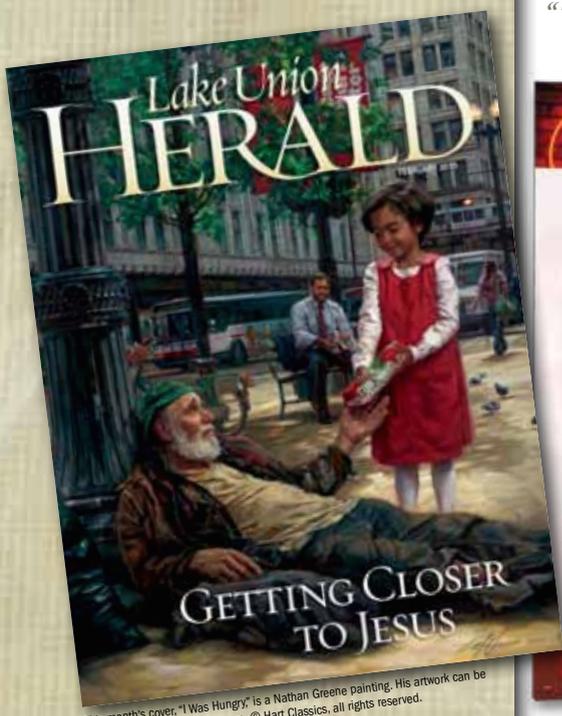


Lake Union HERALD

FEBRUARY 2010

GETTING CLOSER
TO JESUS

W. H. Jones



This month's cover, "I Was Hungry" is a Nathan Greene painting. His artwork can be seen at www.NathanGreene.com. © Hart Classics, all rights reserved.

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



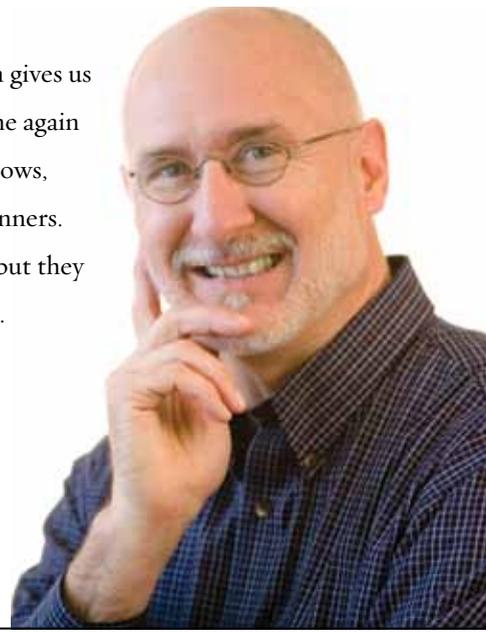
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The message carried by the prophet Isaiah gives us insights into the heart of God. Time and time again he calls us to remember and care for the widows, orphans, aliens, publicans, prostitutes and sinners. Not only are they dear to the heart of God, but they are dear to the ones who enter His kingdom.


Gary Burns, Editor



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Brussels Sprouts and Pizza

There are foods I really like, and those I'd rather never see, smell or certainly taste—Brussels sprouts, for instance. My childhood memories of those things are not happy ones. For one thing, you can chew a Brussels sprout for a long time and never be able to swallow it—they won't go down! When our daughter was young, she called that kind of food, "Yuk food." I've never been tempted to binge or stuff myself with Brussels sprouts—even if they're dipped in chocolate!

Now pizza, that's another thing. When there is pizza around I'm tempted to eat till I can't breathe. I love pizza, even though I know it is not the healthiest food around. It's a temptation because I happen to love it.

Sin is like that. We are tempted by the sins we like. You may say, "No! I hate doing those things." It's true, sin is self-destructive—it hurts us. And if it was as simple as that, no one would sin. The problem is sin also carries with it some pleasure, or brings some temporary relief from pain. We like the pleasure or the relief—it's the after-effects that we don't like. Sometimes the pleasure outweighs the pain.

As a young pastor I received a call around 1 a.m. from a distraught member of our church. Her husband was driving somewhere around the countryside—drunk. She pleaded with me to go and look for him, which I did. I recall getting a little cranky with this man (who was also a member of my church), after about an hour of driving around. Didn't he know the trauma he was causing his family and the major inconvenience to me? Why did he do such things? What was wrong with him anyway?

Then it hit me—just because you are fortunate enough to not be tempted with alcohol doesn't mean you're any better off than he is. You've got your own issues—a sinner like anyone else and plagued by your own self-destructive behaviors. I confessed the distasteful and repulsive sin of being self-focused and unloving.

The Bible is clear—God hates sin and He loves me. He sees me and those around me through blood-stained, grace-filled lenses and longs to save us from sin and sinfulness. But how can we be changed? These encouraging words give me hope: "If we consent, [Christ] will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. ... Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 68).

Wow! Sin can be to me like Brussels sprouts! Even the sin of not loving unlovable people.

In our quest to embrace the righteousness of God within our hearts, let's draw close to Him and see ourselves and those around us through His eyes.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS



Judith Yeaman

Five cousins made the decision to fully commit their lives to Jesus and were baptized. From left: Greg Taylor, Glendale Church youth pastor; Samantha, Ashley and Allyson Tambunan; Chloe and Marko Phillips

Indiana

The family metaphor is one that permeates throughout Scripture. We are brothers and sisters in Christ with God as our Father. It is always a blessing to see a baptism, but there is always something special that happens when one sees a family baptism.

Greg Taylor, youth pastor of the Glendale Church, baptized five youth from one family. Greg had many opportunities to get to know the young people through various church activities and was able to develop a relationship with them, so they approached him and asked to be baptized. He used a variety of sources to share with them, resources he gained from teaching Bible at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy and Spencerville Adventist Academy. The young people were also given the opportunity to ask any spiritual question as they studied the basic topics and reviewed Adventist thinking, in addition to the basic 28 fundamentals.

Ashley, Samantha and Allyson Tambunan, sisters, wanted to be baptized together while their cousins, **Marko and Chloe Phillips**, asked to join them in baptism a few days later. This was due to the closeness of the two families as each set of parents revealed the love of Christ in their homes and helped ground their children in their desire to follow Jesus.

Marko, oldest of the Phillips family, shared a family scripture with the congregation before their baptisms while Ashley, the oldest of the Tambunan sisters, offered a prayer of dedication following their baptisms.

This family baptism was also a reminder of the responsibility of the church family to nurture, love and support their new members.

Bruce Babienco, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*, as shared by Greg Taylor, youth pastor, Glendale Church

Indiana

My family and I (**Cordero Prather**) were in the flood of 2007. Before the flood [which devastated many homes and lives in the Midwest], I had always believed in God but never really read my Bible. The flood taught us a tough lesson. When the dam broke, the water came so fast we did not have time to find Mitzy, our Pomeranian. Almost everything in our house was ruined. The good thing was we survived as well as the rest of our pets. I learned that things mean nothing, and the only thing that matters is God and family (and pets!).

After the flood, we all lived in a very small camper with no water or bathroom. It took about six months with my dad and uncle working day and night to get the house fixed. God sent more help than we ever expected, and He helped us to get in touch with charities and the long-term flood committee. They helped with supplies, tools and free labor. Out of the flood the Lord blessed us. My parents now own the land and the house that was flooded. The house is 100 times better than what it was before.

As I studied my Bible, God showed me things a little at a time. I started to make changes in my life as I read. I began attending the Martinsville Church every Sabbath. I had a great support group with help from my family, friends and extended church family. The more I learned, the more I wanted to be closer to God. I decided to be baptized. I studied with our pastor for a few months to prepare for my baptism. The Holy Spirit has helped me through life every day. I am now looking into becoming a preacher myself someday. No matter what God has me do in the future, I know with God's help I can do anything.

Cordero Prather, member, Martinsville Church



Heather Spicer

Adrian Peterson, Martinsville Church pastor, chats with new member, Cordero Prather (right). Cordero said, "The more I learned, the more I wanted to be closer to God."

Michigan

It takes a village [church] to raise [up] a child [of God.] **Linda (Rorabeck) Hill** was the daughter of faithful and active Seventh-day Adventist parents. As a young person she went to Adventist schools and attended Sabbath school regularly. Linda contributed to the worship services by playing the piano in church as well. However, after a failed



John and Linda Hill (center) attended church fairly regularly, but years went by and it seemed they had no plans or desires to unite with the church through baptism. That changed when Gene Hook (left) and his wife, Donna Hook, extended the hand of fellowship to the Hills and invited them to their home to study with them.

marriage, life circumstances left her feeling like she was on the outside of the church, especially as she relinquished her membership.

Linda later met and married **John Hill**, a young man with no church affiliation; but he proved to be a faithful husband, father and provider. They sent their children to Adventist schools and attended church fairly regularly. As the years went by, it seemed they had no plans or desires to make a commitment to church membership. That's when Gene and Donna Hook invited the couple to their home to study and fellowship with them. With the encouragement of their spiritual mentors, Linda and John eventually decided they would like to be baptized and become active members. They were baptized on November 8, 2009, by David Tenold, pastor.

We are blessed with John and Linda Hill as active members of the Delton Church. We appreciate their talents and contributions to the ministry of our church. Their baptism has also led to the baptism of their son-in-law, Gary Hanke, which will be the next chapter in the continuing story!

Carol Rhodes, communications secretary, Delton Church



Justin Childers, Cedar Ridge Church pastor, welcomes Paul Caudill (left) and Vicki Thacker (right) to the fellowship of the church family. They were re-baptized on July 11, 2009.

Indiana **Paul Caudill** was raised by his Adventist parents and was baptized in Louisville, Kentucky. During the 1970s, when the Cedar Ridge Church was organized, Paul and his wife joined that church, and some of his children

attended the church school there. Paul also assisted the church's leadership at one time as head deacon. However, as personal problems in his home increased Paul began to withdraw from the church and God.

In the late 1980s, Paul's family separated in the aftermath of a divorce and Paul moved to Georgia. In his spiritually weakened condition, Paul began working on the Sabbath. Although he knew he was not doing right, Paul still resisted the conviction to change his life.

Eventually, Paul moved back to Cedar Ridge. When Scott Free of the Cedar Ridge Church learned Paul was back in town, he provided spiritual support. In early 2009, Paul returned to church. Because his name was still on the Indiana Conference records, he received and read the *Lake Union Herald*, and other denominational publications. What Paul read led to his conviction to be re-baptized. He shared his desire with Justin Childers, Cedar Ridge Church pastor, and a date was set.

On Sabbath, July 11, 2009, Paul buried his past in the waters of baptism. His decision, example and joy in his new life had a positive influence on his family members. Paul's brother, who left the church when he was 15 years old, now worships in the New Albany Church and also desires to be re-baptized, along with other family members.

In the early 1970s, **Vicki Thacker** was a baptized member of the Cedar Ridge Church. Her late mother, Nellie Free, took Vick and her 11 siblings to Sabbath school and church faithfully. Sadly, Vicki stopped attending after she got married 37 years ago, and most of Vicki's brothers and sisters eventually left the church as well.

Things began to change five years ago when her brother, Scott Free, made a new commitment to Jesus Christ and returned to church. Then, like a line of falling dominoes, more family members made decisions to return to God. These events led Vicki to pay closer attention to world events, re-viewing what she remembered of the signs of Christ's Second Coming and the end of the world. This realization led her to again worship in church each Sabbath.

In time, the pastor visited Vicki, and they discussed God's plan of salvation and the promise of a new life in Christ. Vicki shared her eager desire to surrender her life anew to Jesus Christ by being re-baptized.

At her baptism on Sabbath, July 11, 2009, at the Cedar Ridge Church, her comment was, "I love being a member of the family of God."

Bruce Babienco, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*, with Justin Childers, pastor, Cedar Ridge Church

Christmas Hope

BY JENNIFER MILLER

On December 11 and 12, 2009, more than 100 cast members and volunteers worked together to present “The Journey to Bethlehem,” an interactive, outdoor walk through the true story of Jesus’ birth. Live actors from the Door Prairie Adventist School and the La Porte (Indiana) Church took on the characters of angels, shepherds, wise men, townspeople and soldiers, and joined the live chickens, ducks, horses and donkeys to give a true-to-life experience.

A friendly first-century traveler named “Simeon” led guests as they went on a search to find the newborn King. With the first scene introducing the main characters and foretelling the coming Messiah through Old Testament prophecies, the journey then took guests to scenes beginning in Nazareth, continuing onto Jerusalem and ending in Bethlehem.

On the streets of Bethlehem, the sights and sounds of that busy night were created by Roman soldiers, beggars, census takers and merchants, including blacksmiths, bakers, cloth sellers, vegetable vendors and carpenters. The final scene led travelers to the stable where the angels, shepherds, wise men and the family of the baby Jesus met and celebrated the birth of the King.

Event organizer Becky Reis says that from the beginning this event was planned as an outreach and Christmas gift to the surrounding community. Retelling the Christmas story in an interactive way was the goal of planners, and actors were encouraged to talk with the guests who traveled through Bethlehem. “The Journey to Bethlehem” scriptwriter, Kelly Hayman, used the Christmas story found in Scripture to inspire his writing.

All of the participants were eager to provide time and resources to make “The Journey to Bethlehem” an excellent production. Linda Hayman, lead costumer, said, “I had more fun than the kids did!”



More than 100 cast members and volunteers shared the true story of Jesus’ birth in the La Porte, Indiana, community. Included in the volunteers were many students from the Door Prairie Adventist School.

Another volunteer, Sharon Daley, who provided costuming and helped with prop set-up, said, “The program was so nice; I went through the walk every time.”

The students also enjoyed the experience. A second-grade student, Carson Crass, who played the role of a Roman soldier along with his father, said, “Can’t we do it again?”

Some commented on the amazing numbers of volunteers and the teamwork that were evident in this production. A community guest said, “I had no idea how elaborate this was going to be!”

The event took place over two days, with a total of five performances for more than 200 guests. The weather was chilly, but in God’s providence the winds died down and temperatures were moderate. Organizers provided fire barrels and a campfire near the shepherds for guests to warm up along the journey. At the end of the journey, guests were invited to warm up inside with hot drinks and Christmas treats, and to fellowship with church members who were appointed in hospitality teams to interact with guests.

The production’s outreach to the community will continue this year. Organizers plan to team up again to produce “The Journey to Bethlehem” on December 3 and 4. To the glory of the newborn King who reigns forevermore!

Jennifer Miller is the principal of the Door Prairie Adventist School in La Porte, Indiana.





A Changed Life

BY JOY HYDE

Jeremy Weaver jumped at the chance to be a student missionary in Zambia, Africa, after completing his second year at Southern Adventist University. Jeremy left in August 2008, not really knowing what was in store for him. One thing he did know was that attitude is everything. Keeping a positive, flexible attitude served Jeremy well during the ten months he labored for some of God's poorest and most needy "children" on this Earth.

The Riverside Farm Institute along the Kafue River was Jeremy's home. Working in partnership with the Zambian Union of Seventh-day Adventists, the Riverside team spreads the gospel to many quarters of Zambia, as well as regions beyond its borders. Jeremy's accommodations were luxurious by Zambian standards. Shower buddies consisted of local snakes and huge spiders. His daily breakfast consisted of porridge, bread and bananas. Every midday meal included a local delicacy called *Shema*, something like cornmeal rolled into chunks and served with relish (anything eaten with *Shema*). For his third meal, Jeremy ate bananas and bread. This diet contributed to his 30-pound weight loss.

Jeremy assisted the Riverside Farm Institute manager and other team members who roofed four or five churches in the area—three to four hours of hard labor in 120-degree heat. Jeremy could not stand in one place for more than five seconds or his shoes would stick to the tin roof. He also built septic systems. Jeremy's positive attitude was helpful when he had to repair active septic, sewage systems. He also shared God's message in numerous sermons. Jeremy used to be reticent to speak in front of a congregation; he is shy no more. And Jeremy found out that "special music" on Sabbath in Zambia is not one song but eight or nine or ten songs. Zambians love music.



Jeremy (back left) loved helping those in Zambia who could not help themselves or who could never repay him in any way. He says his life will never be the same.

Weekly, Jeremy participated in bush clinics. Because Africa has the highest death rate for children before the age of five, the clinic focused on well-baby care. This care consisted of providing supplements, vaccines and general first aid for children.

Serving in Zambia put helping others on the top of Jeremy's "good things" list. He loved helping those who could not help themselves or who could never repay him in any way. Following

Jesus' example of serving the poorest of the poor, Jeremy was filled with love for God's helpless. Never asking for any, his friends and family sent him money to help some of these people. Jeremy says, "If your daily mission is to help someone, your life is much more worthwhile and meaningful, much more positive to know you have made a difference in someone's life."

Jeremy emphasizes that he did things while a missionary that he would have never done while at home. "There is always an excuse not to do something to further God's work, but go ahead and do it because it's a mission from God. God wants you to change someone's life, because He wants to change your life for His good." Jeremy knows of what he speaks, his life will never be the same.

Joy Hyde is the communication leader of the Metropolitan Church in Detroit, Michigan.



The Power of an Apology

An apology is often the beginning of a process toward healing and forgiveness. It is not always a long process, as the situation may be remedied by the apology.

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

While our homes should be homes of peace and healing and we desire to live by biblical principles, it is sometimes all too easy to let our selfishness, upbringing, gender differences, personal choices and lack of knowing how to handle conflict well stand in our way.

Some believe Christian couples and families should never have trouble getting along; but even with the best of intentions, our humanness gets in the way.

In *A Lasting Promise: A Christian Guide to Fighting for Your Marriage*, the author shares, “Part of reaching Christian maturity is accepting the reality of our imperfection while striving to become holy. Truth is, we will never perfectly understand another person this side of heaven, even when we are doing all the right things. The important thing is to take responsibility for your own behavior, even when your partner [or family member] doesn’t seem to want to get along.”

Ephesians 4:29 reads, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

The reality is that in all intimate relationships there is some conflict. When there is conflict we often shy away from it or try to solve the problem immediately, often deciding our way is best.

Two concepts seem central: Seek first to understand and then to be understood; and begin with the end in mind. Beginning with the end in mind gives extraordinary opportunities to make meaningful apologies.

A dictionary definition of the word “apology” is, “An expression of regret offered for some fault, failure, insult or injury.” An apology is not saying, “I’m sorry.” An apology is when we assume responsibility for our actions, our own be-



havior. It is based on truth, not lies. We state our own intention or motives (our dark side), and also an intention to repair. An apology is not for score-keeping in a relationship.

Consider these five steps in making a meaningful apology:

1. We acknowledge specifically what happened. This takes the burden of fear from the other. It is a gift of generosity.

2. We acknowledge that we owe the other person an explanation. We may say, “This isn’t the person I want to be,” or “This is not

how I want to behave.”

3. We express genuine remorse. This involves exposing our motives; it is not to make an excuse.

4. We state our intention to repair. We may say, “I want to be in relationship with you. Will you accept my apology?” This sometimes involves dialogue.

5. We accept the other person’s acceptance of our apology. And we choose to let go.

I believe that when we don’t heal hurts of the past, we just bleed into the future. God desires us to live lives of joy and continued growth. In his book, *Total Forgiveness*, R.T. Kendall shares, “Relinquishing bitterness is an open invitation for the Holy Spirit to give you His peace, His joy and the knowledge of His will.”

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.

Note: Book references are available online at www.lakeunionherald.org.

Tomatoes protect against prostate cancer and heart disease.

Heating enhances lycopene absorption.

Color Your Plate Red

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

The tomato is one of the most commonly grown garden vegetables. It is rich in fiber, low in calories and sodium, and contain no fat. It is a valuable component of many recipes used around the world.

Tomatoes originated with the Aztecs in Mexico. The first domesticated tomato was a little yellow fruit called *xitomatl*, meaning the plump thing with a navel. They were prepared with peppers, corn and salt, probably forming the first salsa. Today, there are thousands of cultivars. Popular fruit types include the “beefsteak” and the “cherry” tomatoes. Selection depends upon whether it will be used in tomato sauce, paste, juice or soup, or just eaten fresh.

While tomatoes are 95 percent water, they contain an ample supply of vitamin C, B6, iron, potassium, and a variety of carotenoids and flavonoids that possess antioxidant activity. The major carotenoid in tomatoes is lycopene, an intense red pigment thought to be the powerhouse behind the health-promoting properties of the tomato.

The lycopene from cooked and processed tomatoes is more readily available than from fresh tomatoes, since heat liberates the lycopene. Cooking tomatoes with oil is also an advantage since lycopene and other carotenoids are fat soluble, and their availability is substantially enhanced by the use of some oil.

The carotenoids and flavonoids in tomatoes work synergistically to provide health protective efforts. A tomato extract was recently shown to have five times the ability to inhibit LDL cholesterol oxidation compared with pure lycopene. So, taking lycopene supplements is not the answer to good health.

In a cohort study of 40,000 women it was observed that

higher consumption of tomato-based products was associated with cardiovascular protection. In the large multicenter EURAMIC study involving ten European countries, scientists found that carotenoids, and especially lycopene, protected people against a heart attack.

Lycopene is known to decrease LDL oxidation, an important step in cardiovascular disease. Clinical trials reveal that tomato products also significantly inhibit platelet clumping. The compounds responsible for this property are heat stable and are concentrated in the yellow fluid around the seeds. Some studies have shown that a high tomato diet can reduce LDL cholesterol levels and reduce blood pressure levels in individuals with hypertension.

There is a growing body of research suggesting that inflammation may be a significant factor in the development of heart disease and cancer. A high tomato diet lowers the level of C-reactive protein and other recognized biomarkers of inflammation. Data from around the world provides substantial evidence that eating tomato products and other foods containing lycopene (watermelon, pink grapefruit, papaya) protects against prostate cancer. Data from the Physicians’ Health Study suggests that eating lycopene from tomato products may reduce the occurrence and progression of prostate cancer. Research also suggests tomato products may protect against colorectal cancer and possibly pancreatic cancer.

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



EXTREME GRACE

Sheep Grace

BY DICK DUERKSEN

The rain covered everything last night, promising that today's path would be slippery, slimy and soggy—like many other days caring for smelly sheep in the Peruvian Altiplano. I pulled the old alpaca blanket over my head and prayed the night would never end.

Morning came anyway, and with it the responsibilities of caring for the 52 village sheep, many of whom are freshly delivered mothers learning to nose their lambkins up the trails to the best grass. All my life I've followed sheep—keeping them from hungry pumas, chasing them away from passing trucks, guiding them into places where I like to rest. The calmest places are usually best for people and for sheep. They eat, eat, belch and smile as they eat some more. I lean on my staff and watch, sometimes talking with my daughter, but usually just talking with myself and God.

I have many questions for God—like, “Why am I standing in the mud while the tourists splash by with cameras poking out the windows of their fancy cars?” I've thought about that while watching the lambs play around their mamas, and God finally gave me an answer.

I am the lucky one! I have cool streams on hot days, boiled *choclo* to eat when the sheep are resting, legs strong enough to walk the mountains, pure air to breathe, and a daughter who likes sheep. What more could a mama want? Some help with the sick ewe!

This ewe's lame and too heavy to carry, and I'm dreading going up the dirt shortcut before we get home to the sheep pens. I've been digging my fingers into her matted wool and lifting her hindquarters every time she's fallen, but my arms are too tired to do that all the way up the hill. What's a shepherd to do?



Dick Duerksen

I reached down to the ewe, knowing my strength was gone but praying for a burst of divine energy.

God's answer came in the form of a tall foreign tourist, a woman dressed in black from hair to shoe, asking questions in sign language. Her arms reached out toward the ewe, but she didn't look like a woman who knew much

about sheep-lifting, so I just muttered something about the “Old Girl” being lame and sick, and leaned down to get her going. Then I felt her hands, strong hands, raising the Old Girl's left side as I raised the right. Together we carried her up the hill till we were all exhausted.

I looked at her, told her thanks and almost expected to hear God's voice in response. Instead, I heard the kindest voice ever to send words to this old woman's ears—a woman softly thanking me for the privilege of helping carry my sheep.

My tears flowed, and then I felt her lift her side of the Old Girl again. Together we struggled to the crown of the hill. Two of God's women, children, carrying a tired mama who bleated and blatted in painful thanksgiving every tug of the way.

It is as if God Himself has come to share my life. What more could a shepherd want!

Dick Duerksen is the official “storyteller” for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact the author at dduerksen@maranatha.org.

A video clip of this story is available online in the Media Library at <http://www.lakeunion.org>.





Saving Me from Myself

BY GARY BURNS

He had just presented his very best vegan offering and nothing—not even a spark or puff of smoke. A short distance away he saw his brother, Abel, bowed in reverent humility as holy fire streaked from the sky and consumed the sacrificial lamb. As was their custom and in obedience to divine instructions, both Cain and Abel erected altars alike. Adam and Eve taught them about God’s mercy and His provision for redemption and the restoration of the human race from the effects of sin. They were taught that through these offerings they were expressing their faith in the promised Savior who would give His life that they may be restored. They understood that the blood of the lamb represented the blood of the Lamb who was able to remove their sin.

In addition to this sacrifice of atonement, Cain and Abel were to bring a thank offering to the Lord from the first fruits of the earth. Cain brought the offering of his fruits, but did not present the blood sacrifice as an atonement for his sin. He built an altar. He presented an offering, but he left the most important thing undone—the expression of his need of a Redeemer. As Cain watched the prescribed substitute burn, something burned in him. The expression on his face changed—from an air of pride and arrogance, to shadows of anger and contempt.

God was not willing to leave Cain a victim of his own feelings. In love and compassion, He initiated a conversation designed to preempt the inevitable painful and destructive results of angry emotions gone wild, a conversation designed to provide a way of escape. With an urgent appeal, filled with tenderness and compassion, God gave Cain the privilege of His divine perspective.

“Why are you so angry?” the Lord asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must sub-

due it and be its master” (Genesis 4:6, 7 NLT).

Cain rejected the conversation with God and acted on his anger and contempt for his brother’s righteous act of faith. Abel soon lay dead in his own blood.

I’m ashamed to admit that Cain’s story has been repeated a number of times in my own life—not that I’ve physically murdered anyone, but God has sought to save me from a wrong course motivated by selfish ambition and wrong attitudes. Unfortunately, too often I have rejected God’s mercy. The results have always been more devastating than I ever imagined.

Sin is like that. It is deceptive. It is underhanded. It robs you of everything it promises.

“Where is Abel your brother? ... What have you done?”

God never left Cain. He was still there speaking words of hope—initiating a conversation, an opportunity for confession and restoration.

He does the same for me: “Gary, what have you done?” These conversations with Him lead me to the foot of the cross. I am restored.

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



God of the Impossible

HOPE FOR WISCONSIN

BY ADAM CASE

We serve a God of the impossible. The Church in North America is growing at an annual rate of about two percent, yet we Seventh-day Adventists in the Wisconsin Conference prayed to see our churches grow by ten percent or more. We wanted to see our sanctuaries bulging with new friends and family members.

We began preparing for “Hope for Wisconsin.” Hope for Wisconsin was an initiative to tell everyone we could about Jesus. There were more than 30 simultaneous evangelistic series of meetings that would be held at the same time. More than 30 pastors, evangelists and Bible workers united to preach about Jesus, and some came from across the country. We did our best to get ready for what God was going to do. Our major emphasis was the city-wide meetings that took place during the month of October 2009. Advertising blanketed all of southeast Wisconsin, including the city of Milwaukee, and we prepared for standing room only at our meetings.

Opening night arrived. The Milwaukee Northwest evangelistic team was ready, the registration table was nicely decorated, and the projector was shining our logo on the screen. It was time for Hope for Wisconsin to begin, and to our disappointment the meeting sites were less than half-full—maybe even only a quarter-full. At the end of the first week, attendance remained steady but low. If we were to



These are some of the people baptized in Milwaukee Northwest Church following the Hope for Wisconsin evangelistic series. The church members are astounded at what God did in response to their prayers.

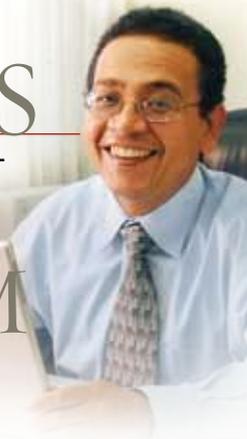
ever reach our goal it really was going to be a miracle. We prayed more.

Sermons were preached, people were loved and most of all the Holy Spirit was working. To our amazement, we have had 35 baptisms to date as a result of Hope for Wisconsin. There are more who have decided for baptism. The total baptisms for the year in our district is currently at 41, and it looks like we could reach more than 45. We are astounded at what

God has done in response to our prayer for an impossible goal. Not only was God able to use us to reach an “impossible” goal, He surpassed it.

This was an incredible experience. We are thankful for the united spirit of commitment and sacrifice to embrace our commission and proclaim the Good News in our city. Many worked long and hard hours, but all of us will confess the results far exceeded any human effort. To God be the glory!

Adam Case is the pastor of the Milwaukee Northwest and Sheboygan Churches in Wisconsin.



NUEVO DEPARTAMENTO DE AIM SE OFRECE PARA LOS HISPANOS

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Nunca perdáis una oportunidad de decir una palabra que anime e inspire esperanza. No podemos decir cuánto alcance pueden tener nuestras palabras, tiernas y bondadosas, nuestros esfuerzos semejantes a los de Cristo para aliviar alguna carga.”—Joyas de los Testimonios, tomo 2, p. 256

Cuando asistí a las reuniones de la junta de evangelismo en la Asociación General, me enteré de la existencia de una nueva sección del Departamento Ministerial llamada Adventist Information Ministry (AIM). AIM es un servicio que ofrece la División Norteamericana en el que telefonistas adventistas responden a las llamadas de personas que expresan algún pedido o interés. Por ejemplo, algunos tienen interés en recibir estudios bíblicos, otros piden que se ore por ellos o que se les dé orientación pastoral. Los telefonistas también ayudan a las personas interesadas que llaman a encontrar la iglesia adventista más cercana a sus hogares.

Melissa Lee es la nueva coordinadora del Departamento Hispano AIM. Nacida y criada en Cambridge, Massachusetts, ella trae una rica base de experiencia en el ministerio de comunicación y será de gran apoyo para la expansión de la misión de AIM para los hispanos. Su madre, originaria de la República Dominicana, inscribió a Melissa en educación bilingüe desde el kindergarten. Desde su temprana edad Melissa sintió el llamado del Señor



Melissa Lee, nueva coordinadora del Departamento Hispano de AIM

para utilizar su conocimiento de idiomas en el ministerio de comunicación. Asistió a la Universidad Oakwood, donde recibió un BA (Bachelor of Arts) en Comunicación. En la actualidad estudia en la Universidad Andrews donde está por terminar una maestría en Comunicación con énfasis en comunicación internacional.

El Departamento Hispano AIM tuvo su comienzo en agosto de 2009 y en este momento sirve a una variedad de ministerios tales como Esperanza TV y La Voz de la Esperanza. El ministerio está ubicado en la Universidad Andrews y la mayoría de los telefonistas y capellanes de AIM son estudiantes de Andrews. Melissa cree que el departamento hispano es una vía muy valiosa para poder alcanzar a más personas para el reino de Dios, y nos dice lo siguiente: “El

servicio a Dios es de suma importancia. Cuando alguien llama a AIM, es posible que nuestros telefonistas sean los únicos que introduzcan a estas personas a Jesús. Si no fuera por este ministerio, muchas personas no tendrían con quién conversar, orar, o de quién recibir orientación espiritual. Es un privilegio saber que podemos servir, tanto en inglés como en español, y que podemos cumplir con la misión que Dios ha dado

a su pueblo. Me siento feliz al saber que hemos ampliado nuestro alcance en el mundo hispano. Estamos listos y dispuestos a atender las necesidades de los ministerios de habla hispana de nuestra Iglesia”.

La Unión del Lago ha contratado a AIM para atender las llamadas de las personas que desean inscribirse para el Congreso de Jóvenes que se llevará a cabo en la Universidad Andrews en el año 2010, del 4 al 6 de junio. Para ella es un placer extender los servicios de AIM a las comunidades de habla hispana. Si desea obtener más información acerca de AIM puede llamar al número 800-253-3002 o ir al sitio web www.aiministry.org.

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

Imitating Christ

WALKING WHERE HE WALKED

BY ELLEN WHITE

The doing principle is the fruit that Christ requires us to bear; doing deeds of benevolence, speaking kind words, and manifesting tender regard for the poor, the needy, the afflicted. When one's heart sympathizes with others burdened with discouragement and grief; when his hand clothes the naked, and the stranger is made welcome to a seat in his parlor and in his heart, then angels come very near, and an answering strain responds in Heaven.

Every act, every deed of justice and mercy and benevolence, makes music in Heaven. The Father from his throne beholds and numbers the performer of them with his most precious treasures. "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels" (Malachi 3:17 NKJV).

Every merciful act to the needy, or the suffering, is as though done to Jesus. Whoever succors the poor, or sympathizes with the afflicted and oppressed, and befriends the orphan, brings himself into a more close relationship to Jesus. "Inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me" (Matthew 25:45 NKJV).

Jesus here identifies himself with his suffering people. I was hungry and thirsty; I was a stranger; I was naked; I was sick; I was in prison. When you were enjoying your food from your bountifully spread tables, I was famishing of hunger in the hovel or street, not far from you. When you closed your doors against me, while your well-furnished rooms were unoccupied, I had nowhere to lay my head. Your wardrobes were filled with an abundant supply of changeable suits of apparel, upon which means had been

needlessly squandered, which you might have given to the needy. I was destitute of comfortable apparel. When you were enjoying health, I was sick. Misfortune cast me into prison and bound me with fetters, bowing down my spirit, depriving me of freedom and hope, while you roamed free.

What a oneness Jesus here expresses as existing between himself and his suffering disciples. He makes their case his own. He identifies himself as being, in their person, the very sufferer. Here, mark, selfish Christian, that every neglect of yours to the needy poor, the orphan, the fatherless, is a neglect to Jesus in their person.

But there are some persons who make high professions, whose hearts are so encased in self-love and selfishness that they cannot appreciate these things. They have all their lives thought and lived only for self. To make a worthy sacrifice to do others good, to disadvantage themselves for the purpose of benefiting others, is out of the question with them. They have not the least idea that God requires this of them. Self is their dear idol. Precious weeks, months, and years of valuable time pass into eternity, but they have no record in Heaven of kindly acts, of sacrificing for others' good, of



feeding the hungry, of clothing the naked, or taking in the stranger. Entertaining strangers at a venture is not agreeable; if they knew that all who shared their bounty were worthy, then they might be induced to do something in that direction. But there is virtue in venturing something. Perchance we may entertain angels.

There are orphans that can be cared for; but many will not venture to undertake such a work; for it involves more labor than they care to do, leaving them but little time to please themselves. But when the King shall make investigation, these do-nothing, illiberal, selfish souls will then learn



that Heaven is for those who have been workers; those who have denied themselves for Christ's sake. No provisions have been made for those who have ever taken such special care in loving and looking out for themselves. The terrible punishment the King threatened those on his left hand, in this case, is not because of their great crimes. They are not condemned for the things which they did do, but for that which they did not do. They did not those things Heaven assigned them to do. They pleased themselves, and can take their portion with self-pleasers.

Wake up, brethren and sisters. Don't be afraid of good works. "Be not weary in well doing; for in due time ye shall reap, if ye faint not" (Galatians 6:9 NKJV). Do not wait to be told your duty. Open your eyes, and see who is around you, and make yourselves acquainted with the helpless, af-

flicted, and needy. Hide not yourselves from them; close not your eyes to their needs. Who gives the proofs mentioned in James of possessing pure religion, untainted with any selfishness or corruption? Who is anxious to do all in his power to aid in the great plan of salvation?

As you regard your eternal interest, arouse yourselves, and begin to sow good seed. The harvest is coming—the great reaping time, when you shall reap what you have sown. There will be no failure in the crop. The harvest is sure. Now is the sowing time. Now make efforts to be rich in good works, "ready to distribute, willing to communicate, laying up in store for yourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that ye may lay hold on eternal life" (1 Timothy 6:18, 19 NKJV).

I implore you, my brethren, in every church, rid yourselves of your icy coldness. Encourage in yourselves a love of hospitality, a love to help those who need help.

You may say that you have been disappointed by bestowing means upon those unworthy of your charity, and therefore have become discouraged in trying to help the needy. I present Jesus before you. He came to save fallen man. He came to bring salvation to his own nation; but they would not accept him. They treated his mercy with insult and contempt, and at length they put to death Him who came for the purpose of giving life to them. Did our Lord turn from all the fallen race because of this? If your efforts for good have been unsuccessful ninety-nine times, and you have received only insult, reproach, and hate; if the one-hundredth time proves a success, and one soul is saved, oh, what a victory is achieved! One soul wrenched from Satan's grasp, one soul benefited, one soul encouraged! This will a thousand times pay you for all your efforts. To you will Jesus say "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me," (Matthew 25:40 NKJV). Should we not gladly do all we can to imitate the life of our divine Lord?

Many shrink at the idea of making any sacrifice for others' good. They are not willing to suffer for the sake of helping others. They flatter themselves that it is not required of them to disadvantage themselves for the benefit of others. To such we will say, Jesus is our example.

All who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ, in taking this step pledge themselves to walk even as he walked. Yet the course many pursue who make high profession shows that their lives are far from being in conformity to that of the great Pattern. They shape their course to meet their own imperfect standard. They do not imitate the self-denial of Christ, or his life of sacrifice for the good of others.

I once heard a wealthy farmer describe the situation of a poor widow living near him. He lamented her straitened circumstances, and then said, "I don't know how she is going to get along this cold winter. She has close times now." Such have forgotten the work of Christ, and by their acts say, "We cannot live to do others good. It is our business to take care of ourselves."

Do you expect the Lord to rain down grain from Heaven to supply the needy? Has he not rather placed it in your hands to help and bless them through you? Has he not made you his instrument in this good work, to prove you, and to give you the privilege of laying up a treasure in Heaven? Hear what the prophet Isaiah says:

"Is it a fast that I have chosen, a day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, and to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?"

"Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'

"If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail" (Isaiah 58:5-11 NKJV).

The fast is described which God can accept: "to share your bread with the hungry," and to "bring to your house the poor who are cast out." You are with one hand to reach up, and by faith take hold of the mighty arm which bringeth salvation, while with the other hand of love you reach the oppressed, and relieve them. It is impossible for you to fasten upon the arm of God with one hand, while the other is employed in administering to your own pleasure.

If you engage in this work of mercy and love, will it prove too hard for you? Will you fail, and be crushed under the burden, and your family be deprived of your assistance and

influence? Oh, no! God has carefully removed all doubts upon this question by a pledge to you on condition of your obedience. This promise covers all the most exacting, the most hesitating, could crave: "Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily." Only believe that He is faithful that has promised. God can renew the physical strength; and more, he says he will do it. And the promise does not end here. "Your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard" (Isaiah 58:8 NKJV).

God will build a fortification around you. Neither does the promise end at this point. "Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'" If you put down oppression and remove the speaking of vanity, if you draw out your soul to the hungry, "then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday. The Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought [famine], and make fat thy bones; and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and a spring of water, whose waters fail not" (Isaiah 58:9-11 NKJV).

Read Isaiah 58, you who claim to be children of the light. Especially do you read it again and again who have felt so fearful to inconvenience yourselves by favoring the needy; you whose hearts and houses are too narrow to make a home for the homeless, read it. You who can see orphans and widows oppressed by the iron hand of poverty, and bowed down by the hard-hearted worldlings, read it.

Are you afraid that an influence will be introduced into your family that will cost you more labor, read that chapter. Your fears may be groundless, and a blessing may come, known and realized by you every day. But if otherwise, if extra labor is called for, you can draw upon One who has promised: "Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily."

Why God's people are not more spiritually-minded, and have no more faith, is because they are narrowed by selfishness. The prophet is addressing Christians; not sinners, not unbelievers, but those who make great pretensions to godliness. It is not the abundance of your meetings that God accepts. It is not the numerous prayers, but it is right-doing—doing the right thing, and at the right time. It is to be less self-caring, and more benevolent. Our souls must expand. Then God will make them like a watered garden, whose waters fail not.

Adapted from "Doing for Christ," by Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, August 16, 1881. The original version is available online at www.lakeunionherald.org.



A Friend of Sinners

LOVING FOR LOVE'S SAKE

BY GARY BURNS

He smelled of urine, rotting teeth, body odor and bad booze. It was my first visit to New Orleans, and I had come in hopes of landing a big account for our production company. My hotel room had a balcony overlooking Bourbon Street, and the music and revelry below had provided less than a restful sleep.

Most of the previous day was spent sightseeing, riding a horse-drawn carriage through the historic French Quarter, and wining and dining—well actually, soft-drink and dining our potential client at the famous Antoine's Restaurant, host of stars, princesses and presidents since 1840. My flight didn't leave until late afternoon, so I had most of the day to kill.

© Hart Classics, all rights reserved. I'm a walker—not for exercise mind you, for the experience. When visiting a city like Amsterdam, Seattle, Harlem, London, Mumbai, Bangkok or New Orleans, I like to walk its streets. So I walked down Bourbon Street, past the “dens of iniquity” along the way to Jackson Square.

Eventually, the narrow street opened up to a beautiful park with gardens, park benches and the familiar Spanish moss hanging from the ancient oaks. At the southeast corner of the Square I saw the famous Café Du Monde. I learned about their incredible beignets from our client and decided to try them out. Brought by the Acadians, these Louisiana doughnuts are fried fritters covered with powdered sugar and served three at a time. They were everything I had been promised and, as I recall, I had two orders with plenty of café au lait to complement them.

Feeling quite full and a bit decadent, I made my way out onto the Square to soak in the warm rays streaming through

God gave me a special gift on that crisp, sunny morning in New Orleans nearly 30 years ago. I experienced God's compassion for John.

the trees under the crisp, blue October sky. That's when I met John. I was taking in the scene, complete with artists and street performers, when I sensed someone approaching out of the corner of my eye. Wearing several layers of clothing that had obviously been lived in for years, he staggered up to me with out-stretched hand, "Scuze me sah, cou' ju phpare me a couple o' bucks?"

Have you ever been face-to-face, eye-to-eye, odor-to-odor with someone like John? I was captivated by his eyes—steely-grey on bloodshot.

"Hi, my name is Gary. What's yours?" I extended my hand to shake his. I could feel the tacky, grimy layers of his hard life.

"John ... John Turner," he replied with a smile that gave evidence to what I had sensed. For the next two-and-a-half hours John told me his story.

It was a proud story of yesteryear. He took me up to the levy for a view of the shipping highway. John worked the barges for many years, but now he was unemployed. His story staggered between lucid moments and giddiness, as though mimicking the way he walked. John was easily sidetracked and would often go off on a tangent, railing against people who had done him wrong. Between the asides, I learned much about the Mississippi River and how to work a barge. There were stories of disasters and near misses and how hard the work was. John was proud that it was hard.

We walked back down to the Square, and we found a couple of his friends sitting on a park bench. We joined them. One had dozed off and the other felt like singing—so we joined in. John took a hit off his friend's brown-bagged bottle, and in his kindness and generosity offered one to me. "No, thank you, John," I said with genuine appreciation for the gesture. "Can I get you something to eat?" He smiled a nod as he drifted into song.

I walked over to a nearby restaurant and ordered his only meal of the day—maybe the week. I brought my simple offering to John who took it graciously and set it on the bench

beside him. I knew it was time to catch my plane, and I hated to leave.

"I really enjoyed meeting you, John. Thank you for sharing your story with me. I've got to go now, but here's my card. If you're ever in South Florida give me a call." I put my hand on his shoulder and offered a prayer of God's blessing in his life. John seemed grateful. By the time I left he'd had enough hits on the bottle to have entered his temporary world without pain and was only slightly aware of my departure.

I walked back to the hotel, got my bags and made my way to the airport. I couldn't get John out of my mind. I thought of John's hopes and dreams—all the plans he had for a better tomorrow. Yet even as John shared them with me, I sensed he knew his tomorrow would be the same as today. As the plane circled toward the Gulf, I looked down on Jackson Square and realized I had met Jesus today.

God gave me a special gift on that crisp, sunny morning in New Orleans nearly 30 years ago. I experienced God's compassion for John.

Within a few months I was back in New Orleans working with the video crew for the General Conference Session. Several times that week I wandered around Jackson Square looking for John, but never found him. I've never been back to New Orleans and John never called, but he's been in my heart and on my mind ever since. I wonder if he ever fulfilled his dream, if he's still alive. I wonder about Hurricane Katrina. Every time I see someone in circumstances like John, I think of him. And so I continue to pray God's blessing into his life.

One day, I hope to see John again. If not in this life, then in Heaven. If he's there, I'm sure it won't be because of anything I said or did that morning. It will be because God did a miracle in his life. God did a miracle in my life. He put John in my heart.

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



Loving the Unloved

LOOKING PAST THE LAYERS TO LOVE THE
PERSON BENEATH

BY GARY BURNS

Some years ago I taught a class designed to give high school students practical experience by applying biblical principles to real life situations. We actively sought opportunities to serve others from every walk of life. I remember the day of an unusual and risky opportunity—an exotic dancer at a local bar. She initiated the call for help, and it was our privilege to respond.

It was a cold night when four students and I made our way through the snow to the trailer park where she lived. When Katie* opened the door, she was a little confused by the small group on her stoop but welcomed us into her home. It had a warm glow of gold, amber and brown. The door opened to her living room on the right with a kitchen and breakfast bar at the far end. To the left was a hallway that led back to her bedroom and bath. A bit embarrassed, she began to pick up a little of the clutter while trying to control her canine companion who was very excited to see us.

We went around the circle introducing ourselves, then Katie began to tell us her story. She revealed her roots in a very conservative, family-oriented religious tradition. She described some of her faith history as though offering her credentials to qualify her for our visit. Katie was now more than a thousand miles from her childhood home, and over the years had drifted far from her faith.

In the presence of a pastor and friendly teenagers, she began to disrobe her defenses to reveal her true self—like peel-

ing layers from an onion. My eyes began to blur as though someone was literally peeling onions in the room.

From the students interaction with Katie, I could tell they were touched by her pain. Rather than the carefree, confident, reckless and self-liberated stereotype portrayed in the media, they saw before them a frightened, broken, helpless and imprisoned woman—enslaved by her own need to be loved and, literally, by several men who exploited her “talents.”

As I listened to her story it soon became obvious that some of her pain started when she was very young through an abusive and incestuous relationship. It also became clear she was in advanced stages of self-medicating her pain. Her story jumped and skipped between the chains of her past, the reality of her loneliness and depression and the intense paranoia of her future.

As she petted her dog she exclaimed with wide-eyed horror, “Someone is trying to poison my dog. They sneak around my trailer at night. I can hear them!”



Her eyes darted from window to window in breathless silence, as if she had just heard someone, or something, lurking outside. Her dog was her only source of unconditional love and affection—a true and faithful friend who never took advantage. The thought of losing him was more than she could bear.

“I don’t like to go back to my bedroom,” she motioned down the hall behind us. “There are spirits in there.” The students suddenly became wide-eyed as they glanced at each other in amazement and unease.

She went on to describe the voices and how she could feel their physical presence. “I don’t like to go back there,” she repeated with obvious tremor. We wondered what horrible experiences she had had in the place that was intended to provide warmth, comfort, security and rest. “Could you help me?” she pleaded.

“Would it be okay to go back there if we went with you?” I asked. Katie hesitated and then nodded. Reluctantly, she stood and gestured in the direction of her bedroom indicating she wanted us to lead the way.

We approached the darkened room at the end of the narrow hallway. I reached out to feel for the light switch and turned it on. Crowded into the narrow space between the wall and her bed, the students were not at all opposed to staying very close together. We made way for her to join us as she peered around the doorway. Not hearing or feeling anything threatening, she took a deep breath and ventured into the room.

On the other side of the bed, extending the full length of the wall, was an open closet full of what looked like a backstage wardrobe in some freak show.

“I design and make my own costumes,” Katie said proudly.

It didn’t appear to be a difficult task—only a few stitches, straps and seams decorated with glitter, rhinestones and feathers, accompanied by an assortment of colorful boas.

She felt comfortable enough now to squeeze past us and

around the bed to display a few of her favorites. Now we were the ones feeling a little uncomfortable.

Realizing what she had done, she quickly put them back. Her unease returned and she stared blindly down at the bed.

“Would you like for us to pray for you,” I asked.

She lifted her head with a smile and said, “Would you please? Can you make them go away (referring to the voices)?”

We gestured for Katie to come close to our little group, and we prayed simple prayers of faith asking God to come into her life and into her home, and to bring the peace of His abiding presence. We prayed for healing from the pain of her past and hope for a brighter tomorrow. We prayed for protection and security, and thanked God for His incredible power and desire to do what we’d asked.

Wiping back the tears, Katie’s face burst into a beautiful smile. “Thank you!” she exclaimed. “No one has ever prayed for me like that before.”

As we made our way to the door, she expressed her gratitude and gave each of the students a hug. We exchanged names and numbers, and gave an open invitation for her to stay in touch—which she did. Several times Katie called and asked to talk to a couple of the girls by name. It was nearing the time for a special Christmas musical program, so the girls invited her to come. They were excited when Katie arrived looking like someone on the cover of a magazine, draped in a beautiful fur and escorted by a very reluctant “gentleman.”

Katie enjoyed visiting our church several times and expressed how much the students meant to her. They gathered to pray for her regularly. She could hardly believe that such teenagers truly exist. Then one day she disappeared.

Somewhere out there is a retired exotic dancer who knows what it’s really like to be loved.

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

*Katie is not her real name.



Mita Majmudar, M.D., is director of breast imaging and intervention at Adventist Midwest Health.

Hospitals now accredited breast centers

Adventist Hinsdale and Adventist La Grange Memorial hospitals have been granted a three-year full accreditation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program administered by the American College of Surgeons. Only seven hospitals in Illinois have attained this achievement; Adventist Hinsdale Hospital is the only accredited hospital in DuPage County.

Accreditation by the NAPBC is only given to those centers that voluntarily commit to provide the highest level of quality breast care and undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance.

During the survey process, the cen-

ter must demonstrate compliance with standards established by the NAPBC for treating women who are diagnosed with the full spectrum of breast disease. The standards include proficiency in the areas of center leadership, clinical management, research, community outreach, professional education and quality improvement. Adventist Hinsdale and Adventist La Grange Memorial hospitals met all 27 standards for accreditation.

“Achieving NAPBC accreditation underscores our firm commitment to offer patients high-quality care and every significant advantage in their battle against breast disease,” said Patricia Madej, an oncologist who treats patients at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.

This accomplishment means Adventist Hinsdale and Adventist La Grange Memorial hospitals are fully qualified to offer the full spectrum of

interdisciplinary care to patients with breast disease; afford patients the most currently available forms of evaluation, treatment and follow-up care; and have passed a rigorous evaluation by independent clinical surveyors who have awarded their nationally recognized seal of approval.

The NAPBC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to the improvement of the quality of care and monitoring of outcomes of patients with diseases of the breast. This mission is pursued through standard-setting, scientific validation, and patient and professional education. Its board membership includes professionals from 15 national organizations that reflect the full spectrum of breast care.

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2009, 192,370 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed and 40,170 women will die from breast cancer.

Receiving care at a NAPBC-accredited center ensures patients access to comprehensive care, including a full range of state-of-the-art services; a multidisciplinary team approach to coordinate the best treatment options; information about ongoing clinical trials and new treatment options; and quality breast care close to home.

“This accreditation emphasizes our dedication to providing world-class breast cancer care right in our community,” said David L. Crane, president and chief executive officer of Adventist Midwest Health. “This is what our patients have come to expect at Adventist Hinsdale and Adventist La Grange Memorial hospitals.”

For more information about the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, visit www.accreditedbreastcenters.org.

Lisa Parro, senior public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health



The School of Business Administration is housed in Chan Shun Hall on the campus of Andrews University.

Business programs now IACBE accredited

Andrews University has received specialized accreditation for its business programs through the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE), located in Olathe, Kan. The business programs in the following

areas are accredited by the IACBE: Bachelor of Business Administration with concentrations in accounting, finance, information systems, international business, management and marketing; and Master of Business Administration. The accreditation is through November 2016.

The IACBE official notification letter read, in part, "...this accreditation is granted without notes or observations. This is indeed a rare occurrence, and you, the faculty and staff of the School of Business Administration, are to be congratulated on this achievement."

The on-site accreditation took place Apr. 27–29, 2009, and Allen Stembridge, dean of the School of Business Administration, wrote the accreditation report.

Stembridge says of this milestone accomplishment, "This accreditation

confirms the quality of the business programs offered at Andrews University and the highly qualified and caring faculty who are dedicated to bringing out the very best in our students."

The IACBE is a specialized accrediting body that promotes and recognizes excellence in business education in colleges and universities at the baccalaureate and graduate levels, both in the United States and internationally.

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



Increased APS scholarships for 2010–2011

According to Niels-Erik Andreasen, Andrews University president, freshmen will be eligible to receive \$10,000 to \$40,000 in scholarship money during their four years of undergraduate study beginning in the 2010–2011 school year.

The increase boosts the financial assistance available through the Andrews Partnership Scholarship (APS), a financial award package available to all undergraduates, including Canadian and international students. Previously, the APS capped at \$8,000–\$32,000 for four years of undergraduate study.

This latest adjustment reflects a strategy developed when the awards were first introduced eight years ago—to adjust APS amounts every four years, as Andrews University budgets allowed, to help students and their families meet increasing costs.



Eligibility for the freshmen APS includes a minimum 2.25 cumulative high school GPA and an ACT composite score of 20 or an SAT Critical Reading plus Mathematics score of 940. Incoming freshmen who qualify as National Merit Finalists and National Achievement Program Finalists receive a special APS that covers 100 percent tuition for four years.

Some students may be eligible for an additional \$2,000 annually in special APS for one of the following: 1) ACT composite score of 32 or

higher; 2) SAT Critical Reading plus Mathematics combined score of 1410 or higher (writing score not included); or 3) A National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar.

Undergraduate transfer students are also eligible for scholarships based on their cumulative college GPA of 2.5 or more previous college credits. The minimum scholarship is \$1,500. A GPA of 2.50 to 2.99 receives \$3,000 annually, 3.00 to 3.49 receives \$5,000 annually and 3.50 to 4.00 receives \$7,500 annually. Transfer students may receive this scholarship for up to eight semesters while pursuing their first undergraduate degree.

Additional information on APS eligibility guidelines can be found on the Office of Student Financial Services Web site: www.andrews.edu/future/financing/scholarships.

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

[EDUCATION NEWS]



Denise Kidder

Students from Niles Adventist School collected approximately 327 pounds of walnuts (after the outer husks were removed). The proceeds from the sale of the walnuts will be used to send Bible textbooks to a school in the Marshall Islands.

Bible Lab goes nuts

Michigan—The rain came down all day and the wind blew all night on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, threatening the Bible Labs outing planned for the following day at Dorothy Metzger’s house. The plan was to take the Niles Adventist School students from Pre-K through second grade out to collect black walnuts from Metzger’s two walnut groves. But God knew exactly what He was doing! By Wednesday morning, the wind had blown down essentially all the walnuts, and the grass was dry. The weather was calm and very comfortable for working outdoors.

Twenty-one students, Denise Kidder, Jenni Coffen (substituting for Amanda Boothby, Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher) and her son Christopher

Coffen, Metzger, Anita Rogers, Darrel le Roux (pastor) worked for two hours, covering both groves, to collect an overflowing trailer full of black walnuts. The children worked feverishly collecting the walnuts like they were on a treasure hunt, exclaiming, “Here’s a walnut,” and “I found the motherload.”

The walnuts were sold to a farmer who uses the outer husks/pods as fertilizer, then bags and ships the walnuts in their shells to a company who processes them for human consumption. The collection amounted to 327 pounds of walnuts (after the outer husk was removed). The money made will be used to send Bible textbooks to a school in the Marshall Islands.

Kristine Horvath, Bible Labs coordinator,
Niles Adventist School

Youth pastor turns marathon into fundraiser

Indiana—We are spiritual beings. We were created to love, serve and praise our God. Everyone has been given gifts and talents they should use to edify the church and bring glory to God. We focus on spiritual gifts such as teaching,

prophesying, preaching and service, but we don’t often spend time explaining how we can use other gifts and talents for God. How does a young person who is an athlete, artist and/or musician understand this? It was upon contemplating this that Greg Taylor, Glendale Church youth pastor, says, “I decided to put my money where my mouth was.”

Taylor has been a runner for many years. He says, “After running a mara-

thon in Cincinnati, Ohio, last May, I decided my next one would be the Nationwide Better Health Columbus Marathon on Oct. 17, 2009. Right after I signed up, I started thinking of ways I could do it for God. I was impressed to start a fundraiser entitled ‘Marathon with a Mission.’”

When Taylor spoke to the students at Indianapolis Junior Academy, they partnered with him by simply making phone calls and asking parents, grandparents and family friends to pledge money per mile to raise funds for their school. Taylor says, “I was shocked how simple this was. The day after we launched ‘Marathon with a Mission,’ a student approached me and told me she already had five sponsors, and by the time of the marathon she had ten. By the end of the fundraiser, we had received \$1,600 in pledges for our school.”

Taylor says, “It is so important to not only share with our young people the importance of using our gifts and talents to serve God, but to demonstrate it. It is my prayer that as a church we continually look for ways to utilize our God-given gifts and talents to serve others in our church and in our community.”

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV).

Judith Yeoman, correspondent, Indiana Conference, as shared by Gregory S. Taylor, youth pastor, Glendale Church



Kim Taylor

Greg Taylor, youth pastor of the Glendale Church in Indianapolis, pauses for a picture at the marathon in Columbus, Ohio.



PWA students lined the hallway to show deep respect for their military hero and Bible teacher, Roscoe Gray, as he was escorted in by three Pathfinders in dress uniform.

Veteran honored at Peterson-Warren Academy

Lake Region—The assembly program at Peterson-Warren Academy (PWA) had a special air when the student body celebrated Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2009. The program's presenter was Roscoe Gray, Bible teacher, who was gravely wounded in battle during his assignment in the Vietnam War. Gray spoke honestly from his own experience as he explained to students in grades 6–12 why veterans should be respected and why we celebrate Veteran's Day.

Students asked many questions about the armed services, and the role Gray played in the Vietnam War. As he explained how the soldiers were trained, fought and even died in the war, Gray also took time to explain how the fallen soldiers were gathered and brought home to their loved ones, rather than being left or buried on foreign soil. To illustrate the government's role with its fallen soldiers, the students were shown the movie, "Taking Chance." The students were visibly touched as they viewed the true story of a young man who was killed in battle and how much care and honor given his remains as he was escorted by military personnel to the home of his parents for burial. After the movie, and as Gray answered students' questions about U.S. veterans,

it was quite clear the memories of his experiences during the Vietnam War, in which he served in 1967 and 1968, were still very vivid in his mind. His face showed pain, and tears welled up in his eyes as he shared with the students how he and two fellow soldiers were seriously wounded and 11 others in his squad were killed as they patrolled their field area.

Gray recounted how he received gunshot wounds to his abdomen and how his injuries were so severe that he was airlifted to a field hospital for immediate life-saving medical treatment and then transported on to Japan for more operations. Weeks later, after being stabilized, Gray was airlifted to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C., arriving on May 5, 1968, and he remained there for nearly three months. After more aggressive surgeries, Gray was sent for rehabilitation at the Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, N.C.

For his bravery, Gray with the other survivors received the Purple Heart, the Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star for gallantry in action. Only 48 out of 172 enlisted servicemen who went to Vietnam with Gray came back. He encourages those who have a chance to visit Washington D.C., to take time to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial where The Wall—USA was erected as a tribute to the 58,256 servicemen who were killed or missing in the Vietnam War. The PWA students were

overwhelmed with sympathy as Gray responded to their questions and spoke of plans to make the Veteran's Hospital in Detroit a mission project of the school by arranging for students to visit the veterans there.

Without Gray's knowledge, the students made plans for him as well. The next morning three high school students, dressed in their Pathfinder uniforms, escorted Gray from one end of PWA's hall to the other as students from preschool through grade 12 stood in line and waited in silence and deep respect for their turn to salute their own military hero and Bible teacher. The students also sang the national anthem as they stood at attention. As Gray thanked the students for their kindness, he encouraged them to remember God in all that they do and added, "God bless America."

Earlier in the semester a practical lesson was learned about thanking our troops for their contributions to our country. After watching a newscast about children selling their Halloween candy to an organization which sends candy to the soldiers in Iraq, PWA students decided to participate in their own "sweet deed." The students either bought candy or gave a donation to purchase candy to send to a former student, Delsina West who is stationed in Iraq, to disburse among the soldiers. We were pleased to hear that the soldiers were elated to receive their treat from PWA.

Juanita Martin, Ed.D., principal, Peterson-Warren Academy



Juanita Martin, principal, greets Roscoe Gray, a decorated veteran who spoke to PWA students about his experiences in the Vietnam War.



Photos by Lynnette Jefferson

Parents, staff and students enjoy the new computer lab facilities as they complete the "Rainforest Treasure Hunt."

School blessed by new computer lab

Lake Region—Excitement runs high at South Suburban Christian School as the students, staff and parents bask in the latest wonderful blessing from God—a new computer lab.

Although getting a computer lab was high on the wish list of the South Suburban staff, they did not foresee how God would step in and orchestrate events so majestically in such a short period of time. In a fast-moving demonstration of God's power to overcome obstacles, the computer technology situation at the school was transformed from a few computers in each classroom with unreliable Internet access to a computer lab with 16 stations for students, two printers and a teacher station.

During Summer 2009, two teachers took an online class in educational technology in the classroom. One of the final assignments in the class was to write a letter to the school board convincing them of the need to increase student access to technology. Lynnette Jefferson, principal, presented these letters to the school board at the beginning of the school year. The school board then acted on an opportunity to purchase 16 computers at a discounted rate.

Then came the donation of flat screen monitors for all the computers.

Finally, the most amazing part of the blessing unfolded: The school treasurer, Robert Manson, was contacted by three DeVry Institute students—Brian Hariharan, Daniel Olszewski and Florentino Brizuela—who needed to complete a senior project, setting up a computer lab for a school. The blessing was the school would not need to pay for the labor or expertise these gentlemen provided. The school only needed to supply the materials.

The gentlemen worked diligently and cheerfully for more than 600 hours over a one-and-a-half-month period to complete the lab, even staying until almost 3:00 a.m. once as they neared the deadline. Not only did the DeVry students fulfill the requirements of the class, providing the lab with the best equipment and software solutions that the school's small budget could afford, they went above and beyond the call of duty resolving issues with classroom computers and Internet connections as well as connecting the staff to the printer-copier in the staff workroom.

The DeVry students equipped the building with Wireless N connectivity and installed a NAS drive with two terabytes of storage. The students are able to save their work to their teacher's

folder, which can be accessed by the staff from other locations. This allows teachers the capability of working on documents in the classroom or at home. In addition, an image was saved for each computer in the lab which enables the staff to restore a computer that may be infected by a virus. The lab also has remote viewing capabilities, which allows the teachers to monitor what students are doing on the computers from any other computer in the building. The DeVry students even wrote and printed a manual, which lists everything done for the lab, and it contains illustrated directions for tasks the teachers may need to perform.

On Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, a special dedication for the computer lab was held. Parents, students, school board members, Ruth Horton (Lake Region Conference education superintendent) and other supporters came to see the lab, to thank God for providing it, and to hear the expectation of the students concerning the computer lab. Everyone also had a chance to get hands-on experience in the lab while completing a treasure hunt about the rain forest.

The students at South Suburban have had another opportunity to see an awesome demonstration of God's interest in and ability to supply all our needs.

For information about the school, located at 119 Chestnut Street in Park Forest, Ill., call 708-481-8909.

Rose Jones, teacher, South Suburban Seventh-day Adventist Christian School



Charles Joseph Sr., pastor, leads out in the dedicatory prayer for the new Suburban School's computer lab.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



Ann Miller sorts clothing for the Kokomo Church's monthly children's clothing swap.

Kokomo Church members discover unusual way to witness

Indiana—Remembering how fast her infant daughter grew to become a toddler, and also remembering how difficult it was to keep her in clothing, Ann Miller decided to see if her church would be interested in a clothing swap ministry. Getting permission, Ann and her husband, Wade Miller, set up the ministry in a downstairs room at the Kokomo Church. The idea was that young mothers and grandmothers would bring slightly-used children's clothing to the church, and trade them for larger sizes.

The only advertising was word-of-mouth, e-mails and signs placed in front of the church. Now more than 30 mothers and grandmothers, plus 50 or so children, come on the once-a-month swap day—trading clothing, visiting with one another and picking up Adventist literature to go along with the clothes. One grandmother, from Russiaville, Ind., regularly helps with the clothing, and many more have volunteered their assistance, if needed.

Ann is always happy to answer the

frequently-asked questions about Adventist beliefs, and she keeps a variety of literature available to give out.

Among the comments heard from community moms and grandmothers are:

"This is so neat."

"I love it!"

"Your idea is the best idea I've seen in a long time."

"Thanks for providing this program; I think it's a really great idea."

"This place is a blessing to me."

"This has helped me a lot."

God truly does work in mysterious ways, including swapping children's clothing.

Blake Hall, pastor, Kokomo Church



A young couple looks through the variety of available clothing at the monthly swap.

[UNION NEWS]



Bruce Babienco is enjoying his retirement at his home in Berrien Springs, Mich., with his wife, Marilyn.

LUH loses a member of our team

At a recent Lake Union staff worship, Bruce Babienco, *Lake Union Herald's* volunteer correspondent, was honored as he entered retirement for the third time, effective January 1. Since the January 2003 issue, Bruce faithfully reported amazing stories of transformation. His work involved many hours for each story as he contacted pastors, went over baptism reports and conducted interviews.

I first became acquainted with Bruce 20 years ago when we both served as pastors in the Michigan Conference. Bruce's communication skills were recognized and he was called to serve as communication director for the Michigan Conference, a position he held until his first retirement when he and his wife, Marilyn Babienco, moved to Berrien Springs, Mich., to be closer to their new grandchildren.

In addition to serving as a volunteer correspondent for the *Herald*, the Michigan Conference called on Bruce to serve as interim pastor where needed.

Bruce will be missed as we often called upon him to lead our Union staff in prayer at special times of need. His worship talks were inspiring and presented with enthusiasm and joy.

Bruce's love for his Lord is always evident, and we know he'll continue to serve wherever he can while having the added joy of spending more time with his family.

Gary Burns, communication director, Lake Union Conference



Ron Clouzet



Mark Finley



Ken Denslow and Jerome Davis

Series planned for Chicagoland

With the challenge of reaching more than nine million people in Chicagoland, the Illinois and Lake Region conferences are partnering with Mark Finley, vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Ron Clouzet, director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI), to conduct more than 25 simultaneous meetings beginning April 22 and continuing through the month of May.

“Excitement is building for Chicagoland, ‘Hope Can Be Yours,’ and we are committed to work hand-in-hand in the accomplishment of this mission which Jesus has given us,” stated Ken Denslow, president of the Illinois Conference.

“Jesus said that the harvest is great and, certainly, we want to do everything in our power to reach the millions of people who Jesus wants to save in the city of Chicago,” Lake Region Conference president Jerome Davis added.

Here’s a message from Mark Finley:

“I believe God is going to do something special, that He’s going to do something powerful, that hearts and minds and lives are going to be touched with the gospel. You can be a part of something big for God—probably the biggest thing for God that has ever happened in the city of Chicago will happen this spring.

“The sands in the hourglass of time are running out. This is the hour to say, ‘Jesus, I’m going to do something special.’ This is the hour to commit to participate in this soul-winning activity. I urge you to get involved. I believe God is going to do something special.”

Gary Burns, communication director, Lake Union Conference

Here are three things you can do:

Pray for the city. Pray street by street, home by home and person by person. Pray for people you know who live in Chicago.

Become involved. You can distribute literature, receive lay training, give Bible studies, host a small group and bring your friends. Even if you do not live in the area, visit the HopeCanBeYours.com Web site and become a long-distance supporter.

Contribute financially. For a sacrifice of \$200, 1,000 homes can be reached with the message of hope.



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. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

Weddings

Catherine M. Baker and L. Marc Galera were married July 26, 2009, in Nashville, Ind. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Eugene Torres.

Catherine is the daughter of Ron and the late Isabel Baker of Anna Maria Island, Fla., and Marc is the son of Jonathan and Mignonnette Galera of Hinsdale, Ill.

The Galeras are making their home in Bloomington, Ind.

Sarah L. San Juan and Jeffrey A. Weesner were married Mar. 22, 2009, in Portland, Ind. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Dwight Kruger.

Sarah is the daughter of Nemencio and Patricia San Juan of Pasig City, Philippines, and Jeffrey is the son of Earl and Janet Weesner of Portland, Ind.

The Weesners are making their home in Pennville, Ind.

Obituaries

BENJAMIN, Lovina M. (Videto), age 101; born July 14, 1908, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; died Sept. 7, 2009, in Battle Creek, Mich. She was a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle Church.

Survivors include her son, Robert E.; daughter, Beverly Benedict; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bruce Moore, and interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Battle Creek.

CARSON, Della Mae (Harris), age 78; born Nov. 18, 1930, in Superior, Wis.; died June 12, 2009, in Inverness, Fla. She was a member of the Superior Church.

Survivors include her husband, Lewis B.; son, David; daughters, Vivian Mae Clayton

and Bobbi Larson; sisters, Verona Mueller, Marcella Stilinovich and Caral Schoon; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dale Wolfe, and interment was in Fountains Memorial Park Cemetery, Homosassa, Fla.

HAINES, L. Jeanette (Turpin), age 80; born Aug. 21, 1929, in Danville, Ind.; died Oct. 17, 2009, in Greencastle, Ind. She was a member of the Bloomington (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Roger; and sister, Barbara Haines.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Larry Pumford and Dean Whitlow, and interment was in Sparks Cemetery, Pittsboro, Ind.

HILL, Barbara L. (Parrish), age 88; born May 27, 1921, in Monmouth, Ill.; died Nov. 15, 2009, in Beloit, Wis. She was a member of the Beloit Church.

Survivors include her sons, Dale, Earl and Raymond McIntyre; daughters, Edith (McIntyre) Buresh, Christine (McIntyre) Elmore and Patricia (McIntyre) Reed; brother, Kenneth Parrish; sister, Mary Lou Buster; 16 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Paul Goia, and interment was in Baldwin Cemetery, Beloit Twp., Wis.

JENKINS, Dawn Y., age 56; born Mar. 23, 1953, in Milwaukee, Wis.; died Sept. 29, 2009, in Breeding, Ky. She was a member of the Milwaukee Sharon Church.

Survivors include her father, Nathaniel Jenkins; mother, Clairese Jenkins; brothers, Keith, Nathaniel, Derrick R. and Timothy N. Jenkins; and sisters, Della and Cyd-Charisse Jenkins.

Funeral services were conducted by

Pastor Phillip Jenkins, and interment was in Milwaukee Cemetery.

KISTLER, Jean E. (Fuller), age 81; born Nov. 12, 1928, in Middletown, N.Y.; died Nov. 27, 2009, in Valencia, Calif. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Robert; daughter, Cherie Province; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted in Collegedale, Tenn., and interment was in Collegedale Cemetery.

LAPLANT, Mervin J., age 87; born Dec. 19, 1921, in Detroit, Mich.; died Dec. 3, 2009, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the All Nations Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his stepson, Ron DeWitt; daughters, Linda Hill and Carolyn Hancock; stepdaughters, Marty Peters and JoLynn Olds; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by John Reeve, and interment was in Mission Hills Cemetery, Niles, Mich.

LAWRENCE, Harriet (Olson), age 87; born Oct. 3, 1921, in Hinsdale, Ill.; died Sept. 18, 2009, in Port Charlotte, Fla. She was a member of the Hinsdale Church.

Survivors include her husband, Charles E.; sons, Bruce R., Alan D., Michael W. and the late Charles H.; daughter, Sharon B. Lawrence; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Richard Sylvester, and interment was in Chapel Hill Gardens West Cemetery, Oak Brook Terrace, Ill.

NICKLESS, Maude E. (Key), age 88; born Nov. 23, 1920, in Celina, Tenn.; died Nov. 6, 2009, in Bedford, Ind. She was a member of the Bedford Church.

Survivors include her stepsons, Paul and Timothy Nickless; stepdaughters, Barbara Baxter, Joyce Baker, Paula Nickless, Lou Callahan, Sue Wagner and Gayle Warnell;

sister, Mayme Boehning; and 18 step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Fernando Ortiz, and interment was in Walnut Hills Cemetery, Odon, Ind.

THOMAS, Ulah H. (Moravetz), age 82; born July 31, 1927, in Gobles, Mich.; died Nov. 29, 2009, in Midland, Mich. She was a member of the Midland Church.

Survivors include her husband, Buddy T.; sons, Carl and Bruce; daughter, Judy Thomas; brother, Glenn Moravetz; sister, Evelyn Wonderly; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Darryl Bentley, and interment was in New Hope Cemetery, Hope Twp., Mich.

WHITLOCK, Belva M. (MacGirvin), age 88; born Nov. 13, 1921, in Danville, Ill.; died Dec. 7, 2009, in Lafayette, Ind. She was a member of the Lafayette Church, West Lafayette, Ind.

Survivors include her daughter, Rebecca J. Pheifle; sister, Sarah M. McArdle; one grandchild; two step-grandchildren; one step-great-grandchild; and two step-great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Pastor Throstur Thordarson, and interment was in Lower Mound Cemetery, Perrysville, Ind.

WILLISON, Clark M., age 96; born Nov. 12, 1912, in Hickory Corners, Mich.; died Mar. 30, 2009, in Orange Beach, Ala. He was a member of the Hastings (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Ada (McElmurry) Holley; son, Robert; stepson, Leighton Holley; stepdaughters, Jeanine Fuller and Marguerite Ripley; two grandchildren; 10 step-grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and 19 step-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted at the Hastings Church, and interment was in East Hickory Corners Cemetery.

Classifieds

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$32 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$43 per insertion for all others. A form is available at www.LakeUnionHerald.org for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at www.LakeUnionHerald.org.

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OPERATIONRECONNECT.ORG: Books, DVDs and other resources for outreach to missing members. Includes creative ideas from Mike Jones, former *Insight* editor, author and pastor, who accepts occasional speaking appointments. Watch for his new book, *Help, Lord, I Blew It Again*.

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Travel Opportunities

VACATION ON KAUAI, HAWAII, "THE GAR-

DEN ISLAND." Kahili Mountain Park is a scenic mountain getaway located at the base of Kahili Ridge. Just minutes from popular Kauai attractions, the park has an assortment of 1-4 room cabins with sleeping for 2-6 persons. See pictures and rates at www.kahilipark.org. For more information, e-mail reservations@kahilipark.org, or call 808-742-9921.

OGDEN ADVENTIST TOURS: Sept. 7-22,

2010, Lure of Ireland land tour, including Dublin, Blarney, Killarney, Dingle, Galway, Aran Islands, Connemara. **Feb. 11-23, 2011**, Splendors of Egypt and the Nile, including Cairo, Luxor, Valley of the Kings, Aswan, Pyramids and Giza. Five-day extension to Petra and Amman, Jordan, available. For information, contact Merlene Ogden at 269-471-3781 or ogden@andrews.edu.

Miscellaneous

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School Notes

BY KARA KERBS



Life Lessons

Last fall Indiana Academy (IA) conducted a spiritual retreat for their students. The gentlemen traveled to the fort at Camp Au Sable in Michigan, and the ladies stayed closer to home in Tipton, Indiana.

The guys tried to ignore the 30-degree temperatures while canoeing, hiking, playing games and, most importantly, focusing on spiritual issues, such as saying "Yes" to right choices, learning to serve, and the importance of confession and repentance. The male academy staff were joined by the pastors and other mentors from the Cicero Church in this unique experience. Other lessons were more practical, such as when one student asked who was going to cook since "there were no women." During a six-mile hike, communion was held in the woods.

The ladies learned about "Lies Young Women Believe and the Truth that Sets them Free," partially based on the book by Dannah Gresh and Nancy Leigh DeMoss. Nine lies were explored, such as "Beautiful Girls Are Worth More," "I Need a Boyfriend," "I Feel More Valuable when I Dress Immodestly" and "A Loving God Won't Allow Pain." The lies were addressed in creative ways, which involved an exploding Diet Coke, covering a paper coffin with temptations and writing a letter to their future husband. One young lady wrote, "I realized I believed all of those lies." The truth for each lie was then explored.

By the end of the retreat, several ladies expressed, "I learned a lot of things. ... This will help me a lot."

Kara Kerbs is the dean of girls at Indiana Academy.

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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 and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources, as these events are subject to change. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at www.LakeUnionHerald.org.

Andrews University

Andrews University Music and Worship

Conference: Mar. 25-27 will mark the seventh annual Andrews University Music and Worship Conference. Hosted on the University campus, this conference is a training event for pastors, worship leaders, church musicians and lay leaders involved in worship ministry. Come and be inspired to honor God more fully in your worship. Be equipped to minister more effectively through worship and worship music. Connect with others who share your passion for God and your desire to serve Him. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to grow in your ministry! To register or for more information, visit our Web site, worshipconference.org; e-mail: worshipconference@andrews.edu; or call 1-800-968-8428.

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 weekend of **Mar. 26-28**. The registration deadline is Mar. 19. For further information and registration materials, contact Campus Ministries at 269-471-6241 or e-mail cm@andrews.edu.

The 46th Annual International Food

Fair is Sun., Mar. 27. The event takes place from noon to 7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Gym on the campus of Andrews University. Each year, about 20 campus clubs representing traditions from around the world come together

to offer visitors a taste of the internationally diverse cultures represented among the student body. Admission to the event is free. Food tickets can be purchased the day of the event at the ticket office of the Johnson Gym.

2010 Easter Passion Play: Join Andrews

University for our next exciting journey with the 2010 Easter Passion Play on **Sat., Apr. 3**. Our Easter Passion Play is an interactive indoor and outdoor walk-through experience for the entire family, depicting the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The first rotation begins at 9:00 a.m. and the last rotation begins at 6:00 p.m. English rotations begin every 30 minutes. Two Spanish rotations will be offered. Bring your family or your church group! Reserve your free event reservation online at www.passionplay.andrews.edu.

Illinois

Broadview Academy Alumni Association

is pleased to announce that the BVA Alumni Weekend will be held **Apr. 30 and May 1** at the North Aurora Seventh-day Adventist Church, corner of Mooseheart and Randall Roads. All alumni are encouraged to attend—don't miss it! Honor Classes: 1950,

'60, '70, '80, '85, '90 and 2000. Friday night Vespers at 7:30 p.m.; Sabbath school at 9:30 a.m. and Church at 10:45 a.m. There will be a POTLUCK lunch, so please bring dishes to share. A music program will be held in the afternoon at 3:00 p.m. For communication purposes, WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES. POSTAGE IS TOO EXPENSIVE. Send it to scross@broadviewacademy.org, or call her at 630-428-4182. Area accommodation options are now available through the front page of the Web site, www.broadviewacademy.org.

Indiana

2010 Youth Rally: Hundreds of young

people from all across Indiana converge for this annual event held **Feb. 19-20**. It begins Friday evening at 7:30 at Indiana Academy (IA) with guest speaker Amner Fernandez, youth pastor, Coral Springs Church, Fla. To spend Friday night in the dorm and receive a free Sabbath morning breakfast, make your reservation by calling IA at 317-984-3575. Sabbath program begins at 10:00 a.m. at Indianapolis Junior Academy. You will receive a free lunch, followed by afternoon activities which end at 4:30. Enjoy the A.U. *Gymnics* program Saturday night at 7:30. Register your group for the weekend at youth@indy.sda.org. For additional information, go to www.trcamp.org and click on calen-

dar, or call Trish Thompson at the Indiana Conference youth department, 317-844-6201.

Musical Festival and Sabbath Celebration

is **Apr. 10**. Plan now to hear Indiana's young people share their musical talents during the Sabbath morning worship service and again in the afternoon as they perform the winning Scripture song for 2010. Van G. Hurst, Indiana Conference president, will be the speaker for the 11:00 o'clock worship service. Bring your lunch, and picnic in Indiana Academy's auditorium with friends (old and new!) as you enjoy a day overflowing with rich spiritual blessings at this conference-wide annual event. For questions regarding the Music Festival or Scripture Song Contest, call Mark Haynal in the Indiana Conference education department, and for questions regarding Sabbath Celebration, call the president's office at the Indiana Conference, 317-844-6201.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Feb 6** Local Church Budget
 - Feb 13** Adventist Television Ministries
 - Feb 20** Local Church Budget
 - Feb 27** Local Conference Advance
- ### Special Days
- Feb 6-27** Black History Month
 - Feb 7-13** Christian Home and Marriage Week
 - Feb 20** Health Ministries Sabbath

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26	Mar 5	Mar 12
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:03	6:12	6:21	6:29	6:40	6:49
Chicago, Ill.	5:08	5:17	5:26	5:35	5:46	5:54
Detroit, Mich.	5:49	5:58	6:07	6:16	6:27	6:35
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:07	6:15	6:23	6:31	6:41	6:49
La Crosse, Wis.	5:19	5:28	5:38	5:47	5:59	6:08
Lansing, Mich.	5:54	6:03	6:13	6:22	6:33	6:41
Madison, Wis.	5:13	5:22	5:31	5:40	5:52	6:01
Springfield, Ill.	5:20	5:29	5:37	5:45	5:55	6:02

Michigan

Andrews Academy Academy Days: Eighth-grade students in formal education or home schooling are invited to participate in the Academy Days experience beginning with registration at 7:45 a.m. in the Gymnasium on **Mar. 2**. The program will run all day and will conclude with a grand assembly around 2:30 p.m. in the chapel. That evening at 6:30 another similar program, "Academy Adventure," is open to the same students and their parents as they learn more of the culture of everyday activities. That program begins with a light supper followed by four separate stations giving information about the Andrews Academy journey. For more information on this event, call the school at 269-471-3138.

North American Division

Union College Homecoming: Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to Homecoming, **Apr. 1-4**. Honor classes are 1940, '50, '55, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90 and 2000. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503; 3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or alumni@ucollege.edu.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend, Apr. 23-24: Friday Golf Tournament, Vespers, Sabbath services at LSA gym, class reunions, basketball game. Yearbooks available for sale. Visit your campus, renew your friendships! Honor classes: 1940, '50, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90, '95, 2000, '05. For more information, contact the Alumni office at 951-351-1445, ext. 244, or e-mail lsaalumni@lsak12.com.

ONE VOICE
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If you are a creative teen or young adult who has something to say, it's time to get it off your chest. The Lake Union Herald is looking for stories of faith and challenge written by readers between the ages of 14 and 30.

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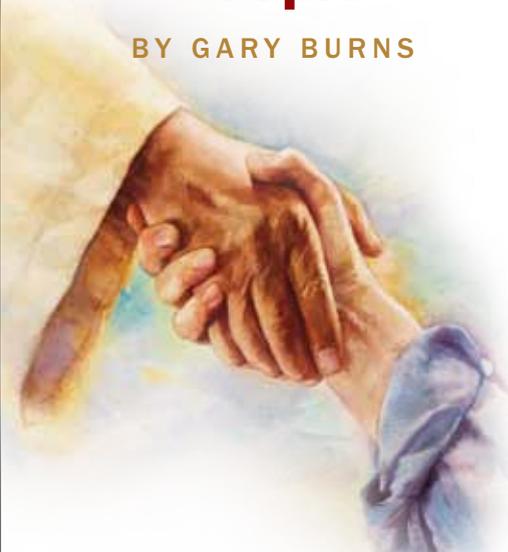
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Send 450 words of hope, inspiration and challenge to: herald@luc.adventist.org. Place "One Voice" in the subject line.

PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Messed Up People

BY GARY BURNS



My church is messed up ... I mean, really messed up. I love the fact that messed up people are welcome—not only to attend, but to belong. The world is full of messed up people who desperately need help. What better place for them to be than in my church? If history tells us anything, Jesus' church should be full of publicans, prostitutes, profligates and sinners—messed up people.

Sometimes messed up people make me uncomfortable. I forget that I am chief among messed up people. I start thinking that I'm getting pretty spiritual. I love God, am making progress on the sin problem, and really have a desire to be holy. I inadvertently (I would never do it intentionally) begin to compare my

spiritual progress with those around me.

Almost always I find reasons to believe the people around me are a lot more messed up than I am. My only safety is to keep my focus on Jesus. The more I look to Him (the closer I get to Him), the more messed up I appear in my own eyes. That's when healing begins! When I give my mess to Him.

I begin to see others through His eyes, I begin to appreciate their value and experience His compassion for their pain. I begin to see that we have something else in common: We love Jesus and want to be more like Him. Which means, by the way, we become partners with Him in rescuing more messed up people.

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

Modern-Day Miracles

BY JESSICA LILLIE

I became a Seventh-day Adventist in February 2008 at the age of 22. Not knowing any Adventists my age, I struggled with loneliness and depression. I prayed for God to show me where to go and to reveal His plan for my life. He listened.

God led me to a Friday night Bible study group at Grand Valley State University, not far from my home in Belding, Michigan. The experience was the highlight of my week! I couldn't wait to enjoy the fellowship and learn from the example of other students who shared the same love for Jesus.

There I learned about a winter retreat at Camp Au Sable. Hoping to build relationships with other Adventist students, I went. That is where I met an Andrews University student who told me of the school's wonderful mission opportunities. After looking into the programs, careful consideration and prayer, I made an appointment to visit Andrews.

As the visiting date grew near, my faith became shaky. The education was expensive, and as a transferring senior I wasn't sure if Andrews would allow me to graduate after one school year. Seeking encouragement, I called Gisela Knowlton, a member of the Ionia Adventist Church whom I refer to as "Mom," and asked her to come along.

After arriving at Andrews, the visit was less than promising. I would have to pay more money than expected, jobs were not guaranteed, and it wasn't clear if I could graduate in one year with a major in French and Spanish.

I spoke with the chair of the Department of International Language Studies and everything began to fall into

place. I *would* be able to graduate in one year, and God *would* provide scholarship and financial aid to cover tuition cost! But the miracles didn't stop there.

To graduate on time, I needed to attend summer school, possibly by spending a few months at the Adventist university in France. But I needed money for that, so I applied for a private student loan and prayed that if it was God's will, He would help me get approval.

The loan was rejected. Though disappointed, I continued to pray about where I should be. Two weeks went by until the day arrived when I received a phone call from my former college.

"Hi, Jessica. This is Darcy from the Financial Aid office at Aquinas College. We're just calling to let you know that we have a check here for you," she said. Their records showed I had applied for a loan, and the approval letter and check had arrived in that day's mail.

I spent the summer in France and witnessed God working through me in many ways. Since then, I have been studying at Andrews, and the evidence of God has been overwhelming—from finding a roommate to placement tests and jobs, not a day goes by without a small miracle from Him. I know He is leading me, and He is a God who can be trusted.



Jessica Lillie lives in Belding, Michigan. She is a senior at Andrews University pursuing a double major in French and Spanish.

Keila Carmona, 17, is a senior at Andrews Academy and the daughter of Dana and Daniel Carmona. Keila is a member of the Highland Avenue Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan, where she is youth praise team leader. She also assists with AY (Adventist Youth) activities.

Keila says she likes the spiritual atmosphere at Andrews Academy and the opportunity to form new friendships. She is the current vice president of the senior class, and was the representative of her class during her junior year. Keila also is leader of the senior musical group that leads morning devotion exercises once a week. She is always involved in leadership activities in a very quiet and humble manner.

At Andrews Academy, Keila's favorite class is U.S. History, because she says it gave her a look at what happened in the past and took her to a place she has not been before. She also enjoys Literary Interpretation, where she played a visiting cousin in "Onions in the Stew," a school play.

While Keila enjoys reading and studying, she desires to be a doctor and to enjoy God's plan for her life. Keila hopes to attend Andrews University and major in Biology.



Keila Carmona



Clifford G. Allen

Clifford G. Allen, 17, is a senior at Andrews Academy and the son of Clifford L. and Karen Allen. Clifford is a member of the Niles Philadelphia Church in Niles, Michigan. As a member, Clifford has served in various capacities over the years. Along with helping out in vacation Bible school as a counselor on a regular basis, he has served the church as a junior deacon and junior treasurer.

Currently the president of his senior class, Clifford was also public relations officer his junior year, class treasurer his sophomore year and class pastor his freshman year.

Clifford has a cumulative GPA of 3.53 and is a member of the Alma L. Campbell Chapter of the National Honor Society. He will graduate with three more units than is required, and with honors holding comprehensive endorsement.

Clifford's current interests include leadership, basketball, reading the Bible and other books, and playing the saxophone. He intends to follow whatever plan God sets before him. After graduating from academy, Clifford will attend Andrews University where he will major in business administration/finance with a certificate in leadership. His plans also include obtaining a master's degree in hospital or health care system administration/leadership, and he hopes to become president of a major health care system in the future.

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Contributors: Writer guidelines are available online at www.LakeUnionHerald.org.

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

INSPIRATIONAL FINE ART BY NATHAN GREENE



THE RESCUE

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the ‘black lamb’
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Nathan Greene



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