalls.

She is grateful for God's faithfulness to her through her spiritual journey and rejoices that she can now see more clearly in her walk with her Lord Jesus. "I continue to grow in grace, and await His soon coming."

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Darlene Stilson and Madlyn Hamblin, Jackson Church members, as shared with Bruce Babienco, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*

**Wisconsin** It builds one's faith when God's providential leading is reviewed, and all the circumstances begin to make sense. God has always been a loving and patient companion to me. **Mary Elizabeth Samson**, on my spiritual journey that led to my decision to become a member of His remnant church.

In the summer of 2008, I visited my son and daughter-in-law, who were members of the Wisconsin Rapids Church. As I attended their church, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit among the friendly congregation. It was like coming home. I had not attended church for more than 25 years. Why? Because I had taken my eyes off Jesus. That Sabbath David Guerrero, pastor, preached a sermon entitled, "The Powerful Witness." As I listened, the Holy Spirit led me to do some deep soul-searching.

For years, living a Christian life had been a challenge. My

husband had never allowed a spoken prayer in our home. I would follow my children out the door and pray with them outside before they left for the day. That was just one symptom of some dreadful times that our family went through before the divorce.

At work I was jokingly called "Odd Ball" at our company potlucks, because everyone knew I followed the Bible's teachings about not eating certain foods. I also tried to keep the Sabbath and was glad I was never asked to work on that day. I know I was not a very powerful witness, but I tried to set a good example and maybe I planted some seeds of truth along the way.

Two years ago, I gave many material things to my husband that I got from the divorce settlement, hoping he would see Christ in the actions I believe God led me to take. During one of our last conversations he remarked, "I bet you pray all the time," and I answered, "Yes." He had told me that there would be a divorce if I ever went to church again. Today, I still feel a deep sorrow for him and I pray for him daily. I tried to be a witness to him, but I know I wasn't the powerful witness that I could have been.



In April, Mary Samson (right) joined the Wisconsin Rapids Church by profession of faith. She says, "Now, having surrendered my life to Jesus, I invite you to pray for me that by His grace I will be faithful." Also pictured: David Guerrero, pastor

After my divorce, I moved to Texas to live with my daughter and son-in-law. It soon became evident that this growing family could use the room that I was occupying, so I made arrangements to move back with my son in Wisconsin Rapids.

God has really blessed me and answered many prayers. He has been very loving and patient with me on my long journey. I know that with His help, and only His help, I can keep on the path to Heaven and ultimately be the powerful witness He wants me to be. On April 11, I joined the Wisconsin Rapids Church by profession of faith. Now, having surrendered my life totally to Jesus, I invite you to pray for me that by His grace I will be faithful.

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Mary Elizabeth Samson, member, and David Guerrero, pastor, Wisconsin Rapids Church, as told to Bruce Babienco, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*

## Totally Worth It!

BY PATRICIA WILLIAMS

Students in grades five to eight at Downers Grove Adventist School shared their faith with their community by presenting a series of meetings at their school from February 20 to March 7. Remarkably, the students planned, organized and conducted the evangelistic series, with help and encouragement from Joe Arner, pastor, and their classroom teacher.

“Even though it was quite a bit of work, we knew it was for God and we wanted to bring people to Him,” Lucas Carreira wrote in the school newspaper.

On the first night, nearly all of the students were present to set up chairs, snacks, tables, the registration center, crafts, prizes for attendance, gifts for bringing guests and more. For nearly a month before the series began the students copied memory verses onto card stock, cut out the verses and put magnets onto the back of each card so the visitors could have a memory verse magnet to take home with them each night.

Student participation was strong throughout the series. Parents were a big help too, because they brought the tasty snacks that everyone enjoyed each evening.

Gift Bibles were given to anyone who attended five meetings. To personalize the Bible, all the students signed the Bible on the page with the recipient’s name. The students also included a favorite Bible verse, typed out on card stock, complete with the reference and the page number where the verse could be found. In addition, the students included a personal testimony about why that verse was special and a message to encourage the reader to look for the blessing in that particular verse.

Each meeting began with the reading of one chapter of



*Daniel Christopher presents one of the evening messages, using a big screen and interesting visual effects.*



*Each night the Praise Team led out with familiar music and taught guests new songs. Seated is Alex Leonor; in back are Kayla Rodriguez, Rachel Arner and Joelle Arner.*

a continued story, which ended with a cliffhanger. Next, the praise team led both familiar and new songs. Students then welcomed new guests and recognized returning ones. Different ones led out in announcements, opening prayer, the memory verse drill and a review of the previous meetings.

The students shared Bible themes in a personal way. Visitors also heard Bible stories told from a whole new perspective. Some students had never spoken publicly before and enjoyed the opportunity to do so while sharing the gospel with others. The students used a big screen and interesting visual effects. After the message, visitors had the opportunity to make a craft specifically designed to reinforce the night’s message.

This was an incredible walk of faith for all of us. Repeatedly, the Lord removed obstacles and showed His power in ways that awed and astonished us. His hand was clearly behind this evangelistic series, and we are thrilled to have been able to cooperate with Him. At the end of the series, a baptismal class was started and two students requested baptism.

According to Lucas, “It was a huge amount of work but all of us in grades 5–8 think it was totally worth it. In fact, now that it is over we are already planning what we will do next year and who the speakers will be.”

Patricia Williams is the principal of Downers Grove Adventist School.



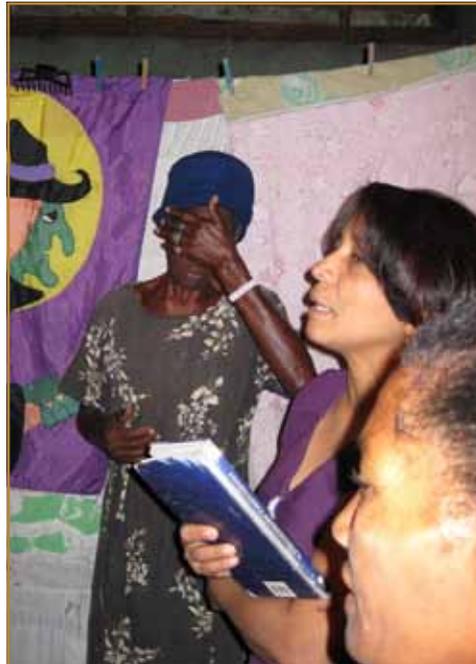
## Anita's Door

BY MARJORIE DRISCOL

In February my husband Dale and I, along with four other church members from Indiana, went to the Dominican Republic to preach messages of hope in four different churches. We used the *ShareHim* series. The night the subject was on the devil and his deceptions, it was my turn to preach. I didn't want to preach that sermon, but went ahead with it anyway. Several came forward in response to the invitation given to follow Jesus.

The following night Julio Gomez, a pastor with seven churches in and around San Pedro, came for us around 6:30 p.m. We were barely ready, but all crunched together in his car anyway and headed down the bumpy road. When we arrived at the church, all the lights were on but there were only three or four women inside. They talked to Julio, and they prayed together; then the pastor asked me to follow him. Two of the women helped me over the rough road as we walked to the long row house that faced the church. One of the women was Esmeralda, a leader in the church. We walked past several 8' x 10' rooms; each room housed entire families.

We finally stopped outside one of the doors. It was Anita's door. Anita decided to follow Jesus at the meeting the night before. She indicated she wanted to be baptized and was instructed that she should make a complete break with her past and the hold that sin had on her life by burning her devil charms. She went home and immediately started to gather her charms together, but try as she might, she could not burn them. She was troubled all night long and could not sleep.



Anita covered her eyes as the ladies from the church sang and prayed with her in her home.

When we arrived at her door we called to her, but she said she was taking a bath. While we waited outside, we sang songs about Jesus together. When Anita finally came to the door she sort of invited us in. The pastor, Esmeralda, Anita and I could barely fit inside the house.

We talked with Anita, prayed with her and sang with her, hoping to bring her peace and the freedom to follow her decision. In answer to our prayers, Anita came to the meetings again that night. When the pastor invited people to make a decision to live their lives for Jesus, Anita again came forward.

Anita is still struggling with her decision. She is still looking forward to being baptized, but is trapped in her life of spiritualism. Please join

me in praying for Anita and many like her. Spiritualism is rampant in her culture, and she and many others are caught in its insidious web. We know that the power of the resurrected Jesus can bring freedom and release from her life of intimidation, superstition and fear. Please pray.

Marjorie Driscoll is a member of the Columbus Church. She was the former women's ministries director of the Indiana Conference.



## What Is That Again?

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

**F**amilies are discovering that adult supervision and involvement is vital to living safely with advancing communication technology. Children and adolescents are probably well-acquainted with most of the following information. Are you?

**Avatar:** A computer user's representation of themselves or their alter ego. For example, computer game users create their own avatar as they role play in the imaginary game world.

**Blog:** A type of Web site where a person posts regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, personal diaries or material such as graphics or video. "Blog" can be used as a verb, meaning to maintain or add content to a blog.

**Facebook:** A free-access social networking Web site. Networks are organized by city, workplace, school and region to connect and interact with others. People can add friends, send them messages and update their personal profiles regularly. Modeled after the paper facebooks that colleges and universities use to acquaint students, it has crossed over into the business world. So much so that it's banned at many workplaces to discourage employees from wasting time.

**IMVU:** A new way to hang out and have fun with friends online. Like text-based messages, you download IMVU's software onto a PC and create avatars who chat in animated 3D scenes. New users are encouraged to be the person you want to be and to create your own virtual reality.

**MPEG:** A collection of methods that compress audio and visual digital data. Introduced in late 1998, it is now in the fourth generation (MPEG-4). It delivers audio and video streams over a wide range of bandwidths, from cell phones to broadband and beyond.

**MySpace:** An online social networking service developed before the similar Facebook. Some users describe MySpace as more for kids and teens, with more advertising, music and movie information.

**Nutuber:** A nutuber spends so much time browsing

YouTube.com videos that they take root, so to speak. A nutuber is the couch potato of the new millennium.

**Podcast:** A series of either digital audio or video media files that can be downloaded via the Web. You don't need an iPod to use podcasts. The term comes from "personal on demand broadcast" and came into use in 2004.

**Skype:** A software application that allows people to make and receive telephone calls over the Internet, often for free. It can include instant messaging, file transfers and video conferencing, and is available in many countries.

**YouTube:** A video sharing Web site on which users can upload and share videos they've created or copied from others.

**Twitter:** A free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read others' updates known as "tweets" via the Twitter Web site. Short messages are conversational and informal. Senders can limit delivery to their circle of friends or, by default, allow anybody to access them.

**Wikipedia.com:** A grass-roots generated Web encyclopedia that is gaining acceptance as possibly the most current and accurate source. Look up more information on cyberzines, ezines, hangtags, hyperzines, neologisms, podcatchers, streaming, webinars and *Zimbio*.

Consider using this information to engage in important conversations about some of the safety and spiritual implications of such easy access to information, connecting with individuals who are not known by us, the moral and ethical issues in a virtual reality, as well as some of the positive aspects of new communications technology.

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

**Soluble fiber in barley is useful in blood glucose management.**



**Barley can lower your cholesterol levels.**

## Bring on the Barley

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

**B**arley, a staple of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, was one of the first crops domesticated in the Middle East. It also played a prominent role in the Israelite sacrifices of the Old Testament. Today, barley ranks fourth in world cereal crop production, after maize, rice and wheat. It is a highly adaptable crop, growing from north of the Arctic Circle to Ethiopia in East Africa.

By Roman times, wheat had replaced barley as a dietary staple, but barley still retained its importance. In England during the Middle Ages, a standard inch was measured as equal to three barley seeds. In the Middle East today, barley is commonly used in a number of Arab dishes. Barley soup is traditionally eaten during Ramadan in Saudi Arabia. Barley is also used in soups and stews in Eastern Europe, while in Scotland barley is used for making bread and porridge.

Barley is a nutritious grain containing about ten percent of its calories as protein, and is a reasonable source of iron, magnesium, selenium, zinc, niacin and other B vitamins. It is very rich in soluble fiber, very low in fat and has only 100 calories per half-cup serving.

Unlike other grains, when barley is processed and the bran is removed, the refined product still contains significant amounts of fiber since fiber is distributed throughout the kernel. Like oatmeal, barley contains a substantial level of the soluble fiber beta-glucan. One half-cup serving of pearl (polished) barley contains three grams of fiber, of which 25 to 40 percent is soluble fiber. In comparison, brown rice has less than two grams and white rice less than one gram of fiber.

Studies have yielded promising results regarding barley's



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potential health benefits. In a clinical study, it was found that subjects who ate cookies and crackers made with barley flour enriched with beta-glucan fiber experienced significant reductions in glucose and insulin responses compared to the responses after eating the same products made with whole wheat flour.

In another long-term study, a 30 percent decrease in blood glucose level was reported in subjects with type 2 diabetes who consumed a healthy diet including pearl barley that supplied 18 grams of soluble fiber a day. In addition, barley produced smaller glucose and insulin responses in overweight women than that seen with oatmeal.

Furthermore, barley consumption has been observed to significantly lower cholesterol levels after one month. In a study of eight randomized trials, barley was found to lower triglycerides, cholesterol and LDL cholesterol by about ten to 13 percent, while not affecting HDL cholesterol levels.

All these new findings are putting barley in the spotlight. And it's very easy to include barley into a healthful diet. Barley flakes make a nutritious and healthy breakfast cereal. One can also add barley to soups, stews, casseroles, salads and a stir-fry.

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



## Grace's Expectation

BY DICK DUERKSEN

**E**ven the sky was brown. Dark brown. As if the dirt beneath our feet was replacing living clouds with dead clods. Dead brown like the ground outside the town's gate.

Ahmed and I were gathering twigs. The sticks had been used up long ago, and widows have to use what they can find. All I found was a handful of twigs. Enough for one last fire beneath our pot.

"Good morning."

No one greets a widow, especially in Zarephath, where dust has dried even our tongues. But a man's voice was greeting through the morning brown.

"Please bring me a little water to drink."

It was spoken in kind urgency, but I heard it as a command, an unreasonable expectation from a passing stranger who must not realize that the only well was inside the city and that I was too tired to go there.

I squinted into the brown sun and saw a silhouette of terror. No one walks this road, so the bearded stranger must be the enemy sought by the foreign soldiers. I wanted to flee, but instead reached for Ahmed's hand and shuffled toward the well.

"And while you are at it, please bring me a bite of bread. I am very hungry."

His command stopped my feet and opened my mouth.

"Sir," my words were gilded with sadness, "My son and I have come to this old tree to gather a few tiny twigs. We will then return home to make a fire beneath the pot. All I have left is a small clay pot with a few drops of oil and another with a tiny measure of flour.

When the fire is hot I will mix the flour and oil to make one last bite of bread for my son and myself. We will eat. Then we will die."

I didn't need to explain. It was a tale being lived in many of our village huts. Hope had aban-

doned Zarephath, leaving only empty stomachs and the growl of death.

"Do as you have said." There was a new tone in his voice, as if he heard death's growl but did not fear it. I stared into the crackles of his voice.

"Do as you have said, but first make a small cake for me and bring it to me here. Then make a full meal for you and your son. The Lord will provide the oil and flour."

I muttered all the way home. "Who does he think he is? Why should I trust his Lord? Why make bread for him first? What if his promise comes true? What if for the gift to come I must first give it away?"

I muttered over the fire. I muttered as the oil spattered through the flour. I muttered as I formed the tiny loaf that was to have been our last meal. Then I quit muttering and began humming.

He was still there, hulking in the tree's broken shadow.

"Your bread, and some water." I handed him the carefully-wrapped morsel and the tiny jar. He smiled, ate, drank, stood and stretched.

"May I come to your home? I think it's time for you to bake the main course of our meal."

Elijah has slept in our loft for more than two years now, and we all have eaten well from the Lord's pots. The soldiers came by again last week, looking for "a bearded prophet who takes away the rain." No one in town has seen such a man. But we all know a bearded prophet who brings hope! (see I Kings 17)

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



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## Dear God...

BY DON JACOBSEN

Dear God,

I want to thank You for the time at the lake this last week. A baptism is a magnificent event anywhere, but there is something about a lake or stream that somehow makes it an especially sacred moment.

Elena had asked that it might be sunny for her baptism, and then You delighted all of us by having the sun break through the overcast as she and the pastor walked out into the water. It was majestically memorable.

When we sang “Amazing Grace” there on the shore, I noticed even the spectators were awed and silent. We knew it was because You were there. I sense that You love baptisms, too. It is, after all, Your Amazing Grace that makes us family.

And if I understand correctly, I believe there was a grand party around the throne about that same time.

You designed it so that whether it’s a wedding, an adoption or a baptism, there is just something deeply gratifying about becoming part of a family. When I married Ruthie a lot of years ago, You also gave me her nine siblings and their families, spread all over the place, as my new family. Great bonus.

But You have also given me a brother in Uzbekistan, a sister in Ethiopia, a brother in Outer Mongolia and a sister I’ve never met in the jungles of Ecuador. And, of course, there are the ones in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico; Paw Paw, Michigan; and Boaz, Alabama. I’ve got family I don’t know in places I can’t spell. You did that; I like it.

And one of the reasons they are important to me is because of the assignment You gave us.

The longer I live, the more I realize I can’t do it alone. I can’t stand at the bedside of 10,000 sick patients every day. But as a family we can. I can’t produce radio and television programs in a hundred languages every day, but as a family we can. I can’t witness for my faith in Bombay and Boston and Brisbane every day, but as a family we can. I can’t teach math in Mexico, edit a book in Boise, pay a pastoral visit in Pittsburgh, and ladle hot soup to the hungry in Hungary, but as a family we can.

What a family!

Thank You for inviting me to join. I know it’s not perfect—most families aren’t—but I find much satisfaction in belonging.

As Your family You have made us related by blood, linked by a common history, united by a common mission, connected by a common hope. That’s big.

I was adopted into Your family 64 years ago. If I hadn’t done it then, I’d do it today. I’m very honored that You have chosen to call me Your son.

Thank You, Father.

Your friend.

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Don Jacobsen writes from Hiawassee, Georgia. He is the former president of Adventist World Radio.

## Life-Changing Encounters

BY DIANE THURBER

**M**uriel and Jim Wilson arrived in Indiana a few months ago, when Jim became the manager of the Adventist Book Center (ABC) in Cicero. Without a job or network of friends, Muriel felt a little lost. One day when reading *Publishing Ministry*, Muriel realized that with her expertise as a nurse practitioner, God might open doors to spiritual conversations with ABC guests, and she was impressed to be Jim's helpmate at the ABC.

Volunteering weekly, Muriel meets many community guests. Most stop in for the natural health food, rather than the many Christian books for young people and adults or the inspirational music displayed.

Muriel observed one guest as she timidly approached. Obviously apprehensive the guest remarked, "I'm not an Adventist." Muriel greeted her warmly and explained that the ABC is a community store where everyone is welcome. The guest smiled, and then opened up to Muriel. She explained how she became a vegetarian in college to save money. She told Muriel she continues the vegetarian diet and often uses soy products to help lower her husband's high cholesterol. She shared, "My husband never knows the difference." Muriel showed her CHIP\* cookbooks and explained the benefits of the recipes inside.

Another woman arrived, with her small daughter, looking for a carob fudge recipe. After sharing a few recipes, Muriel inquired if she was a member of a family of faith. "We don't have a church," the guest replied. Muriel responded, "I don't mean to push, but we have a lovely church right down the road and you'd be welcome. And there's even a special program for little people; we call it Cradle Roll." Muriel learned that Marisol Holman, a midwife and friend who also attends the Cicero Church, delivered this woman's child. Afterward, Muriel contacted Marisol and they are both praying for this



*Muriel and Jim Wilson find many guests from the community come to the Adventist Book Center because of their desire to know more about healthy living. The Wilsons look for opportunities to share life-changing messages of Jesus with their guests, too.*

young mother.

As community guests request specific health foods, Jim and Muriel increase the store's product line to meet their needs. The recent addition of fresh-baked bread from Apple Valley Natural Foods in Berrien Springs, Michigan, draws guests from Indianapolis.

When customers inquired about learning to cook healthier meals, Muriel, Gail Macomber and others offered a cooking school at the nearby church. Nearly 60 attended; and ten to 15 were guests from the community. A hydrotherapy workshop is also planned in response to requests to learn natural health remedies.

The Wilsons plan to develop and deliver door to door an attractive brochure

explaining what the ABC offers, and provide product demo days. One guest inquired about a children's hour, so the Wilsons are considering a weekly story hour where children will hear stories from the Christian books available at the ABC.

Muriel says, "There are people out there we need to be reaching. My prayer is for God to use us to touch lives." She is eager to share principles of health with those she encounters, but knows the messages of hope in Jesus will ultimately be the most fulfilling and life-changing.

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Diane Thurber is the assistant communication director of the Lake Union Conference.

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\*CHIP is an acronym for Coronary Health Improvement Project (see [www.chiphealth.com](http://www.chiphealth.com))



## CONOZCA “TU HISTORIA PREFERIDA”

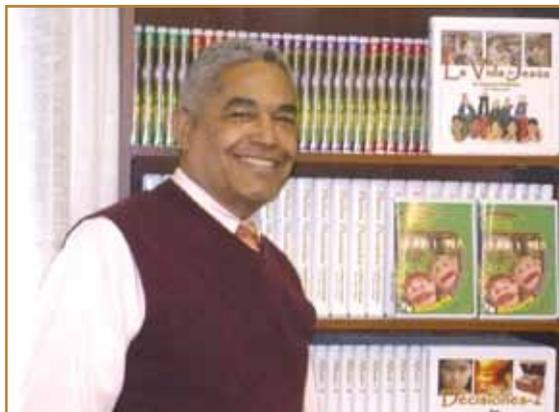
POR CARMELO MERCADO

*“La Palabra de Dios abunda en preciosas joyas de verdad, y los padres debieran sacarlas de su estuche y presentarlas ante sus hijos en su verdadero esplendor... En la Palabra de Dios tenéis un tesoro del cual podéis sacar preciosas provisiones y como cristianos debéis proveeros para toda buena obra” (Conducción del niño, p. 477).*

**R**ecuerdo cuando en mi juventud comencé a asistir a la Iglesia Adventista que mi madre me compró un juego de los libros *Las Bellas Historias de la Biblia* en inglés. Ella sabía que yo quería saber más de la Biblia, sin embargo, en aquel tiempo yo no podía leer bien la Biblia en español y la única Biblia que tenía en inglés era de la versión antigua de King James que tiene un vocabulario que me era difícil entender. Al recibir los libros empecé inmediatamente a leerlos con entusiasmo y en poco tiempo terminé de leer los diez tomos. Fue así que desarrollé un gran deseo de aprender más y más de la Palabra de Dios y de allí continué estudiando las Escrituras de una manera más profunda.

No cabe duda que en una época como ésta en la que existen tantas distracciones, tenemos el desafío de tratar de guiar a nuestros niños a amar a Dios y a su iglesia. Es por esto que yo estoy tan agradecido por ministerios como *Tu Historia Preferida* (THP). Este ministerio tuvo su comienzo en el idioma inglés en el año 1949 en el segundo piso de una estación de bomberos en la ciudad de Eau Claire, estado de Michigan. En ese lugar un grupo de hermanos decidió crear un ministerio para contar historias de la Biblia a un grupo de niños que venía del vecindario los sábados de tarde. Luego el ministerio se expandió a un programa radial titulado *Your Story Hour* que se escucha actualmente en tres idiomas (inglés, español y ruso) en más de 4.000 estaciones de radio alrededor del mundo.

En el año 1985 se comenzó este ministerio en español. El pastor Rubén Rivera es en la actualidad el director de THP. Antes de tener este cargo, él era conocido en nuestra Unión del Lago como pastor y coordinador hispano de la Asociación de Wisconsin. Después de más de diez años



Pastor Rubén Rivera, director de “Tu Historia Preferida”

de ministerio en Wisconsin el pastor Rivera sintió que Dios lo estaba llamando a otro ministerio. En poco tiempo recibió el llamado de dirigir el ministerio de *Tu Historia Preferida*.

El pastor Rivera nos dice lo siguiente: “Yo me uno a la misión de YSH/THP de alcanzar a los niños del mundo para hacer de ellos verdaderos líderes, en donde se reflejen los verdaderos valores morales,

éticos y espirituales, mediante historias extraídas de la Biblia como también de personajes influyentes en la historia de la humanidad.”

No tengo la menor duda que hay multitudes de personas, tanto adultos como niños, que han sido impactados por este ministerio. Quiero animar a nuestros lectores a orar, aprovechar de sus valiosos recursos y compartir este ministerio con otros. Para obtener más información se puede ir a la página web de [www.tuhistoriapreferida.org](http://www.tuhistoriapreferida.org), llamar al teléfono número 888-847-8854 ó enviar un correo electrónico a [info@tuhistoriapreferida.org](mailto:info@tuhistoriapreferida.org).

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente general de la Unión del Lago.



# Understanding Our Times

THE ISSACHAR FACTOR

BY DWIGHT NELSON

A company in California has invented a new device that is able to forecast the weather with uncanny accuracy. It gets the weather right every time. The device looks like a colorful ribbon that you hang outside your window and check daily. When the ribbon is wet, it's raining. When it's stiff, it's freezing. When it's white, it's snowing. When it's twirling, it's windy. You get the idea.

Don't you wish we could forecast the future that way? Don't you wish you could know what was coming? You can. In fact, Jesus implies that we should know. He said to the crowd gathered around Him, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?" (Luke 12:54–56; Matthew 16:2, 3 NIV)

During the time of David's rise to power, there were among his warriors 200 chiefs of Issachar, "who understood the times and knew what Israel should do" (1 Chronicles 12:32 NIV). They were able, as Jesus had said, to "interpret the signs of the times" (Matthew 16:3 NIV). What was it about the chiefs of Issachar that gave them these insights? How can we understand the times in which we are living?

Joshua Cooper Ramos, in his recent book, *Age of the Unthinkable*, offers some practical clues. Citing Philip Tetlock's research, he concludes that the highest predictor for "understanding of the times" is a wide-ranging and probing curiosity that drives thinkers to acquire and update their knowledge. Applying this principle to ourselves, we can understand the signs of the times by employing God's gift of curiosity to acquire and update our knowledge of what the scriptures say about the times in which we live.

In Matthew 24, Jesus describes seven global trends in place at the time of His return:

**Religious Deception**—"Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."

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**Military Conflicts**—“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.”

**Political Upheaval**—“Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.”

**Natural Disasters**—“There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.”

**Legal Breakdown**—“You will be handed over to be prosecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.”

**Spiritual and Social Collapse**—“At that time, many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

**Gospel Proclamation**—“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

Jesus predicts that global events will produce a pandemic of fear that will grip the earth. “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world” (see Luke 21:25–28 NIV).

The news media has chronicled this pandemic with reports of fear of terrorism, fear of the flu, fear of immigrants, fear of violence, fear of an economic melt-down, fear of environmental meltdown, etc.

But Christ’s word to His followers is, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. I will come back and take you to be with me” (John 14:1, 3 NIV).

## **JESUS REPEATEDLY REASSURES US OF OUR VALUE.**

“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows” (Luke 12:6, 7 NIV).

## **JESUS PROMISES TO GIVE US SUPPORT.**

“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say” (Luke 12:11, 12).

## **JESUS REDIRECTS OUR PRIORITIES.**

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?”

“Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Luke 12:22–34 NIV).

## **JESUS TEACHES THAT THE PANDEMIC OF FEAR IS TO BE MET WITH A POSTURE OF HOPE. YOU DON’T HAVE TO BE AFRAID!**

“At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21:27–28 NIV).

People who are discouraged hang their heads. People who are afraid wring their hands. This is not the posture Jesus is describing here. He says, “Hold your chin up. Lift up your eyes. Take a posture of confidence and courage.” (Luke 21:28, paraphrased).

We can live with that kind of hope. But “be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15 NIV).

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Dwight Nelson is the senior pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University. This article is adapted from his three-part sermon series, “The Issachar Factor,” available to download at <http://pmchurch.tv>.

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For another resource to help understand the times we live in, also visit [www.signstimes.com](http://www.signstimes.com) and read *Signs* magazine online.



# People of Prayer

PEOPLE OF HOPE

*David Butts and his wife, Kim, have become very dear friends of ours through our association at the Denominational Prayer Leaders Network, America's National Prayer Committee and Harvest Prayer Ministries. He has served our church well through his leadership, teaching and prayer, and it is my privilege to introduce him to our readers. — Editor*

BY DAVID BUTTS

**H**ow do you respond to the events going on in the world? An economy that is the worst in decades? Nuclear weapons in the hands of the unstable? A cultural war in our own nation? The most natural response is that of fear or worry. We are a nation medicating itself because of our high stress levels.

Many years ago, U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt told a nation paralyzed by fear over the Great Depression that the only thing they had to fear was fear itself. Fear paralyzes us and prevents us from taking the actions needed to address the issues we face. I believe that Jesus is saying to the Church today, “the only thing you have to fear is fear itself.” Do not be afraid—look to Jesus.

I grew up in a Christian home. My parents, grandparents and great-grandparents were godly people, and I’m grateful for that heritage. My parents even prayed for me before I was born. In fact, I didn’t realize until after my ordination into ministry that prayer played a significant role in the circumstances of my birth.

In the afternoon following my ordination, my father and I reflected on God’s leading in my life; and he told me a story. Evidently, when I was born I had nephritis. The doctor told my parents that I had about a 50/50 chance of surviving, and I struggled between life and death for several weeks in the hospital. My father described how every day

he stopped by the hospital on his way home from work to sit by my crib and pray for me. About a week into the ordeal, he said the Lord put a new thought in his mind and his prayers shifted focus. He prayed, “Lord, if You will spare my son’s life I will do everything I can to prepare him for ministry.”

I think someday in Heaven the Lord will let us know how this all connects. It will be a joy to hear how people, perhaps some we’ve never met, had a real impact on our lives because they prayed for us. This means a lot to me and my wife, Kim, as we pray for our children. In fact, Kim has written a book called *The Praying Family*, in which she shares her passion for seeing families come alive through prayer and generations being impacted for the kingdom of God as couples learn to pray together.

My father was wise to not tell me that story about praying to prepare me for ministry until after I was ordained as a minister. I look back on that now and think, *Somehow God has had His hand on my life from the very beginning*. Realizing this, I

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now approach life with a sense of confidence and two questions: “Now, Lord, what do You have for me? What do You want me to do?”

I had been a local church pastor for 20 years, but while pastoring at our last church in Illinois the Lord really began to speak to my heart in two areas: prayer and missions. I had always prayed because that was modeled for me at home, but I began to experience some fresh new things in prayer. I was learning to sense God’s leading. God began leading me through the process of learning to pray His will. Prayer was not about me just asking God for things—it was about God fulfilling His purposes and accomplishing His plan for planet Earth. That became very exciting to me.

During that time, I was invited to a conference for young leaders (I was neither), and God lit a fire for world missions in me. As a matter of fact, I came back from the conference saying to the elders of our church, “I’ve got to get involved with world missions, but I don’t sense a call to a particular group of people. I don’t know what to do.” They asked, “Well, why don’t you pray about it?” So I did.

Three weeks later, I was invited to another conference—a task force on world missions among some of the independent Christian churches that I was working with. They soon asked me to be the prayer coordinator for their group that was trying to raise the level of missions for about 6,000 affiliated churches in the U.S. I took it seriously, and from the fall of 1988 to 1993 I continued as pastor of our church in Illinois, while I began teaching on the relationship between the effectiveness of prayer and world missions. People kept encouraging me saying, “Dave, you really need to launch out and do this.”

Leave a ministry where I knew I had an income? A ministry that I loved? Leave a place where we were happy? Who would do such a thing—unless you knew that God was calling you into something else?

In 1993, Kim and I took a step out into nothing (or what seemed like nothing), and began Harvest Prayer Ministries. We’ve never looked back. We miss the people, but we’ve never regretted taking that step into prayer ministry.

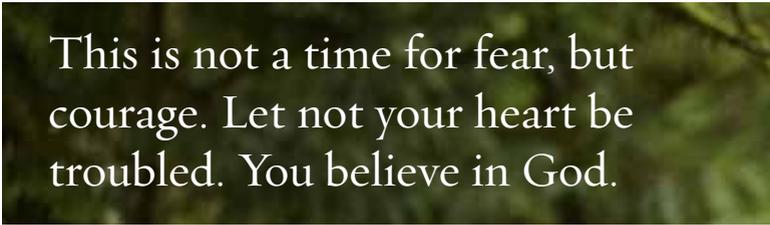
Our focus is still on the local church. We believe that the most significant way God works on this planet is through the local church. If that is the case, then the local church needs to understand what it means to become a house of prayer for all nations—to understand the steps to becoming a praying church. Ultimately, our goal is to see prayer pervade every aspect of church life. It’s not just a matter of having a better prayer meeting, or even starting a prayer meeting, but literally, how can we see Jesus Christ enthroned at

the center of the local church—where He truly is the Head of the church, where He leads in every aspect of church life?

When a local church begins to pray, the most significant thing that happens is in the life of the pastor who gets excited about what God is doing. As the church prays, amazing things begin to happen in missions, in evangelism, renewal and revival—things that only happen when the church is praying passionately.

Almost in every case, it happens slowly—one person at a time. They form a small group and they begin to pray for their pastor and some of their other church leaders who become committed to prayer themselves. People start to catch a glimpse of something new and different. Prayer is not just sitting in a circle with a few people who close their eyes and bow their heads and pray for the hospital list. Prayer becomes literally the cutting edge of what God is doing. They start teaching on prayer. They start providing opportunities; they start taking people out of their pews and onto the streets, walking their neighborhoods and praying for the community. As my friend, Steve Hawthorne, says, “Pray on-site with insight.”

There is nothing like getting out and walking through a neighborhood. You see what it’s like. You hear things and smell things, and you realize: *This neighborhood, this city, this nation needs prayer.* You get a real sense that many people in our communities are facing a variety of issues and many are living in fear. It’s not that we can’t sit in our homes and pray.



This is not a time for fear, but courage. Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God.

We certainly can. But there is something that enhances our ability when we walk through our neighborhoods, praying God’s blessings on people’s homes and praying that God will draw them near to Him.

I am observing today that people of prayer are people of hope in the community. They are not living in fear. This is not a time for fear, but courage. Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God. Look to Jesus and realize that God has not abdicated His throne. Nothing has taken Him by surprise. His kingdom is advancing, and you are a part of it!

David Butts is the founder and president of Harvest Prayer Ministries (<http://harvestprayer.com>) and the chairman of America’s National Prayer Committee.



# When God Speaks

A PASTOR'S JOURNEY

*Ray Holmes is one of my spiritual heroes. Fifteen years into his "retirement," he and his wife, Shirley, are still very active in pastoral ministry. Ray shared these reflections on God's leading with me at his home in Wakefield, Michigan, on February 20.—Editor*

BY C. RAYMOND HOLMES

I was not raised in a Christian home. My mother died at the age of 43 when I was 18 years old. I was an introvert. I barely graduated from high school. I never learned to study. I wasn't interested in studies. I had too many personal problems.

The day after I graduated I went to work with my father as a bricklayer. I was making top money in those days, but I was an unhappy young man. I yearned for something inwardly—call it hope, direction or goals, I don't know. I really didn't understand it myself.

One day, an acquaintance invited me to come to the youth meetings at his church. I think I attended two of them. I remember feeling very uneasy and out of place—not really belonging. They were reading the Bible and singing Christian songs and praying, so I stopped going. Then I thought, *Why*

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## Suddenly, I heard a voice behind me. “Isn’t it wonderful to know that above those clouds the sun is shining?”

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*not check out the Sunday morning church service?* For the first time in my life, I seriously listened to a preacher. He was a good man, but no matter what Bible text he chose, the sermon [theme] was always the same: “Repent and believe in Jesus.”

I didn’t understand it at the time, but somehow the message did not satisfy. So I tried the Lutheran church where I had been baptized as an infant. The young pastor’s messages were deeper. He’d take a Bible text, expose the meaning and then apply it to life.

I had been attending for about a year when suddenly, I don’t even know how to explain it, I became awakened to the reality that I was a believer. When it actually happened, I can’t say. It was an accumulation of scriptural knowledge and opening myself to the reality of God—especially to the reality of His Son, Jesus. I simply woke up to the fact that I believed. I was a Christian. Miracles happen!

Then I began to have this intense inner sense of a call to ministry. Realizing that ministers need an education, I laughed. You know, the kind of roll on the ground laughter. I said, “God, You goofed. I mean, this is ridiculous. You’ve got to be kidding!” But He wouldn’t let me go.

I couldn’t sleep. My mind was just filled with this inner sense of a call, a tug, and it was driving me nuts. It became so nagging that I made an appointment to see my pastor. As I told my story to him, he started to smile. I stopped talking because I thought he was laughing at me. I had laughed.

To my surprise he said, “I’m not laughing at you. I’m smiling because just a few days ago I sent a letter to Suomi College asking them to send you a catalogue, because I’ve had the impression that you should consider the ministry.”

I was dumbfounded. I went home with questions swirling around in my head. When I opened my mailbox, there it was. I read the catalogue with curious interest. *Now what am I going to do?*

I had been a Christian just a little more than a year and hadn’t really learned how to pray, but I started to talk to God seriously about this whole thing. I drove up to Suomi College one weekend to check it out. Over the next few weeks I reached the point where I told God, “Okay, if this is what you want me to do, I’ll give it a shot.”

When I told my father, who was working for me at the time, that I was going to quit the contracting business, his response was anger. “You’re making the most stupid deci-

sion of your entire life. It’s bad enough that you became a Christian, ... but to be a pastor ... and to go to college besides, ... [and] quit your business when you’re making money...”

So I sold all of my equipment, enrolled at Suomi College and moved into the second story of a faculty house with six other guys. Things didn’t go so well. As I remember, I flunked just about every mid-semester exam. I told God, “See, You goofed. I don’t have a brain that can do this!”

I was very discouraged and depressed. Secretly, I made plans to pack up and leave. It was 1954, in the middle of a Michigan U.P. winter. I stood at the window in the empty chapel looking out over a very dark, lowering U.P. sky. I felt as dark as that sky. Suddenly, I heard a voice behind me. “Isn’t it wonderful to know that above those clouds the sun is shining?” I turned around to see the local pastor who had come to prepare for the chapel service. I didn’t even know the man personally. I hadn’t talked to him about my dilemma, so he knew nothing about it. But he must have. Or maybe his pastoral heart sensed that he was in the presence of a troubled person. I don’t know. But those words did something. They temporarily snapped me out of my attitude of gloom.

A few days later I was sitting in the library with my history textbook propped up against a big dictionary, trying to read—looking at the words but not seeing them—and thinking, *Go to your room, pack your bag and disappear*. A hand reached over my shoulder and propped a 3 x 5 card up next to my history textbook. Hand-printed in blue ink were these words, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:16). I turned to see my history professor walking out the door. *How did he know?* That’s two.

God was speaking to me through human lips and bringing me into His presence. Every time God speaks, something happens. And what happened to me was, I stayed. The thought of leaving just disappeared.

By the end of that first year, I was on the dean’s list. Suomi was only a two-year college, so to finish a B.A. degree I transferred to Northern Michigan University in Marquette. I graduated with distinction. From there I attended three more years at the Lutheran seminary in Chicago.

I was ordained in 1961 and moved to Bessemer, Michigan, to pastor the Sharon Lutheran Church, in 1964. It was wonderful. God blessed in so many ways. It was a joy to see the

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## A hand reached over my shoulder and propped a 3 x 5 card up next to my history textbook. Hand-printed in blue ink were these words, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

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youth respond to God’s call and form a gospel team called the *New Life Singers*. We purchased a bus that they named “Joshua,” and for a couple of years traveled from church to church.

The church was growing in their spiritual experience. There were informal gatherings to study the Word of God. The Holy Spirit awakened within them a desire to share their experience in Christ and encourage one another in the faith. My ministry was fruitful and productive, and I was looking forward to a bright future with this wonderful congregation. I didn’t know that God had other plans.

My wife Shirley enjoyed tennis. Her partner was a devout Seventh-day Adventist Christian, and their friendship went beyond tennis. They soon began sharing their testimonies, praying and studying the Bible together. In the summer of 1968, my wife asked me if it would be all right if she attended camp meeting in Wisconsin with her friend. Assured by her love for the Lord and her strong grounding in the Reformation, I had no fears that she would fall for the “legalistic teachings” of Adventism.

When she returned, I realized that something significant had happened in her Christian faith. She began keeping the Seventh-day Sabbath and reading and learning all she could. Many of our friends joined me in trying to discourage her from pursuing these Adventist teachings without success.

The following summer she again attended the camp meeting with her friend; and upon her return, [she] informed me that she was planning to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Sunday before her baptism, I had the painful task of announcing her plans to the congregation.

That was a difficult time for me. The crisis involved my marriage and my ministry. The people were very unhappy that their pastor’s wife belonged to a different denomination—especially the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I came to the awful realization I would have to leave. I thought, *Are You showing me another face, God, that I haven’t seen before? Would You put me through all this experience I’ve had and just say, “That’s all. No more?” Do I have to find another job?*

This was not only a personal crisis, this was a spiritual crisis—a crisis of faith. I began to have some serious doubts, and I reached a point where I couldn’t stand it anymore.

I called my former seminary professor who was still teaching in Chicago. I knew him well, and he was a man I trusted. I asked if I could see him, and he invited me to come down.

I stayed in his home, and he devoted two days to me—listening intently as I shared the whole story. When there was nothing left for me to say, he finally responded, “Ray, you need to ask God what He’s trying to say to you.”

He didn’t respond to my need as a theologian; he responded as a spiritual friend and on the level where my need was acute. Again, God spoke to me. His words had an immediate effect on my attitude, my mood, my whole being.

My teacher, my friend, gave me permission and freedom to say, “Okay, God. Is this another one of Your footprints? Is there something here that is happening? Are You trying to get my attention? Is there a new direction I must take in my walk with You?”

I had planned to return home, but instead I drove the other direction to Andrews University. I drove [my] Volkswagen camper into the seminary parking lot where I camped for two days while I met the dean and each of the professors. On my way home, I realized it was decision time. *What was I going to do?*

The husband of my wife’s spiritual friend invited us over to their house and he said, “My wife and I have prayed about this, and we want you to know that if you are interested in going to the seminary at Andrews we will pay you \$500 a month.”

I went to the sanctuary of my church, my heart just heavy with the thought of leaving a precious congregation where the Lord had worked through my ministry, with people whom I loved and who loved me. I prostrated myself face-down on the floor in front of the altar where I had served communion to these people for seven years, and I just groaned inwardly. You know, Paul talks about groaning. You cannot put your prayer into words. You just have this intense need, and you just groan and reach out to Him with your inner spirit.

I don’t know how long I was there—an hour? An hour and a half? Two hours? I don’t remember. What I do remember is that God heard me. He lifted my burden, and when I walked out of that sanctuary I felt like I was a foot

off the ground with a totally unknown future in front of me, but completely free to investigate.

God also gave me a verse from the Bible. I did something that I do not recommend to people. In desperation I said, “God, You have to give me a promise.” I opened my Bible and put my finger down, and it fell on Jeremiah 29:11; “I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plans for your welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (paraphrase).

I clung to that promise as I resigned from Sharon Lutheran, put our household goods in storage, packed my wife and our two little kids in the car and headed to Andrews University. My intent was to see what impressions I would have and to seek information. I found Christ everywhere. On April 24, 1971, I was baptized and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I went on to complete a Masters in theology and a Doctorate in ministry, and served as a seminary professor until I retired in 1994.

I learned a deep spiritual lesson from those events. I learned that I had Someone in charge of my life that I could trust. He doesn’t make hollow promises. It may be rough for me—a struggle. It may take a lot of self-discipline, but when you hold on to the promise it’s not a hollow promise; He fulfills it. If it’s really His will, if it is really His promise, you can depend on it. The verse was right; I can really do all things, but only through Christ who strengthens me. That made the difference.

I accept people for what they are. I try not to give them the impression that their past spiritual experience was somehow wrong or unreal or something they should not appreciate. I try to help them realize God has been there all along. Now He’s showing them something new—to think different, a new way of understanding Him, of understanding the faith.

When the Michigan Conference learned after our retirement that we were moving back to my wife’s hometown of Wakefield, they asked if I would be interested in pastoring the church in nearby Bessemer. We were more than happy to do so, and the first thing I thought was, *What does God want us to do here?* So I began thinking and praying about that.

The congregation of about 20 had just decided to build a sanctuary, so we set up four phases of ministry. The first was to complete the sanctuary. The second was to complete a fellowship hall and kitchen. The third was to start a daycare.

And the fourth was to establish a church school.

All four phases are completed. I don’t take the credit. That attitude and that mission-mindedness was already planted in the members of the church long before we ever got here.

When we voted to build the school, we didn’t have any children. But by the time the building was finished, we had children coming out of the woodwork. It’s almost like God



*Bluff View School is a K-8 one-room school. Ray Holmes says, “When we voted to build the school, we didn’t have any children. But by the time the building was finished, we had children coming out of the woodwork. It’s almost like God was confirming, ‘Okay, you’ve got a school for kids, here are the kids.’”*

was confirming, “Okay, you’ve got a school for kids, here are the kids.” What can you do but go along with His program?

I think that the process by which it developed has confirmed and affirmed for them that God is here, and He is involved, and that when we’re faithful, He blesses—not because we are faithful, but because it’s the way in which we work together. That’s how we participate with God in His mission in the world.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is driven by mission—and it’s a biblical mission. The whole umbrella that covers it is eschatological. We see our mission as not only helping people come to know Christ, but also helping people become like Christ—to help them prepare for His Second Coming. It is a total redemptive ministry.

I am so grateful, and I praise the Lord that He has allowed me to continue to function in ministry at this age. God continues to speak, and I will continue to follow His voice as long as I live.

C. Raymond Holmes retired from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in 1994 and has continued his pastoral ministry at Christ Community Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bessemer, Michigan, for the past 15 years. He is currently writing a book of his journey, scheduled for publication next year.

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**God was speaking to me through human lips and bringing me into His presence. Every time God speaks, something happens.**

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Garry Losey, manager of pastoral care at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital and a U.S. Army Reservist, was deployed to serve as a chaplain in Iraq.

## Hospital chaplain takes ministry to Iraq

As a hospital chaplain, Garry Losey ministers to patients and their families in their time of need. Soon he will set off on a one-year stint to serve another group in need—U.S. soldiers fighting in Iraq. A U.S. Army Reservist, Losey is being deployed to the Middle East, where he will have regional oversight of chaplains serving the area.

Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital hosted a prayer service and reception on May 21, Losey's last day as manager of pastoral care before he reported for duty. Before going overseas, Losey will undergo training at Ft. McCoy in Wisconsin and Ft. Hood in Texas.

In the Middle East he will support the troops of the 90th sustainment brigade, based near Little Rock, Ark. He will be based at Joint Base Balad in Northern Iraq, located about 40 miles north of Baghdad. The base is one of the largest American military bases in Iraq and is shared by the Army and Air Force; the Army side is known as Camp Anaconda. Losey, who holds the rank of Major, said he's looking

forward to serving the troops.

"I certainly appreciate working in crisis situations, and I can't think of a more crisis situation than working with troops in a war zone," said Losey, who joined the Army in 1988 and the Reserves in 1999.

The deployment will be Losey's first to Iraq. He has served as a student missionary in Korea, ministered as a civilian in California, Hawaii and Virginia, and served as an Army chaplain in Colorado, Texas, Korea and Germany.

Although both involve meeting people's spiritual needs, Losey said military ministry differs from hospital ministry in that the biggest issues for soldiers relate to their personal life, not their health.

"It's more of a counseling ministry, dealing with personal and family needs," he said. "Being in the military, you're always moving, always going somewhere different."

A second-generation Seventh-day Adventist pastor with more than 30 years of ministry experience, Losey previously worked as manager of pastoral care at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital

before joining Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital last year. He has worked for Adventist Midwest Health for four years.

John Rapp, regional vice president of ministries and mission at Adventist Midwest Health, praised Losey for his commitment to serving both God and country.

"We couldn't be more proud of Chaplain Losey," Rapp said. "Although we're going to miss him, we know he will be a blessing to our soldiers who are fighting this war far away from their loved ones and the comforts of home. He is certainly well equipped to extend the healing ministry of Christ far beyond our hospital walls to the men and women serving our country."

A 55-year-old Plainfield resident, Losey is married to Yvonne, who is director of the Special Additions Birth Centre at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital. The couple has two children and two grandchildren and will celebrate their 32nd wedding anniversary this fall.

Lisa Parro, public relations specialist,  
Adventist Midwest Health



John Rapp, regional vice president of ministries and mission at Adventist Midwest Health, asks those gathered at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital's chapel to pray for Garry Losey, manager of pastoral care at the hospital, as he prepares to leave to minister to soldiers in the Middle East.

## Andrews welcomes Gerald A. Klingbeil

Gerald A. Klingbeil, associate editor of *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* magazines, is the new research professor of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. He brings more than 15 years of teach-



Gerald A. Klingbeil

ing and ministry experience in diverse international contexts to the position.

Born in Berlin, Germany, Klingbeil completed a B.A. in Theology at an Andrews University affiliate campus, Helderberg College, South Africa, in 1990. The next year he attended the University of Stellenbosch, where he received his B.A. Honors in Semitic Languages & Cultures and an M.A. and DLitt. in Ancient Near Eastern Studies.

Klingbeil's professional experience spans educational institutions around the world. He has held academic positions in departments of theology at institutions in South Africa, Peru, Argentina and the Philippines. A member of several prestigious review boards in the past and present, Klingbeil recently held the position of editor of the *Journal*

of *Asia Adventist Seminary* as part of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Philippines. He has also received many significant awards, honors and research grants from institutions such as the Adventist Theological Society, La Sierra University, Stellenbosch University and River Plate Adventist University, among others.

Klingbeil is also a member of a handful of academic societies, including the Adventist Theological Society, and a named fellow of the Institute for Biblical Research. He co-chairs the Ritual in the Biblical World consultation at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature.

An avid writer, Klingbeil has published eight books, more than 25 book chapters, several dictionary/lexicon entries, a countless number of book reviews and academic journal articles, and numerous essays. His most recent work, *Shadow Figures: Background Characters of the Bible*, an adult Sabbath school Bible study guide, is scheduled for release in 2010.

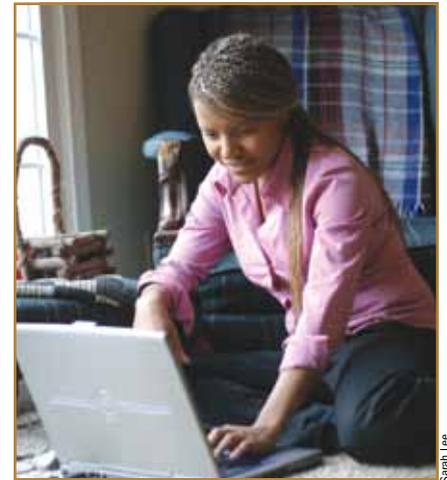
Keri Suarez, media relations specialist,  
Office of Integrated Marketing &  
Communication

## Financial aid available for undergraduate distance degrees

For the first time in the 12 years distance degrees have been offered, students taking six credits or more through the Andrews University Center for Distance Learning & Instructional Technology (DLiT) are eligible to apply for financial aid for the following degree programs: Associate of Arts in Personal Ministry; Bachelor of Arts in Religion; Bachelor of Arts in General Studies with an emphasis in Humanities; Bachelor of Arts in General Studies with an emphasis in Human Organization

and Behavior; and a Bachelor of Arts in General Studies with an emphasis in Cross-Cultural Studies.

"Students accepted to Andrews University as freshmen but who wish to wait one year before coming to campus or would like to increase their GPA before attending are now eligible to take courses through DLiT without negatively affecting their Andrews Partnership Scholarship (APS), which offers



Sarah Lee

Students taking six credits or more through the Center for Distance Learning & Instructional Technology are eligible to apply for financial aid for selected degree programs.

freshman and transfer students \$2,000 to \$8,000 per year for up to four years," says Marsha Beal, director for DLiT.

Undergraduate distance-degree programs have been available at Andrews since 1997 for students studying off campus. The coursework is taught through paper-based correspondence and is electronically enhanced through several classes that are available online. DLiT was established in September 2003 to meet the growing distance-learning and instructional technology needs. Andrews University and Griggs University Partnership, a multimedia lab and Desire2Learn administration are all part of DLiT. Learn more by visiting [www.andrews.edu/dlit](http://www.andrews.edu/dlit).

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist,  
Office of Integrated Marketing &  
Communication

## [ EDUCATION NEWS ]

### Aboite Christian School reaches out to refugees from Myanmar

Indiana—According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, there are 2.6 million refugees currently in the United States. In the Fort Wayne area alone, there are more than 6,000 refugees from Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), who have immigrated from the refugee camps of Thailand. These refugees suffered much persecution due to decades of ethnic tension and were given the opportunity to relocate to America by the U.S. Government. Members of the Fort Wayne First Church felt a burden to help these struggling families and found a beautiful, effective way to go about it.

In the summer of 2007 Aboite Christian School (ACS) board chairman, Mac McAllister, told principal Sheldon Schultz to, “Go, find us some students. We will find a way to fund them.” Within two weeks, Schultz had recruited eight Adventist Karen (pronounced kah-REN) refugee children. Once these students enrolled, their friends began asking if they could come as well. Praise God, they were



Hsa Law Eh, a Karen student, was baptized by Ramon Ulangca, Fort Wayne First Church pastor.



Last year 11 Karen refugee children were sponsored to attend the Aboite Christian School. The Fort Wayne First Church members pray that God will provide resources to enroll three times as many refugee children for the 2009-2010 school year.

able to raise tuition assistance for a total of 11 students. “I grew up thinking that I must go to another region or country so that I would be considered an authentic missionary,” said Schultz, reflecting on this exciting missionary endeavor. “Well, things have changed and so have my perceptions of mission work and being a missionary. Today, the mission work is in our very own backyards.”

It was obvious by the way the students and teachers interacted, that the refugee children felt like part of the family. Not only does the school provide them with a sense of belonging, but they have experienced academic growth and spiritual enrichment. Several students commented to their teachers how they notice their English skills are better than some of the refugees who do not attend ACS. For the past two years at least one Karen student won the spelling bee in their grade category. Their English, math and writing skills have improved immensely. Best of all, one Karen student committed her life to God through baptism even though she did not have the support of her parents for

her decision. Nevertheless, they value the school and continue to allow her to attend.

Some of these students and their parents have experienced and witnessed terrible persecution when in Myanmar. One of the students witnessed the death of a 12-year-old boy when a Burmese army officer poured a pot of boiling water over his head simply because he would not tell where the Karen men of the village were hiding. Some carry scars of hand-grenades, beatings, bullet wounds and other methods of torture. To these children, spending each day in a safe, loving Christian environment is the most life-changing gift anyone could give them.

Due to a lack of funds, ACS has had to turn many students away. They are asking others to pray that God will provide enough resources to enroll three times as many refugee children and build a much-needed gymnasium.

These children are in desperate need of loving Christian friends to help them survive in a foreign country. Some refugees may be living in your community. Here are some suggestions for providing some support: 1) Learn



Sheldon Schultz, principal of Aboite Christian School, now realizes mission work is in "our very own backyards." From left: Stephanie Wines, Sara Ensign, Sheldon Schultz and Nadine Schultz

about their history and culture and the circumstances that brought them to your community; 2) Build a relationship with individuals; 3) Pray for their physical, emotional and social needs in addition to their salvation; 4) Pro-



From left: Thae Thae Win, Eh Hser Win, Hsa Law Eh don creative hats for hat day during Spirit Week 2009.

vide education opportunities through scholarships and subsidies and/or after-school programs that include activities, English classes and tutoring; 5) Offer practical assistance by providing transportation; 6) Lead initiatives like community gardening projects and job

search/training programs; 7) Health care professionals can help provide free medical and dental treatments plus preventive health care seminars and cooking classes; 8) Support an Adventist Karen Bible worker through Adventist Southeast Asia Projects (ASAP) at [www.asapministries.org](http://www.asapministries.org); 9) Provide financial assistance for a refugee child to attend ACS through Sheldon Schultz [principal@aboite-christianschool.org](mailto:principal@aboite-christianschool.org). For more information on refugee ministry, contact Terri Saelee, refugee coordinator for the North American Division, at [terriwest.saelee@yahoo.com](mailto:terriwest.saelee@yahoo.com), or the ASAP team at [office@asapministries.org](mailto:office@asapministries.org).

Sam Ngala, correspondent, Adventist Southeast Asia Projects

## [ PATHFINDER NEWS ]

### M.A.S.H. troop takes a first place award

Wisconsin—The Pathfinders of the Wisconsin Rapids Church were the only Wisconsin Pathfinder troop to take a first place award in the North American Pathfinder Bible Achievement (PBA) Division, held in Berrien Springs, Mich., on Apr. 18. This is the fourth year they have competed. Twenty-six teams from across North America made it to the Division final.

In order to receive a first place, a team must score above 90 percent at each level, and therefore it becomes about the achievement of each troop, rather than a competition.

Troop leader and PBA coach, Anne Whetstone, stated that "Bible Achievement is truly one of the most important accomplishments you can hope for with the Pathfinders. We look to see what they can learn from it and how they incorporate it into their lives."

Explaining how the preparation process works, Whetstone said, "They studied 2 Chronicles (chapters 10–36) and the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* for the PBA events. They



The M.A.S.H. Pathfinder troop, pictured here at the April Investiture service at the Wisconsin Rapids Church, placed first in the North American Pathfinder Bible Achievement Division. From left (back): Steve Frey, Caleb Frey, Josh Guerrero, Ethan Frey, Jordan Whetstone and Anne Whetstone; (middle): Jeff Samson, Mykenzie Quartullo, Maria Vann, Asa Quartullo and Raiden Vann; (front): Jan Samson, Hannah Guerrero, Lucinda Thurman, Isaiah Frey, Mike Edge (Wisconsin Conference Pathfinder director).

started studying already in fall of 2008. Most weeks they met twice a week for study, Sabbath afternoons and another night during the week. Before each of the four events, they then worked even harder on it.

“We were so well-supported by the church family and the parents of the Pathfinders. The parents have to really be involved for this to work. I am just amazed at what these kids can retain.”

Lucinda Thurman, who has participated for two years, said it was a fun experience and added, “I found it interesting that last year we did not make it to the final round, and they told us to come back this year and go all the way. Then the pastor told us this was our year, and they were both right.”

“It was fun but very challenging

too,” said Joshua Guerrero who was participating for his third year. “It was great to bond as friends and get to know others, also.”

Captain for the event was Joshua Guerrero; scribe was Jordan Whetstone; Isaiah Frey and Maria Vann were carriers. Other participating troop members were Hannah Guerrero, Lucinda Thurman, Caleb Frey and Raiden Vann.

Troop leaders in attendance were Anne Whetstone, Steve Frey and Jeff and Jan Samson.

The name of the Wisconsin Rapids troop is “M.A.S.H.,” which stands for Missionary Army Serving Heaven.

Locally, the M.A.S.H. troop is involved in many community outreaches, including raising money for the Family

Center and helping out at the South Wood County Humane Society, among other things.

Troop M.A.S.H. will be at the International 2009 Pathfinder Camporee, which will be held in Oshkosh, Wis., Aug. 11–15.

To see the names of all the Lake Union teams who placed in the National PBA event, read the online version of this story at [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org). Pictures of the event may be viewed at <http://www.pathfinderbibleachievement.org/>.

Rhonda Whetstone Neibauer,  
communications secretary, Wisconsin  
Rapids Church

## [LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

### Cedar Ridge members share healthy cooking ideas

Indiana—Each Tuesday evening for an entire month, members of the Cedar Ridge Church in Paoli, Ind., held a vegetarian cooking class that featured mainly vegan recipes. Bobbi Bishop, Norma Hall and Peggy Eastridge led out with the advertising and the classes. Each night the ladies focused on recipes for a specific meal. The excitement grew as up to 20 from the community attended the class each week. Justin Childers commented, “This was the biggest attendance from the community we’ve had for any event this church has hosted!”

Several from the community attended each session, which included a cooking demonstration and a sample tasting of each recipe. Audience participation was encouraged. One lady from the community, who was a diabetic, stayed on the new-to-her lifestyle plan for all four weeks of the cooking school and then continued with it after it ended. Weeks later she reported that

all of her blood tests were now normal!

As people in the community learned about the cooking school from their friends and neighbors, the attendance kept growing. Some made it only to the last session and were disappointed they had not heard about it sooner.

The local health-food co-op, Lost River Market and Deli, helped the church members with the advertising,

and many learned about the cooking school through this means. The church also placed an advertisement in the local paper. The members plan to follow up with two additional events: a vegetarian taste testing and another cooking school.

Judith Yeoman, correspondent, Indiana  
Conference, as shared by Justin Childers,  
pastor, Cedar Ridge Church



Attendees at the weekly cooking school were always eager to taste the recipes.

## Clothing giveaway opens doors to community

Illinois—On May 15, John Tuthill, Cairo Church pastor, held a clothing giveaway for the community. The event was open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. People attending from the community also filled out cards showing interest in a Vacation Bible school, stop smoking clinic, stress control clinic, vegetarian cooking class, parenting workshop, family finances workshop or Discover Bible study guides. All expressed appreciation and thankfulness for the service provided. One person commented on her way out, “I came here empty-handed, and I’m leaving full.”

To help make the giveaway a success, Shirley Mason and Circle of Friends in Elkhorn, Wis., and the Moline Adventist Church members donated articles for the event. Since the response was so good, Tuthill and his wife, Krystal, said they will hold another clothing giveaway in a couple of months.

Linda Tuthill, member, Galesburg Park View Church, with John Tuthill, pastor, Cairo Church



Community members respond to opportunities for needed clothing. This event opened the door to reach out to neighbors of the church in other ways.



Approximately 150 community guests benefited from the services provided at the Taylor Health Fair.

## Taylor community receives complimentary health services

Lake Region—Treatment Options, Inc. is a non-profit entity that was formed with the intention of providing care to underprivileged consumers in the Taylor, Mich., and greater Metro Detroit areas. The agency works closely with community groups, including the Department of Public Health, the Department of Human Services (DHS) and other community organizations in providing counseling, psychiatric and dental services. It is a Christian organization that also includes some members of the Ypsilanti Church, in Ypsilanti, Mich.

On Sunday, June 14, Treatment Options, Inc. sponsored a community-wide health fair in Taylor, Mich. Approximately 18 vendors, including Steve Veres of Michigan (with his health ministries team and health van), physicians, dentists and hygienists, financial advisors, and other health care professionals were in attendance to provide the community with health information, health-related screening and practical ways of improving their quality of life. Many assisting at the health fair and donating their services were health professionals and volunteers from the

Ypsilanti Church. Also present were approximately 30–35 young people from three area Pathfinder clubs. They assisted by distributing health care fliers.

The event was held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Toward the end of the event, *GMajor*, a band from the Ypsilanti Church, presented a concert for everyone present.

In all, approximately 150 community residents attended and benefited from the services provided. Faith Kelley of Professional Outreach Center overhead some visitors remark with appreciation, “This has been a fun day” and “It’s nice to get my vitals checked for free.” Another individual remarked as she reflected on the day, “I hope this is an annual event, and not just a one-time thing,” because she said she felt the free services and education shared were really needed in her community.

Launched at the event was Brighter Smiles, Inc., a state-of-the-art dental facility established with the intent of providing low-cost dental care to the residents of Taylor and Metro Detroit.

We hope that this health initiative will serve to enhance not only the physical and mental health of the community residents but also their spiritual health.

Colin King, president, Treatment Options, Inc. with Lake Union Herald staff





SAGE volunteers went beyond just “dressing up” 11 buildings in Historic Adventist Village (HAV), they also reached out to the community and painted the home of a HAV neighbor, Christine Richards. Pictured from left (front): Mike Altman, Ruth Jones, homeowner Christine Richards, Bob Jones and Roger Weller; (back): Von Rogers, Bob Grady, Russ Johnson and HAV director Garth “Duff” Stoltz.

## SAGE volunteers visit Historic Adventist Village again

It sounded like an easy “doable” when SAGE volunteers (Seniors in Action for God and Excellence) received a request to help with some much needed “face-lifts” at the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Mich. Some SAGE volunteers had helped with work bees at the Village before, so they looked forward to another opportunity to lend a helping hand to this very important Adventist heritage site. The volunteers were asked to paint the exteriors of three buildings that desperately needed a new look. However, upon arrival, they learned a fourth building was added to the list. No problem, there were nine who would be there for 11 days so all was well.

Work began by preparing the buildings for painting. Pressure washing, scraping off old paint, and masking around windows and doors kept everyone busy. Master painter and project director Mike Altman shipped his spray-painting rig in advance of the

group’s arrival, so the rest of the workers were kept extra busy trying to stay ahead of him.

To the amazement of Village director Garth “Duff” Stoltz, the first assignment was accomplished so quickly that after some scrambling and decision making, seven other buildings were identified for the group to paint. That made eleven buildings in all, including the 1857 replicated Meeting House, the Parkville Church and the large 19th century barn!

The *Battle Creek Enquirer* published a front-page article with pictures praising the amazing SAGEs who “traveled at their own expense from the Seattle, Washington, area to help with a desperately needed renovation at Historic Adventist Village.”

“This is part of our Adventist heritage,” remarked Robert Grady, SAGE’s president and former Sabbath school director for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. “I’ve taken a keen interest in it and so have our people. They are all interested in seeing this Village developed into an educational site for the thousands of visitors who come every year, including those

attending this summer’s Oshkosh Pathfinder Camporee. One interesting thing is that we average 70 years of age, but we are able to do an incredible amount of work.”

Altman agrees with Grady. He says, “I believe it is a worthwhile project. AHM was having a difficult time raising the funds to do this, and we were able to help them out.”

The group still had time for two days of sight-seeing in the area, including a tour of the former Battle Creek Sanitarium, now the Federal Building, and a visit to Gilmore Vintage Automobiles where they saw eight barns filled with beautifully restored classic cars. Volunteer for Adventist Heritage Ministry projects for a spiritual uplift as well as making a contribution toward helping to prepare people for the soon coming of Jesus. For additional information about volunteering with Adventist Heritage Ministry, visit [www.adventistheritage.org](http://www.adventistheritage.org).

Carroll Grady, volunteer correspondent, SAGE



SAGE volunteer Bob Jones tackles the tedious task of scraping and removing old peeling paint to ready this building for a face lift.

# SHARE the HOPE

## 'Share the Hope' excitement builds in Lake Union

"Share the Hope" is the evangelism theme in North America for 2009 with a goal of 100,000 new members, or approximately ten percent of our current membership. The church in North America has typically experienced between 35,000 to 40,000 new members each year for some time. The challenge of reaching a goal two to three times that amount was the result of a vision that recognized the need for greater dependency on prayer and faith.

In the Lake Union Conference we grabbed hold of the dream. The number of those becoming part of our fellowship has been on a steady decline for a number of years. Transfers out and economic reversals were cited as some of the reasons. Deciding, however, that man's adversity is God's advantage we accepted the challenge, realizing that ten percent for us would mean 8,000 baptisms—almost four times what we have been achieving.

In early March 2008, local conference officers and ministerial, Hispanic and evangelism directors gathered in St. Joseph, Mich., to exchange ideas and put together local conference plans on how to move forward. Indiana, the Lake Region and Wisconsin set goals for ten percent of their respective membership. Illinois and Michigan challenged every church to hold public meetings. By January 2009 everything was in place. As we reached the halfway point of the year, exciting reports began coming in.

"Touch Everyone for Jesus" is the

ongoing theme in Illinois outreach. They are stretching into early 2010 with a massive undertaking to cover Chicagoland, highlighted by a meeting with Mark Finley. Indiana has received triple the average number of requests for evangelism budgets. The Hispanic churches have already superseded their ten percent goal and are moving toward 20 or 25 percent. Every Lake Region pastor is personally conducting at least one series of meetings, as are most of the conference office personnel. In addition, each school in the field is having their own evangelistic outreach. Five hundred "Homes of Hope" is the goal of the Michigan Conference. These are outreaches designed to prepare friends and neighbors for the more than 80 public meetings being held. Along with their full schedule of outreaches, Wisconsin is taking Milwaukee by storm. "Operation Noah" is a coordinated sharing of Jesus by every congregation in the Milwaukee media area.

The excitement is building as many new relationships are forming. Some of the stories of transformed lives that have been coming in will appear in future issues of the *Herald*.

The Lake Union Headquarters is also actively involved. We began by piloting the new "Revelation of Hope" DVD prepared by Mark Finley. We used a pre-distribution copy of the series in Gary, Ind., last year and found it to be versatile, easy to personalize and effective. The content is fresh, current and attention getting. Then, last fall, we provided every pastor in the Union and every minister in the local conference

offices a copy of the new series.

Second, we gave the local conferences more than \$1,000,000 toward this year's budget to help ease the pressures of the economic crunch. Much of this was restricted for evangelism in order to provide extra dollars for public outreach requests from the local church.

Third, the Union officers and staff are joining with the Racine, Wis., churches as part of Wisconsin's "Operation Noah." Already, a training session and a rally have been held with more training and another rally upcoming. A 40-day prayer guide, *Love to Pray*, has been provided for the members, and a prayer conference weekend will end the 40-day prayer journey. Then, in October, we will join the congregations at the Civic Center as the Good News of Heaven is shared.

Will the church in the Lake Union achieve their goal of 8,000 new mem-



From left: Ron Clouzet, director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute, and Randall Younker, Biblical Archaeology director at Andrews University, shared artifacts with participants attending a three-day archaeology seminar at the Glendale Church in Indianapolis prior to their three-week evangelistic series. The presentations took the 21st-century listener through the pyramids of Egypt, Tyre, Hazor, Jericho, and the intriguing discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, plus Ephesus, Pergamum and the Isle of Patmos.

bers? The Union leadership believes the answer is "Yes," and that God wants to accomplish even more. As we work together by His grace, He will!

Rodney Grove, executive secretary,  
Lake Union Conference

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

## Obituaries

**AMOS JR., Joseph**, age 77; born Aug. 18, 1931, in Franklin, Tenn.; died Mar. 2, 2009, in Evanston, Ill. He was a member of the Shiloh Church, Chicago, Ill.

Survivors include his wife, Frances Y. (Coffee); son, Joseph M. III; daughter, Helen D. Richardson; brother, Charlie; sisters, Johnnie M. Pope and Gladys Carter; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Michael Horton and Charles D. Joseph, and interment was in Mount Glenwood Memory Gardens Cemetery, Glenwood, Ill.

**ANDERSON, Susan**, age 60; born Feb. 12, 1949, in Kalamazoo, Mich.; died Apr. 7, 2009, in Midland, Mich. She was a member of the Midland Church.

Survivors include her mother, Barbara (Buswell) Anderson; and brothers, Clint, Craig and Keith Anderson.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Darryl Bentley, and interment was in Mount Ever-Rest Cemetery, Kalamazoo.

**BIGGS, Doris D. (Dunifin)**, age 71; born Nov. 2, 1937, in Niles, Mich.; died May 30, 2009, in South Bend, Ind. She was a member of the Buchanan (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Walter L.; sons, Walter E., William J. and Bruce A.; brothers, Edward and Robert Dunifin; sisters, Dorothy Wallace and Bernice Black; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Karl Tsatalbasidis and David Tenold, and interment was in Silverbrook Cemetery, Niles.

**BOONE, Beatrice B. (Huntley)**, age 101; born Sept. 10, 1907, in Brant Twp., Mich.; died Apr. 19, 2009, in Saginaw, Mich. She was a member of the Chesaning (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Mary Ruth Smith; four grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder

Curt DeWitt, and interment was in Brant Cemetery.

**CORSON, Elaine M. (Gordon)**, age 65; born Mar. 3, 1944, in Marinette, Wis.; died Mar. 31, 2009, in Sobieski, Wis. She was a member of the Green Bay (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph; son, Jeff; and brothers, Richard and Kenith Gordon.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Delmar Austin and Steve Aust, and interment was in Green Bay Seventh-day Adventist Cemetery, Champion, Wis.

**EVANS, Arlene G. (Horton)**, age 89; born Dec. 9, 1919, in New Lathrop, Mich.; died Apr. 3, 2009, in Fairview, Mich. She was a member of the Mio (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, William Jr.; daughters, Jean Smith and Nina Krol; sisters, Marceline Peterson, Phyllis McKinney and Grayce Shepherd; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bill Cowin, and interment was in Kittle Cemetery, Mio.

**HOLMDEN, Bertha M. (Daggett)**, age 81; born Sept. 20, 1927, in Glennie, Mich.; died Mar. 27, 2009, in Fairview, Mich. She was a member of the Mio (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Beverly Willobee, Virginia Nichols and Caroline Wilson; and sisters, Dolores Lemon and Ann Williams.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor David Jorgensen, and interment was in Luzerne (Mich.) Cemetery.

**HOWE, James "Lefty,"** age 73; born June 2, 1935, in Perry Cty., Ind.; died May 20, 2009, in Evansville, Ind. He was a member of the Tell City (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Anna Lou (Ball); son, Joe; daughter, Becky Stanek; sister, Susan Waterman; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Justin Childers and Elder Steve Poenitz, and interment was in Greenwood Cemetery, Tell City.

**LINKE, Sophia "Donnie" (Srdanov)**, age 81; born Nov. 14, 1927, in Detroit, Mich.; died May 25, 2009, in Fenton, Mich. She was a member of the Holly (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Jim; son, Mark; daughter, Betsy Ayers; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Earl Zager, and interment was in Great Lakes Nation Cemetery, Holly.

**MARSH, Evelyn B. (Irwin)**, age 99; born July 11, 1909, in Petosky, Mich.; died Mar. 21, 2009, in Van Nuys, Calif. She was a member of the Madison (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Donald N.; daughters, Carolyn J. Nelson and Kathleen M. Sulen; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held July 11, 2009, and interment was in Deer Lodge (Tenn.) Cemetery.

**MEYER, Nancy J. (Hamilton)**, age 63; born Dec. 28, 1945, in Campbellsburg, Ind.; died Apr. 7, 2009, in Campbellsburg. She was a member of the Cedar Ridge Church, Paoli, Ind.

Survivors include her sons, Kevin and Eric; daughter, Melissa Turner; sisters, Peggy Eastridge, Kathy Hanley, Cindy Hamilton and Bonny Hamilton; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Robert Helm, and interment was in Livonia (Ind.) Cemetery.

**STUART, Barbara C. (Wilson)**, age 88; born Dec. 18, 1920, in Baldwinville, Mass.; died Mar. 15, 2009, in Battle Creek, Mich. She was a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle Church.

Survivors include her son, Neil F. Schenk; stepsons, Robert L. and Paul H. Stuart; daughter, Jacquelyn M. (Schenk) Moore; 12 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bruce Moore and associate pastor, Doug Carlson, with private interment.

**THORNTON, Mildred L. (Huffman)**, age 87; born Oct. 24, 1921, in Hamilton, Ohio; died Apr. 2, 2009, in Milan, Ind. She was a member of the North Vernon (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, John, Bill, Richard and Jerry; daughters, Sandra Hale

and Janise Blich; 12 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Manuel Ojeda and Gary Case, and interment was in Collinsville, Ohio.

**TURNER, Shirley (Iverson)**, age 81; born May 17, 1927, in Coloma, Mich.; died May 9, 2009, in Kalamazoo, Mich. She was a member of the Kalamazoo Church.

Survivors include her husband, Joe; son, Tim; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Daniel Ferraz, and interment was in Coloma Cemetery.

**VOSS, Beatrice V. (Hoisington)**, age 103; born May 17, 1905, in Cohoctah, Mich.; died Apr. 5, 2009, in Battle Creek, Mich. She was a member of the Burlington (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Constance Britten and Geraldine Gordon; 19 grandchildren; 56 great-grandchildren; and 43 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by James Dyke, and interment was in Burr Oak Cemetery, Athens, Mich.

**WOLD, Lucy M. (DePaape)**, age 94; born Feb. 25, 1915, in Ladora, Iowa; died Mar. 1, 2009, in Ithaca, Mich. She was a member of the Ithaca Church.

Survivors include her sons, Richard, Harley, David and James; daughters, Jacqueline Simcox and Marilyn Kiser; 17 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Willie Iwankiw, and interment was in Ithaca Cemetery.

**YOUNG, Stephen W.**, age 83; born Feb. 25, 1925, in Lake City, Fla.; died Feb. 15, 2009, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Bonnie (Hohli-er); daughters, Joy Klein, Twyla Wall and Gay Hippler; sisters, Ann Lynch and Eloise Heinzman; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Private graveside services were conducted by Pastor Arne Swanson, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

All 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; \$49 per insertion for all others. A form is available at [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org) for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order/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.

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## Employment

**THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT AT SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** is seeking a full-time professor in the field of AMERICAN HISTORY/GOVERNMENT beginning the summer of 2009. An ability to teach Christian church history is also desirable. Ph.D. required. Must be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Dennis Pettibone at [dlpettib@southern.edu](mailto:dlpettib@southern.edu). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

**THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** is seeking applications for an Accounting professor position available on July 1, 2009. Further details are posted at [http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp\\_jobs.html](http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs.html).

**BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY** (Miss.) is seeking a food service director. For more information, please contact Leslie D. Louis, executive secretary of Gulf States Conference, by phone at 334-272-7493, ext. 117, or by e-mail at [leslielouis@earthlink.net](mailto:leslielouis@earthlink.net). Résumés may also be sent as attachments to e-mail.

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks American History professor. Preferred applicants must have earned a Ph.D. (or be ABD) in some field of United States history and be committed to continuing scholarship. A second field in non-Western history would be advantageous. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Interested Adventists apply at [http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp\\_jobs\\_faculty.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi).

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## A Sustaining Foundation

### School Notes

BY RAMONA TRUBEY

Adventist education was the only option in our home. My classes began in a little one-room school house near Aledo, Illinois. The school had the distinction of being the first Adventist church school organized in Illinois, in 1899. We walked or rode our horses three miles to that little school, and in the cold weather hovered around the pot belly stove while the frost covered all the windows.

One cold, winter day I heard a crackling noise. Looking up, I saw tongues of fire licking the wall around the stove pipe. Even with that emergency, I sat with my one finger up in the air until the teacher acknowledged me, and I announced our school was on fire. That announcement sent all five of us gathering up our school books and fleeing out the door, until finally our fathers

arrived and extinguished the fire with wet gunny sacks.

That little school taught me the love and fear of God, useful living. JMV\* honors of all kinds, and gave me a foundation that has sustained me through life. Continuing my education at Broadview Academy, Adelpian Academy and Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) gave me every opportunity to serve the Lord in most any capacity, a fine Christian husband and friends that reach around the world who are as anxious as I am to reunite in Heaven and continue our education together.

Ramona Trubey is a member of the Cicero (Indiana) Church.

\*Introduced in 1929, JMV (Junior Missionary Volunteers) honors provide educational opportunities for young people to learn vocational or practical skills.



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# Announcements

Churches, schools, conferences, institutions and organizations may submit announcements to the *Lake Union Herald* through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the *Lake Union Herald* Web site at [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org) and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources, as these events are subject to change.

## Andrews University

### Announcing the 2009-2010 Howard Performing Arts Center Concert Season:

For more information, call HPAC at 269-471-3560.

**Sun., Aug. 23, 2009:** Opening Night 2009

**Sat., Sept. 12, 2009:** Brandon Heath

**Sun., Sept. 27, 2009:** Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition Winner—*Linden String Quartet*

**Sat., Oct. 3, 2009:** Violin, French Horn and Piano Trio—Claudio Gonzalez, Scott Russell and Peter Cooper

**Sat., Oct. 17, 2009:** FFF

**Sun., Oct. 18, 2009:** Storioni Trio

**Thurs., Nov. 5, 2009:** Vienna Boys Choir

**Sat., Jan. 30, 2010:** Jaci Velasquez

**Tues., Mar. 2, 2010:** Soweto Gospel Choir

**Sat., Mar. 6, 2010:** Chi Yong Yun, piano

**Adventist Engaged Encounter (AEE)**, an enrichment weekend for engaged and recently married couples, is being re-established on the Andrews University campus. AEE will be held the weekends of **Oct. 23-25, 2009, and Mar. 26-28, 2010**. For further information and registration materials, contact Campus Ministries at 269-471-3211, or e-mail [cm@andrews.edu](mailto:cm@andrews.edu).

## Illinois

### Elmhurst Seventh-day Adventist Church

is celebrating its 40th Anniversary on **Sept. 19**. Everybody is invited to come, to look back at all of God's blessings keeping this church stand-

ing for His honor and glory. If you would like more information, please contact us at 630-530-0600; visit our Web site, [www.tagnet.org/elmhurst](http://www.tagnet.org/elmhurst); or leave a message at [girose@aol.com](mailto:girose@aol.com). If you know any past members of the Elmhurst Church, please let them know of this special celebration.

**Hinsdale Men's Chorus** is calling all alumni and current/past members to a HMC Reunion weekend at the Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church on **Nov. 20-21**. All three directors—John Baldwin, Ole Mercado and Arnold Hutabarat—will be in attendance and directing, as we spend the spirit-filled weekend reminiscing, getting reacquainted/making new friends, and singing of and to our wonderful God. Special guest speaker is Dan Smith, former senior pastor of the Hinsdale Church. We end the reunion with a concert on Sabbath evening. For more information, look for Hinsdale Men's Chorus on Facebook; e-mail [HinsdaleMen@hotmail.com](mailto:HinsdaleMen@hotmail.com); visit Web site [www.hinsdalemenschorus.org](http://www.hinsdalemenschorus.org); call Yvonne Brown at 630-654-4207; or call the church office at 630-323-0182.

## Illinois/Lake Region

### Youth Leadership Training, "Recharge,"

to equip, train and empower youth leaders, will be held **Sept. 11-12** at Hinsdale Adventist Academy, 631 E. Hickory St. in Hinsdale. Sponsored by NAD Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the Lake Region and Illinois Conference Youth Ministries, presenters will be: James Black Sr., Art Preuss, Charmaine Matthews, Steve Case, Ralph Shelton, Jason McCracken and Manny Cruz. Registration deadline is Sept. 3; register at [www.plusline.com](http://www.plusline.com). Registration fee of \$30 includes handouts, T-shirt, book, Sabbath lunch and leadership resources. For more information, call Lake Region Conference Youth Ministries at 773-846-2661, ext. 206; or Illinois Conference Youth Ministries at 630-856-2857.

## Indiana

**Campestre Hispano 2009**—Hispanic Family Retreat is **Sept. 4-6** at Timber Ridge Camp. Contact Antonio or Wanda Rosario for details: 317-856-5770.

### Women's Ministries Fall Retreat is Sept.

**11-13** at Embassy Suites North, Indianapolis. Guest speakers: Richard and Patricia Garey. Registration deadline: Aug. 27. For details, contact Tammy Begley at [tammy.begley@gmail.com](mailto:tammy.begley@gmail.com) or 317-919-5318.

**Heartland Health & Wellness Conference:** This year's guest speakers are

renowned health experts: Dr. Hans Diehl; Rip Esselstyn, author of *The Engine 2 Diet*; and Dr. George Guthrie. To register for this **Sept. 17-18** event, held at the Madison Park Church of God in Anderson, call Susan Landess at 765-621-7557; or e-mail [susan\\_landess@yahoo.com](mailto:susan_landess@yahoo.com). Registration fee includes breakfast and lunch on Fri., featuring Chef Mark Anthony. Thurs. evening event includes dinner with Chef Mark Anthony.

**Chef Mark Anthony Cooking School** will be held Sun., **Sept. 20**, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Cross Street Christian School in Anderson. To register, contact Susan Landess at 765-621-7557. Registration fee required to attend.

**Elders Training Retreat** with guest speaker Jim Cress, General Conference ministerial director, is **Sept. 25-26** at Timber Ridge Camp. To register, contact Sheri DeWitt at 317-844-6201.

## Lake Union

### Offerings

- Aug 1** Local Church Budget
- Aug 8** Oakwood College/Andrews University/Loma Linda University
- Aug 15** Local Church Budget
- Aug 22** Local Conference Advance
- Aug 29** Union-Wide Evangelism

## Sunset Calendar

	Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28	Sep 4	Sep 11
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:56	8:47	8:37	8:26	8:16	8:04
Chicago, Ill.	8:03	7:53	7:43	7:32	7:22	7:10
Detroit, Mich.	8:46	8:36	8:25	8:14	8:04	7:52
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:52	8:43	8:34	8:23	8:13	8:02
La Crosse, Wis.	8:22	8:12	8:01	7:49	7:38	7:25
Lansing, Mich.	8:52	8:43	8:32	8:21	8:10	7:58
Madison, Wis.	8:13	8:03	7:52	7:41	7:29	7:17
Springfield, Ill.	8:06	7:58	7:48	7:37	7:28	7:16



## Special Days

**Aug 29** Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day

## North American Division

### Highland Seventh-day Adventist Church

in Portland, Tenn., is celebrating its 100th anniversary on **Aug. 28-29**. If you are a former pastor or member, we would be honored to have you attend. For more information, please call the church office at 615-325-3925.

### Maranatha Volunteers International's

**2009 Convention:** All are invited to this convention, which will be held **Sept. 11-12** at Rolling Hills Community Church in Tualatin, Ore. (Portland area). Celebrate 40 years of international service and miraculous blessing! Guest speaker Dr. Jan Paulsen and musician Steve Green will present. For more information, call 916-

920-1900, or visit [www.maranatha.org](http://www.maranatha.org). Join us!

**Adventists and Islam:** What message do Seventh-day Adventists have for Islam? Find out at a special weekend dedicated to teaching what we have to share with Muslims. This will be held **Sept. 24-26** at La Sierra University, Calif. For more information, e-mail [NADAdventistMuslimRelations@gmail.com](mailto:NADAdventistMuslimRelations@gmail.com), or call 423-368-2343.

### Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni

**Weekend** (Centralia, Mo.) will be held **Oct. 1-4**. Honor classes are 1949, '54, '59, '64, '69, '79, '84, '89 and '99. Activities begin Thurs. evening with the Silver Showcase Banquet, continues on Fri. with a Career Day. The Sabbath speaker is Fred Riffle, class of 1979. Sun. is the Alumni Golf Tournament. For additional information, call 573-682-2164, or visit [www.sunnydale.org](http://www.sunnydale.org).

**Madison (Tenn.) Academy Alumni Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 9-10.** Honor classes: starting 1934, '39, '44 and every 5th consecutive year through 2004. Weekend events will be posted on our Web site: [www.madisonacademyalumni.com](http://www.madisonacademyalumni.com). Sign up for the "Madison's Got a Talented Gong Show," our fundraiser event. For more information, call 615-210-1614.

### Oak Park Academy Alumni Homecoming

**Weekend** will be **Oct. 9-10** at Gates Hall in Nevada, Iowa. Honor classes will be 1934, '39, '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '81, '82 and '83. Anyone who attended Oak Park Academy, graduates, former faculty and family members are encouraged to attend. For more information, visit OPA's Alumni Association Web site at [www.OPAinIowa.com](http://www.OPAinIowa.com).

**More Than Gold 2010:** The 2010 Olympic (**Feb. 12-28**) and Paralympic Games (**Mar. 12-21**) are rapidly approaching

and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is preparing to host the world. Together with other Christians in a network called "More Than Gold" we will provide service and witness in Vancouver to local residents and international guests. Whatever your skill or passion, there are many ways you can get involved in this outreach opportunity. You can become a volunteer by applying as an individual or as a team. For more information, visit Web site, [www.gothedistance.org](http://www.gothedistance.org). Lake Union Conference volunteers can contact Vernon Byrd at 269-208-7183 or e-mail [Vernon@andrews.edu](mailto:Vernon@andrews.edu).

**CORRECTION:** Last month, in the "In this issue..." column, we inadvertently substituted the words "private, non-profit" for "protestant." It should have read: "Today, we operate the largest protestant hospital system in the United States." We regret this error. —Editors

## PARTNERSHIP with GOD

### At Peace

BY GARY BURNS



We recently had some intense storms around the Great Lakes that wreaked havoc on tents. You see, it was camp meeting season. The storms were so fierce in Illinois, that all the meeting tents at Camp Akita were destroyed; many trees fell and some cars were damaged, but everyone was safe—at least from the storm; not so much from the lack of electricity and water. Eventually, the camp meeting had to be canceled.

I slept right through the storm that took out several big tents at the Lake Region camp meeting. It's a surprise to wake up and see the devastation a storm can bring. One could draw a spiritual lesson and conclude that we must always be watchful,

ready to take shelter, prepared to face lightning bolts, hurricane force winds and torrential rains. But I'm reminded of the watchful (should I say fretful) disciples who faced a real, life-threatening storm that night on the lake. Jesus was asleep in the boat! He was at peace. The fretful disciples awakened Him with the words, "Don't you care?"

The entire world is facing devastating economic, political and spiritual storms. As Christians, we can follow the example of the fretful disciples, or we can rest in the assurance of our security in Christ—at peace. What a testimony that would be.

Gary Burns is the communication director of the Lake Union Conference.

# Piggy Banks Full of Blessings

BY KIMBERLY AZELTON

I really wanted to attend a national youth event, but I had to raise \$500 all by myself. That was a lot of money from my perspective, then a student at GLAA (Great Lakes Adventist Academy). But I was determined to glue my piggy bank shut and add to it all year.

I didn't know how I would fill it though. But I resolved to believe if God wanted me to attend, He'd get me there. I thought I had some good fundraising ideas. I could do them, all year long, and work really hard to be able to go.

At prayer meeting a member casually asked me if I might want a job. My perspective was whirled around to see just how big God is to provide a job for a neighbor just down the street.

It must have been at least a few days later that the phone rang. Some church members down the road were going on vacation and needed someone to watch their cat. They insisted on paying. Then the neighbor across the street was going on vacation, too! Guess what? She had a cat as well as a lawn to mow.

I was just about to start my first fundraising idea when my dad decided to visit the grandkids in Washington. He offered me money if I could keep my grandma's yard trimmed while he was gone. That offer didn't stick around long!

During the summer, I decided I could even relax a bit by volunteering at a local nature center. In God's providence, the director and I chatted about my other summer job at GLAA that helped pay for tuition. He suggested the nature center pay for my work. Can you believe that by the middle of July I surpassed my \$500 goal? Isn't God great?



But that's not the end of the story. My sister, Mom and some friends really wanted to go with me to the youth event. They have that much money laying around for such purposes, right? No, but God has plenty for those who desire to serve Him.

I converted our porch into a temporary nursery and tucked pots, of all sizes and colors, full of plants from our flowerbeds; and then I began knocking on doors. God did a lot of impressing at the people's doors! Some gave \$20 donations, some \$5, but it was more than I would have ever asked for!

A little bit later the phone rang again. A neighbor asked me to teach her seven-year-old to play piano. Wow! Sure I would!

God provided, and the blessing spilled over to my family and friends, too. All of that money didn't fit in one piggy bank, so I had to start a new one. Isn't God like that? He fills your expectations of Him beyond the bursting point. His bank account is inexhaustible. He continues to fill people's "piggy banks" chuck-full of blessings. So full, that you'll have to unglue it and share with your friends, family and neighbors.

Kimberly Azelton is a member of the Ithaca (Michigan) Church. She attends Weimar College where she is a pre-med major.

**Christian R. Piñango** (18), of Greenwood, Indiana, is the son of Niova Jacobo and Henry Piñango, and he is a member of the Indianapolis Hispanic Church. Christian graduated from Indiana Academy (IA) in May.



Christian Piñango

Christian joined IA as a sophomore, and was soon known for his musical contributions. Piano, guitar, saxophone and hand bells are instruments he mastered, and he willingly mentored other student musicians with a humble, caring spirit. Christian was awarded the Outstanding Bell Ringer Award and the National School Choral Award in May.

At IA, Christian enjoyed a well-rounded experience. He participated in basketball, intramural sports, the Magabook program and the Certified Nursing Assistant program. Christian was a member of the National Honor Society and served as a resident assistant, S.A. executive vice president, senior class parliamentarian and Guys Club president. Christian also participated in mission trips, including the senior class trip to Mexico in April.

Christian says the most important thing he learned at IA was how and when to talk to God. "I have learned to set a time for God in the morning before everything starts. This has taught me how to manage all my time more efficiently."

After graduation, Christian will attend Southern Adventist University where he plans to study nursing.



Elisa Wright

**Elisa M. Wright** (18), of West Carrollton, Ohio, is the daughter of Nannette and Roger Wright, and she attends the Kettering (Ohio) Church. Elisa graduated from Indiana Academy (IA) in May.

Elisa transferred to IA as a sophomore. Her spiritual focus, academic excellence and maturity were quickly evident to students and staff. Co-valedictorian of the IA class of 2009 and a member of the National Honor Society, Elisa set a good example in pursuing quality work. Her interest in serving others was demonstrated through her participation in four mission trips during her academy experience, and through her role as a resident assistant. "Elisa has been a joy to have in the dorm. ... She embodies maturity, responsibility and a sincere walk with God," says Kara Kerbs, head dean.

Beth Bartlett, Elisa's work supervisor, said, "Filing paperwork, preparing daily attendance reports, and monitoring student attendance at chapel requires thoroughness and patience, which Elisa faithfully exhibited."

During her academy experience, Elisa learned, "Even when things don't go the way you planned, God has a better plan. All things really do work out for good."

Elisa will attend Union College this fall where she plans to study elementary education. Eventually, she plans to serve as a teacher in a mission field.

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

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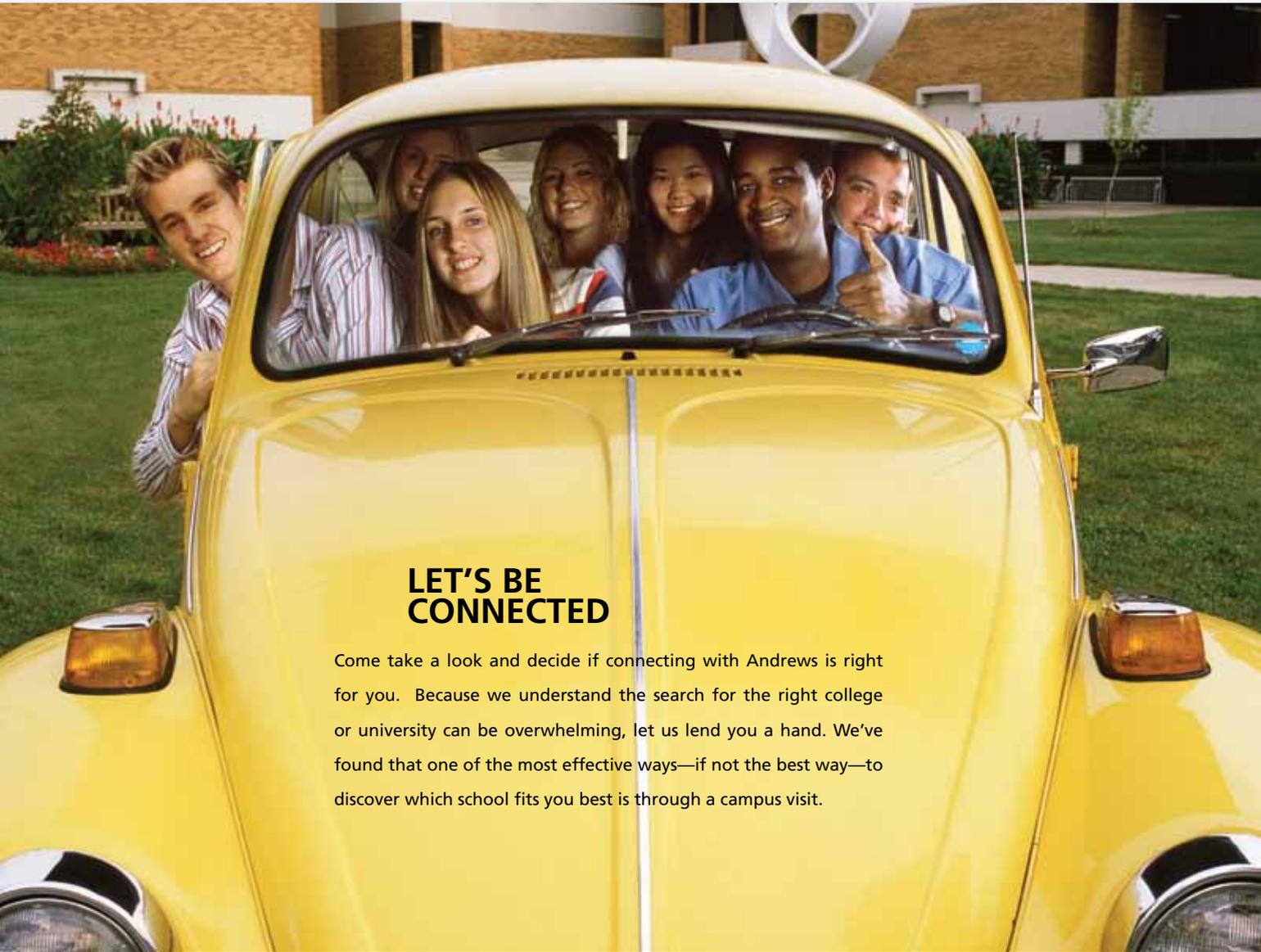
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