

Lake Union HERALD

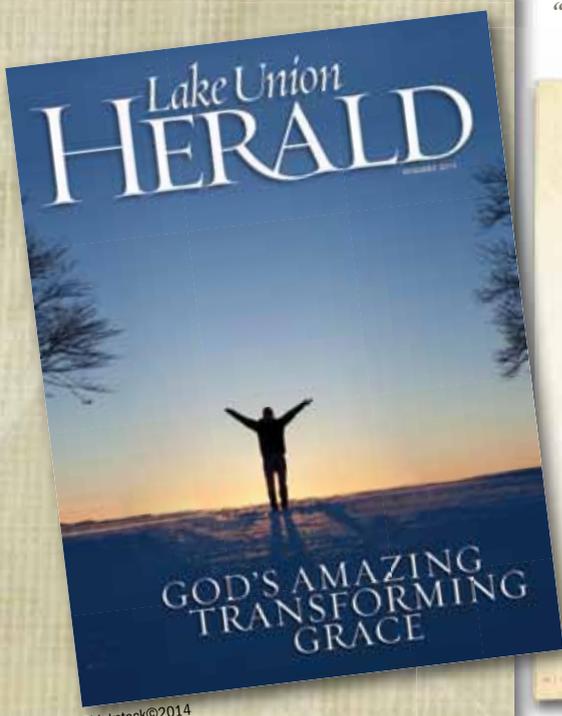
JANUARY 2015



GOD'S AMAZING
TRANSFORMING
GRACE

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

12



In every issue...

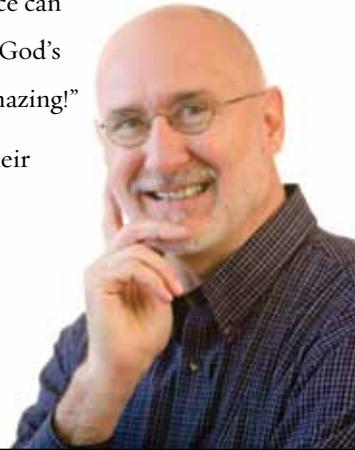
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In this issue...

It may be the dead of winter, but the rays of God's grace can still bring life, warmth and growth to cold, stony hearts. God's transforming grace is a mystery. That's why we call it "amazing!"

In this edition, our five conference presidents share their tribute to God's amazing transforming grace.

Gary Burns
Gary Burns, Editor



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The *Lake Union Herald* (ISSN 0194-908X) is published monthly (except for June, July and November/December) by the Lake Union Conference, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs, MI, and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription price is \$12.50. Vol. 107, No. 1. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to: *Lake Union Herald*, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.

GUEST PERSPECTIVE

BY GARY THURBER, LAKE UNION EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Amazing Grace

Dear readers, for more than a year I have been blessed to again work with Gary Thurber, our Lake Union Conference executive secretary. I've asked him to write the guest editorial this month. —Don Livesay, president of the Lake Union Conference

In this issue, you will read thoughtful messages from Lake Union conference presidents about how they have grown spiritually or matured in their walk with the Lord.

Personally, I have grown closer to my Savior through the study of the Scripture, prayer, reading the Spirit of Prophecy books, words of encouragement from preachers and Christian friends, and beautiful, sacred music. Above all of these treasured gifts in my life, however, I believe it is when I have experienced grace, in a profound way, that has given me my best opportunities to grow and be more reflective of Jesus.

Growing in our walk with God, through the experience of grace, is a concept found in Scripture. Titus 2:11–12 declares, *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age* (NASB). It is the grace of God that saves us, but when is the last time you thought about the grace of God *instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly*?

Romans 2:4 (NASB) also shares the same theme: *Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?*

When I was a preteen, my family lived in a home with a huge patio. It was a great space on which to play basketball. But, in the fall, the myriad of trees surrounding the patio created one great mess. My mother was a stickler for having it swept clean every Friday before Sabbath began. Our patio looked the size of a football field to my brother and me, who alternated this chore weekly.

I still can remember clearly one Friday when it was my brother's turn to clean the patio, but he was away. I was ready to strongly defend my position that it was entirely unfair for me to have to clean the patio two weeks in a row. But instead of saying a word to me, my mother put on her coat, gloves and scarf, grabbed a broom, and headed outside to sweep up the leafy mess herself.

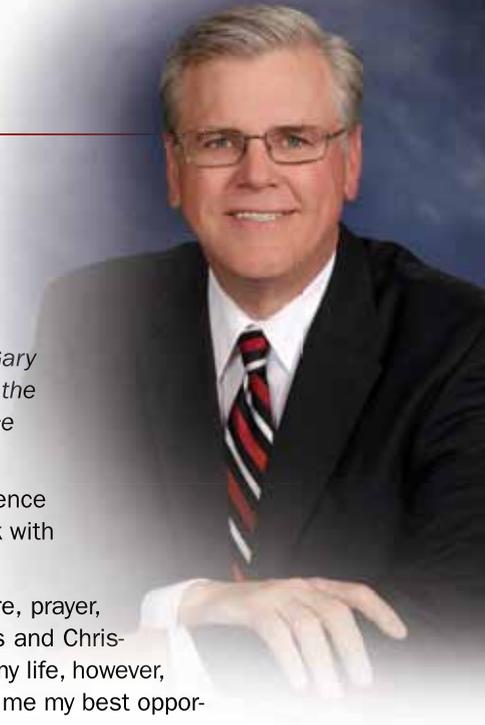
This broke my heart, and I could do nothing except grab my coat and another broom, and join her. She was more than gracious to me. When I thought about all she did to clean the house, prepare food, and care for our family, and then take on this chore, too, her kindness overwhelmed me; I wanted to be more like her.

Through the years, as I have experienced amazing grace from my parents, deans, friends, co-workers, wife and family, it has caused me to want to live a more righteous, godly life.

It is, of course, my Savior's grace that has done the most for me. We are familiar with the passage from *The Desire of Ages*, page 83, where Ellen White wrote: "It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. ... As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit."

What could possibly do more to help us grow more Christlike than to take Ellen White's counsel to recount daily the grace of Christ in our lives?

I invite you to look for ways to show grace to others today. Who knows? You might just be the one God uses to help them live a godly life in this present age.





A Screeching Halt

BY WILLIAM MERRILL

Many expected me back in California. Last year, I worked as an assistant dean and student teacher at Weimar Academy; toward the end of the second semester, I switched gears and prepared to go to the college there. As a 23-year-old, with a fresh calling in life — a calling to be a teacher, I felt urged by God to attend the school, and put all my energy into raising money to make that a reality.

I spent the summer working in Michigan at Camp Au Sable as a counselor. During that time, I prayed, wrote letters, talked to people, shared my story. I truly believed I was going to be at Weimar Institute. Even though I saw many doors close, it seemed to me that God was only testing my faith.

As the new school year quickly approached, I had less money than I even started with! Yet, I continued on and refused to buckle my faith, thinking that, surely, God would provide for something in which I believed so strongly. *After all, everything I do is for his glory ... right?*

A month-and-a-half after the semester started, I find myself at home — jobless, back with my parents, with little money or possessions. It's challenging to come to terms with the new situation. This time has been tough, seeing how my life essentially has come to a screeching halt. Every door (that I could see) that was open has slammed shut, and I can't help but feel lost. I feel like my life has reset, like the awesome experience of this last year didn't happen.

But those are just feelings...

This is a strange time in my life, but the reality is God has shown me an incredible way to live. Through my time working for him at the academy, he's started a great work in me.



William Merrill

My goals, desires and even my actions are more aligned with him all the time! I look to the future and fear, but I know that's unnecessary. I look to my past, and the rational side of me wants to slap the emotional side of me. *Don't be such an idiot! There's nothing to worry about! Look how God has taken care of you! Does he ditch his loved ones? No!*

With that in mind, I've been waiting on the Lord, and a promising opportunity came up. For the past few weeks, I've been looking to work for some friends, a great way to save up money while working toward my goals and preparing to teach. After many closed doors, the job was just shy of guaranteed, and I've been hanging, waiting, longing to get back to work (and out of my current situation). I've been excited to get on with my life and, with bated breath, awaited the green light to go.

Just a few days ago, I received news that I would not be going, and a one sure-fire job turned into another slammed door. Disappointed? Ha, yes! A great opportunity seemingly lost, I find myself back to the drawing board.

With the disappointment, however, came something unexpected. I felt something I haven't really had the whole time I've been home: Peace! A warm, comforting peace came over me, just as I heard the news, and I had an overwhelming



sense that God is in control. It was the first time in a long time that I've felt his presence like that, and I realized then how far away I've strayed from him.

With compromises in character, apathy in my spiritual life, and an attitude of impatience peppered with arrogant discontent, I see now the wedge I've put between the Father and me. This time — a much needed time of rest, connection with him, and development of talents — has been damned by my unwillingness to be where God has put me. Instead of looking to Jesus for help, comfort and growth, I've fixated on my problems while convincing myself that my unsuccessful plans are God's plans.

Things haven't been "working out" because struggling at home is the best opportunity to work out what God truly wants for me. He wants to teach me more than just patience or trust. He needs this static time to show me he's not only the God of the future, but he's the God of the present, and I'm not spending that time with him now. I'm not letting him lead. I'm not trusting. I'm not using the time here productively. And I'm not putting him above all else.

There are a lot of people who are unhappy with their lives right now. I know, I'm fighting that as I write! We have our plans; they don't go as planned, and then we assume God has no plan. What a lame way to live! If we look around, even in our times of uncertainty, God will give us missions to focus on. We can truly be his workers in any situation, and I'm tired of missing that mark.

For those who feel like I feel, if Jesus tells us not to worry about tomorrow then, maybe, we should listen. It's not laziness; it's not a lack of care. We can still have dreams and goals

to work toward! I still want to be a teacher. I still love youth ministry. I still want many good things for my life. But we can't continue to allow our plans to supersede our relationship with Jesus! We can't allow the work we want to do tomorrow to be a substitute for the work we need to do today! I'm done making my future my idol and, if you feel that way, too, I pray that, together, we can change our priorities to him, through him.

One more thing, and this is super important. Seriously, go get a drink of water and maybe do a few jumping jacks or something before reading on. Okay, sitting down, all refreshed, right? Prayerfully, read this:

"Christ in His life on earth made no plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will. As we commit our ways to Him, He will direct our steps.

"Too many, in planning for a brilliant future, make an utter failure. Let God plan for you. As a little child, trust to the guidance of Him who will *keep the feet of His saints* (1 Samuel 2:9 KJV). God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose that they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 479).

William Merrill is from Beaverton, Michigan, and is a member of the Edenville Church. He is considering being a teacher, and his hobbies include graphic design, music and writing. William also is the author of "Faith and Quirks," a new Christian website with hand-drawn, illustrated articles on faith, life and more. See <http://www.faithandquirks.com>.



Fostering Faith Through Spiritual Gifts

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Every Christian parent desires for their children to develop a faith in God and in the church where they worship. Let's consider the role of discovering spiritual gifts in this faith development. Two passages show us spiritual gifts are not age-based. Paul instructed the church about the importance of discovering and using spiritual gifts. While this speaks to abilities and opportunities of those who may be older, nowhere does he suggest an age limit. In 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV), we read: *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

As parents and other important adults in children's lives, we can make the Bible come alive as we also share 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV), which reads, *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

How empowering for children to begin to understand that there is a role for them, no matter their age, in God's army for good. They deserve our help to see who they are in Christ, and they need to be nurtured in age-appropriate ways to identify and develop the gifts he has given them. What a privilege for parents to be involved actively in this process!

So what are some ways to accomplish this? Our children deserve to be taught specifically about God's purposes for the church and what the Bible says about spiritual gifts. We can help them realize they have a part to do now, not just when they are older. They deserve opportunities to serve in various kinds of ministry so they can begin to identify where they may have gifts. When they can work side-by-side with family members and others, they can grow passion within their hearts.

Allow children to plan and lead their own programs, under appropriate supervision, and leaders and teachers will emerge among them. You will see the gift of mercy blossom as children have chances to minister to those in need.



Volunteering in the church and broader community is a way the gift of service may be discovered. Be careful that, in the process, you don't use coercion or a reward system to get them involved. Serving out of love and obedience is faith-building; doing it because of tantalizing rewards is not.

Share realistic affirmation and feedback. When Jesus sent out his disciples, he took the time to discuss how it went with them. Our children deserve no less. They also deserve appropriate training for what we ask them to do. If they just don't seem suited for what you have planned, let them find something that is a better fit for them. Sadly, many adults don't do their part by serving along with their children. Sending them out and remaining uninvolved confuses and disappoints. Also, you lose potential blessings awaiting you!

We can pray that ministry and using their spiritual gifts goes beyond head knowledge and translates into a real love for the Lord and a true desire to serve him. Pray that God will use opportunities, even in small ways, to grow a passion in their hearts to follow his purposes in their lives. Always, no matter what, pray for their walk with the Lord!

Susan E. Murray is a professor emerita of behavioral sciences at Andrews University, certified family life educator, and licensed marriage and family therapist.

Massage improves stress-related insomnia and lowers blood pressure.

Massage improves post-surgical recovery.

Stress Less

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Are you awaiting some new health breakthrough this year? Maybe some new drug, or a new high-tech surgical procedure? Maybe a new expensive fitness program to help you lose weight quickly? Think again. Maybe the most powerful determinants of your health and well-being are, in the words of Dean Ornish, “the lifestyle choices you make every day: to eat well, stress less, move more, and love more.”¹

Furthermore, Dean, who is president of the Preventive Medicine Research Institute in California, says that “Changing your lifestyle can change hundreds of genes in only three months — turning on genes that promote health, and turning off genes that lead to heart disease and cancer.”² His research has shown that low-tech, low-cost lifestyle interventions have reversed the progression of heart disease, early-stage prostate cancer, and type 2 diabetes. He claims that diet and lifestyle modifications can, in most cases, override genetics if you’re willing to make big enough changes.

As we look to the year ahead, let’s take a closer look at one of the four lifestyle factors Dean mentions: how to manage stress more effectively. About 20–30 minutes of quiet meditation on God’s Word each day can help lower stress levels. Laughter also can lower stress and increase the flow of endorphins. Thirty minutes of brisk physical activity each day can work magic on high stress levels. Turning off your smartphone three to four hours each day helps you lower stress, by helping you catch your breath from the flood of text messages and influx of emails that come your way.

Massage is another easy way to beat stress. In a recent survey, over one-third of responding hospitals said they offered complementary medicine therapies, with massage being one of the top two services provided.

Massage takes many forms but usually involves rubbing, pressing or manipulating soft tissues of the body. Massage is used widely to reduce stress and anxiety, relieve pain, relax muscles, improve circulation, and promote healing and



relaxation. Massage can assist the body to release endorphins and serotonin (natural painkillers and mood regulators). Massage also reduces the level of cortisol, a stress hormone, and raises the production of lymphocytes. Massage eases joint pain and improves impaired joint mobility. Massage also can improve stress-related insomnia and reduce blood pressure.

People with cancer report reduced pain and anxiety, and less nausea and other side effects,

by over 40 percent, when they received massage treatments. People with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) experienced an increase in their natural killer cell numbers. Millions of Americans suffer from back pain, neck pain, migraines; massage helps relieve such ailments. Surgical patients who are given massage often feel better and require less pain medication during surgical recovery. This explains why many hospitals have incorporated massage therapy into their post-surgical treatment.

A massage also can help to improve blood circulation and relieve muscle soreness following an injury. In a study at Mayo Clinic, staff who received chair massages experienced stress reduction and enjoyed greater job satisfaction. One caution: Massage should be performed by a knowledgeable person since a person can be hurt if massage is not performed correctly.

Winston J. Craig, Ph.D., RD, lives in Walla Walla, Washington. He is a professor emeritus of nutrition of Andrews University.

1. “Your Body: Unlocking the Secrets to a Long & Healthy Life,” *Newsweek Special Issue*. Topix Media Lab: New York, NY (Jan. 1, 2014).
2. *Ibid.*



PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever he goes

Unity of Faith

BY THE EDITORS

In the 1860s, Ellen White addressed circumstances that were bringing division in an area of the Lake Union territory. Considering the present-day, multiple voices attempting to divide and draw people away to themselves, we thought this counsel would be useful as we prepare to gather together, united in prayer, for the upcoming General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas. —The Editors

“**T**he present truth is not difficult to be understood, and the people whom God is leading will be united upon this broad, firm platform. He will not use individuals of different faith, opinions, and views, to scatter and divide. Heaven and holy angels are working to unite, to bring into the unity of the faith, into the one body. Satan opposes this, and is determined to scatter, and divide, and bring in different sentiments, that the prayer of Christ [see John 17:20–21] may not be answered. Jesus designed that the faith of His people should be one. If one goes forth preaching one thing, and another differing with him preaches something else, how can those who believe through their word be one? There will be difference of sentiments.

“I saw that if God’s people in [the Lake Union] would prosper, they must take a decided position in regard to these things, and thereby cut off the influence of those who are causing distraction and division by teaching sentiments contrary to the body. Such are wandering stars. They seem to emit a little light; they profess and carry along a little truth, and thus deceive the inexperienced. Satan endows them with his spirit, but God is not with them; His Spirit does not dwell in them. Jesus prayed that His disciples might be one, as He is one with the Father, *that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me* [John 17:21 KJV]. The oneness and unity of God’s truth-believing remnant people carries powerful conviction to the world that they have the truth, and are the peculiar, chosen people of God. This oneness and unity disconcerts the enemy, and he is determined that it shall not exist. The present truth, believed in the heart and exemplified in the life, makes God’s people one, and gives them a powerful influence.

“Had professed Sabbathkeepers in [the Lake Union] earnestly sought and labored to be in union with the prayer of Christ, to be one as He is one with the Father, Satan’s work would have been defeated. If all had sought to be in union

with the body, the fanaticism which has brought so deep a stain upon the cause of present truth in [the Lake Union] would not have arisen; for it is the result of drawing off from the body, and seeking to have an original, independent faith, regardless of the faith of the body” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 1868, pp. 326–327).

This column is designed to promote searching the Scriptures on current topics — in community, through prayer. Invite others to join you in a prayerful response to these thoughts:

- What is the mission of Heaven and holy angels compared to Satan’s objective?
- What makes us one, and what is God’s purpose in having a united people?
- How should we relate to those who are causing distraction and division?
- As you read John 17, how do you think God would answer Jesus’ prayer for you, specifically?

The Lake Union Herald editors

Focused Prayer

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

All prayer meetings should be God-focused. But if you have been in prayer meetings, you know how quickly your mind can flit to the things you are praying for and away from the God you are praying to.

In J.B. Phillips' book titled *Your God Is Too Small*, he reminds us that the ways we imagine God often reduce him to small proportions, quite unlike the God he really is. It's important when we pray that our God be *very big*. Trusting him to hear and answer prayer depends on our knowing just how great he really is.

The early Christians, after being told by Jewish authorities never again to teach in the name of Jesus, *raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord,"* they said, *"you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them..."* (Acts 4:24 NIV). Their God was big enough to have created the world. If you know that God is that *big*, you don't need to be anxious about the threats of puny human leaders. The early Christian pray-ers were not afraid!

And, since God created the world, he surely could manipulate his created order. So they prayed, *Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders* (Acts 4:30 NIV). And God did! (See Acts 5:12-16.)

People who remember that God has a plan and knows the future can pray with boldness and confidence. The early Christians found in Psalm 2 that portion of God's plan that applied to them in their current situation. They quoted the words of that psalm back to God and reminded him that his power and will had decided these things beforehand (see Acts 4:28).

Good prayer meetings usually begin with praise that focuses our hearts on God. It raises the level of our God-consciousness and helps us see God for who he really is in the face of our needs and

problems that may seem overwhelming. The level of our prayers usually will equal the level of our praise.

God-focused prayer also will strengthen our faith, since our thoughts will be occupied with his power, wisdom, love and faithfulness. We will recall what he has done and be confident of what he can do. Such thoughts have the ability to increase our faith. People who focus on God find their faith growing strong.

Finally, God-focused prayer gives courage that flows from what we know about God and his purposes. If we know God has defeated Satan already and that he *will soon crush Satan under [our] feet* (Romans 16:20 NIV); and if we know that *the weapons we fight with ... have divine power to demolish strongholds* (2 Corinthians 10:4 NIV), then we will pray with courage. God-focused prayer gives us the spirit of triumph.

That's how early Christians prayed, and that's the way God wants us to pray, too. God-focused prayer is powerful, effective, faith-filled prayer. How "God-focused" are your personal prayer times? Your church's prayer meetings?

Ask God to give you a greater consciousness of him every time you pray. Meditate on one or more of God's attributes. Praise God who made the heavens, the Earth and the sea, and everything in them. Thank God for the courage, strength and peace he gives you when you focus your mind on him.

Alvin J. VanderGriend is co-founder of The Denominational Prayer Leaders Network and currently serves as evangelism associate for Harvest Prayer Ministries in Terre Haute, Indiana. This article is an excerpt from his book, *Joy of Prayer*. Reprinted with permission.



SHARING *our* HOPE

Letting God Lead

BY STEVEN BELL

Willing to be used initially but unaware of God’s plans, Sheridan Church members now realize God grew things to where they are today.

The little Sheridan Church has staffed a tent at the local Sandwich Fair for as far back as anyone can remember. The fair is the third largest in the state, and attendance averages 35,000 daily. We began to pray about what more could be done to reach fair-goers who, in the past, have come from 35 states and 13 countries. We decided that, in addition to sharing literature, a website was needed to provide a contact point for more individuals. We envisioned offering Bible studies, school information, ministries and community services. We wanted to put the focus on Jesus.

The website would include a church locator so visitors, from anywhere in North America, could locate a church near them, but the website needed a name. Concurrently, the Illinois Conference launched a “Touch Everyone for Jesus” campaign, a five-year initiative to bring the gospel to every person in Illinois. We realized the website name was right in front of us: TE4J. So, we decided to juncture with the branding used for the Illinois Conference initiative, and then visitors to our website also would see the same banner when they visit other churches in Illinois. When the next Sandwich Fair rolled around, the website was in place and everything at the Sheridan Church fair booth was branded with “www.TE4J.org,” including wrist bands, books and balloons.

The Sheridan Church website grew until one day, two years later, the server where it was hosted could no longer support the software with which the website was created. Without warning, the site was down and all the hours of



The Sheridan Church in Illinois has staffed a tent at the local Sandwich Fair for nearly 50 years. Fair attendance averages 35,000 daily, providing many opportunities to share literature and witness for Jesus.

Steven Bell

hard work gone. Though disappointed, a new site was soon created — before the next Sandwich Fair in the fall.

We have tapped into social media, too, via Facebook and Google+, and now share the gospel with a much larger audience. We even purchased advertising at a reasonable rate on Facebook.

This year, God impressed us to launch an app for smart phones. It is a natural progression of technologies. It puts the vision of TE4J right in the palm of one’s hand, where it can be a missionary for Jesus. The app has television links, music links, recipes, kids ministries, Bible studies and more. We want to be a conduit for good.

The app is bigger than helping just the Sheridan Church; the church’s goal and vision is to share the gospel statewide and, hopefully, nationwide for a broader reach. The app continues to be enhanced, and is the result of what a handful of people, with a desire to spread the gospel, can do with little or no money. We invite you to view a video clip about our new app: <http://bit.ly/SheridanTE4J>.

We are excited to see how God will use these tools for his glory, and hope our story will inspire someone to go bigger and better than us as they let God lead. I fully believe we should be out sharing Jesus wherever we go. As much as we all complain about them, Facebook, Pinterest and the like are fantastic mission fields, giving us access to people who might never give us the time of day.

Steven Bell is the head elder of the Sheridan Church in Illinois.



Los grupos pequeños valen la pena

POR CARMELO MERCADO

La formación de pequeños grupos como base del esfuerzo cristiano me ha sido presentada por Uno que no puede errar. — Servicio cristiano, p. 92

El año pasado todas las congregaciones hispanas del estado de Indiana decidieron hacer un esfuerzo masivo para compartir las buenas nuevas a los hispanos en sus comunidades y en especial en la ciudad de Indianapolis. Bajo el liderazgo del coordinador hispano, el Dr. Antonio Rosario y los pastores, las iglesias usaron como su estrategia principal los más de 90 grupos pequeños que existen en dicha asociación.

Cuando el pastor Rosario llegó a Indiana como coordinador hispano sintió el llamado de Dios de avanzar su obra usando el principio bíblico de organizar grupos pequeños en cada iglesia. Cada año se lleva a cabo un retiro de entrenamiento para los líderes de los grupos y se les proporciona recursos. Los grupos se reúnen cada viernes en los hogares de los hermanos con el propósito de preparar discípulos para Cristo.



Más de 800 personas escuchan la palabra de Dios en la campaña de La Voz de la Esperanza en Indianapolis, Indiana.

En el mes de julio más de 60 de los grupos pequeños realizaron cruzadas en los hogares donde se apeló a las visitas a que entregaran sus vidas a Cristo. Luego se invitó a oradores especiales para que dieran campañas evangelísticas en las iglesias locales. La culminación de los esfuerzos evangelísticos fue cuando La Voz de la Esperanza dirigió una campaña en el Indiana State Fairground en la ciudad de Indianapolis. Gloria a Dios que al final de la campaña se bautizaron más de 120 personas y quedaron otras

preparándose para un futuro bautismo.

Me ha impresionado ver cómo ha crecido la obra hispana en ese estado. En el año 1990 la obra hispana consistía en una sola iglesia con 60 miembros. En la actualidad hay 21 congregaciones con más de 1.600 miembros. No tengo duda que la razón principal por la cual la obra hispana ha crecido tanto es por la implementación de los

grupos pequeños en cada iglesia.

Nuestro Señor nos ha dado la comisión de ganar almas para él. Mi deseo es que cada iglesia cumpla ese deber teniendo en mente la siguiente amonestación: “Organícense nuestras iglesias en grupos para servir. Únanse diferentes personas para trabajar como pescadores de hombres. Procuren arrancar almas de la corrupción del mundo y llevarlas a la pureza salvadora del amor de Cristo” (*Joyas de los testimonios*, tomo 3, p. 84).

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

Our Very First Work

BY ELLEN WHITE

In the matchless gift of His Son, God has encircled the whole world with an atmosphere of grace as real as the air which circulates around the globe. All who choose to breathe this life-giving atmosphere will live and grow up to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus.

As the flower turns to the sun, that the bright beams may aid in perfecting its beauty and symmetry, so should we turn to the Sun of Righteousness, that heaven's light may shine upon us, that our character may be developed into the likeness of Christ.

Jesus teaches the same thing when He says, *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ... Without me ye can do nothing* (John 15:4–5 KJV). You are just as dependent upon Christ, in order to live a holy life, as is the branch upon the parent stock for growth and fruitfulness. Apart from Him you have no life. You have no power to resist temptation or to grow in grace and holiness. Abiding in Him, you may flourish. Drawing your life from Him, you will not wither nor be fruitless. You will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water.

Many have an idea that they must do some part of the work alone. They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, but now they seek by their own efforts to live aright. But every such effort must fail. Jesus says, *Without Me ye can do nothing*. Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness,—all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly,—by abiding in Him,—that we are to grow in grace. He is not only the Author, but the Finisher of our faith. It is Christ first and last and always. He is to be with us, not only at the beginning and the end of our course, but at every step of the way. David says, *I have set the Lord always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved* (Psalm 16:8 KJV).

Do you ask, “How am I to abide in Christ?” In the same way as you received Him at first. *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him. The just shall live by faith* (Colossians 2:6; Hebrews 10:38). You gave yourself to God, to be His wholly, to serve and obey Him, and you took Christ as your Saviour. You could not yourself atone for your sins or change your heart; but having given yourself to God, you believe that He for Christ's sake did all this

for you. By faith you became Christ's, and by faith you are to grow up in Him — by giving and taking. You are to give all, — your heart, your will, your service — give yourself to Him to obey all His requirements; and you must take all — Christ, the fullness of all blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting helper — to give you power to obey.

Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, “Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.” This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ.

Ellen White was a co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This is an excerpt from *Steps to Christ*, pp. 68–70.

Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.

Write On!

BY RAY PICHETTE

God is so gracious, and has been incredibly loving and patient with me. I am an extra-grace-required (EGR) individual because, as the old song says, I am “prone to wander.” It is so easy to get distracted and sidetracked from our priorities. As a conference president, it is tempting to focus on the urgent rather than the important. The urgent constantly demands our attention. There are not enough hours in a day to accomplish both the urgent and the important. Of course, this temptation is common to all of us.

What can we do to ensure we are using our best resources of time, talents and energy for God’s mission and our relationship with him? If we are not giving Jesus — who gave his life on the cruel cross for our eternal salvation — our best, we are only giving him our leftovers.

I want to stay connected to Jesus. I want to stay authentically in alignment with God’s mission. I want to continually build a growing relationship with Jesus and experience his amazing grace. For me personally, I grow significantly with God when I can combine these together, spending time alone with God on a spiritual retreat. And I have discovered a number of things I like to refer to as “holy habits” that consistently help me to achieve this vital goal. Two of my favorites are prayer and Bible study.

From the time I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior and began my relational journey with him, I have loved learning about God’s will for my life through his written Word (see Matthew 4:4). What Jesus teaches is extremely important to me because of who he is and how it transforms my life to become more like his. At age 15, I experienced Jesus’ radical grace, and committed myself to follow him as a faithful disciple.

For many years, I heard spiritually-mature saints suggest the great blessings and benefits of journaling in conjunction with Bible studies. Sadly, I confess that I successfully resisted this recommendation for many years. I made excuses like “Journaling will slow me down too much,” and



Ray Pichette

“It will turn my Bible study time into an unnatural task.” And here is my favorite one: “I’m not a writer!” Do any of these excuses sound familiar to you? While I solely take responsibility for my foolish decision not to try journaling sooner, I will share the reality that no one actually showed me how to do it practically. Can I get a witness?

The main blessing and benefit of Bible study journaling, for me, is that it has become the most effective way God uses to grow me in his grace. God’s Word is so powerful. God’s word created us and his Word will re-create us on a daily basis. It has become, for me, spiritual growth on steroids!

A simple methodology of Bible study journaling that I found somewhere several years ago is based on the acronym SOAP: Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer. Ben Franklin’s famous saying is apropos: “Cleanliness is next to godliness.” Here are the steps.

1. **Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you in your study.** We want to be open and submissive to our great God. He knows us better than we even know ourselves. And he knows everything about us. Ask him to speak to you through his inspired Word (see 2 Timothy 3:16). Ask him to guide you specifically to just the right verse you need that day.

2. **Pick a section of God’s Word that you would like to study.** I like Paul’s letter to the Philippians. It is packed with praises, promises and precious words of encouragement.

3. **Read a short section of Scripture.** Most good study Bibles divide passages into natural literary or thought sections. If your favorite study Bible is straight forward without divided passages, simply select about ten verses each day. Read this short passage through several times, slowly and carefully.

4. **Choose one verse that seems to stand out to you.** This verse has the most to say to you at that moment. It has a relevant message for you and your present experience. It may be the verse that touches you deeply about God and his loving character. There is no right or wrong choice. What single verse seems to select you at that time?

5. **Open your journal.** A journal can be as fancy as a leather-bound book with lined pages purchased at a fine stationery store or as simple as an inexpensive essay notebook. A journal can fit into any budget.

6. **Write the name of the Bible book on the first line, left side of page.** On the second line, left side slightly indented, place a capital “S” (Scripture) followed by an equal sign. Next, write out the text and verse you have selected.

7. **On the next line place the capital letter “O” (Observation).** Write out what God brings to your mind regarding this verse. What does it mean to you today? What is God communicating to you through this particular verse? You were inspired and motivated to select it for a reason. Write out your thoughts freely.

8. **On the following line, place the capital letter “A” (Application) followed by an equal sign.** Application is the most important area of this journaling practice. God changes us when we apply his Word to our lives. *Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only* (James 1:22 KJV). Prayerfully, reflect and decide how the Holy Spirit is convicting you to put this principle into your life, beginning that very day. Please do not rush. Allow God access to your heart, mind and life. This is where the Holy Spirit can transform your life.

9. **The last letter to write down is the capital letter “P” (Prayer) followed by (You guessed it!) an equal sign.** Here, I would suggest that you limit your prayer to truth from the selected text. This prayer can include gratitude, confession, praise or whatever you need to say at that time to God, based on the text. This is not to limit personal

prayer whatsoever. In fact, this Bible study journaling process will inspire and lead you to more prayer. The particular purpose of this prayer section, however, is to pray the specific truth from the chosen passage.

10. **Write a few words that would make a descriptive title.** Here, less is more. Titles of one to three words are more memorable. Is there a key word or phrase from the verse? Place your chosen title at the top center of the page.

If you journal daily or at least on a regular basis through entire biblical books, you will have a permanent sacred record of how God has worked in and through you over time. The end result becomes a reference of God’s work of grace in you. It is remarkable to read and review these journal Bible studies. You will be surprised to see what God wrote to and through you. Your journal also becomes a rich resource for sermon ideas and devotional talks. I highly recommend you try this character-developing journaling Bible study method. God has used it profoundly in my life. I regularly experience God’s awesome grace, and it inspires me to extend his marvelous grace to others.

An example of Scripture journaling is available online at: <http://lakeunion.org>.

Ray Pichette is president of the Illinois Conference, which is headquartered in Willowbrook, Illinois.

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Frosted Windows of Our World

BY VAN HURST

Frost clings to the huge windows of the rest home where people are sitting in rocking chairs or playing checkers; a few watch TV, others stare at the floor or look into the wild blue yonder. Have you ever gone to a rest home and taken time to visit with the older folks who sit quietly, infirmed with the pain years have stoked on their body, remembering life, wondering how it passed so fast? Strangely, I enjoy relaxing at a cafeteria table, with a hot drink, and starting conversations with these precious individuals. They can't remember what they had for lunch, but tell you details from 60 years ago! Like a winding river, they spin a story of their journey, hopes, dreams, stress and disappointment. I've often heard them say, "Why worry? It all worked out for the best!"

Stress is a killer. It can exacerbate everything from depression to terminal illness. There have been times I have been almost sick with consternation! Maybe the reason clergy tend to die so early is because we haven't learned to love without the anxiety that seems to go with the cross. One phone call can be an angry parishioner on the edge of cursing; the next one a seeker who needs someone to explain how to receive Jesus into their heart. How can a pastor have one conversation that ends in someone hanging up and then tenderly lift the next caller to Jesus? I do not consider myself to have perfected this stress-less state of euphoria. God has been working with me for years.

We have to accept the reality that Jesus never fails. *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you* (1 Peter 5:7 NIV). As people, we fail one another; but Jesus never fails! When people come forward with negative criticism, they are actually criticizing Jesus himself (see *Review and Herald*, September 22, 1896). Bible study and prayer help to fortify one's mind so church pollution lands on Jesus, and we are spared!

I have a goal to read one good book a week. What we read today affects tomorrow. I try to choose books that demonstrate how other people deal with the stress factors of life and are more than conquerors. This week's reading is *41: A Portrait of My Father*, by George W. Bush.



Van Hurst

What we read, what we see, what we hear, is largely what we think! Let's picture the tranquility of Jesus. Believing that God is and that he rewards those who diligently seek him really helps to soothe life's anxieties.

Most people, in my world, believe in prayer to a point. And if God doesn't do something, we are willing to pick up the hoe and take matters into our own hands! Sometimes, I've been the little Adventist boy who said, "I believe in God; you go first." Do we really believe in the God we pray to? Prayer doesn't change God; it changes us. Prayer doesn't make circumstances better, but empowers

us to bear them. Occasionally, God chooses to change the circumstances.

I think of a quote I've used on my business cards: "Sometimes God stills the storm. Sometimes God lets the storm rage and stills His child."¹

A trial is God using circumstances to polish his children so we will shine like the stars of the heavens.

Van Hurst is the president of the Indiana Conference, which is headquartered in Carmel, Indiana.

1. A variation of this quote is attributed to Leslie Gould, author of *The Amish Nanny*: "Sometimes God calms the storm, but sometimes God lets the storm rage and calms His child."

Were It Not for Grace

BY R. CLIFFORD JONES

One of my favorite Bible verses was penned by the apostle Paul. *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me* (1 Corinthians 15:10 NIV). Known as the apostle to the Gentiles, Paul, who unrelentingly persecuted the early followers of Jesus Christ, was painfully aware that, of all the people on the Earth at the time, he was the most unqualified to be an apostle of Christ. In spite of his pedigree and training, Paul was an apostle because of the grace of God. Paul knew he brought nothing to the table and that there was nothing within him to commend him to God or to the ministry. Were it not for the grace of God, Paul would be nothing.

That is the thought that overwhelmed me on October 18, 2014, when I was invited to consider serving as the president of the Lake Region Conference at its quadrennial session. I was seated toward the back of the Pioneer Memorial Church sanctuary, losing a struggle with slumber as the afternoon proceedings wore on, when my phone vibrated. Jolted, I checked my phone and recognized the number as that of a person I knew was a member of the Nominating Committee that was in session in the basement of the church. I ignored the call and just sat there, trying to pay attention to what was going on up front. Yet, I couldn't help but think to myself,

Why would this person be calling me at this time? Truth be told, I hoped it was not what I thought it may have been. About five to ten minutes after the call, I decided to go outside for some fresh air, and got up to head for the door.

No sooner had I stepped into the brilliant sunshine than the person who telephoned earlier approached to inform me he had been sent by the Nominating Committee to contact me. "Would you care to submit your résumé to the group?" I was asked, the reason being that I was being considered for the position of president of the Lake Region Conference. I informed the individual I would have to discuss the matter with my wife, whom I proceeded to call with the news.



R. Clifford Jones

"What should I do?" I asked.

"Pray about the matter," was my wife's response.

I walked to my office in the Seminary building, and was about to begin praying when my phone rang again. "Would you care to join the Nominating Committee?" the voice on the other end asked. My name had just been voted.

When I was invited to address the delegates some minutes later, the only words that came to mind were those of Paul to the Corinthians. *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me* (1 Corinthians 15:10 NIV).

Like Paul, I am painfully aware that were it not for grace I would not have been called and would not be used by God to lead God's people. Spiritual leadership is always a sobering responsibility, and to be called to be a leader of God's people in the closing scenes of Earth's history is even more sobering. Who is worthy or deserving of such? But for the grace of God, none of us would be used.

I am unsure as to what God has in store for me and the Lake Region Conference, but I am sure that whatever God has in mind, it will be for our good and bring glory to God's name. *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future* (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV).

A couple of other Bible verses and a statement in Ellen White's classic book, *The Desire of Ages*, have kept me close to God throughout my life, and have helped me to grow in grace. The first Bible passage is 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV), *No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.* I have found this passage to be one of the most comforting and encouraging in the Bible. It asserts and assures that whatever comes my way has passed through the hands of my loving Father, who will never allow anything to reach me that he knows I will be unable to handle.

I have to believe that bringing me to this new leadership role was God's doing and, as such, I have nothing to fear for the future except as I forget how God has led me in the past (see *Life Sketches*, p. 196). The challenges I inevitably will encounter, in this new phase of my spiritual journey, all will be Father-filtered before they get to me, at which time I can count on help from God to get me through them.

As in my life of service and ministry, so it has been in my personal life. Recently, I lost my older brother, whose passing was unexpected and sudden. The call that he had to be rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery riled and rattled me a bit. But he seemed to come through the surgery unscathed, and was back home in a few days. I was privileged to visit him at his home in St. Petersburg, Florida, after his discharge from the hospital, and we all thought the worst was behind him and that he would be well and about in a matter of weeks, if not days. In fact, my last words to him were to that effect. I told him he would feel better with each passing day. You can imagine my surprise, therefore, when I was informed his condition took a turn for the worse shortly after my visit. A few days later, he passed — much to the surprise of the entire family. Yet, being people of hope and grace, we were able to accept his loss and continue to trust in the goodness and providence of God.

The other Bible verse that has helped me to grow in grace is Romans 8:28 (NIV): *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.* Who hasn't been comforted or strengthened by that verse? Over and over, I have experienced the powerful truth it contains.

Right after graduating from college, my wife, who was then my fiancée, was hired as an elementary school teacher by the Greater New York Conference. She was placed at a school in Brooklyn, New York, and was looking forward to

an eventful school year when she was called into the principal's office one day. There she was informed that, because enrollment had not met expectations, the school would be forced to lay off a teacher. As the newest employee, she was the teacher that would be let go. Fortuitously, because it was still very early in the fall semester, she was able to register in a graduate program at Andrews University. Had she not been laid off, she definitely would not have started a graduate program at that point in time, and who knows what trajectory her life — and mine — may have had.

Ellen White writes, "God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they will be fulfilling" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 224).

In spite of my foibles and misgivings, God has been faithful to me throughout my life. God has used setbacks and challenges to build my faith and trust in him, and I have been careful to ascribe to God all the glory for whatever little God has been able to achieve through me. I am committed to following God wherever he leads, knowing that God will never place on me more than I can bear and that all things will work together for my good and to God's glory. God's grace continues to fuel my every move, and I am ever aware that were it not for grace, I would not be what or who I am.

R. Clifford Jones is the president of the Lake Region Conference, which is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.

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On the Road to the Blessed Hope

BY JAY GALLIMORE

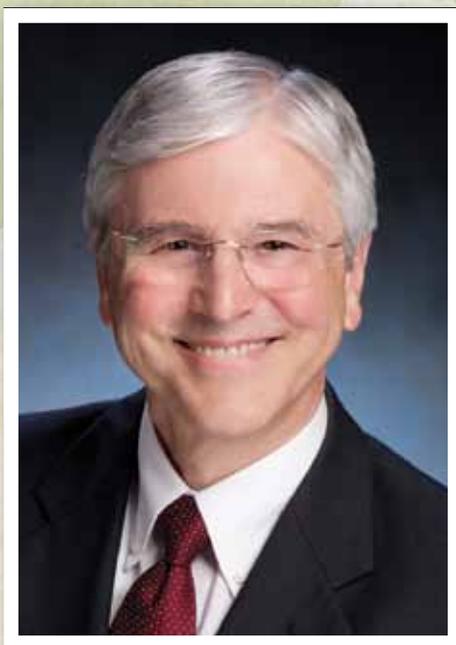
On my father's tombstone are engraved the words "Looking for that Blessed Hope." It was because of that Hope, after a series of Bible studies, that my father called up the Seventh-day Adventist minister to ask for baptism. I was six years old.

One of the things I always admired about my dad was that he always wanted and loved the truth. The public school was two blocks away in our residential neighborhood. Yet, I started church school in the back room of the downtown Seventh-day Adventist church with eight grades and one teacher. I never spent a day of my education in public school! Why did my parents put me on that journey? There was only one reason: the Blessed Hope!

My dad soon lost his job because of the Sabbath. It would be many years before he would make the same salary again. In the meantime, the church became the priority of my parents' lives. When the doors were opened or there was a church activity, you could count on our family being there.

Mom and Dad read their Bibles and the Spirit of Prophecy. How those wonderful books disciplined us in Christ! Of course, there were no more cigarettes for dad, and mother became a great vegetarian cook. She learned from the sacred writings how to be careful in the training of her two small boys. No parents are perfect, including mine, but they were committed. "Early to bed and early to rise" was her motto.

Character building and integrity were very important. In our house, for instance, it was against the rules to swing on the basement pipes, and for good reason. But during those hot, muggy North Carolina summers, it was kind of irresistible. I lied to my mother, but she knew better, and soon I knew that lying was not a smart choice.



Jay Gallimore

Of course, our physical health was important. Things like no eating in between meals just became routine.

Even though we didn't live on a farm, Dad and Mom had their own way of instilling a good work ethic. We were responsible for the supper dishes before any ball playing. Everything got a special cleaning on Friday. We learned how to clean the bathrooms, bake bread, mop the floors, and iron our clothes. Not much escaped Mom's eagle eye for things to be done right. And then there was the lawn to mow and the grass to trim, which we soon learned to work into a business for our neighbors. Of course, Dad's garden needed the weeds pulled.

Mother also read to us loads of good, character-building books. And after their baptisms, the television soon left our premises — never to return. That was because Dad quickly saw that its messages were contrary to the Blessed Hope. Some well-meaning folks complained that he was depriving us of something good — but my Dad knew better, and stayed the course. And I am, to this day, forever grateful.

They were determined we would have an Adventist education, no matter the cost. We had some great teachers, and a few that would not fit that category. Nevertheless, the influence of godly teachers was incalculable. I still remember the impact of Professor Carlson's ninth- and tenth-grade Bible classes. When academy and college time rolled around, Mother went to school and finished her nursing to help foot the bill. I spent the summers canvassing. From about the

tenth grade, I knew the Lord wanted me to be a minister. So, my whole life was bent in that direction.

We grew up always knowing and believing that Jesus forgave our sins and saved us by his grace. Yet, we understood his mercy was not an indulgent grace but a grace that would transform us into his image. Over time, those concepts became clearer and more precious. Maybe that was because the Bible, along with the Spirit of Prophecy books, played such an important part of our morning and evening worships. For sure, they kept the Blessed Hope ever before us.

Right after finishing my studies at Andrews and returning to pastoring, I discovered the little book by E.M. Bounds titled *Power Through Prayer*. It changed my life and ministry. Over the years, God has been so good. Through every trial and heartache, with the joys and successes, I never cease to be amazed at how he loves to hear and answer prayer.

Several years ago, a profound quote from page 71 of *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, was brought to my attention, through a series of revival messages given in the '70s by Frank Phillips and later printed in a little book titled *His Robe or Mine*. Somehow, those messages had been preserved. Here is the quote that continues to impact my journey: "The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. The blow that is aimed at him falls upon the Savior, who surrounds him with His presence. Whatever comes to him comes from Christ. He has no need to resist evil, for Christ is his defense. Nothing can touch him except by our Lord's permission, and *all things* that are permitted *work together for good to them that love God*" (See Romans 8:28).

Even though the Lord warned us that there would be trials, he also promised he would not leave us alone. Jesus also instructed us that if everyone spoke well of us, then we need to check our faithfulness. The world that hated him also will hate his disciples.

In addition, we should realize that we are nearly 6,000 years from the Creation. We are frail, diminished and, frankly, pitiful human beings with centuries of sinful ancestry packed into our genes and environment. And through the years, Satan and his host have honed their skills to tempt and deceive.

It all adds up to this: I must have the Savior! And I need to abide in him. The secret to abiding in him is for me to trust his wisdom and love rather than my own. I have learned and still am learning that the struggles against my sinful nature and the supernatural forces of darkness can only be

overcome by being in constant communion and constant surrender to his wisdom.

So now, when I look in my rearview mirror, I can see more clearly the mud holes I fell in. I didn't see them clearly then because I was not abiding in Christ as I should. Yes, I no doubt prayed and had worship and good intentions, but I wasn't constantly abiding in Christ. Then, I also can see places where I was surrounded with mud holes with no human solution forward. But, by abiding in Christ, he provided impossible ways through those mud holes. Even now, I am sometimes slow to learn. Praise his name for his patience and long-suffering with his deficient child!

What lies in the road between here and there, only he knows. Sometimes, we are led to a "Red Sea" where our faith is tested severely. Sometimes, the "cloud" leads us to where there is no water, and we are tempted to complain. At times, in this sin-scarred desert, resources seem very scarce, but then he has been known to turn rocks into water.

If I am abiding in him, nothing can touch me unless he allows it. And anything he allows comes from his infinite wisdom and unfathomable love. So, by his grace, I wish not to complain or whine, but fill his ear with my petitions, praise and thanksgiving.

The "cloud of witnesses" who have gone before us knew the secret. Listen to King Darius as he calls to Daniel after he had spent a night down in the Lion's den: *Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?* (Daniel 6:20 NASB) The king knew Daniel's secret! Daniel constantly served God because he was in unbroken communion with him. He was in persistent unity with God because he constantly trusted his wisdom and love. Even if the Lord allowed the lions to destroy Daniel, they could not have broken his union with Christ. "It is by virtue of this union that we are to come forth from the grave" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 388).

Now the Blessed Hope is just that: hope. I don't know what is in that road around the bend, but I walk with him in hope. He knows how truly pitiful and flawed I am. Yet, he just needs me to trust him continually. The *just shall live by faith* (Habakkuk 2:4 KJV). They always have, and they always will. There is no mountain he cannot move or briar patch he cannot undo. So, my prayer is "Lord, give me constant communion with you and mighty faith in your divine love and power." Then my Blessed Hope will become my Blessed Reality. For he alone is both! *Even so, come, Lord Jesus* (Revelation 20:20 NASB).

Jay Gallimore is the president of the Michigan Conference, which is headquartered in Lansing, Michigan.

Today Is a Gift

BY MIKE EDGE

I grew up on great stories. Daniel and the lion's den, the opening of the Red Sea, Noah and the flood, and many others. These were ingrained into my mind as I sat at my mother's knee, attended our little country Sabbath school, and our local Adventist elementary school. I thrilled as month by month we got each new "Bible in Living Sound" record album in the mail. These dramatized Bible stories brought the Bible to life, and wrote them deeply in my heart. I am thankful for my dedicated parents who sacrificed to make sure my siblings and I, from a very young age, learned of God and his love.

As I grew, I began to realize these were more than stories; they were illustrations of God's love and guidance. I, like Daniel, could know that God would never leave, even if I was in a foreign land or surrounded by those who sought to hurt me. They illustrated that, when persecuted, God would provide a way of escape, even as he did for Paul and Silas.

I still am fascinated by the stories of the Bible. I like to take a story and immerse myself in it, asking the "what," "when," "where," "who" and "how" questions, to be sure. But then, when I understand these, I ask, "God, what are you trying to tell me today? What do you want me to learn that will strengthen my trust in you?"

Bible stories are the teachings of God dressed up in the reality of life. They are illustrations of God's character portrayed as he interacts with his people. The incarnation of Jesus is one grand story of the depth of love and commitment that God has to redeem his people.

As a leader, I look to the Bible to anchor my faith, to show me the abundance of God's grace, and to reveal to me how more effectively to fulfill the responsibility God has entrusted to me.

I am inspired by Joseph, who faced the ultimate rejection by his own family. His faith in God remained strong in spite of humiliation and false accusation, and he continued to depend upon God, even when exalted to a place where he had almost supreme power. When Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers, he could say to them, "You meant



Mike Edge

bad for me, but God was in control. He brought me to Egypt for your protection and deliverance." I pray for that kind of perspective that can look beyond problems and see the powerful hands of God working behind the scenes for his glory and my best.

But some lessons are not learned from a book, even a good storybook. Some lessons are learned only as God writes our own story. One evening, God wrote a few more pages in the story of my own life.

My wet, shivering body hugged the ground as I lay unable to move, my heart racing. I had just received a tremendous electrical shock that knocked me to the ground, while trying to help fix the broken dam at Sunset Lake Youth Camp. After being as-

essed by a nurse, and when my racing heart had slowed and my strength had sufficiently returned, I was taken back to the cabin where my family and I were staying while I served as camp pastor.

My wife, Juanita, had just put the children to bed. As I told her my story, she said, "I could have gone to bed and woken up, and learned that you were dead." A second shock went through my body — not of electricity, but of the sudden reminder of the fragility of life and the goodness of God. I had just been preserved and given the gift of another day of life. I find it hard to be a complainer when I remind myself that today is a gift — freely given by God because of his love and mercy. This realization helps me keep difficult days in perspective.

Often, in the middle of stories, there are gems of promise that can bring hope and encouragement in times of need. Two of the gems stood out in my mind as Juanita and I recently faced a time of uncertainty.

Joshua 1:9 reads, *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go* (NIV).

And in Deuteronomy 31:8, we read, *The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged* (NIV).

These verses took on new meaning as Juanita lay in a hospital bed last spring, waiting to be wheeled into the operating room for brain surgery. The indications were positive that the surgery would be a success, but I vividly remember that morning as Juanita lay in the bed, prepped for surgery. We started sharing promises. God, speaking from long ago, brought such comfort and courage in those wonderful reminders that we were not alone.

I had read those passages before; I had even read them to others when they faced uncertainty. But on that morning, they spoke with new meaning and impact as I realized anew I had nothing to fear. God was still in control and knew, even better than the doctor, what Juanita needed most.

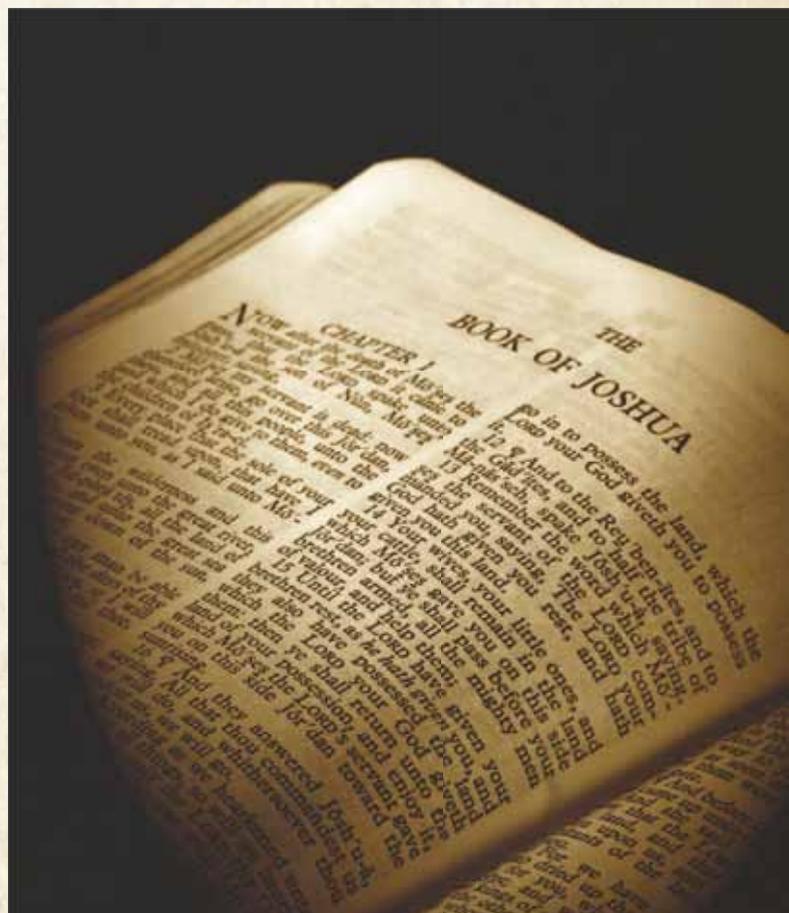
I find it helpful to sit back, during stressful times, and trace the fingerprints of God on my heart — life lessons he has taught me in times of difficulty. I have learned to grow in dependence when there is no one else to depend on, trust him even when I cannot see around the corner, and turn to him at all times. Have I learned these lessons completely? No, but I have a patient God who is willing to take me one step at a time.

But then I remember, not only is God writing my story for my benefit but, also, for the benefit of others. It is a humbling responsibility to know that my life can be a testimony of his love to someone else. The knowledge that God has placed me in Wisconsin, at this time in Earth's history, to portray his love and guide others to see him more clearly fills me with a sense of awe.

As I review the past chapters in the story of my life, I rejoice in God's providence, patience, unfailing love and abundant grace. While I do not always understand why God leads as he does, I am confident, from my own experience and that of others, that I have nothing to fear when I put my complete trust in him.

I trust that as the stories of the Bible intersect with your own stories you will be drawn to a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior.

While I do not always understand why God leads as he does, I am confident, from my own experience and that of others, that I have nothing to fear when I put my complete trust in him.



Mike Edge is the president of the Wisconsin Conference, which is headquartered in Fall River, Wisconsin.

The Path to Grace

BY ELLEN WHITE

The path of sincerity and integrity is not a path free from obstruction, but in every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer. There is no one living who has any power that he has not received from God, and the source whence it comes is open to the weakest human being. *Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, said Jesus, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it* (John 14:13–14 KJV).

In My name, Christ bade His disciples pray. In Christ's name His followers are to stand before God. Through the value of the sacrifice made for them, they are of value in the Lord's sight. Because of the imputed righteousness of Christ they are accounted precious. For Christ's sake the Lord pardons those that fear Him. He does not see in them the vileness of the sinner. He recognizes in them the likeness of His Son, in whom they believe.

The Lord is disappointed when His people place a low estimate upon themselves. He desires His chosen heritage to value themselves according to the price He has placed upon them. God wanted them, else He would not have sent His Son on such an expensive errand to redeem them. He has a use for them, and He is well pleased when they make the very highest demands upon Him, that they may glorify His name. They may expect large things if they have faith in His promises.

But to pray in Christ's name means much. It means that we are to accept His character, manifest His spirit, and work His works. The Savior's promise is given on condition. *If ye love me*, He says, *keep my commandments* (John 14:15 KJV). He saves men, not in sin, but from sin; and those who love Him will show their love by obedience.

All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He 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. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.

As Christ lived the law in humanity, so we may do if we will take hold of the Strong for strength. But we are not to place the responsibility of our duty upon others, and wait for them to tell us what to do. We cannot depend for counsel

upon humanity. The Lord will teach us our duty just as willingly as He will teach somebody else. If we come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Our hearts will often burn within us as One draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue. And they will receive not only wisdom, but strength. Power for obedience, for service, will be imparted to them, as Christ has promised. Whatever was given to Christ — the *all things* to supply the need of fallen men — was given to Him as the head and representative of humanity. And *whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight* (1 John 3:22 KJV).

Ellen White was a co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This is an excerpt from *The Desire of Ages*, p. 667–668.

All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He 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.

Sensing the Lord's Presence

BY YIN SCHAFF

I am part of a ladies Bible study group with some friends at work. Last year, we discussed the idea of spending a time of fasting and prayer in January. I am aware our Adventist Church has a *Ten Days of Prayer* initiative each January, but was surprised when these ladies, all from different denominations, proposed we fast and pray for 21 days. The first thought that came to my mind was, *I don't think I can fast for 21 days. I love to eat. What about the hunger pains?*

I wrestled with God as to whether this was his call to me. I pray every day, but 21 days is a *long* time to fast. Then I read in chapter 17 of the book *A Call to Stand Apart*, by Ellen White: "We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His Word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan's enchanted ground. Sleep not, sentinels of God; the foe is lurking near, ready at any moment, should you become lax and drowsy, to spring upon you and make you his prey."

With each passing day, God's call grew stronger and more clear. Finally, I was convinced; God was calling me to fast. He would not make such a call without a specific reason. With this conviction, I entered my fast with excitement and expectancy in my heart.

I did a partial fast, drinking hot tea in the morning and eating a simple lunch, with no dessert, at noon. I spent



Yin Schaff (center, front row) meets with her Bible study friends from work. Schaff, a member of the Superior Church in Wisconsin, is a cardiology nurse practitioner in the St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, Minnesota.

more time in prayer and Bible study, concentrating on The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9–13), the suggested focus of the 2014 *Ten Days of Prayer* initiative. My ladies group met each Friday night to share, pray and sing praises.

The longer I fasted, the more I sensed the presence of the Lord. The Holy Spirit refreshed my soul and spirit. I experienced the joy of the Lord as seldom before. Biblical truths leaped

out at me from the pages of God's Word. My faith soared as I humbled myself and cried out to God, and I rejoiced in his presence.

The Lord impressed upon my heart the need to accelerate the spreading of his Word in this generation to hasten his second coming. I urge each of us prayerfully to consider joining the Adventist family, around the world, January 7–17 for the upcoming 2015 *Ten Days of Prayer* event. To learn more about this initiative, visit <http://www.tendaysofprayer.org>.

Yin Schaff, member, Superior Church as shared with Juanita Edge, communication director, Wisconsin Conference



The unveiling of the Creation Gallery at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital included special guests (from left): John Rapp, vice president for Ministries and Mission, Adventist Midwest Health; Michael Goebel, CEO of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital;; Sue Kett, coordinator of the hospital's Healing Arts Program; Heidi Crane; and David Crane, CEO of Adventist Midwest Health.

Creation Gallery unveiled at hospital

A new collection of artwork at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital offers the opportunity to pause and reflect on the glorious moments when it all began.

The Creation Gallery was unveiled in September 2014 during a special dedication ceremony. It is comprised of seven paintings that depict the seven days of creation. The collection is titled "...And God Was Pleased."

Adventist Midwest Health president and CEO David Crane came up with the idea of the Creation Gallery about ten years ago. He and his wife, Heidi, partnered with the hospital to bring this dream to reality.

"I hope people will celebrate and learn more about God," David said. "I knew people's hearts would be touched, and they could feel God's presence and love through these paintings."

Located along the hallway near the gift shop, the gallery was created by two artists over several years. Artist Larry

Dyke, of Texas, painted "Day One" through "Day Three." Artist C. Michael Dudash, of Idaho, painted "Day Four" through "Day Seven."

Dudash sent sketches back and forth for approval before he began painting. "It's difficult to illustrate Scripture," Dudash said. "You take a concept and translate it to transcend the Spirit of God through artwork. I felt it was very challenging, and I said a lot of prayers."

Crane's favorite painting is "The Seventh Day," which illustrates Jesus in the garden. He hopes the paintings will open a dialogue between people and inspire them to embrace and restore this relationship with Jesus.

"Revelation 21:1-5 shares the vision of what the future looks like," Crane said. "We can stand in front of this painting and be a participant of everything the Creator has done for us. No matter what our current circumstance, we can look forward to joining this scene, relaxing in peace and wonder with the Creator. We will know a timeless

existence where pain, suffering and death are forever replaced by love."

The gallery is a visual celebration of the creation of our world and a permanent message of hope for all who turn to us for care, said Michael Goebel, CEO, of Adventist Hinsdale and Adventist La Grange Memorial hospitals.

"As a faith-based hospital, we know we are but the servants of God, and that when we heal, it is with God's grace," Goebel said. "It is his promise to us, to restore us to the wholeness we knew at the beginning of time."

Above all, the gallery can inspire each of us to have a deep relationship with the Creator of the universe.

"Ultimately, it can bring us to a place that puts it all into perspective, about why we're here and what's really important," Dudash said. "I hope and pray this gallery brings all people to that place."

Julie Busch, regional director of communications,
Adventist Midwest Health



Constance Gane

Jasmine Saunders, a 2010 behavioral sciences graduate, uncovers a figurine on a dig in Jordan in 2009.

Horn Museum featured in *The New York Times*

The Siegfried H. Horn Museum, part of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University, recently was featured in *The New York Times*. Author Geraldine Fabrikant, arts writer for the *Times*, contacted curators of several small religious archaeology museums, including Constance Gane, curator of the Horn Museum, and curators of the Badè Museum of Biblical Archaeology (Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, Calif.) and the Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary).

The article, which resulted from several conversations between Fabrikant and Gane, focused on Andrews' acquisition of a collection of rare figurines for study and temporary exhibition. These figurines came from the Andrews archaeological dig site at Tall Jalul in Jordan, and were excavated between 1992 and 2012.

"It is significant that Fabrikant contacted the Horn Museum, because it had come to her attention that archaeologists at Andrews University are

leading specialists in biblical archaeology," says Gane. "It is exciting that a prominent publication such as *The New York Times* is aware of the University's contribution to the field."

The loan comes as a result of a long-term relationship between Andrews and the Jordanian Antiquities Authority.

The Horn Museum houses almost 9,000 ancient Near East artifacts, including coins, pottery, sculptures, tools, weapons, figurines, jewelry, seals and glass vessels, as well as over 3,000 ancient cuneiform tablets dating from Sumerian times through the Achaemenid period.

Andrews University has been excavating in Jordan for over 45 years, and recently has begun to excavate at an early Christian site in Sicily, Italy. The temporary exhibit will run from December 2014 until April 2015.

Read *The New York Times* story at <http://andrews.edu/go/horn-museum-nyt>.

Amanda McGuire-Moushon,
administrative assistant, Institute of
Archaeology & Horn Archaeological Museum
at Andrews University

Isabel Stafford presents research to National Security Agency

Isabel Stafford, a senior math and physics major at Andrews University, recently completed an internship through the Math Department of North Carolina State University in the Research Experience for Undergraduates program (REU).

Stafford collaborated with two other undergrads and a mentor. A total of 47 students worked on 14 different projects through the REU program.

"We designed a cost-efficient, permanent-magnet klystron capable of

powering a future high-energy particle accelerator," shared Stafford.

Klystrons take the power from an electron beam and turn it into radio-frequency power. The problem with these klystrons is that their power output is limited by the energy of the electron beam.

"The solution we found was putting several electron beams in the same klystron," Stafford says.

After working for almost two months, Stafford and her team managed to design a multiple-beam klystron that outputs about 40 megawatts of power. Stafford and her group then presented these findings to the National Security Agency (NSA). In another decade or so, their design possibly could be used in what will replace the Large Hadron Collider, the most powerful particle accelerator ever built.

"My mentor, Dr. Hien Tran, told us that a few representatives from the NSA would be dropping by to check out everyone's research," said Stafford. "They also wanted to see a few in-depth presentations about the summer's research. Dr. Tran and the other program coordinators decided they wanted my group to present because of the success and practicality of our research."

Although Stafford has yet to decide on a career goal, she very much looks forward to graduating in May 2016, and is grateful for the experience and knowledge she has gained through this internship.

"The research program was a really great experience," Stafford says. "I got to hang out in North Carolina, with a bunch of other people who really like math and physics, for a whole summer, while doing research that's actually important."

To learn more about undergraduate research opportunities at Andrews University, visit <http://andrews.edu/research>.

Lucero Castellanos-Aguirre, student writer,
Division of Integrated Marketing
& Communication

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Mizpah Church brings family training event to community

Lake Region—The Mizpah Church of Gary, Ind., invited community members to Man College, a training event that centered on equipping the family as well as educating them on how to handle problems that are common in inner city communities. Mizpah's pastor, Philip C. Willis Jr., who recently graduated with a Masters in Social Work from Andrews University, believes that in urban areas there is a lack of education to encourage healthy lifestyles, ideal parenting skills and conflict resolution skills, which could prevent involvement in the criminal justice system and broken families. Intact families tend to fair better than single parent families, but they still have to deal with child discipline issues, domestic abuse and economic challenges, and the lack of quality education and crime in the inner city. There is a need for more community programs such as this one.

One of the speakers, Chicago native and police chief Ken Scott, from Louisiana, lectured the youth and



Police chief Ken Scott shared the importance of understanding the role and relationship of police in the community.

adults in Gary, and shared the importance of understanding the role and relationship of police in the community. Scott reflected that, "This community event served as an excellent venue [to enlighten] young and old on [how to handle] real life situations. It gave me the opportunity to share my experiences as a law enforcement executive in hopes of sparing someone unnecessary suffering at the hands of police officers. The proactive emphasis of Man College is indicative of Pastor Willis' community concern and engagement. I hope and pray that this program continues to touch lives wherever it is presented."

More than 230 people participated in the community program and ate



Photos by Curt Campbell

The children paused for a photo while waiting for their turn with the outdoor youth activities. From left: Tanisha, LaTonya and Carmen

outside under the sun, enjoying fellowship as well as sharing reflections about the instructional classes. The classes covered topics such as "Empowering Families Through Finances" (Robert Johnson); "Never Quit: 10 Tools for a Lifetime of Love" (Courtney Harris); "Why Men Don't Attend Church" (Emmerson Miller); "Bad Boys, What Are You Going to Do When They Come For You" (Ken Scott); "Three Things About Men Every Woman Should Know" (P.C. Willis Sr.); and "Co-parenting with God: The Process of Single Parenting" (Deborah Davis-Moody).

John Sconiers, communication director, Lake Region Conference

[UNION NEWS]

New owners breathe new life into treasured Loma Linda brand

Something happened late last August that might have gone unnoticed by most in the business community. Battle Creek, Mich., based Kellogg Company, with 2013 net sales of \$14.8 billion, sold one of its heritage brands. No, it wasn't Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies, Eggo waffles or Nutri-Grain. The brand Kellogg sold was Worthington Loma Linda, specifically its canned product line, which has been a staple on Seventh-

day Adventists' dinner tables since 1933. Kellogg, who purchased both the Worthington and Loma Linda brands in 1999 and soon combined them under one name, sold the Worthington Loma Linda canned business to Nashville, N. Carolina, based Atlantic Natural Foods (ANF), the company that has been the sole producer of these products since 2008. Over the next year, executives at ANF will transition the business and use only the iconic "Loma Linda" brand name.

ANF executives are thrilled with this purchase. At Kellogg, the Loma Linda brand was a tiny part of its global portfolio. As a part of the ANF portfolio, Loma Linda is revitalized as the



number one priority for this privately-owned maker of canned, shelf-stable, alternative meat analog products. “To own a brand with the rich heritage of Loma Linda is an incredible opportunity,” says CEO of ANF, Kelly Krause. “At ANF, our core philosophy is to provide healthy, canned meat alternatives, and we couldn’t find a better fit for our products than the SDA community.”

The history of Loma Linda products dates back to the early 1900s and ties in closely with vegetarian trends in the United States. By the early 1940s, peanut-based products were used as a key dietary ingredient in health spas and sanitariums. Leading voices in the emerging health industry believed in a

simple, grain-based vegetarian diet, and strived to produce meat alternatives at a good value.

During World War II, the rationing of red meat helped create demand for meat alternative products, and the Loma Linda brand thrived because its great taste appealed to non-vegetarians. In the ‘60s, the baby boomer generation embraced a diet inspired by ecology and a desire to get closer to the earth. By the time Frances Moore Lappé’s iconic book, *Diet for a Small Planet*, was published in 1971, vegetarianism had found its way into mainstream America’s collective consciousness, and Loma Linda was firmly in place as a great-tasting meat alternative for the SDA community and beyond.

What’s next for the iconic Loma Linda brand? “We will be focusing on our roots as a provider to the SDA community,” states Krause. The company will continue to supply products like vegetarian Chili, Vege-Burger, Veja-Links and Choplets, and is expecting to introduce new products in the coming months. “We look forward to reintroducing Loma Linda to the people who grew up with the brand. Expect to hear from us regularly, not just during camp meeting season but in your churches and in your bookstores as well.”

For more information, visit <http://www.atlanticnaturalfoods.com>.

Dina Dunn, president, Blink (for Atlantic Natural Foods)



Vialo Weis Jr.

In 2014, 33 students, representing 21 churches and mission groups of the Indiana Conference, completed Stewardship Instructor training offered by the Indiana Conference Hispanic Lay Training Institute, under the direction of Antonio Rosario, Hispanic ministries coordinator.

Indiana Hispanic churches receive stewardship instructor training

Indiana—From January through August 2014, members from Indiana Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist churches attended the Stewardship Instructor training offered by the Indiana Conference Hispanic Lay Training Institute under the leadership of Antonio

Rosario, Indiana Conference Hispanic coordinator. These students received three-and-a-half hours of stewardship training each month. Various stewardship resources were shared with them. The instructors, in addition to Rosario, included Leonardo Castillo, Gary Case, Marco Rivera, Orlando Vasquez, Lyla Wagner and Vialo Weis Jr.

Thirty-three students, representing 21 churches and mission groups, completed the training. At the Hispanic Camp Meeting at Timber Ridge

Camp on Sabbath, Aug. 30, 2014, these graduates received a Stewardship Instructor Certificate, the new *Spanish Stewardship Manual*, and 12 stewardship sermons. These stewardship instructors will be great assets to the Hispanic churches, encouraging those to whom they minister to be faithful stewards of what God has placed in their hands.

Vialo Weis Jr., stewardship director, Indiana Conference

Student literature evangelists place thousands of books in homes

This summer, 115 academy- and college-age young people worked as student literature evangelists in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. Together, they distributed 76,100 magabooks, raising \$585,158 in donations, \$400,000 of which went toward their education.

Here are three stories to demonstrate how God used these young people this summer.

It was the last Sunday of the summer program in Michigan, and Moses Ntekereze was wondering if God still had another blessing for him that day. At the same time, a woman was praying God would send someone to her door with Christian books for her son. She wrote a check for \$150 for that “someone.” Twenty minutes later, Ntekereze came to her door with Christian books!

He met both the woman and her son, who showered him with question after question about Christianity. It was obvious to Ntekereze that God took over his canvass. “Every time he asked me a question,” he shared, “I pulled out a book and showed how it would help answer his questions.”

What a sight it was for him to see a stack of ten books on their coffee table and a check in his hand, money prayerfully designated for Christian literature — Divine appointment for all involved!

A kind lady in Illinois gave a donation to Orlando Hernandez for a *Keys to Happiness*. He prayed with her, and then came the surprise question: “Would you be able to find transportation for me to come and visit your church?” She shared how impressed she was with him and the ministry he was doing in his youth. You can imagine how excited he was that Sabbath!

However, sadly, she didn’t come. He later learned that a family member had died, so she had gone to attend the funeral. Nevertheless, the very



Indiana student evangelists gather around the conference president, Van Hurst (seated behind the piano), during a worship this summer.



Michigan student evangelists share stories from their experiences during the Michigan Conference Camp Meeting.

next Sabbath she was ready when her ride came. She enjoyed that Sabbath, and stayed for the meal and afternoon Bible study. She came the next two Sabbaths as well, which were the last Sabbaths for the magabook team in that location.

Hernandez has since learned from Dale Barnhurst, Alton Church pastor, that his new friend continues to come to church and afternoon Bible study each Sabbath. She has been bringing her grandchildren, who also love the church family. Praise God! It is the greatest feeling of satisfaction that God can use us!

It was the last day of canvassing in Indiana for Madeline Cadavero when she prayed, “Father, on this last day of canvassing, I only want one thing, and that is for you to show me one last time, one more simple reminder why I went canvassing this summer.



Illinois student evangelists spend their last day together at Camp Au Sable in Grayling, Mich.

Show me why I’m here as opposed to anywhere else in the world.”

That day, Cadavero met a lady who seemed rather rushed and stressed at first. However, they ended up talking for a very long time as she poured out her testimony of how her husband had

passed away unexpectedly a few years ago, right after receiving Christ into his life. Jesus was her “all in all.” She felt so blessed to have her come to her door. She gave a donation for two books, *Lessons of Love* and *Peace Above the Storm*, and asked to pray with Cadavero before she left.

“Lord,” she said. “Thank you so much for sending this young lady to my door. This day has been stressful, very down, but her visit has uplifted it so much. I wasn’t sure about her when I opened the door, but there was such

an atmosphere of peace about her that I ended up talking with her, and I’m so thankful I did. May her parents always cherish her.”

When she opened her eyes, she looked at Cadavero and said, “You just keep going and doing what you’re doing. Keep being an inspiration. Keep smiling, and bless others with your witness.”

As she walked away from that door, Cadavero lifted her face to the sky with a sense of contentment and joy. “Thank you, Father, for the little reminder for

why I’m doing this work. Thank you for answering my prayer.”

Readers are invited to view a video from the summer magabook program in the Lake Union at this website: <https://vimeo.com/98366886>. If you believe God is calling you to witness through student evangelism, contact your local conference.

Kamil Metz, director of publishing, Michigan Conference, with Rob Clark, director of publishing, Illinois Conference, and Matt Hasty, director of publishing, Indiana Conference

Illinois Conference elects officers and directors of next quadrennium

Illinois—The 32nd Constituency Session of the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists convened at 10:00 a.m., Oct. 26, 2014, at the Hinsdale Church in Hinsdale, Ill. Delegates of the Session elected Ray Pichette, president; Ron Aguilera, executive secretary; and Michael Daum, treasurer.

They also re-elected all of the department directors: Ruth Horton, education superintendent; Justo Morales, Hispanic ministries director; Delmar Austin, ministerial director; Paul Saint-Villiers, trust services director, stewardship director and association secretary; and Manuel Ojeda, youth ministries and Camp Akita director.

“It is an honor for me, and the other officers and departmental



Some of the Illinois Conference ministry team assembled after the 36th Constitution Session. Pictured from left (first row) are: Ruth Horton, education superintendent; Delmar Austin, ministerial director; Yvonne Pichette; Ray Pichette, president; Ron Aguilera, executive secretary; Lori Aguilera, associate superintendent of education; Manuel “Manny” Ojeda, youth ministries and Camp Akita director; (back row): Justo Morales, Hispanic ministries director; Paul Saint-Villiers, trust services director, stewardship director and association secretary; Paula Saint-Villiers, church/school auditor; and Shona Cross, administrative assistant for administration.

directors, to have the privilege to serve God here in the Illinois Conference for the next four years. I am very excited to see what God is going to

accomplish in us and through us for his glory,” stated Pichette.

Shona Cross, communications secretary, Illinois Conference

Wisconsin Conference ministry team receives strong support at 36th Constituency Session

Wisconsin—Delegates to the 36th Constituency Session of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

convened at 10:00 a.m., Oct. 5, 2014, at Wisconsin Academy Church in Columbus.

The current administrative officers and department directors all were re-elected enthusiastically to serve for another four-year term: Mike Edge, president; Brian Stephan, secretary/treasurer; Juanita Edge, communication director; James Fox, ministerial director; Linda Rosen, education superintendent; and Greg Taylor, youth director.

Mike said, “We live in a mission field, and we are called to shine for Christ in this dark world.” He shared, in the morning devotional, that of the 5.7 million people living in Wisconsin, 7531 are Seventh-day Adventists. That means there is one Adventist for every 763 people in Wisconsin.

Stephan shared a financial report, emphasizing that although the conference is on a tight budget, members have

been extremely faithful and generous in giving to the Wisconsin Budget and World Mission offerings.

Roger Dunder, Wisconsin Academy principal, spoke to the many changes at the school, including faculty, enrollment, finances and academics. While finances continue to be a challenge, major steps are being taken to place the school on solid ground. There are currently 88 students at the academy. "God has blessed us, and I've seen many miracles happen here recently," said Dunder.

Jerry and Michelle Martin shared the mission, needs and progress of the Wisconsin Academy Farm and Light-house Thrift Store. The store sales continue to increase. The store needs include walls to close in the store portion of the warehouse before winter, repairs to the roof and more donated items to sell in the store. A larger tractor and another high-tunnel, in which to plant raspberries, are needed for the farm.

Floyd Brock and Stephan reported on the need for a new septic system at Wisconsin Academy. The current system, built in 1947, is the only one of its kind still in existence in Wisconsin.



Delegates of the 36th Constituency Session of the Wisconsin Conference enthusiastically re-elected current administrative officers and departmental directors to serve another four years. Members of the office team who were present gathered for a commemorative photo afterward. From left (front row): Bert Wredberg, administrative assistant; Juanita Edge, communication and health ministries director; Mike Edge, president; Brian Stephan, executive secretary/treasurer; Cindy Stephan, trust officer and administrative assistant; Jean Schwark, associate treasurer; (back row): Roger Dunder, Wisconsin Academy principal; Kim Taylor, secretary; Greg Taylor, youth ministries, Sabbath school, Adventurer, Camp Wakonda, Pathfinder ministries, young adult ministries and men's ministries director; Sandy Berg, administrative assistant; John Ramsey, assistant treasurer and auditor; Linda Rosen, superintendent of education and children's ministries director; Robert Hillebert, assistant treasurer; James Fox, ministerial, personal ministries and evangelism director

The Department of Natural Resources requires the system to be replaced within five years. Two options currently are being looked at: Build a mound system on-site, or hook up to the City of Columbus septic system. When sufficient information comes in and if a loan of more than seven percent of the current net tithe is needed, another constituency session will be called to make a decision.

New goals were voted for this next quadrennial as follows: 1) 1,200 baptisms; 2) 8,000 members; 3) 20-percent attendance growth; 4) 100 student increase in K-12 schools; 5) four new K-10 schools; and 6) eight new church plants.

Juanita Edge, communication director,
Wisconsin Conference

[NAD NEWS]



Daniel R. Jackson, NAD president, reminded delegates that we are called to discuss issues with the understanding and compassion modeled by Christ.

Year-end Meetings delegates vote statement on civil discourse

The North American Division (NAD) Executive Committee

unanimously adopted a statement that encourages respectful, Christlike dialogue between Christians, particularly in regard to the upcoming 2015 General Conference Session vote on women's ordination.

The motion stemmed from a concern expressed earlier in the Division's Year-end Meetings. Daniel R. Jackson, NAD president, and many of the attendees expressed concern about the tone of the debate that has been raging at various levels of the Seventh-day Adventist world church. But as Christians, Jackson reminded delegates that we are called to discuss issues with the understanding and compassion modeled by Christ.

"I don't think it's part of our mission to start attacking each other just because we don't agree," Jackson said, during Sunday's discussion on the ordination of women. "I'm not saying, for a moment, that we don't have the right to disagree,

but God has given us the responsibility to share His love."

In response to Jackson's call for civility of discourse, the delegates approved a statement that includes the following guidelines:

- 1) We resolve to encourage expressions of disagreement that are honest and open, based upon a sincere desire to arrive at truth as expressed in Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy;
- 2) We resolve to first communicate with those with whom we disagree and listen non-judgmentally to their positions so that we can represent those positions accurately before critiquing them;
- 3) We resolve to avoid the use of sarcasm, cartoons, anecdotes, parody or any other form of insinuation to diminish the reputation or personhood of others;
- 4) We resolve to refrain from sponsoring or countenancing online or offline

dialogue that vilifies or depreciates the good name of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in general, or the reputations of its individual members, in particular.

We, therefore, resolve to avoid participating in, or being party to, all forms of unhealthy and demeaning discourse. Our aim is to govern our communication

according to the high standards of Christian conduct found in the guidelines of this statement so that God may be glorified in all we say and do.

Jackson asked that the North American church members seek “higher ground” during these challenging times while the discussion about ordination

builds up as the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, approaches.

Julio C. Muñoz, associate director of communication, North American Division



Delegates of the 2014 Year-end Meetings in Silver Spring, Md., pray for God's leading.

North American Division Executive Committee reaffirms support of ordination of women

At the previous 2013 Year-end Meetings, the North American Division Executive Committee gave

overwhelming support for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry when it received the report of the NAD Theology of Ordination Study Committee and voted the following motion: “That we receive the biblical study of ordination prepared by the North American Division Theology of Ordination Study Committee and affirm the conclusion that all people, men and women, may receive ordination as an affirmation of the call of God, and that the North American Division support the authorization of each division to consider, through prayer and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, its most appropriate approach to the ordination of women to gospel ministry.” The vote was recorded: 182 voted “yes,” 31 voted “no,” with three abstaining.

At this year's 2014 Year-end Meetings, the NAD Executive Committee

re-affirmed its previous vote, recognizing the personal responsibility resting upon each of the General Conference delegates, with the following motion: “Fully recognizing that every delegate to the G.C. Session must vote according to their conscience, we ask the unions, conferences and institutions in the North American Division to inform all delegates of the vote of the 2013 NAD Year-end Meetings regarding the ordination of women and to fully encourage them to participate in ways that build unity and strengthen the mission of the Church. Furthermore, we appeal to all Seventh-day Adventists that our communication and dialogue be in the spirit of Christlike love.”

Dan Weber, director of communication, North American Division with Gary Burns, director of Communication, Lake Union Conference

[WORLD CHURCH NEWS]

Adventist Theological Seminary responds to headship statement appeal

On Oct. 8, 2014, the *Adventist Review* published an appeal by a group of 25 professors, pastors and church members for the faculty of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University to review and adjust a document that the seminary faculty had adopted at an Aug. 21, 2014, meeting. “The Unique Headship of Christ in the Church.”

In response to “An Open Appeal,”² the Seminary faculty convened for a special meeting on Friday, Oct. 10, 2014,



The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University

and spent more than three hours in discussion.

After study and examination, the faculty unanimously, with the exception of one individual, voted the following statement. This statement has been released at the request of the seminary and

the administration of Andrews University, and has also been published in the *Adventist Review*³:

“We, the faculty of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, respectfully reaffirm our original statement on ‘The Unique Headship of Christ in the

Church' which was the result of prayerful and responsible study of scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy, and was voted by an overwhelming majority of the faculty in a duly called meeting."

Founded in 1874, Andrews University is the flagship institution of higher

education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and offers more than 200 areas of study including advanced degrees.

Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication, Andrews University, with additional reporting by *Adventist Review* staff

1. <http://www.andrews.edu/agenda/event/33885>
2. <http://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/appeal-made-over-andrews-statement-on-headship>
3. <http://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/statement-from-andrews-seminary-in-response-to-headship-appeal>

Researchers Hopkins, McBride, Randall given Adventist Health Ministries Medal of Distinction

Three Seventh-day Adventist health experts were awarded the denomination's Health Ministries Medal of Distinction for their ongoing research and promotion of healthy relationships to prevent at-risk behaviors.

Andrews University professors Gary Hopkins and Duane McBride were presented the award on Oct. 8, 2014, during a meeting of the Institute of Prevention of Addictions board at the denomination's world headquarters. Child psychologist Kiti Freier Randall was unable to attend and will receive her award later this year.

Adventist Health Ministries director Peter Landless said the trio's research over the past decade has made a "tremendous contribution" to the Church and society. Through papers and scholarly journal articles, all three have promoted the importance of healthy relationships for reducing at-risk behaviors in young people as well as a stabilizing influence for older people.

"They have been giants in leading in this field," said Landless. "They bring meaningful and added credibility to the methods of ministry and prevention."

Upon receiving the award, McBride, executive director of the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions and chair of the Behavioral Sciences Department at Andrews University, said he was grateful for the impact his work has made.

"I feel very honored to have the work I've been doing my whole life recognized," McBride said.



From left: Peter Landless, Health Ministries director for the Adventist world church; Duane McBride, research professor of sociology at Andrews University and director of the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions; Delbert Baker, vice president of the Adventist world church; and Niels-Erik Andreasen, president of Andrews University. McBride was presented with the Health Ministries Medal of Distinction for his work on relationships in preventing at-risk behaviors. The award also was given to Gary Hopkins, associate director for the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions and a research professor of behavioral science at Andrews, and was presented during a joint meeting of the IPA and Andrews University at the denomination's world headquarters on Oct. 8, 2014.

McBride said some of his most prominent research focused on the importance of family meals, saying they provide important bonding between kids and their parents. Kids who ate more meals with their families were likely to have lower rates of drug, alcohol and tobacco use.

Hopkins, associate director for the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions, research professor of behavioral sciences at Andrews and adjunct assistant professor of public health at Loma Linda University, said he appreciated the award and also was surprised to receive it.

Hopkins was likely the first to study the correlation between community service and drug use. Research found that youth who engaged in community service were less likely to abuse drugs or become pregnant as a teenager. "There's something about when kids focus less on themselves and more on helping others," he said. His research has been published in numerous journals, including the

American Journal of Public Health and the *Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

Randall, a private-practice clinician and professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Public Health at Loma Linda University, said she felt honored to receive the award. "I am so privileged to be provided the opportunity to share the 'Relationships and Well-being' message with my global church family," she said.

Her primary area of research and clinical work is with children who have experienced trauma due to drug-endangered environments. Her research has demonstrated that regardless of the pathway to risk, healthy relationships are the answer to boosting resiliency and well-being.

"We were created to have a relationship with God," Randall said. "It has been rewarding to see the field of social sciences and medicine further validate this."

Ansel Oliver, assistant director, Adventist News Network (reprinted with permission)



Churches, schools, conferences, institutions and organizations may submit announcements to the *Lake Union Herald* through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the *Lake Union Herald* website at <http://www.herald.lakeunion.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 <http://www.herald.lakeunion.org>.

Andrews University

Howard Performing Arts Center: To see a list of the upcoming events at HPAC, visit <https://howard.andrews.edu/events/>. For more information, call the Box Office at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560.

Feb. 7: Andrews University Wind Symphony winter concert, 8:00 p.m., Howard Performing Arts Center

Jan. 4: Andrews University registration, 12:00 p.m.

Jan. 5: Andrews University spring semester begins

Jan. 5: Andrews University Seminary registration

Jan. 19-24: Andrews University Student Week of Spiritual Emphasis, 11:30 a.m. daily, Pioneer Memorial Church

Swallen Mission Conference: The Department of World Mission and the Center for Youth Evangelism are pleased to be partners in presenting a weekend conference designed for leaders and supporters of short-term missions (STM). The dates are **Feb. 19-22**, and the title for the weekend is "Swallen Mission Conference: New Approaches for Greater Music & Effectiveness." The conference is to be held at Andrews University. A special invitation is extended to youth ministry leaders of unions, conferences and local congregations; college, university and academy chaplains, student missionary coordinators and STM coordinators; and other mission team leaders. For more details and to register, visit <http://www.cye.org/missionconference>.

Music & Worship Conference, Feb. 26-28:

Hosted across the University campus, the conference will provide biblically-grounded training opportunities for church musicians, pastors, worship leaders and anyone involved in worship ministry. Presenters will discuss

principles and practices for international worship ministry that glorifies God, transforms worshipers and changes the world. As a participant, you will have access to a variety of seminars, workshops and worship experiences. Come and be inspired to honor God more fully in your worship. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.cye.org/mwc/conference/>.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Jan. 3** Local Church Budget
- Jan. 10** Local Conference Advance
- Jan. 17** Local Church Budget
- Jan. 24** Religious Liberty
- Jan. 31** Illinois: Local Church Budget; Indiana: Timber Ridge Camp; Michigan: Good News Farm; Wisconsin: Camp Wakonda Worthy Camper

Special Days

- Jan. 3** Day of Prayer
- Jan. 18-24** Religious Liberty Week

Save the date! ASI Lake Union will hold its annual Spring Fellowship Conference on **April 17-19** at the Blue Gate Garden Inn in beautiful, historic Shipshewana, Ind. Themed "Grace Alone," the program will include speakers, seminars, ministry exhibits, testimonies, music and a children's program — inspiration for the entire family. Everyone is invited to attend! For more information, visit <http://www.asi.lakeunion.org> or call 269-473-8200.

Heritage Wall Planned in Lake Union

Office: We invite you to share your photos and slides of the work in and around the Lake Union territory for the planned heritage wall. Please mail them to Communication Department, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. Include your address if you want photos and slides returned. Hi-resolution scanned photos can be emailed to circulation@lakeunion.org.

North American Division

Union College Homecoming, April 2-5: Honor classes are 1945, '55, '60, '65, '75, '85, '90, '95 and 2005. Special tribute to business and computer faculty and graduates as well as a Gymnares reunion. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503; 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or email alumni@ucollege.edu.

Wisconsin

Winter Youth Retreat: On **Jan. 9-11** we are excited to host our annual Winter Youth Retreat at Camp Wakonda. This event is unique in that it provides an opportunity for our high school age youth from public high, homeschool and Wisconsin Academy to come together for an incredible time of spiritual revival, Christian fellowship and, of course, skiing/snowboarding at Cascade Mountain. This year we welcome Benjie Maxson as our featured speaker. Don't miss it and bring a friend! If you are interested in coming, or have any other questions, please email kimberlyjoytaylor@gmail.com.

Men's Conference: On **Jan. 23-25** we will be hosting our annual Men's Conference at Camp Wakonda. This is a very powerful weekend, complete with powerful messages, encouraging

fellowship and entertaining recreation. This year we are so excited to welcome Dick Duerksen to be our keynote speaker! Please mark your calendars for an incredible opportunity to grow spiritually with your fellow men in Christ! If you are interested in coming or have any other questions, please email kimberlyjoytaylor@gmail.com.

Lay Pastor Training: The Wisconsin Conference offers training to committed lay people to become certified lay pastors. Leadership training, skill development and spiritual growth are woven together in weekend intensives. This training program is open to all in Wisconsin, gender and age inclusive. (Candidates from other conferences may be accepted subject to space availability.) The next training event is **Jan. 30-Feb. 1**. For more information, contact James Fox at jfox@wi.adventist.org or 920-484-6555, ext. 302.

World Division

Ten Days of Prayer: Experience ten life-changing days with the Savior as you start your year with prayer during the *Ten Days of Prayer* initiative, **Jan. 7-17**. *Ten Days of Prayer* is a time to organize a group of friends, neighbors, church members or family to spend uninterrupted time together in prayer. The theme for this initiative is "Experiencing the Fruits of the Spirit," based on Galatians 5:22-25. To sign up, visit <http://www.TenDaysofPrayer.org>. There are promotional items, guidelines for leaders, daily theme sheets and a place to post prayer requests or praises on this website as well. Also, join the Facebook event at 10DaysofPrayer2015, follow on Twitter at #10DaysofPrayer2015, and watch special episodes of *Let's Pray — 10 Days of Prayer* at <http://www.hopetv.org>. Join us and be blessed!

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Jan 2	Jan 9	Jan 16	Jan 23	Jan 30	Feb 6
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:25	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:56	6:05
Chicago, Ill.	4:30	4:37	4:44	4:53	5:02	5:11
Detroit, Mich.	5:10	5:17	5:25	5:33	5:42	5:51
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:31	5:37	5:44	5:52	6:01	6:09
La Crosse, Wis.	4:38	4:45	4:53	5:02	5:11	5:21
Lansing, Mich.	5:15	5:22	5:30	5:38	5:47	5:57
Madison, Wis.	4:33	4:40	4:48	4:57	5:06	5:15
Springfield, Ill.	4:45	4:51	4:58	5:06	5:14	5:23

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

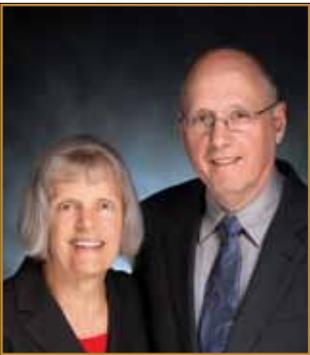
Anniversaries



Marilyn and Frank McCalment celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Feb. 19, 2014. Their children again recognized their anniversary on May 10, 2014, with a family get-together. They were members of the Muskegon (Mich.) Church for 54 years.

Frank McCalment and Marilyn Parmer were married on Feb. 19, 1954. They met in Muskegon and raised their family there. While being members of the Muskegon Church, they served as elder, deacon, deaconess, lay activity leader, and church and school board members. In 2010, Frank and Marilyn moved and transferred their membership to the Niles (Mich.) Westside Church.

The McCalment family includes Carol and Dan Minter of Granger, Ind.; Cheryl Bishop of Berrien Springs, Mich.; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



Lynne and Michael Nickless celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 6, 2014, with more than 100 family and friends at a dinner, vespers (conducted by Loren Nelson) and celebration, and card shower,

at Crowne Plaza, Lansing, Mich. They have been members of the Charlotte (Mich.) Church for six years, Waterford (Mich.) Church for eight years and the Kalamazoo (Mich.) Church for nine years.

Michael Nickless and Lynne Nelson were married Sept. 6, 1964, in South Bend, Ind., by John Kroncke. Michael has been a pastor in Indiana, Alaska and Michigan, and was communication director for the Michigan Conference until his retirement in 2008. Lynne has been a registered nurse and still works part-time.

The Nickless family includes Bill and Tracy Anne Nickless of West Richland, Wash.; James Nickless of Lake Worth, Fla.; and John Nickless of Canton, Mich.

Obituaries

BOGAR, Kenneth V., age 92; born July 12, 1922, in Rapid River, Mich.; died May 12, 2014, in Collegedale, Tenn. He was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs, Mich. He also was a lay pastor in Michigan for several years.

Survivors include his sons, Larry and Don; daughter, Bonnie Hicks; sister, Alice Smith; six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Dave Bissell, and inurnment was in Avon Park, Fla.

CASE, Walter H., age 92; born March 29, 1922, in Breckenridge, Mich.; died June 17, 2014, in St. Louis, Mich. He was a member of the Twin Cities Church, Alma, Mich.

Survivors include his sons, Gary, Dennis and Michael; daughter, Nancy Smith; sister, Frances Ingersoll; eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Jut Daron, and interment was in Chapel Garden Cemetery, Elwell, Mich.

EVANS, Donna M. (Dankert) Ellsworth, age 60; born Sept. 28, 1953, in Racine, Wis.; died Sept. 24, 2014, in Dubois County, Ind. She was a member of the Tell City (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Mike; sons, Josh and Chris; daughter, Aimee Ellsworth; brother, Steve Dankert; sisters, Darlene Pattison, Carol Christensen and Nancy Boyles; two grandchildren; and one step-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Melvin Matthews, and interment was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Tell City.

HERRON, Bonita L., age 55; born Dec. 12, 1958, in Nashville, Tenn.; died Aug. 31, 2014, in Gary, Ind. She was a member of the Mizpah Church, Gary.

Survivors include her father, George Herron; mother, Jemima (Jobe) Herron; brother, Victor Herron; and sisters, Leotta Herron-Olotu, Sonja Herron-Jones and Rita Herron-Holland.

Funeral services were conducted by Philip Willis Jr. and Jerome Davis, and interment was in Abraham Lincoln Veterans Cemetery, Elwood, Ill.

IVERSON, Jack M., age 85; born June 14, 1929, in South Haven, Mich.; died Sept. 19, 2014, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Freda (Peters) Knauff; son, Gregg Iverson; stepsons, David and Charles Knauff; daughter, Tonda (Iverson) Mashak Cooper; stepdaughter, Rachel (Knauff) Luchak; brother, Bob; sister, Gladys White; five grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Ron Kelly and Bruce Hayward. At Jack's request, his body was donated to the Med-Cure Surgical Training Center of Portland, Ore., and his ashes will be returned, by them, to his wife in Berrien Springs.

KELLEY, Veryl D. (Davenport), age 67; born Oct. 2, 1946, in Ames, Iowa; died Aug. 30, 2014, in Hinsdale, Ill. She was a member of the Hinsdale Church. Veryl was known by many for her 15 years of service as administrative secretary at Hinsdale Adventist Academy.

Survivors include her husband, David; son, David Mark; daughter, Kim Lunde; father, Glenn Davenport; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Ron Schultz, with private inurnment.

MILLER, Laura E. (Trine), age 97; born May 6, 1917, in Paris, Ill.; died Aug. 26, 2014, in Paris. She was a member of the Paris Church.

Survivors include her sons, Winfred L., Paul, Sam and Ron Miller, and Nick Esparza; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; and two great-great-great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Jerry Lastine, and interment was in Edgar Cemetery, Paris.

MOON, Marian E. (Griffith) Fowler Pitchen, age 89; born Feb. 1, 1925, in Charlotte, Mich.; died Sept. 26, 2014, in Gladwin, Mich. She was a member of the Edenville (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Ron D., Steve J. and Keith L. Fowler; stepsons, Barry and Darryl Moon; daughters, Charlotte (Fowler) Barkhouse and Ruth (Fowler) Hildin; stepdaughters, Jean (Moon) Gustavsen and Gyl (Moon) Bateman; 22 grandchildren; 12 step-grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; eight step-great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at a later date, with private inurnment, Coleman, Mich.

PATTERSON, Harold J., age 84; born Dec. 11, 1929, in Flint, Mich.; died Sept. 21, 2014, in Holly, Mich. He was a member of the Holly Church.

Survivors include his wife, A. Ione (Marietta); son, Larry D.; daughters, Linda K. Walters and Kathy F. Hall; brothers, James H. and Merlin F.; seven grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by David Salazar and Gene Hall, and interment was in Lakeside Cemetery, Holly.

WOMACK, Dorothy L. (Carr) Province, age 96; born May 18, 1918, in Berrien Springs, Mich.; died July 17, 2014, in Pahrump, Nev. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her sons, Norman and Clarence Province; daughter, Anita (Province) Scofield; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by David Scofield, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

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

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VISIT [HTTP://ADVENTISTSINGLES.ORG](http://ADVENTISTSINGLES.ORG):

Free 14-day trial! Join thousands of active Adventist singles online. Free chat, search, detailed profiles, match notifications! Two-way compatibility match, 10 photos, confidential online

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COLLEGEDALE, TENN., GUESTHOUSE:

Fully-equipped condo with kitchen and laundry, 1.5 bedrooms, no steps, huge deck, secluded woodland setting. "What a find!" say guests. "Delightful!" \$70/night for two (two-night minimum). For information, call 423-236-4688 or 423-716-1298. See pictures at <http://www.rogerkingrentals.com>.

Miscellaneous

THE ADVENT GOD SQUAD NEEDS YOU. Jesus told us, *I was in prison and you visited me.* Through Paper Sunshine, you may write an inmate through a screening process which reduces risk. You write through our address. We read their letters and forward to you. From the comfort and safety of your home, you can share the love of Christ. With the Voice of Prophecy, over the years, more than a million inmates have completed Bible studies. Become a Pen Friend. Ask friends and church members to join you. For more information, email Don and Yvonne McClure at sdapm@someonecares.org or call 260-387-7423.

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TESTIMONIES FROM FORMER EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRY: Vladimir Slavujevic and his family have testimonies to share with you through music and spoken word. Come celebrate God's blessings past and present through heartfelt songs of victory in Christ. In addition to being an active musician/educator in Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, and Andrews University as an adjunct voice instructor, he has recorded/appeared on 3ABN and performed as soloist at the 2010 GC in Atlanta. For more information, contact Vladimir at vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com or call 269-473-2826. Appointments accepted through March 31.

CARE PACKAGES AVAILABLE: There is no better feeling than getting a gift from someone who cares. Care packages available for college students, boarding school students, pastors, the sick, missionaries and teachers. For more information about Care Are Us, visit <http://carerus.wordpress.com>.

LITERATURE EVANGELISM MADE EASY: Learn about a new web-based program that takes care of the busywork (taxes, inventory, shipping, payment, etc.) while you concentrate on the outreach. More than 500 items available! Full or part-time. For more information, call Family Home Christian Books at 800-426-3954.

Employment

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) INTERNATIONAL in Silver

Spring, Md., is seeking a full-time Staff Auditor. CPA required. Responsibilities include preparation of reports, evaluate internal control systems, procedures and best practices, applications of GAAP, GAAS, and donor compliance rules and regulations. For more information, go to <http://www.adra.org>.

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) in Silver Spring, Md., is seeking a full-time Senior Accountant II. Responsibilities include review reconciliations, wire transfer requests, grant loans/advances, prepare reports to government agencies. Record questioned cost, review GIK documentation and compile budgets for cost centers. For more information, go to <http://www.adra.org>.

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) INTERNATIONAL in Silver Spring, Md., is seeking a full-time Senior Program Finance Manager. Responsibilities include providing day-to-day support to implementing field offices on financial management processes, compliance, policies and adherence to donor regulations. Field experience preferred. For more information, go to <http://www.adra.org>

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) SUDAN in Sudan, is seeking a full-time Finance Director. Responsibilities include preparation of all financial reports, process disbursement of funds, review of financial statements, bank and journal vouchers, project budgets, and maintenance of accounting records. For more information, go to <http://www.adra.org>.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Kinesiology Department seeks full-time physical education professor to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources office. Must have some teaching experience. For more information, contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at 817-202-6684 or vnaukkar@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Education and Psychology Department seeks full-time, qualified psychology professor beginning July 1, 2015. Doctorate degree is required. Please submit CV and cover letter to Marcel Sargeant at sargeant@swau.edu. Position is open until filled.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a Seminary New Testament faculty member. Qualified person should have a doctoral degree (Ph.D. or Th.D.) in the area of New Testament studies and textual criticism, preferable from a non-Adventist university. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_5.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a full-time faculty in the Religion Department to begin during the 2015-2016 academic year. Preference is for candidate with a Ph.D. in Religion (open to ABD), with an emphasis in either Old Testament, New Testament or any branch of Theology, and with successful teaching experience. For more information or to apply, call 707-965-6231 or visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a full-time manager of the Albion Biology Field Station to begin immediately. Ideal candidate will possess a bachelor's degree (business administration preferred) and strong organizational and communication skills. Expertise in budget management and knowledge of boat operations also is desired. For more information or to apply, call 707-965-6231 or visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

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puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

LEAD PROGRAMMER/ANALYST: Pacific Press Publishing Association seeks SDA for the full-time position of Lead Programmer/Analyst to support all Information Technology (IT) software support functions, including problem analysis, design, programming, testing, implementation and training. Applicants should have bachelor's degree in Computer Science or related field and knowledge and experience in industry standard programming language, including web development tools and the ability to lead a team of programmers/analysts. For more information, contact Ms. Alix Mansker, HR Director, P.O. Box 5353, Nampa, ID 83653, phone: 208-465-2567, fax: 208-465-2531 or alix.mansker@pacificpress.com.

ADVENTIST AVIATION SERVICES PNG is seeking a Maintenance Director. As a church-run and -funded aviation program in Goroka PNG, we have a fleet of two modern P750XL turbine aircraft. Required criteria: six-plus years of experience, experience in a part 145 facility, an aircraft maintenance license, turbine engine experience, managerial experience. For more information, email Nathan at mm@aas.org.pg.

UNION COLLEGE (Lincoln, Neb.) seeks a professor specializing in an area of non-European history to teach general and upper division courses, effective Fall 2015. Doctorate or near-doctorate required for tenure-track appointment. Send CV and references to Michelle Velazquez Mesnard, Humanities Division Chair, at mimesnard@ucollege.edu.

UNION COLLEGE (Lincoln, Neb.) seeks committed SDA candidate for tenure-track position in voice/choral music beginning June 2015. Responsibilities include overseeing the voice program, directing vocal groups, advising, teaching undergraduate courses and voice lessons. Doctorate or near-doctorate required for tenure-track appointment.

Send CV and references to Bruce Forbes at b2forbes@ucollege.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Biology Department is seeking a qualified applicant (Ph.D. preferred). Primary emphasis in paleontology and zoology; ability to teach introductory geology, microbiology and/or bioinformatics desirable. The successful candidate will be supportive of literal creationism. Send cover letter and CV to Schwarz.arthur@swau.edu. Position open until filled.

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HOPE CHANNEL in Silver Spring, Md., seeks a director of fundraising to develop and execute direct-response and event fundraising strategies to gain from viewers and other supporters the voluntary financial support necessary to fund current operations and desired expansion of broadcast services. More information and required qualifications at hopetv.org/about/employment. Email cover letter and résumé to stavenhagenr@gc.adventist.org.

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(*Coyotes in the Wind*, *Down the River Road*, *A Summer to Grow On* and *When November Comes*) are available at your Adventist Book Center. Also available at your ABC: Montgomery's latest WestBow Press book, *Spider Preacher Man – From Motorcycle Gangs to God* (recommended for teens and older).



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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Make the Change

BY GARY BURNS



Dan Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, has been heard to say, "The Church is imperfect because I'm in it!" He reminds us that each of us brings his or her own weaknesses and imperfections to the Church.

Sometimes, we develop wrong attitudes toward one another and our Church, either local or global. We forget that "[the church] is the theater of [God's] grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts" (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 12).

Did you catch that metaphor for the church? It's a theater! It's supposed to be the greatest show on Earth! Sometimes, our own attitude toward one another and our appointed leaders gives our show bad reviews. Maybe we're unaware that to "neglect or despise those

whom God has appointed to bear the responsibilities of leadership in connection with the advancement of the truth, is to reject the means that He has ordained for the help, encouragement, and strength of His people" (*Ibid*, p. 164).

Maybe another Jackson – Michael, to be exact – longed for something expressed in a song by Glen Ballard and Siedah Garrett, "The Man in the Mirror." "I'm starting with the man in the mirror. I'm asking him to change his ways. And no message could have been any clearer. If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself, and then make a change." Accept God's transforming grace, and make a change in partnership with God.

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

Good Enough

BY KARACAN SAYRUN-THOMAS

I started college with the intent to do well and excel in school. Andrews University was going to be my time to start over — to redeem myself of all of the bad grades, bad habits and problems I faced in my earlier years. Little did I know the baggage I carried from years past would have such a huge effect on my life.

Freshmen year started, and I made many friends. I created a schedule to balance school, work and my social life. I stuck with the schedule, at first; but as the school year progressed, I stopped doing my homework and being the “A” student I had planned to be.

I started off in September 2011 so strong, and then just lost it. I skipped classes, didn’t participate in my usual activities, and immersed myself in the social part of college. I went to as many activities as I could, regardless of whether or not I had homework. I was always there for other people, making sure I could help with what they needed — even if this meant I was going to fail a test or miss assignments. I just couldn’t get myself to sit down and really focus on my education.

After September passed, I went into a state of mind where I did not want to be alone. I was not needy, but I definitely was dependent on the friends I had made. I talked to them about everything, and vented about all my frustrations. They became my therapists, and I did not ask their permission at all to take on such a role. I was a lost



Karacan Sayrun-Thomas

college student who did not know what I was doing at Andrews University.

I pondered suicide because I did not feel like I had any purpose, and felt alone. My parents were not in my life in ways I wanted them to be, and I had lost my friends at Andrews, had low self-esteem, and felt like a failure overall, especially academically.

I did not realize that going to college and being an adult, facing past issues, was going to be so emotionally hard on me. So, I just gave up on life and stopped believing in myself.

Praise God, I was found before I did anything tragic; someone saw I needed help. I started counseling and dealing with my issues. I gained healthy friendships and habits of self-worth. It took me a while to get over the negative thoughts and sometimes, to this day, I still beat up myself and feel I am not good enough. But I have learned that Christ says I am good enough and worthy because I am his. Praise God for this fact!

Karacan Sayrun-Thomas, 21, is a senior at Andrews University where she is majoring in social work. She is a member of the North Shore Church in Chicago.

THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | (269) 473-8242

Publisher..... Don Livesay president@lakeunion.org
Editor..... Gary Burns editor@lakeunion.org
Managing Editor/Display Ads..... Diane Thurber herald@lakeunion.org
Circulation/Back Pages Editor..... Judi Doty circulation@lakeunion.org
Art Direction/Design..... Robert Mason
Proofreader..... Susan K. Slikkers

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Adventist Midwest Health..... Julie Busch Julie.Busch@ahss.org
Andrews University..... Rebecca May RMay@andrews.edu
Illinois..... Shona Cross scross@illinoisadventist.org
Indiana..... Van G. Hurst vhurst@indsda.org
Lake Region..... John Sconiers jsconiers@lakeregionsda.org
Michigan..... Justin Kim jkim@misda.org
Wisconsin..... Juanita Edge judge@wi.adventist.org

CORRESPONDENTS

Adventist Midwest Health..... Julie Busch Julie.Busch@ahss.org
Andrews University..... Becky St. Clair stclair@andrews.edu
Illinois..... Shona Cross scross@illinoisadventist.org
Indiana..... Betty Eaton counselbetty@yahoo.com
Lake Region..... John Sconiers jsconiers@lakeregionsda.org
Michigan..... Julie Clark jclark@misda.org
Wisconsin..... Bert Wredberg bwredberg@wi.adventist.org

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

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Contributors: Writer guidelines are available online at <http://herald.lakeunion.org>.

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

Living for Jesus

BY MANNY OJEDA

Gabriela “Gabby” Prodans is a modern Adventist young adult who grew up in the Chicagoland area. After high school, she decided to enroll at the University of Vermont, 15 hours and 962 miles from home.



Gabriela Prodans

At first glance, Gabby seems to be the quintessential young adult, living her life to the fullest — but there is more! Gabby’s passions for horses and snowboarding are simply a picture of her on-the-edge living for Jesus!

The University of Vermont is a secular campus off the shores of Lake Champlain, with spectacular views of the Adirondack Mountains. In the winter, this is a skiing wonderland for the students who call it their academic home.

Gabby could have attended Andrews, but she likes “to live my faith with others who do not know Jesus. When you ski together, study together and live together, God can be shared in unconventional ways!” It’s a bit radical for some of us and dangerous for others but, for Gabby, her passion allows her to become the “salt of the earth” of Matthew 5:13.

You wonder how she keeps seasoned? Gabby also is a horse wrangler at Camp Akita in Illinois during the summers. While at camp, she rides on Mayo, an ornery horse that cannot be ridden by many experienced staff members, let alone campers. Mayo is a horse on the edge, seemingly untameable until Gabby befriended him. Mayo is fast, nervous and mean to other horses, but when Gabby gets to him, he calms down and becomes a different horse.

At camp, Mayo and Gabby team up to share this unique friendship with children, mothers and fathers from all walks of life. They teach us that God can tame any heart, and that he has to go out on the edge to find us. And, he sends some of us out to bring others to the feet of Jesus. Such is the influence of God through this young lady.

How many students will be graduating from the University of Vermont and move to all the corners of the Earth with the seasoning of Jesus sprinkled by Gabby’s life? How many families will go home seeing the evidence of an ornery horse tamed by a young lady with a passion?

Many Christians live life in a comfortable harbor where they have access to friends, family and safety. Others choose to live life at the edge where the rest of the world exists.

Manny Ojeda is youth director of the Illinois Conference.

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