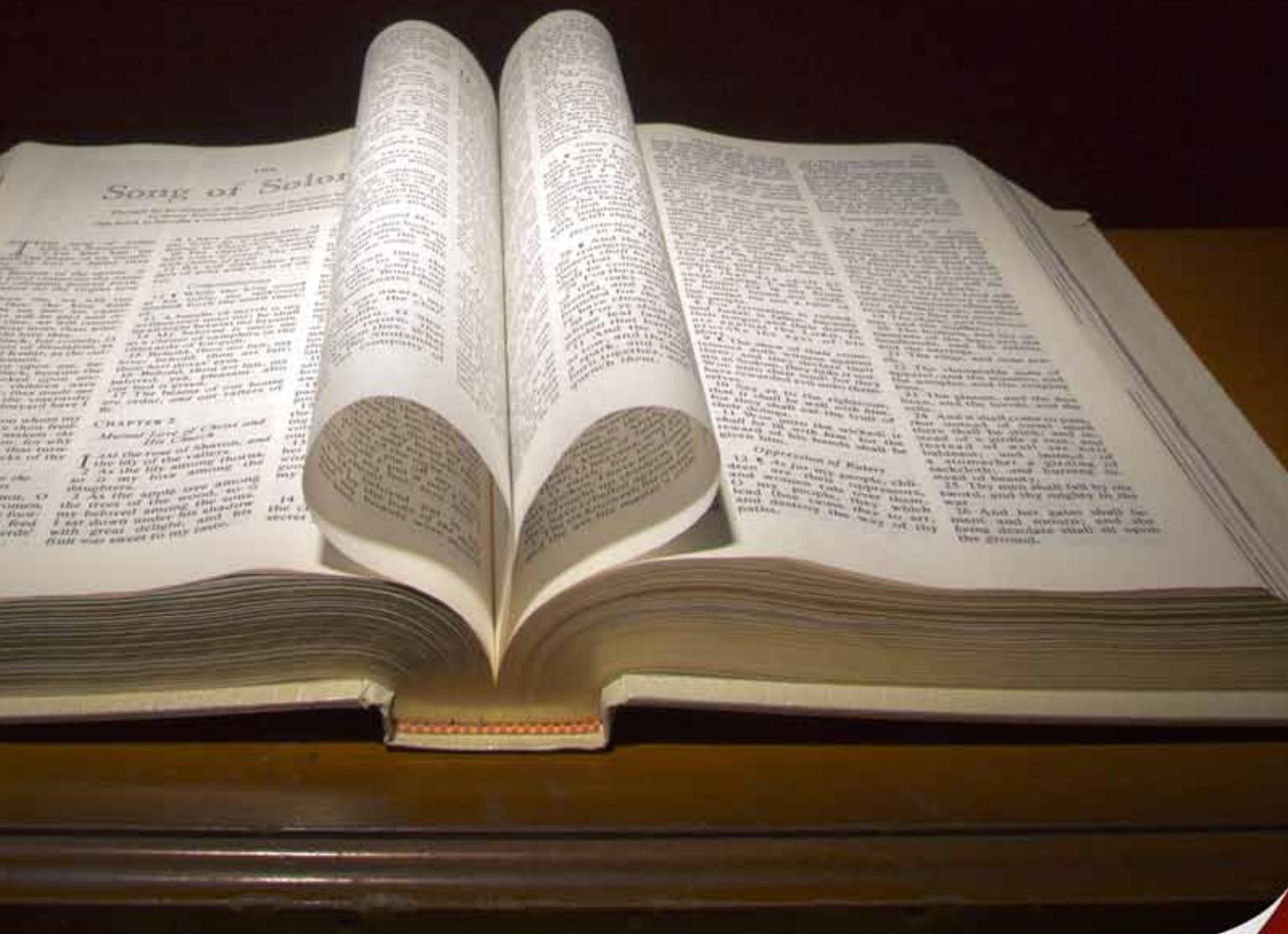


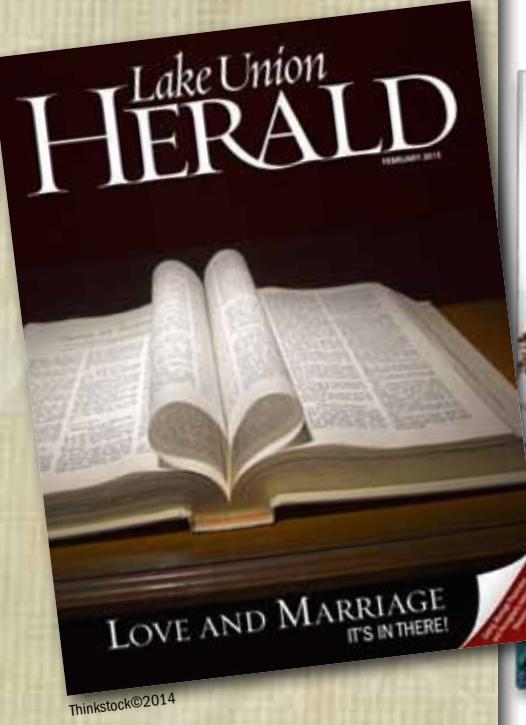
Lake Union HERALD

FEBRUARY 2015



LOVE AND MARRIAGE IT'S IN THERE!

Dating, Marriage Preparation,
and Pornography Addiction
Resources



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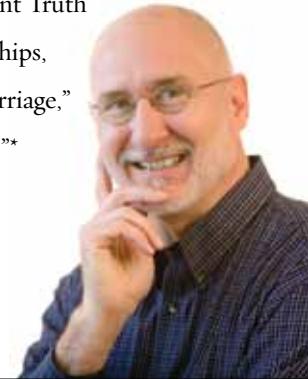
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In this issue...

February 1–8 is designated "Christian Home and Marriage Week" by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Our focus in this edition of the *Herald* is on marriage and dating, and factors that contribute to lasting relationships. In addition to our features, you may want to pay special attention to our Present Truth column that distinguishes true love, that builds lasting relationships, from natural passion, that destroys relationships. "Love and Marriage," how does that song go? "... You can't have one without the other."*

Gary Burns, Editor

*Lyrics by Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen, ©Warner, Chappell Music, Inc., Imagem U.S. LLC (1997)



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Talking Works Better Than War



When occupation of the Promised Land was completed, the Reuben and Gad tribes and half of the Manasseh tribe went to their land east of the Jordan and built an altar there — a great, impressive altar. Joshua had admonished them, *But be very careful to keep the commandment and law which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands* (Joshua 22:5 NIV).

When news of the altar spread, *the whole assembly of Israel gathered together at Shiloh to go to war against them* (verses 11–12), assuming these tribes were in rebellion and trying to establish their own religion. They were so sure they had the whole story that their question was quite pointed and accusatory: *How could you break faith with the God of Israel like this? How could you turn away from the Lord and build yourselves an altar in rebellion against him now?* (verse 16) It was not a peaceful question, but a statement of fear and anger.

Let's reflect. In the power of God, the whole nation had fought side-by-side to occupy the Promised Land. It seems probable that some from Reuben, Gad and Manasseh died in battles to acquire territory for other tribes. They sacrificed together, were victorious and rejoiced together, and now, in a short period of time, there is talk of war against each other.

Before they marched off to war, someone from Shiloh must have asked, "Do we have all the information we need regarding those rebellious tribes?"

So Israel sent Phinehas, son of Eleazar the priest, to Gilead — to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh (verse 13). The response Phinehas received was one of humility: *If this has been in rebellion or disobedience to the Lord, do not spare us this day* (verse 22). They went on to explain that the river Jordan is a barrier between the tribes. They understood that barriers separate, break down fellowship, and create suspicion. They knew, in time, the small river would become a chasm that could result in loss of identity and, worse, loss of true worship. So, for that reason, the great altar was built as a reminder — a symbol and connector to Shiloh and true worship.

Phinehas got the facts directly from the source and responded, *Today we know that the Lord is with us, because you have not been unfaithful to the Lord in this matter* (verse 31). The children of Reuben and Gad called the altar "witness," *A witness between us — that the Lord is God* (verse 34).

Frequently, I see God's people address potential barriers in wonderful, godly ways, by checking perceptions, information and even rumors with respectful, biblical approaches that eliminate barriers, even before they develop — God's people acting in godly ways. There are some among us, however, who judge before understanding, avoid biblical principles, and feel justified in doing the wrong things because they are certain their way is the right way. Most probably, each of us has found ourselves on both sides of this equation.

Like the people of Israel in Joshua's time, we are called to be God's church — his unified witness for mission and building togetherness on both sides of any barrier we may encounter.

Waiting for Marriage

BY DON JACOBSEN

On Tuesday evening, March 15, 1977, the first episode of *Three's Company*, aired on ABC television. It was touted as a sitcom where three single young adult roommates lived "platonic together" — two females, one male. There would be 171 episodes to follow, but numerous syndications globally means the program has been aired, somewhere, virtually every day for nearly 40 years.

I don't mean to suggest here that *Three's Company* launched a sexual revolution in America, only that it condoned it. For the next seven seasons, every Tuesday evening, *Three's Company* poked its irreverent finger in the eye of America's families and inferred that the relationships depicted were acceptable, even humorous. *Three's Company* played the music the '60s had written.

One of the advantages of living as long as I have (I've been around for nearly a third of the history of the United States) is that it permits you to observe changes, shifts, trends. In November 1967, *Newsweek* magazine — hardly a religious journal — observed, "The old taboos are dying. A new, more permissiveness is taking shape... And behind this expanding permissiveness is ... a society that has lost its consensus on such crucial issues as premarital sex ... marriage, birth control and sex education...."¹

Lost its consensus? More like it lost its moorings, lost its compass, lost its blueprint, lost its rudder. But that's what happens when we ignore the God who designed all of those. Since when in history has consensus laid out a safe trail?

For the last five years, I've written a syndicated weekly newspaper column for parents. Recently, a mom sent me this question: "Dr. Don, are you as concerned about the morals of today's young people as are my husband and I? We have two



Don Jacobsen

children in middle school. If things continue the way they have been going for the last few years, I don't know what their world is going to be like."

My initial response was, "Well, I don't know how concerned you are, but I can tell you I think I'm probably concerned enough for both of us."

Today's kids have access to stuff that is unprecedented in the history of civilization. Immorality has been with us from the beginning, but we've never had the possibility of piping it into a child's bedroom or bringing it up on the screen in his pocket — until about 60 months ago. (One porn website receives 1.68 million visitors per hour worldwide.)

Some argue it doesn't make all that much difference; kids are going to be exposed to it anyway, so what's the big deal? There are numerous answers to that question. Let me give you mine: I assure you, it does not augur well for the health of America's families in a new generation.

Intimacy between a husband and wife has to be one of the most unique, precious gifts ever given to the human family. To cheapen it by promiscuous disregard of its meaning is to violate its sanctity and steal, from it, that which can never be replaced.

Married sex, for many, loses its mystery and appeal, and becomes boring, when the partners already have discharged



its magic in meaningless settings. Any influence that compromises its exclusiveness is a destructive force in our culture, in our families and, especially, in the lives of our kids.

Looking back over the history of nations, none has ever long survived whose morals collapsed in debauchery and promiscuity.² All of us who value the future of our children, and of their children, must take determined steps to rebuild an atmosphere of purity, unselfishness and honor in our youngsters, and in every influence that touches them.

I know those are strong words, but it takes strength to live counter-culture, to step out of the debasing environment of a morally-floundering generation, and live in harmony with God's perfect plan. But Christ-followers understand that behavior does not become acceptable just because it is widely accepted.

Please note that I am not referencing some of the obvious consequences of illicit sex like chlamydia, genital herpes, teen pregnancy, abortion, cervical cancer. My concern is of greater significance to the followers of Christ: purity, respect, unselfishness, self-control, obedience, wanting God's best, choosing to honor him with every decision, living in the strength of the freedom he offers.

You may find yourself in a situation right now that you know isn't pleasing to God. Some day, you plan to change it. May I urge you? Move out! Today! Rent a room, sleep in your car, do whatever it takes to come back into the will of God.

If you are in a marriage where you took liberties before they were deserved, a good place to begin is with a genuine plea for forgiveness, both from God and your spouse. God is the great Forgiver. Although some decisions cannot be unmade, God has an amazing ability to wipe the slate clean and help us start over.

If you are dating and already have taken that which does not yet belong to you, please have a serious discussion with your intended, and together determine that, starting now, you want to bring purity and honor to your relationship and future marriage. Do some helpful reading together. Some excellent articles and resource suggestions are shared later in this issue.

If your daily time with God has become sloppy, reinaugurate that essential part of your schedule because we become like who or what we worship. It is only possible to arrive where we want to be if he is our perpetual Coach. It's true, as we've always heard, that by beholding we are changed.

Make sure your actions, words, and attitudes at home display deep respect for others ... both genders, all cultures. Moral character qualities are built at home, so see that your kids are introduced early to spiritual resources. A family that prays together helps build a fence around its young. Next, talk to your kids. Let them know how damaging even suggestive imagery, like pornography, can be and why it is contrary to the values in your family. Don't be naïve about what your kids are watching. Be sure they understand that your family's goal is to rise above the darkness.

Don Jacobsen, D.Min., is happily married to his wife, Ruthie, and they have two sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He has spent more than 50 years counseling parents and kids as an educator, pastor, certified parent coach, and much sought-after speaker. He travels the world speaking about family values, and is a widely-published author. His third book, *Rare Kids: Well Done*, was recently released, and he also currently writes a syndicated weekly newspaper column on parenting. Don is a member of the American Christian Leadership Council.

1. Newsweek, November 13, 1967, p. 74

2. Joseph Unwin, a British ethnologist and social anthropologist, wrote several books, including *Sex and Culture*. He studied six known civilizations, through 5,000 years of history, and found that after a nation becomes prosperous, it becomes increasingly liberal with regard to sexual morality and, as a result, loses its cohesion, its impetus and its purpose.



FAMILY TIES

Praying for Your Child's Future Mate

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance....
—Colossians 3:23–24

We have hopes and dreams for our children. We look into the future and imagine them as happy, responsible, resourceful, talented and strong in God's love. We take parenting and our Christian values seriously! Of course, any child ultimately will decide his or her own path, but there is much we can do to help prepare for that future. One factor is the power of our prayers.

Some parents pray specifically throughout their child's life for the person their child will marry. If you want to pray specifically for your child's potential future spouse, here are some ideas: Pray your child's future mate will know what he or she wants to do in life. Pray this person will become an effective communicator with deep, satisfying personal relationships. Pray they will have a hunger for God, and find prayer and Bible study personally meaningful. Pray for protection from the dangers of sexually-abusive situations or sexually-explicit knowledge that is harmful. Pray this person will be honest and sincere, and have a deep capacity for love. Pray for your child's future in-laws as they guide their child.

Your prayers and conversations can be invaluable in your child's preparation for a potential marriage. Share information, discuss values, help them realize the importance of choosing healthy relationships. Pray for your child's emotional, physical and spiritual safety. Pray your child will be mindful of the needs of others and be a loving agent of change and transformation in this world. Pray your child will be a person of compassion who treats all people with dignity and respect. Pray your child will be a whole person with a deep love for God and his ways. Ultimately, everyone with whom your child is in relationship will benefit from these prayers.

It is important we recognize that just as God provides the gift of marriage, singleness also is a gift and should be no less treasured. It is important not to send messages that everyone

needs to be married to be happy (or for us to be happy). We want our children to be whole, healthy people who marry because they want to, not because they need to please us. Our happiness should not hinge on whether they make the same life choices we do. Pray for yourself, too, that you will be a welcoming adult in the life of the person your child may someday choose. Pray you will find love in your heart even if your child's choice is not what you would have chosen.

Writing extensively about the power of prayer, Stormie Omartian encourages parents: "Your role is to become an intercessor for your child. ... No one else on Earth will ever pray for your child with the fervency and consistency that you will. What an awesome opportunity to powerfully affect your child's life for eternity."¹

What is important is that your children understand what an important decision it is to choose a life partner, so that they will not make this decision lightly. Tell your children you are praying for their lives. When your children are old enough to date, encourage them to pray about the people with whom they spend time.

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

1. Omartian, Stormie. *The Power of a Praying Parent Study Guide*. Harvest House: Oregon (1981)

Sleep deprivation
puts your mental
health at risk.



A regular
wake-up time
is essential.

Short on Shut-eye?

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

It's a widespread public health problem. One in five American adults show signs of chronic sleep deprivation. On average, we sleep about 20–30 minutes less per night than we did a decade ago. New findings reveal how important sleep is, and the integrated way the brain works while we sleep. Sleep deprivation is associated with serious health issues such as high blood pressure, arrhythmia, obesity and diabetes. Studies have shown that people who averaged at least seven hours of sleep per night had a 22 percent lower risk of cardiovascular disease and a 43 percent lower risk of death than those getting less.

Sleep influences our memory, learning and behavior. Not getting enough sleep can limit our ability to concentrate and solve problems. In a sleep-deprived state, we simply cannot do our best, and are placed at greater risk of having an accident, injury and/or illness.

Sleeplessness plays havoc with memory processes. Sleep enables memories to be remodeled, including the weakening of irrelevant memories and the coherent integration of old and new information. Sleep remodels synapses, aiding memory consolidation.

Sleep-deprived people are more likely to feel stressed out, worry too much about things, or suffer from depression, and a depressed mood can lead to lack of sleep, setting up a vicious cycle. Getting adequate sleep can help you handle stress better.

Sleep deficiency also can put you at risk for unwanted weight gain. Sleep deprivation causes hormonal changes that stimulate appetite and reduce the sensation of feeling satisfied after eating. A lack of sleep makes people prefer processed and sugary foods rather than fruits and vegetables. The result is weight gain. A recent study from the Mayo Clinic showed that people who shortened their sleep by about one-third, ate more than 500 extra calories a day. A lack of sleep also causes people to have less energy and less desire for exercise.



It is important to maintain a regular bedtime and wake-time schedule, including weekends. This helps one to fall asleep easier. Sleeping in late on weekends affects your biological clock. It is like putting your body clock on Pacific time Friday night and then flipping back to Eastern time on Monday morning. Quality of sleep is also just as important as the duration of sleep. Certain lifestyle habits and medications used to treat insomnia can harm the quality of our sleep.

Sleep-deprived people do not perceive how impaired they are. When students were restricted to fewer than six hours in bed each night for two weeks, their cognitive ability and reaction times progressively declined. By the end of two weeks, they were seen to be as impaired as subjects who had been awake for 48 hours straight, the same impairment as someone after two drinks of alcohol.

"We cannot underestimate the importance of a good night's sleep," says Clifford Saper of Harvard Medical School, an expert on sleep deprivation. "Brain imaging and behavioral studies are illuminating the brain pathways that are blocked or contorted by sleep deprivation, and the risks this poses to learning, memory, and mental health."

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

1. Source: <http://sleepfoundation.org/sleep-news/findings-reveal-brain-mechanisms-work-during-sleep>, retrieved November 25, 2014.

PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever he goes



True Love

BY THE EDITORS

Love is a plant of heavenly origin. It is not unreasonable; it is not blind. It is pure and holy. But the passion of the natural heart is another thing altogether. While pure love will take God into all its plans, and will be in perfect harmony with the Spirit of God, passion will be headstrong, rash, unreasonable, defiant of all restraint, and will make the object of its choice an idol.

"In all deportment of one who possesses true love, the grace of God will be shown. Modesty, simplicity, sincerity, morality, and religion will characterize every step toward an alliance in marriage. Those who are thus controlled will not be absorbed in each other's society, as a loss of interest in the prayer meeting and the religious service....

"If men and women are in the habit of praying twice a day before they contemplate marriage, they should pray four times a day when such a step is anticipated. Marriage is something that will influence and affect your whole life, both in this world and in the world to come. A sincere Christian will not advance his plans in this direction without the knowledge that God approves his course. He will not want to choose for himself, but will feel that God must choose for him. We are not to please ourselves, for Christ pleased not Himself. I would not be understood to mean that anyone is to marry one whom he does not love. That would be sin. But fancy and emotional nature must not be allowed to lead on to ruin. God requires the whole heart, the supreme affections.

"The majority of the marriages of our time, and the way in which they are conducted, make them one of the signs of the last days. Men and women are so persistent, so headstrong, that God is left out of the question. Religion is laid aside, as if it had not part to act in this solemn and important matter. But unless those who profess to believe



the truth are sanctified through it, and exalted in thought and character, they are not in as favorable a position before God as the sinner who has never been enlightened in regard to its claims" (*The Review and Herald*, September 25, 1888).

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:

- If love is a plant from Heaven, how does one ensure that the feelings one has in a dating or marriage relationship are Heaven-sent?
- Is there such a thing as a holy passion (see Song of Solomon)? Would Adam and Eve's sexual relationship have been a passionate one?
- What kind of passion is described as headstrong, rash, unreasonable, defiant of all restraint and perceives the partner as an object?

Personal Reflections:

- In light of the contrast between *natural* passion and pure love, how does your current relationship fit on a scale from one (*natural* passion) to 10 (pure love)?
- In what ways is God's grace in your life demonstrated to your beloved? In what ways is God's grace in your beloved's life demonstrated to you?

The Lake Union Herald editors

God's Earthshaking Answer

BY ALVIN J. VANDERRIEND

God loves to answer prayer. Not just any and every prayer, of course, but particularly prayers that are in accord with his will. God doesn't answer prayers that are wrongly motivated (James 4:3), lack faith (James 1:6), or come from a sinful heart (Psalm 66:18). But when believers pray in faith, with one mind, in Jesus' name, in accord with God's will, and ask for strength to serve him — that's a different matter. Then God takes pleasure in the prayers of his people and is eager to answer them. That was clearly the case with the prayers of the first beleaguered Christians of whom we read in Acts 4.

The first evidence God was pleased with their prayers came in a very tangible form. After they prayed, *the place where they were meeting was shaken* (Acts 4:31 NIV). This apparently was God's way of saying, "I am with you! I have heard your prayers! You can count on me!"

Following the shaking, we read that *they were all filled with the Holy Spirit* (*ibid*). In other words, they came under the influence of the Spirit of God to the point where they experienced the presence of Christ, were strengthened in faith, and given a holy boldness to *obey God rather than men* (Acts 5:29 NASB).

What followed were even more specific answers to prayer. They asked God to *enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness* (Acts 4:29 NIV). Luke reports the answer: They *spoke the Word of God boldly* (Acts 4:31 NIV). However, God's answer to their prayer was not just a one-shot response. After that initial burst of Spirit-filled boldness, the apostles *continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus* (Acts 4:33 NIV).

Not long after that, the apostles found themselves back in prison. God sent an angel who came during the night and opened the doors of the jail. The angel said to them, *Go, stand in the temple courts ... and tell the people all about this new life*. They obeyed. They entered the temple courts at daybreak and *began to teach the people* (Acts 5:20–21 NIV). Through this experience, God was answering their prayer for boldness to speak the word.

They also asked God to continue to *heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus* (Acts 4:30 NIV). God had an answer for that prayer, too. The apostles were so endowed with power from the risen Lord that they performed *many miraculous signs and wonders among the people* to the point where *people brought the sick ... and crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed* (Acts 5:12, 15–16 NIV). Talk about earthshaking answers to prayer!

Finally, we read that *abundant grace was upon them all* (Acts 4:33 NASB). God's grand, overarching answer to their prayers was the gift of much grace — grace to be witnesses, grace for boldness, grace for endurance, grace even for disgrace. After being flogged by authorities for speaking in the name of Jesus, the apostles *left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name* (Acts 5:41).

- What do you suppose would happen if a congregation prayed that way today?
- What would cause God to take pleasure in your prayers and be eager to answer them?
- What kind of prayer could you pray that might prompt God to answer by filling you with his Holy Spirit?

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

Making a Difference

EXPERIENCES WITH LIBERTY MAGAZINE

BY VIALO WEIS JR.

Not long after my wife, Shannon, graduated from Oklahoma City University School of Law in 2005, she attended a Christian Legal Society meeting in Oklahoma City. Among those at her table was Oklahoma County District Judge, Noma Gurich. In the course of conversation, Noma mentioned *Liberty* magazine. Shannon explained to her and the others at her table that her church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, publishes *Liberty* for thought leaders.

While Robert H. Henry served as a judge on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, Shannon saw a positive letter from him to the editor of *Liberty* magazine.

In the fall of 2006, my last semester at Oklahoma City University School of Law, I took Trial Practice, among other classes. One of my professors was Valerie K. Couch. At that time, Valerie served as a Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. One night in class, Valerie handed me an issue of *Liberty*. She said, "Mr. Weis, I think you should know about this magazine (she already knew I was a Seventh-day Adventist minister)." I thanked her and then explained how my church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, publishes *Liberty* for thought leaders. She told me that she enjoyed reading it.

On Saturday night, February 8, 2014, Shannon, our son, Daniel, and I attended an Oklahoma City University School of Law alumni gathering in downtown Chicago. Valerie, who now serves as dean of Oklahoma City University School of Law, was present. During dinner, Valerie told me



Vialo Weis Jr. and his wife, Shannon, both attorneys, believe that the opportunity God has given them, to serve as attorneys, provides avenues for them to witness in the legal communities in which they work. Also pictured is their son, Daniel.

that she used to receive *Liberty* during the time she was on the federal bench, but since she had been dean, she had not. I said, "Your Honor, I will personally see that you receive *Liberty*." She thanked me.

Shannon and I believe that the opportunity God has given us — to serve as attorneys — is an opportunity for us to serve as his witnesses to the legal community.

If you have ever wondered if sending *Liberty* makes a difference, you do not need to wonder any longer. Sending *Liberty* to thought leaders makes a difference; Shannon and I know that from personal experience.

Please add Sunday pastors to your list of thought leaders to receive *Liberty* as most do not understand the importance of the wall of separation between church and state. Sending *Liberty* to thought leaders is evangelistic. Thank you for giving an extra-generous Religious Liberty offering! The results will be seen in the kingdom of Heaven.

Vialo Weis Jr. is director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Indiana Conference. He is an attorney-at-law, licensed in Oklahoma.



Pastores bien preparados

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Nuestros ministros deben ser hombres totalmente consagrados a Dios, hombres bien educados; y además, sus mentes deben estar radiantes de fervor religioso, recibiendo rayos divinos de luz del cielo y esparciéndolos a través de las tinieblas que cubren la tierra y la densa oscuridad que rodea a la gente.
—Ministerio pastoral, p.49

En este año 2015 voy a celebrar un aniversario muy especial. Aunque me sea difícil creerlo, voy a cumplir 40 años en este ministerio. En el año 1975 tuve el privilegio de ser pastor de mi primera iglesia en Bolivia donde estuve como estudiante misionero. En ese tiempo estudiaba en Andrews University con planes de prepararme para ser médico misionero. Pero Dios tenía otros planes para mí y me invitó para pastorear aquella pequeña iglesia en Bolivia. Dios me concedió la oportunidad de prepararme de una manera muy real para ser pastor y allí empezó el entrenamiento que yo necesitaba.

Como en las demás profesiones, el pastor debe seguir aprendiendo y creciendo en su ministerio. Muchos piensan que la preparación que el pastor necesita es la que recibe en el seminario. Pero la realidad es que el mundo cambia constantemente y es necesario que el pastor se mantenga al tanto de los cambios, los acontecimientos, los avances en la ciencia, los problemas, las novedades. Es por esto que tiene el deber de estudiar. En mi propia experiencia, tengo la costumbre de continuar mis estudios por medio de la lectura de libros que otros pastores me recomiendan y los seminarios que se ofrecen. La compra de libros y la asistencia a seminarios requieren una inversión de recursos personales. Pero a pesar de los gastos, los he hecho con gusto y lo sigo haciendo para ser más eficaz en mi ministerio.

Como ya se mencionó en un artículo anterior, este año la División Norteamericana auspiciará una convención especial para todos los pastores y sus familias. Esta convención se llevará a cabo desde el 28 de junio hasta el 1 de julio en Austin, Texas. La invitación se extiende a todos los pastores de la División junto con sus esposas e hijos. Pero la triste realidad es que no todos están en la condición financiera de hacerlo, lo que me



Pastor William Rojas con los Hermanos de la Iglesia de Elgin, Illinois.

apena mucho. Conozco a casi todos los pastores en nuestra Unión por nombre. He visto cómo se esfuerzan para pastorear con tanto sacrificio y dedicación. También he visto el fruto de su obra en el ánimo espiritual que se observa en los hermanos y las visitas en las distintas iglesias.

Les menciono esto para pedir su apoyo. No he hablado con ningún pastor acerca de este pedido porque sé que ellos no acostumbran hacer

peticiones personales. Pero hago esta apelación porque al pensar en la bendición que las iglesias recibirían al ayudar a sus pastores y a sus familias para que puedan asistir a este evento tan especial, creo que vale la pena repetir este pedido. Así que animo a los líderes laicos en las iglesias a que consideren dar una ayuda monetaria para que sus pastores puedan asistir. Si necesitan obtener más información, pueden ir al sitio web “<http://www.nadpastorsconvention.com/registration/>”.

Para concluir, deseo animar a todos los hermanos de nuestra Unión a que oren por nuestros pastores y sus familias para que puedan seguir haciendo su trabajo con ánimo y esperanza.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

DATING FOR A NEW GENERATION

BY HEATHER THOMPSON DAY

That your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless.... —Philippians 1:9–10 NIV

When I was in high school, I had a major crush on Rocky. He stared on the football team, played varsity all four years on the basketball team, and had college scouts at every baseball game. We met in the eighth grade. I had attended private school all my life but, in the middle of my eighth-grade year, I found myself seated in my town's public school for reasons that would deem another whole article. Rocky was the first boy, or person, at all to acknowledge my existence.

"You're new," he said, tapping my shoulder from behind in English class.

"I am," I responded sheepishly. I had talked to boys before, but not ones who didn't know what went on a haystack. I felt like a complete outsider. I always had been extremely well-known in my small Adventist elementary school. For the first time in my entire educational existence, I knew what it felt like to be a stranger.

"I'll show you around," Rocky said, smiling. And he did.

For the next five years, Rocky not only walked me to new classrooms, he also helped me navigate a broken heart. He invited me to his family dinners, made me cookie milkshakes, and told me how beautiful I was. I was 15. The only male who had ever told me I was beautiful was my father, and he liked me without straight hair and makeup, so I could hardly trust his judgment. When Rocky told me I was beautiful, I found myself hoping he was right.

We shared a locker every year. He made me cards out of construction paper on Valentine's Day. He told everyone who would listen that I was his best friend; each time he said it, I swallowed the lump in my throat that grew larger.

Eventually, I grew up. I went away to college. I was halfway through my freshmen year when Rocky called me. He wanted to meet for dinner. We ate and laughed. He told



jokes I pretended I had never heard him say before. He put his arm around me, and I felt the rejection fade. Nonetheless, he was too late.

That was the last conversation I ever had with Rocky. For the first time in our entire relationship, I wasn't the one being rejected, and I guess, since we didn't share a locker anymore, there was no need to keep pretending we were something that we weren't.

I teach communication courses at a community college. One of my favorite chapters to walk my students through is the chapter on relationships. There are several communication theories dealing with how we start, maintain and end relationships. I only want to walk you through one key concept in this article, but I think it may be eye-opening — it's the relationship cycle. Relationships have six stages.

CONTACT

The first stage is contact. In this stage, you meet. Some research suggests that within the first four minutes of meeting someone, you have already made up your mind as to whether or not you like that person. During the four-plus years I have been teaching, I have learned one thing about the theory of four minutes: Typically, men agree with it.

INVOLVEMENT

The next stage of relationship development is involvement. This is when you test to see if your initial judgments were correct. You hang out in groups, you text, you stalk their social media accounts, you know standard protocol.

INTIMACY

The third stage of relationship development is intimacy. There is something important about intimacy; it includes both private and social bonding. The couple has a private conversation about their relationship status, and then makes the private commitment public knowledge. They tell friends, invite each other to meet their families, post it on Facebook, etc.

I always tell my students, "If you think you are in a relationship with someone because you are committing to each other privately, but you do not ever make it public, you are not in a relationship." Affairs, casual sex, secret texts are not relationships. True intimacy is both private and public. If you are not experiencing both sides of intimacy, you simply aren't experiencing intimacy.

DETERIORATION

The fourth stage of relationships is deterioration. This is where relationship bonds weaken. Almost every relationship will deteriorate, even healthy marriages. Some signs of deterioration are that the two of you talk less, show affection less, hang out less. Don't panic. Deterioration is normal.

REPAIR

The fifth stage is repair. Nearly all relationships will go through forms of repair that should bring you back to intimacy. Remember: Relationships are not broken because they do not always stay in stage three. This is normal relationship movement.

DISSOLUTION

The sixth stage of a relationship, and the last, is dissolution. If the repair does not work, you will end up here. Some people skip the fifth stage altogether and head straight for dissolution. Dissolution says that your bonds are broken,

and you separate both privately and publicly. It is a reversal of intimacy.

Here is what I think is bizarre: Social media has completely changed relationship development. Rocky and I went through the six stages and, at stage six, we stopped speaking. I couldn't tell you today what he is up to and, quite frankly, I don't care. With the introduction of social media, however, many of us never really enter stage six. We never really end the relationship, because with the tap of a finger we can see pictures, read thoughts, and relive old feelings all over again.

This is totally rewiring the process. It's natural and normal for relationships to die. Today, we are perpetuating relationships, sometimes forever. What are the effects of this on our new relationships? How are marriages affected because of the social media relationships we never let die? How is stage three (intimacy) in our current relationships affected by the fact that we never fully went through stage six (dissolution) in our last relationship?

Social media can be credited with changing the way relationships are born, but it is also bringing along an interesting side effect: Relationships aren't dying. This last point is, to me, as noteworthy as the first.

I did not write this article to give you all the answers; I just wanted to raise some pertinent questions. Here is what I know: When I was 18 and decided I was not going to be in a relationship with Rocky, we never spoke again because ... well, why should we? I also know that 50 percent of marriages are ending in divorce, and in 2012, more than a third of divorce filings contained the word "Facebook" in them.

We have to stop thinking that relationships should be like vampires and that good things don't come to an end. It's simple communication theory. Every romantic relationship, except your current one, should experience stage six. There is a reason why, in high school, when couples broke up, they stopped sharing a locker. Relationships were not meant to be vampires. Don't breathe life into what was meant to be dead.

Heather Thompson Day lives in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Her desire is to share the life lessons she has learned with young adults who struggle to find balance in the Christian life. She is a published author, including *Hook, Line, and Sinker*, which is available at <http://www.adventistbookcenter.com>.

PORNOGRAPHY

THE ENEMY OF INTIMACY

BY BERNIE ANDERSON

A little over 10 years ago, I started talking publicly about my long-time struggle with pornography. Lots of people know about it now, and I've even taken the time to put my story in book form (*Breaking the Silence: A Pastor Goes Public About His Battle with Porn*). Needless to say, it's been a somewhat awkward journey. With time, it has become less awkward but, still, people, particularly church people, aren't real excited about a pastor speaking openly about his secret sexual struggles.

Honestly, I can tell you that my motivation has been to stir things up a bit. Not just for the sake of creating waves but, hopefully, to create a tidal wave of grace, hope and new life. You see, what I've learned, over these past years, when interacting with people in churches, others throughout the U.S., and those struggling all over the world with this issue, is that pornography is a real problem — but it isn't the root problem. In fact, pornography simply isn't that powerful. It's really just smoke and mirrors or, I guess, you could say "pixels and airbrushes." It is deceptive, for sure, but, at the end of the day, porn is pretty hollow, even impotent. So why are so many Christians trapped in a seemingly never-ending cycle of spiritual failure because of pornography? Why is pornography destroying so many relationships?

This may seem like a rather simple answer, but it is the one answer I keep coming back to time and again. I'm certain that some will disagree or just write me off as a bleeding heart who overemphasizes "relationship" and doesn't understand godly obedience. I can live with that, but, at least, hear me out. So, here goes the answer to why I believe so many individually and relationally are struggling — drum roll, please: the loss of authentic intimacy, connection and community. I know, you're blown away, right?

What I'm saying is that the driving force behind most people's (men and women) secret obsession with pornography, masturbation, fantasy and even multiple affairs has to do



with the fact that there has been a loss of authentic, legitimate intimacy with God and others. It's easy to lose sight of the fact that when Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment in the law was, his response was relationally focused, saying, *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength*. That part of his answer wasn't unusual or even unheard of by his Jewish audience. But the line he followed with — essentially adding to the sacred "*Shema*" prayer which faithful Jews recited daily — revealed a responsibility to *love your neighbor as yourself*, and was completely new (see Matthew 22:36–39).

At best, it seems our "love" and *intimacy* for one another tends toward pretension and fluffy facades rather than authentic community. My take on it is that it is just easier to settle for *false intimacy* through pornography rather than enter the deep, often messy, awkwardness of authentic relationship with God and others. This is where pornography becomes compelling and inviting. Pornography essentially is a cheap knock-off, a mere imitation of authentic intimacy. While it plays on our legitimate, soul-longing for real intimacy, every consumer discovers pornography can deliver only a temporary, masturbatory fix, which leaves us longing for something real.

I like what Harry Schaumberg says, in his classic work on the issue, *False Intimacy*: "The Fall did not diminish our capacity for intimacy; it created a distortion and an agonizing

disruption of intimacy. Each of us longs to break through the limitations of our existence into a blissful unending intimacy with others. Such a dream cannot, however, be fulfilled. So, we desensitize our hunger and thirst for the pre-fallen state by preoccupying ourselves with career, family, food, sex, leisure and other distractions. But no diversion can richly satisfy our souls. Inner emptiness, the result of original sin, lies just below the surface of the illusion we create in order to cope with life.”¹

It seems we have a much easier time talking about how the Fall has impacted nature and dramatically reduced the life span of human beings and, yet, we cannot admit its devastating impact on our hearts and relationships. The Bible has left us such powerful insights into the deep longing of every human heart and, yet, we’ve downplayed its importance. In Genesis 2:18, God says, *It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him* (NIV). I can’t help but think that this was our first clue into God’s plan not only for marriage but, also, every human relationship — that indeed, relationships, partnerships and communion with others would be vital.

One of the things I say, everywhere I go to talk on this issue, is that *pornography is an enemy of intimacy*. I truly believe that. If you’ve ever been on a mission trip and had to mix mud to build a church using cement block, then you can imagine it this way: Every time a man or a woman seeks gratification through pornography, it’s like putting down mud and putting a block in place, essentially erecting a wall between themselves, God and their friends.

It would make sense, then, that if the core issue with us is that we lack connection and community, then the likely remedy would be to have each one of us experience real intimacy through real relationships with real people. Even *GQ* magazine — in a 2013 article titled “10 Reasons Why You Should Quit Looking at Porn” citing information from the secular Reddit community known as “NoFapp” (which encourages abstinence from porn) — concluded that it’s likely time to put away the porn and “dial the phone” to interact with a *real* person.²

Granted, it’s much easier said than done, but for a growing Christ-follower, it is essential for a life free of porn. So, if you’re already in a serious relationship, dating, or just wondering how to navigate the relational maze, here’s a couple of questions to consider when it comes to pornography:

- **Have you and your significant other had that awkward conversation about pornography?** Yes, you should talk about it. There’s a *really* good chance your love interest has seen porn. You need to know if it’s something that has stuck with them (especially if you see signs) and continues

to be a problem, or if they’re on a legit path toward recovery and abstinence.

- **Is there conviction about a direction away from pornography even though there may not be perfect behavior?** Remember, during the dating years, we say and do things to win over the one we want. So, while he or she may say they’ve kicked their porn habit, remember that talk is cheap; look for real action that says they are seriously getting clean.

Remember, pornography’s main goal is the undermining of God’s original intentions for our relationships — that of authenticity, intimacy and oneness. For all that pornography promises, it can’t deliver what only the God of the Bible can. If you want to break free or just avoid it altogether, live authentically, embrace a small group community, and courageously reject the false intimacy of pornography.

Bernie Anderson is pastor for collegiates and young adults at Forest Lake Seventh-day Adventist church in Apopka, Florida. He is happily married and has three daughters. Bernie leads an X3group every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m., and space is available to join. For more information, see <http://www.x3groups.com>, or connect for support and encouragement at <http://www.bernieanderson.org>, Twitter:@pastorsrb33, Facebook: berniea, or email: banderson33@me.com.

1. Schaumberg, Harry. *False Intimacy*. NavPress: Colorado Springs, Colo. (1997), pp. 30–31.

2. Christian, Scott. “10 Reasons Why You Should Quit Watching Porn.” Retrieved December 8, 2014, from <http://www.gq.com/blogs/the-feed/2013/11/10-reasons-why-you-should-quit-watching-porn.html>.

BERNIE'S TOP RESOURCES

<http://www.Xxxchurch.com>

- [X3groups.com](http://www.Xxxchurch.com) (online support groups)
- [X3pure.com](http://www.X3pure.com) (online recovery workshop)
- [X3watch](http://www.X3watch.com) (accountability software)

<http://www.Newlife.com>

- [Every Man's Battle Workshop](http://www.Newlife.com) (Live)
- [Every Man's Battle book series](http://www.Newlife.com)
(men, women, teens)

<http://www.Puredesire.org>

- [Conquer Series DVD set](http://www.Puredesire.org)
- [Books, articles, resources](http://www.Puredesire.org)

<http://www.Stonegateresources.com>

- [Onsite counseling for couples](http://www.Stonegateresources.com)

<http://www.Joedallas.com>

- [Counseling, blogs, articles, books, resources](http://www.Joedallas.com)

BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God. —Psalm 146:5 NKJV

Ariving at college, Karen quickly became my friend. Before long, I learned she had broken off an engagement with someone she met while attending another college. When he later came to school on our campus, I became acquainted with him. I just couldn't imagine her marrying this guy! I recall a conversation when I asked her why she had loved him and agreed to be his wife. Her response almost took my breath away! She said, "Love him? I didn't even like him!"

How does one get to the point of deciding to marry someone they don't even like? Maybe it's because ... breaking up is hard to do. Fortunately, Karen took the necessary step, but others do not. There are reasons it can be so difficult. We have been taught not to hurt people's feelings. We don't want to be alone. We hate the idea of being "single." We are in love with the idea of being in love (more than being in love with the individual). At least, we know what to expect in the current relationship. We are afraid of what people will think. We love their family. We believe we can change our partner, and things will improve. We don't want to mess up the plans already in place, especially when a wedding is in the near future. While engagement is a serious commitment, it is not the same commitment as marriage. It is far better to end a relationship before saying, "I do."

Having an unsettled, nagging sense that something is wrong in the relationship, lacking a general sense of peace and contentment, or not feeling valued for what you think and feel are danger signs in a relationship. Whether one sees the following in their partner or in oneself, further red flags include: possessiveness that takes the form of jealousy or imposed isolation, including a lack of freedom and unrestrained opportunities for friendships with others; other controlling and abusive behaviors; making excuses for attitudes and behaviors — not just to friends and family, but to yourself; insults and hypersensitivity; frequent criticism and defensiveness; dishonesty; major irritation and discomfort regarding personality issues; a lack of shared values and goals; and unsettling differences in spiritual beliefs and practices.



Keep in mind that any intimate relationship will experience conflict. All couples, healthy and otherwise, experience negative feelings, with hurt, anger and even disgust. John Gottman¹ and his colleagues found that what counts is how much negativity there is in relation to positivity. In stable relationships, the ratio of positive to negative during conflict is 5:1,

which means there are five times as many positive interactions than negative ones in stable couples even when they are in conflict. Couples in happy relationships tend to be much more forgiving and understanding of each other, even during conflict. You may ask yourself, "What is the ratio in our relationship?" Ongoing, unresolved conflicts are damaging and dangerous. It is imperative to develop the skills to handle conflict without damaging the relationship.

Mike Tucker shares sound biblical principles and provides solid guidance about dating relationships. He encourages individuals not to put off breaking up until some magical time when it will be easy. Be direct, and state fully that you want to end the relationship and why. Do this in person unless there is fear of possible violence or the person has extreme emotional or mental control over you. He shares, "Don't underestimate the psychological and emotional impact of ending a dating relationship, even if the relationship should be ended and even if you are the one initiating the break-up."²

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

1. Gottman, John. "Positivity/negativity ratio." Retrieved November 28, 2014, from http://psychology.wikia.com/wiki/Positivity/negativity_ratio.

2. Tucker, Mike. *Laws of Dating: The Irrefutable, Irrevocable, Unalterable...* Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press (2007).

ENSURING A LASTING JOURNEY TOGETHER

BY PAMELA AND CLAUDIO CONSUEGRA

When it comes to dating, one of the most often quoted advice comes from the apostle Paul who wrote, *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers* (2 Corinthians 6:14 NKJV). For many, that has taken the same value of an old wife's tale, and yet, research confirms the value of the scriptural advice.

Naomi Schaefer Riley demonstrates that interfaith couples are less happy than others, and certain combinations of religions are more likely to lead to divorce. Naomi shows that many people enter into interfaith marriages without much consideration of the fundamental spiritual, doctrinal and practical issues that divide them.¹

Couples tend to marry in their 20s and 30s, a time when religion diminishes in importance, only to return to faith as they grow older and raise children, suffer the loss of a parent, or experience other major life challenges. Even when they recognize deeply-held differences, couples believe that love conquers all, and fail to ask the necessary questions about how they will reconcile their differing views about such things as raising children, celebrating holidays, interacting with extended families, and more.

Sharing our faith and church commitment with the most important person in our life, our spouse, is critical to the health, happiness and longevity of our marriage. Every study that has ever been done has found that the rate of divorce among those who regularly attend church is much lower than among those who don't. The bottom line is that weekly church attendance alone lowers the divorce rate significantly — roughly 25 to 50 percent, depending on the study and group of people being studied.

Shaanti Feldhahn explains that, according to Christian pollster George Barna, the divorce rate among those who had attended church in the last seven days (from when his research was conducted) dropped to 27 percent compared to those who had not attended.² A major study conducted by Brad Wilcox revealed that those who attend worship services regularly have an average drop of roughly 50



percent in their divorce rates compared to those who don't.³

And yet, simply attending church together is not enough; we need to have an active spiritual life. Numerous well-known sociologists, demographers, psychologists and other researchers have found that when someone is active in their faith, it significantly lowers their chances of divorce. In the study "Spiritual Beliefs and Marriage," coauthored with Peter Larson, David Olson examined various religious activities (like Bible reading and prayer) to measure and evaluate how much couples agreed with each other spiritually. In all 12 dimensions of the evaluation, the more couples agreed with each other on personal spiritual beliefs and practices, the better were their scores in areas such as marital satisfaction, conflict resolution and couple closeness.⁴

Eugene Peterson paraphrases Amos 3:3: *Do two people walk hand in hand if they aren't going to the same place?* The journey toward eternity is made much easier, and parenting spiritual children more effective, when as spouses we share a common spiritual commitment to each other and to God. Being equally yoked together means we can pull together until we reach the ideal God designed for us in marriage.

Pamela and Claudio Consuegra are the family ministry directors of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

1. Schaefer Riley, Naomi. *'Til Faith Do Us Part*. New York: Oxford (2013)

2. Feldhahn, Shaanti. *The Good News About Marriage: Debunking Discouraging News about Marriage and Divorce*. Colorado Springs: Multnomah (2014)

3. Source: <http://www.americanvalues.org/search/item.php?id=20>, retrieved November 26, 2014.

4. Source: <https://www.prepare-enrich.com/pe/pdf/research/beliefsandmarriage.pdf>, retrieved November 26, 2014.

BEFORE YOU SAY "I DO"

BY GARY BURNS

It is important to seek premarital counseling to help ensure a more positive outcome. Some of the questions each of you should consider may include:

- Do you typically feel relaxed when you are together, and are you each able to express yourselves freely and clearly to one another?
- Are there any issues you are not free to discuss with one another?
- Do you ever find yourselves disagreeing about the same issues over and over again?
- Have you experienced any interference from others regarding your plans to get married; and if so, is the interference motivated by legitimate concern?
- Do you have a plan for future career decisions that accommodates mutual and shared compromise?
- Do you agree on the importance you will give to money, possessions and social status?
- Do you have a shared sense of responsibility and duty to help others in need and a shared commitment to effect change for the common good?
- Have you discussed your expectations regarding the roles of husband and wife in a marriage?
- Do you have mutual friends who share your moral and religious beliefs, practices and lifestyle, and do they help you grow stronger in your faith?
- Is your relationship a focus of prayer?
- How do your respective families approach problem-solving, and how do your experiences influence your ability to solve problems together?
- Are there any lifestyle issues that are a source of conflict between you?
- How will your individual religious beliefs, values and practices influence your shared decisions?
- Are you confident that the source of love that you have for each other comes from your Creator and that your relationship has the blessing of Heaven?
- Do you have a shared sense of mission and purpose, and will your marriage result in advancing God's mission and purpose for your lives?

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

PREDICTORS OF SUCCESS

THE GOTTMAN INSTITUTE

John Gottman is well-known for his 1986 experiment, "The Love Lab," with colleague Robert Levenson at the University of Washington. Gottman has completed a total of seven studies that explored what factors can predict divorce. In a 1992 study (Buehler, K., Gottman, J.M., & Katz, L.), Gottman was able to predict with 93.6 percent accuracy which of the couples in the study would divorce. His discovery of what contributes to a lasting relationship came down to two basics: kindness and generosity.

Today, he and his wife, Julie, continue to promote healthy, lasting relationships. "We watched thousands of couples fight," say the Gottmans, "and we followed them for years to see if they stayed together in lives of quiet desperation, whether they divorced, or whether they lived happily ever after which, of course, means that they still fought, just like all couples."

What made the difference between what the Gottmans call "masters" and "disasters" was not if they fought, or if they caused hurt or pain to their partner but, rather, if and how they "repair" the relationship after hurting one another. They observed that couples who did not repair the hurts ended up with deep, festering wounds that eventually caused a breakup over time.

The keys to a healthy repair are to 1) allow some time; 2) share how you felt; 3) explain perceptions; 4) learn to empathize; 5) take responsibility; 6) apologize; 7) learn to avoid a repeat.¹

Be kind, be generous, be honest and listen!

Gary Burns is the prayer ministry coordinator of the Lake Union Conference. For additional research information, visit <http://www.gottman.com>.

1. Gottman, Julie. "What Couples Really Fight About." Retrieved December 8, 2014, from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/julie-gottman/what-couples-really-fight_b_5247297.html.

AFTER EVERY WEDDING COMES A MARRIAGE

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

They come Friday evening, filled with anticipation and high expectations. Most are engaged couples preparing for a first marriage, some are beginning a second marriage, and others are into the first year of their marriage. All want to mature and strengthen what they have begun.

At Adventist Engaged Encounter (AEE), couples are welcomed by a caring team of five married couples and shown to individual dialogue areas where they will spend time in personal reflection and couple-sharing during the weekend. They then meet the others attending, in a presentation room decorated with special touches. Throughout the weekend, which ends early Sunday afternoon, couples have opportunity to step away from preparing for their weddings to focus on preparing for their marriages.

Participating in an AEE weekend provides a Christian couple with a powerful opportunity to build a strong, healthy marriage. AEE allows couples to see a bigger picture of the potential of their relationships. For some, it is a welcomed confirmation that a Christian marriage still can be achieved. For others, it is the beginning of a lasting commitment to their relationship, now built on a firmer foundation of understanding and commitment. AEE can become a motivation for renewal, or even an opportunity for making the difficult decision to set aside current wedding plans.

AEE is based on four biblical principles: 1) Marriage is to be built upon a firm foundation (Luke 6:46–49); 2) Marriage is a continual walk together (Amos 3:3); 3) Marriage is a lifetime relationship (Matthew 19:3–9); and 4) Marriage is a solemn commitment made under the authority of God (Matthew 18:18). These principles, and how to live them, are illustrated by information and personal experiences shared by the married team couples who use their marriages for ministry as presenters at AEE. The times for personal reflection and couple-sharing exercises are based on biblical principles for relationships. Additional special

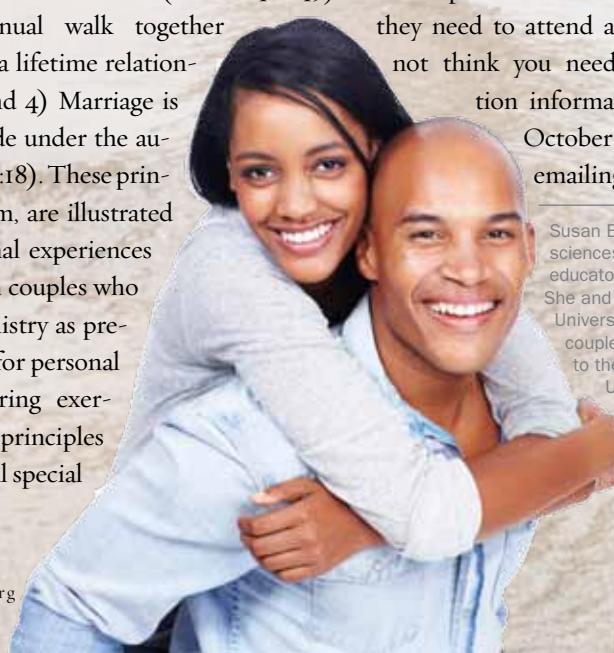
touches enrich each couple's experience throughout the weekend.

Begun in the spring of 1978, now second-generation couples seek the same opportunity as their parents before them. Recently, a couple attending the fall AEE traveled all the way from New York to attend. Why? They wanted to continue to build a strong foundation for their marriage, and her parents had attended an AEE weekend in 1988 and encouraged them to come.

Based on the evaluations from weekends, the common theme of what couples appreciate the most is the openness of the sharing couples, appreciating the chance to get to know each other in a deeper way, and feeling more prepared for the commitment of marriage. In a recent Facebook post, a husband wrote they still have their banner, hanging in their bedroom, that marked their dialogue area from their AEE weekend, and they have been married for 32 years! They say the message still rings true, "God always gives the best to those who leave the choice to him."

AEE is an enrichment weekend, intended to complement premarital counseling. Some couples question if they need to attend a weekend. We would say, "You may not think you need it, but you deserve it!" Registration information for the March 6–8, 2015, and October 2015 AEE weekends is available by emailing aee@andrews.edu.

Susan E. Murray is a professor emerita of behavioral sciences at Andrews University, certified family life educator, and licensed marriage and family therapist. She and her husband, Don, started AEE at Andrews University in 1978 with three graduate student couples, and led the program for 28 years prior to their retirement. David Ferguson, director of Undergraduate Leadership Development at Andrews University, and his wife, Caryl-Lynn Ferguson, coordinator of Alumni Engagement at Andrews University, now lead AEE.



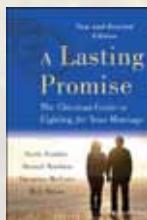
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



101 Questions to Ask Before You Get Engaged
by H. Norman Wright |
Harvest House Publishers (2004)



Getting Ready for the Rest of Your Life
(Groom's Edition, Bride's Edition, Facilitator's Edition) by Laurie Snyman | Self-published (2011)*



A Lasting Promise: The Christian Guide to Fighting for Your Marriage
by Scott Stanley, Daniel Trathen, Savanna McCain and Milt Bryan | Jossey Bass (2013)



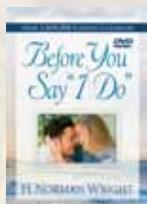
Hook, Line, and Sinker
by Heather Marie Thompson | Review and Herald Publishing (2011)



Before You Marry: Know Everything! (Kindle edition) by Laurie Snyman | Self-published (2014)



Laws of Dating by Mike Tucker | PPPA (2007)
A free copy will be shipped to the first 100 who email circulation@lakeunion.org.



Before You Say "I Do": A Marriage Preparation Manual for Couples
by H. Norman Wright and Wes Roberts | Harvest House Publishers (1997)



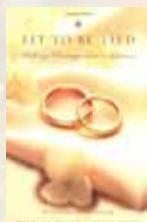
PREP: Using techniques of cognitive-behavioral marital therapy and communication-oriented marital enhancement programs, PREP aims to help couples maintain high levels of functioning and prevent marital problems from developing. Visit <http://www.prepinc.com> for information.



Breaking the Silence
by Bernie Anderson | Review and Herald Publishing (2007)



PREPARE to Last: Three of the nation's most innovative and respected marriage-strengthening organizations — Forever Families, Life Innovations and Marriage Today — have come together to build the ultimate resource for helping "nearlywed" and newlywed couples start strong and build a great marriage. Visit <http://www.preparetolast.com> for information.



Fit to Be Tied by Bill and Lynne Hybels | Zondervan (1993)



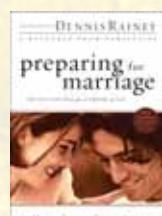
PREPARE-ENRICH

is the leading relationship inventory and skill-building

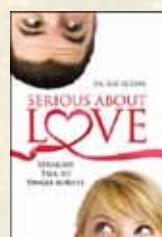
program used nationally and internationally for pre-marital and marriage enrichment, customized to each couple taking the online assessment. Discover your strengths as a couple and identify and learn to overcome your issues by working with a trained counselor/pastor. Visit <http://www.prepare-enrich.com> for further information.



Preparing for Marriage by David Boehi, Brenton Nelson, Jeff Schulte and Lloyd Shadrach, and Dennis Rainey (editor) | Gospel Light (2010)



Saving Your Marriage Before it Starts: Seven Questions to Ask Before and After You Marry (Workbooks available for men, women and a version for second marriages) by Les and Leslie Parrott | Zondervan (2009)



Serious About Love by Kay Kuzma | PPPA (2009) A free copy will be shipped to the first 10 readers who email circulation@lakeunion.org.

*Available at Michigan Adventist Book Centers only.

The Stockbroker

BY VAN HURST

Do you have stocks in your retirement portfolio?" I was visiting with a friend and discussing the liability to which Adventist employees open themselves when they rely solely on the stock market for their retirement.

My friend chuckled and, with a smile, said, "I only have four-legged stocks." Then I remembered I was talking to a farmer who had cows! He maintained that his stocks were more dependable than my portfolio. He was probably right.

No one can talk about the Christian life without glorifying God because he is so dependable! He has seen us through both good and bad times ... if we will prove him and be faithful. Tithing is about trusting God with everything!

About 35 years ago, my wife, Janell, and I had moved several times. We had collected three houses. They were all for sale, but we had no buyers ... no renters either.

It was Friday, and the payments were due. We had \$200 in the bank and nearly \$1,500 in house payments to make. We sat in the kitchen to discuss our options. As Sabbath drew near, Janell mentioned, "Well, let's just give Jesus our \$200. If we're going to declare bankruptcy, we're finished anyway."

On Sabbath, we filled our tithe envelope; we actually were going to return \$200 tithe although we were in the hole. As the plate was passed, she placed the tithe in it; we both knew we had given everything. There was a strange euphoria of relief! I almost wanted to giggle. We felt the joy of giving God everything! I preached the sermon. We went home and heated up some leftovers.

We prayed, "Lord, what do you want us to do? We can't stain the good name of our church by not paying our bills. I suppose we will need to resign our pastorate and get a good secular job."



Sabbath passed and the phone rang. Someone wanted to rent one of houses. "Great! Yes, one month's rent as deposit and the first month's rent in advance." By Monday evening, we had everything rented and more money in the bank than we had dreamed of having just a few days before!

Not only does God demand our tithe and offerings, he calls it robbery if we keep it. Over the years, we've known many people. The happiest and most prosperous have been faithful to God.

The church has been God's storehouse all through Scripture. We've always placed our tithe and most offerings in God's storehouse. That's where it belongs. Have you ever prayed and wondered why God seemed to be silent? Have you heard the Holy Spirit remind you of your faithfulness in tithe and offerings? We can stop giving when we stop living; yet, through our tithe and offerings, God's blessing to the world lives on.

It seems like everything in which we invest is unpredictable. You may have retirement stocks, four-legged stocks, a paycheck or a monthly government check. Yet, with every increase, God invests in us and calls us to return a faithful tithe and offering.

Van Hurst is the president of the Indiana Conference.



A nurse and patient discuss the patient's care with an Advanced ICU Care nurse via a secure video feed.

Adventist Midwest Health offers advanced ICU telemedicine program

Critically-ill patients at Adventist Midwest Health hospitals now have the benefit of the most advanced telemedicine program available in hospital intensive care units (ICUs) today.

Highly-trained intensivists and critical care nurses with Advanced ICU Care®, the nation's largest provider of Tele-ICU services, provide additional monitoring remotely for patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Intensivist physicians are specialists in critical care medicine.

This extra layer of care enhances patient safety by allowing an Adventist Midwest Health physician, nurse or clinical staff to work directly with another physician hundreds of miles away, sharing the same medical data. The new system includes a wall-mounted, high-resolution camera and monitor in each ICU patient room, meeting the best practice standard of having intensivist physicians monitor ICU patients around-the-clock.

The program offers the latest telemedicine technology, which interfaces into key hospitals' systems, analyzes patient data, and connects care teams through two-way video conferencing.

"Having this extra layer of care helps reassure both caregivers and patient families that our most critical patients are being vigilantly monitored when we are not present," said Mary Murphy, regional vice president and chief nursing officer at Adventist Midwest Health. "There is a deep sense of confidence knowing that emerging issues are dealt with immediately, and patients are receiving the highest level of care at a moment's notice."

Advanced ICU Care's team complements the care provided by Adventist Midwest Health physicians and nurses, continuously monitoring patients' vital signs, medications, labs and clinical status. The two-way video allows for face-to-face consultations between hospital physicians and the Advanced ICU Care team whenever needed.

According to Advanced ICU Care, studies indicate that this 24/7 intensivist monitoring improves patient outcomes, safety and mortality, and reduces length of hospital stays.

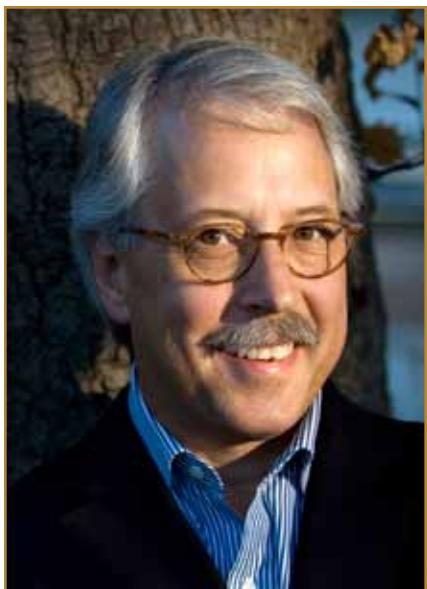
Partnering with Advanced ICU Care is another example of how Adventist Midwest Health fulfills its mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ.

"At the heart of Seventh-day Adventist health care is superb clinical quality," said John Rapp, regional vice president of Ministries and Mission. "When we deliver this outcome, patients and families are open to hearing the message of grace, love and faithfulness that has been central to Adventist Church teaching and preaching for 150 years. Excellent health care creates a unique and creative avenue to witness to all that ultimately is most important — God's loving sacrifice, forgiveness and eternal hope. SDA health care is indeed the 'right arm of the gospel.'"

Julie Busch, regional director of communications, Adventist Midwest Health



Studies indicate that 24/7 intensivist monitoring improves patient outcomes, safety and mortality, and reduces length of hospital stays.



Christa McConnell

Andrews University alumnus Gary Hamel, well-known as a leader in the business world, gave a special presentation to current School of Business students and faculty this past fall.

Renowned businessman and alumnus Gary Hamel speaks to students

In October 2014, alumnus Gary Hamel (B.S. '75, M.B.A. '76) presented, to the School of Business Administration, his very own way to "Outrun the Future." Hamel has been ranked by *The Wall Street Journal* as one of the world's most influential business thinkers and referred to by *Fortune Magazine* as a leading expert on business strategy.

After receiving a donation from the parents of an alumnus who were very appreciative of the progress their child had made in their career, Allen Stembridge, dean of the School of Business Administration, decided to contact Hamel.

"He's a very busy man," says Stembridge, "but we got an email, out of the blue, from his secretary that he hadn't forgotten and had time to come. It took a year, due to his busy schedule; and though he typically charges \$50,000–\$75,000 to speak, Gary charged us nothing for this presentation."

It was a well-attended event, targeted specifically toward business students and special guests, with an audience of about 130. Hamel focused on the future throughout the entire presentation, emphasizing innovation and change.

Hamel motivated the audience to think about "problems that are mind-bending," and asked stimulating questions like, "How do we be relentlessly optimistic?" and "Why don't we aim higher?"

"It was exactly the kind of thing that education is all about," says Brent Geraty, University legal counsel, who attended the event. "He challenged the students — all of us — to think about things as they could be rather than as they are."

"I believe our current students should not concentrate solely on the theory," says Hamel. "It's a good base, but they need to go through it and forward, and focus on the future."

He continued by sharing with the audience his idea of the competitive advantage. "One way of getting that is to be ahead of the competition — to do something different, unique and out of the box."

After the presentation, Hamel socialized with students, signed books, and answered their questions.

"Hamel certainly did not come across as unapproachable," says Stembridge. "He was extremely friendly and happy to be here. I think he was pleased; it was a good turnout of students, [and] that's who he wanted to talk to."

Students seemed very enthusiastic about Hamel's talk. Many were honored to have attended the event.

"The presentation was crisp, innovative and intellectually stimulating," says Azez Hagos, senior finance major. "It feels good when I find myself studying at a school where Gary Hamel completed his undergraduate and graduate studies!"

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



Christa McConnell

Prospective students enjoyed participating in the much-loved University tradition "Almost Anything Goes."

High school juniors check out Andrews

On Nov. 9–10, 2014, 219 prospective students visited the Andrews University campus to experience a taste of university life. The majority were juniors from Lake Union Conference academies, including Andrews Academy, Battle Creek Academy, Grand Rapids Adventist Academy, Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Hinsdale Adventist Academy, Indiana Academy, Peterson-Warren Academy and Wisconsin Academy. A few came from as far away as California, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

While here, the students teamed up for the Junior Preview version of the much-loved University tradition "Almost Anything Goes," enjoyed worship skits and music, and visited academic departments of interest.

If you would like to plan a visit to Andrews University to see if it's the place for you, visit <http://www.andrews.edu/visit>. We'd love to show you around!

Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



Peter Damsteeg

Former pastor Don Driver (1980-1984) reminds the congregation, "We don't celebrate 100 years; we celebrate God, who has been with us 100 years."

Village Church celebrates a century of God's leading

Michigan—In neat handwriting, the first clerk of the Village Church records the recommendations of the conference that a charter branch of believers establish a community church in Berrien Springs. Considerations behind the reasoning included crowding and the distance to travel to the college. The fledgling body first met in October 1914 above the hardware store in town.

One hundred years later, the Village Church celebrated God's leading for the past century. The celebration began Friday evening, Oct. 31, 2014, as associate pastor Bruce Hayward and his wife, Dorothy, directors of WellSpring Ministries, recited the history of the church. From the meeting place above the hardware store, in the former Berrien Springs Courthouse for many years, to its current location, Village members have continued to commit their lives to corporately seek and serve God. Senior pastor Ron Kelly challenged the church to recall their history but, also, to focus on their destiny as believers living in the last days.

Former pastor Don Driver (1980–1984) spoke for the first service on Sabbath morning, Nov. 1, 2014, reminding

the congregation, “We don’t celebrate 100 years; we celebrate God, who has been with us 100 years.”

Bill Knott, former youth pastor (1985–1988) and current editor of the *Adventist Review*, spoke for second service. He focused on the value of stories to reach and teach us. Knott stated, “You have to make a choice each time you look at the past, and how it will shape today.” He recalled our Adventist pioneers and how their stories inspire us to experience their deep journey with Christ.

Former pastor Larry Lichtenwalter (1986–2012) and his wife, Kathie, sent their greetings via technology from Lebanon where they serve in the Middle East Union.

The morning mission slot featured Nathan Greene, a well-known, local Adventist artist. He related how his paintings travel the globe for Jesus, although he has yet to leave North America. One of his favorite snapshots is of an African chief posing before the painting of children and a lion with Jesus.

Former assistant pastor Ariel Roldan (2008–2012) provided a group Sabbath school lesson study on the book of James. Roldan shared applicable personal stories that illustrated James’ writing.

Musicians praised God in instrument and song. Former minister of

music Jerry Chase (1995–2000) played the organ. The church band, school choir and bell choir, and many others, brought their talents to bless the audience.

The church’s Wolverines Pathfinder club served hundreds of hot plates of food to the hungry crowd. Mashed potatoes and gravy, meatballs, vegetables, salad, and homemade dinner rolls provided an appetizing meal. The Family Center filled to capacity with members and guests, with the overflow crowd eating downstairs in the Youth Room.

The afternoon was filled with tours of the church and elementary school, an old-fashioned hymn sing in the Riess Chapel, and memorabilia viewing. Several long-time members greeted guests as they leafed through old clerk’s records and photos. Three historic quilts were displayed, two with members’ names, and one, a Pathfinder quilt.

Sabbath vespers offered a time of reflections of God’s past blessings, present opportunities, and future challenges to serve God faithfully. Village members provided both vocal and instrumental music for the evening. Village Adventist Elementary School first-grade teacher, Beth Stevenson, wrote a poem to commemorate the event. The final stanza provided a fitting conclusion to the celebration: “Let’s promise at this pleasant juncture, The vict’ry song we’ll one day sing. Not as a solo or duet, But as a Village to our King!”

Collene Kelly, communication secretary,
Village Church



On Sabbath afternoon, guests viewed church and school memorabilia, and several longtime members greeted them as they leafed through old clerks’ records and photos.



Alenee Cole

Before services began in *The Grace Place* church plant, individuals prayed for the community in which they hoped to minister, and asked God to work in a mighty way to touch hearts and change lives.

The Grace Place ministry leads to Bible studies and baptisms

Indiana—“I won’t be coming to church anymore,” Hyveth Williams declared. “I feel the Lord has called me to do more than just sit in a church. I have been praying about this, and my friend, Habir Aviles, and I have decided to go to a section of Chicago and start knocking on doors. If you don’t see me in church, it will be because I am out knocking on doors, praying with people, and seeing if I can find some who will study the Bible with me.” Williams shared this with her pastor, Throstur Thordarson, of the South Bend First Church in Indiana.

Thordarson calmly responded, “Let’s pray about this.”

When they finished praying, Thordarson said, “There is a little company I have in South Bend. They are not growing, and I’m thinking of disbanding them, but they have this beautiful church. Why don’t you go and look at it before you go to Chicago? Just see what can come of it.”

The next Sabbath, Williams looked at the church.

“I was just overwhelmed by the facilities, the location and everything. It was just as if God was saying, ‘This is where I want you to minister,’” she said.

Immediately, Williams contacted Aviles, and they both prayed about the possibilities. They invited a few other individuals to join them, and the group grew to six people. They prayed and fasted together for a whole month, asking the Lord to reveal his will. The impression on all involved was that God wanted them to do something in South Bend.

They felt the Lord leading them to do a church plant with a community focus rather than simply another worship program. The thought was that if the community could be made healthy — spiritually, physically and mentally, the church would grow and make a difference.

The area selected included about one-third of South Bend. After fasting and praying for a month, the small group spent a week walking throughout the community in which they hoped to minister. They prayed for the people living there. They asked that God work in a mighty way to touch hearts and change lives.

The next week the group drove around the target community every

day and prayed for it. They said, “Lord, we are claiming this community in your name.”

Each day of the third week, someone prayed in the church facility. They prayed that God would bless the work and not only change those who came but also enable those ministering to be conduits of his love.

Following this, the group fasted and prayed for a week, for themselves and their leaders. Then, on Sabbath afternoons, they began to visit malls and shopping centers. They gave out cards and prayed for and with people. They announced they were going to start a church.

In addition to these efforts, 175 former Adventists living in the area were contacted and invited to return to church. Letters of apology were sent to each person. The letters said, “We apologize for whatever caused you to be disconnected from us. We want you back.”

Some people slammed their doors and said, “You are too late. Get lost!” However, many accepted the invitation and came back. When the first church service began, on Feb. 16, 2013, 90 people were in attendance, and at least 50 were from the community.

Once worship services began, attendees were invited to share a Sabbath meal together each week. Rather than hosting a potluck, the food was prepared by a hospitality team. Posted on the Internet each week, the menu included two options: clean meats (like chicken) and vegetarian. This allowed visitors to sample vegetarian food and learn about it, while still being able to eat something they were used to. This was helpful especially to those who did not regularly enjoy well-prepared, balanced meals.

After the meals, those who are willing, about 50 in number, have gone out and given things to the community. They have given out bread and other food, as well as amenities such as toothpaste and soap.

“Whatever we have, we give to them,” says Williams. “Our gifts of love are changing lives. We have been told how different things are in the community since we started doing this.”

NEWS



Hyveth Williams is the senior pastor of The Grace Place, which now averages 100 in attendance weekly.

"One man cursed us and slammed the door in our faces. 'Don't bother me. I don't want to have anything to do with anybody,' he yelled."

Immediately, the visitors gathered on the front walk and prayed for the man. Then, they carried a bag of food back and set it near the door. As they were leaving, the man again opened the door.

"We are from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and we just wanted to pray with you and give you this bag of food," he was told.

"Okay, you can pray for me," he responded.

During subsequent visits, it was learned the man had lost both legs in the war in Afghanistan. He lived by himself and had no one to look after him. Now, members of the church regularly check on him.

Williams declares, "He has come a long way from cursing us to now allowing us to pray with him, bring him things, and look after him. We see this connection drawing him closer to God and to others."

Being community-focused includes cleaning up the neighborhood. Some-



On July 4, 2014, The Grace Place hosted a neighborhood party at which more than 200 community guests participated.

times, these efforts involve snow removal. Sometimes, they involve cleaning out a whole house where the people are just so depressed and overwhelmed they can't deal with it. Church members go in, scrub, throw out trash, and help organize the home.

Williams said, "When we revamped a house in one neighborhood, the neighbors came around, looked and asked, 'Who are these people?'"

Curiosity drew them to the church and to evangelistic meetings the church held last summer. Five people were baptized during the series.

"The Grace Place," as the church plant has been named, has found many ways to reach the community. Financial peace seminars, diabetes seminars and a health fair are just a few ways the church members have assisted residents. They also hosted a big July 4th party for the neighborhood. More than 200 people came to enjoy free popcorn, a bounce house and games for the children.

"Our strategy," says Williams, "doesn't focus on having a high worship service with the best singers, the best pianists, the best organists and long



Sometimes, The Grace Place fellowship moves outdoors to enjoy worship at a local park.

offering appeals. We don't have that. We have a simple service with three parts — prayer, praise and preaching. We don't pass around a basket. We have a box where, if moved by the Spirit, people can give their offering. Generosity has characterized these gifts. Community residents see what the church is doing in the community, and they want to show their support.

Currently, 15 people from the community are in Bible studies, preparing for baptism. Around 100 attend services each week; these include at least 20 newly-baptized believers. The Word is getting out. The Grace Place is making a difference.

To learn more about this church plant, visit The Grace Place, currently meeting at the Community Congregational Church at 19671 Cleveland Road, South Bend, Ind. Sabbath school begins weekly on Saturday at 10:00 a.m., followed by Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. See also <http://www.tgpthegraceplace.org>.

Betty Eaton, communications secretary,
Indiana Conference

Photos by Alamee Colle



Pastor Tricia Wynn follows a legacy of faithful, passionate women of God at Tabernacle of Hope.

Tabernacle of Hope celebrates 15-year anniversary

Lake Region—Helping Others Prepare for Eternity (H.O.P.E.) was what the late pastor Judy Mae Crawford had in mind when she initiated plans to open the H.O.P.E. Center for the Indianapolis, Ind., community. Launched in October 1995 at 2926 North Illinois Street, the H.O.P.E. Center operated successfully with Crawford's visitation and the prayerful assistance of ministers and volunteers from area churches.

As a result of several community outreach projects, the fruits of their labor were many. A branch Sabbath school started in April 1998. Then on Sabbath, March 27, 1999, the Tabernacle of Hope Church was organized, officiated by Norman Miles, then president of Lake Region Conference, and Ivan Van Lange, then executive secretary, pastors Leroy Logan, Ronald Bell and Walton Rose.

As the church grew, the need for a new church home also grew. Crawford and members were led to 6120 N. Michigan Road, an ideal location with nearly three acres. They marched around the church, claiming the property. June 3, 2000, was designated "Move-in Day," with a planned Church Dedication service. With the perception that this work



Tabernacle of Hope in Indianapolis, Ind., continues to "Help Others Prepare for Eternity" at the H.O.P.E. Center. The Center, launched in 1995, was initiated by the late Judy Mae Crawford, former pastor.

was done by our God (Nehemiah 6:16), Crawford and Tabernacle of Hope members moved into the new house of worship God had provided for them. Guest speaker for that Sabbath was a vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, Clarence Hodges. Also officiating were George Bryant, then executive secretary of Lake Region Conference; Leon Bryant, pastor; Charles Brooks, former speaker of Breath of Life television ministry; Leroy Logan, pastor; and several others, with special music by Richard Jackson.

Since the untimely death of Crawford, Tabernacle of Hope has been under the pastoral leadership of Tunde Ojewole (2005–2008), Ronald Williams (2008–2010), Jason North (2010–2012), with periodic interim leadership by Evelyn Robinson. It is currently under the leadership of Tricia Wynn, who was installed as pastor on April 21, 2012.

The year 2014 marks 15 years since Tabernacle of Hope has been "Spreading the Gospel and Sharing the Love of Christ." This is the theme of the celebrations that the church engaged in during 2014. Guest speakers have included Eric Bell, a pastor from Milwaukee, Wis.; Clifford Jones, president of Lake Region Conference; Jason North, youth and young adult ministries director of Lake Region Conference; and Dwayne Duncombe, a pastor from Chicago.

On Oct. 11, 2014, former pastor Ron Williams was the speaker for the Divine worship service. This was a spiritually high day at Tabernacle of Hope. Friends and former members of Tabernacle of Hope joined in the celebration. They were fortified that "This Just Might Be the Day" for God to turn his attention on their situation and send them blessings so they should press on, pray on, and never become discouraged. "There is no danger that the Lord will neglect the prayers of his people. The danger is that in temptation and trial they will become discouraged, and fail to persevere in prayer" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 175). The message was powerful and ended on this intense note: *Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, shall he find faith on earth?* (Luke 18:8 ESV).

Faithful, passionate women of God have been at the helm at Tabernacle of Hope. At the inception, God placed Crawford. Presently, God has in place Wynn, a powerhouse for Christ. Wynn continues to lead Tabernacle of Hope, teaching the ways of the Lord and guiding the flock as inspired by God. The congregation will move forward to another 15 years of "Spreading the Gospel and Sharing the Love of Christ" as they "Help Others Prepare for Eternity."

Cheryl Buchanan, correspondent,
Tabernacle of Hope



Kara Bliford

Green Bay Church welcomes new members and friends to its fellowship. From left (front row): Christine Haglund, Madeline Konshak, Lynn Bowman, Laverne Warbritton, Kiara Frank, David Miller, Ellie Miller, Rita Johnson, Donna Stock, Timothy Rasch, Lorretta Johnson, Cleo Basniki; (middle row): Bill Heffernan, Joseph Zepnick, Kayla Page, Fred Storhow, Jackie Van Erem, Andrew Betow; (back row): James Zepnick, Charles Arcand, Todd Arcand, Jennie Rogers, Diane Arcand, Allan DeLong, Daryll Johnson, Barbara Wozniak, Bill Ochs; (not pictured): Rosalie and Frank Jennings, Jessica McCradic, Ray Stock

Green Bay Church welcomes new members and friends

Wisconsin—It's true! God's own Word declares there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who gives his or her life to Jesus (see Luke 15:10). Knowing that, there must have been quite a thunder of applause in Heaven when, on Nov. 8 and 10, 2014, 25 precious individuals were welcomed into the Green Bay Church, either by baptism or profession of faith. The Green Bay Church family is rejoicing along with Heaven.

It all started on Oct. 10, 2014, when the Green Bay Church hosted a Revelations of Prophecy Conference, with evangelist Allan DeLong as speaker, at the Comfort Inn Suites in Green Bay. After ten nights, the group transferred to the Green Bay Church, meeting five nights a week. DeLong preached powerful messages each night from the Word of God, sometimes adding a little humor and interesting stories to help make the Bible come alive, and the audience responded by attending faithfully.

Several members commented that the Revelations of Prophecy guests were the friendliest people they had ever encountered at a meeting like this. It was

not uncommon for the guests to hang out in the foyer of the church, visiting well after the meeting was finished.

When invited to the church to keep the Sabbath for the first time, a large number of the guests attended and then joined the church family for a fellowship meal afterward. Each Sabbath, there was a meal after the worship service, and it was there where connections were made and many friendships began.

Some of the new members already are getting involved in the church, like Jenny Rogers who is now a volunteer at the Community Service Center.

A new members Sabbath school class has begun, using the *In Step with Jesus* series of quarterlies designed especially for new members, and the new members already are learning to apply, to their daily lives, the truths they learned during the prophecy conference.

Most of the new members — and some who have not joined the church — attend a Bible study group called “Dig Deeper” that meets on Wednesday nights. There are several dear people who still are studying and attending church on Sabbath. Church members praise God for their genuine sincerity and love for Jesus. Please pray for the newest members of the family of God, that they continue to live in obedience to him, letting their roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him (see Colossians 2:6–7 NLT).

Bill Ochs, pastor, Green Bay Church

Madison East Church lights up community

Wisconsin—This past summer the Madison East Church set into motion a Saturday night ritual which quickly became a summertime favorite event titled “Where’s the Fire?” Members were invited to bring a friend, chair, bug spray and snack, if they’d like, to a weekly Saturday night bonfire! Location changed week to week, but the



Teresa Harrison

“Where’s the Fire?” social events provide opportunity for fellowship, fun and witnessing.

theme remained the same: closing the Sabbath with friends and family!

Typical for Wisconsin, the summer season came and went too quickly, and school began. However, the church still squeezed in a “Where’s the Fire?” grand finale on Nov. 1, 2014. Yes, it was cold — temperatures dropped into the low 30s. However, this did not deter the enthusiasm nor the turnout of the warm-blooded Wisconsinite church family! Amazingly, over 70 members pulled out their winter coats, hats and gloves a little sooner than planned, and

arrived warm and ready to enjoy the finale! Surrounding neighbors saw the activity and soon joined in as well — what a great opportunity to witness!

Kent and Julie Ganske graciously hosted the finale bonfire at their home in Sun Prairie, and arranged hayrides pulled by enormous Clydesdale horses.

Becky Morauske and Cheli Loucks co-organized the finale, after which Loucks commented, "The night sky was amazing, the cider was hot, the kids' football game was a hoot, worship was a 'moving' experience, the fires were cozy, the food was plentiful and, as always, the company was enjoyable."

Hopefully, the cold Wisconsin winter passes quickly, and Madison East Church members can once again enjoy another summer experience of "Where's the Fire?" with their church family and friends.

Teresa Harrison, communication secretary, Madison East Church



Photo by Red Johnson

Last fall, Burns Church members traveled from Detroit to Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Mich., where they learned about the unique ministry of Ellen G. White, the heritage of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the important role of African-Americans in the early years of the Adventist Movement.

Burns Church learns its heritage at Historic Adventist Village

Lake Region—To help fulfill the Burns Church theme for 2014 — “A Church on the Move ... Making Jesus Real,” Cory Jackson Sr., pastor, had a vision to literally take church members on the move to better understand their Adventist heritage. This vision became a reality on a sunny Sabbath in September (the 13th, to be exact) when the Burns Church commenced an exodus out of one of America’s great cities to worship and fellowship in the countryside at Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Mich., a two-hour drive west from Detroit.

The caravan consisted of two motor coaches and a line of cars, trucks and minivans making the trek to Battle Creek. Burns Church was closed that day as none of the members or the ministerial administrative staff wanted to be left behind. All wanted to take part in the exodus to their heritage and receive a special blessing. Anika Parker summed up her enjoyment of the experience when she stated that “one of my favorite parts of the trip was seeing so many of our church members traveling to Battle

Creek as one church, worshiping and learning together.”

For the majority of those who took part in the exodus, it was their first encounter with the Adventist heritage site to better appreciate the unique ministry of Ellen G. White and the rich historical heritage of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Recently-baptized members were particularly blessed by gaining a clearer understanding of Adventism. It became very evident that the fellowship, love and worship experience on this exodus were on a different, higher level. Sometimes, it takes a change in circumstances to realize one’s need of each other. Bee Brown emphatically stated, “I know, for a fact, that the experience helped knit our church family closer together. Praise be to God!”

A morning worship celebration was held in the 1857 Meeting House with a timely message delivered by Jackson, followed by a sumptuous lunch and afternoon tour of the village. The tour highlighted the simple lifestyles of the Adventist pioneers and the important role of African-Americans in the early years of the Adventist Movement. A visit also was made to the Oak Hill Cemetery where the late James and Ellen White, co-founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and other early pioneers

are resting, awaiting their calling at the Second Coming.

Summing up her unique spiritual experience and blessing gained on the trip, Gloria Roberts expressed, “The trip meant so much to me in that we were able to worship in the Meeting House and sing wonderful hymns, heightened by the awesome acoustics of the building. We truly were able to feel the joy of the Lord.”

Parker reiterated that sentiment when she recounted that “the church worship service was incredible [as we heard] the sound of the congregation singing all together in the Meeting House. It was the most amazing sound. You could just feel the presence of the Lord in that place.”

This trip, a fulfillment of Jackson’s vision, enabled every participant to be totally clear as to what our Church is as an Adventist Movement, and how its members, as Adventist Christians, should share its message with others! Accepting the Church’s rich past, they were emboldened to go forward with Christ, “making Jesus Real!”

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history” (*Life Sketches*, p. 196).

Oliver Page, former communication director, Burns Church



Veterans were honored on Nov. 15, 2014, during a commemorative Sabbath school class at the Cicero Church in Indiana. Pictured are (from left): Dave Harrison; James Ashley; Norman Clear; Gerald Hile; Will Flatt; Robert Leal; and Walter Tharp.

Cicero Church honors veterans during special Sabbath school

Indiana—As worshipers enter their churches on Sabbath mornings, do they remember to thank the Lord that they have the freedom to worship as they desire, or is it such a routine that they seldom think of it?

"As I occasionally review the loss of life that our country has suffered, during the wars that our country has been involved, in order to preserve the wonderful freedoms our country enjoys, my heart weeps at the tremendous loss of life that it has taken to keep my freedoms in place. How thankful we should be!" exclaimed Ramona Trubey of the Cicero Church.

Trubey believes God gave each one the freedom of choice, and "how we use that choice is an indication of our heart's measure of love and unselfishness," she said. "Even in a free country, we can abuse the right of freedom by categorizing each other and judging our brothers' actions. God's freedom is a freedom based on love, and not hate," she concluded.

Each year, the Cicero Church honors its veterans during a Sabbath school program with words of thankfulness.

On Nov. 15, 2014, the veterans again were shown appreciation for the service they rendered for their country.

Harold Abbott, 87 years old, was drafted into the U.S. Army at the end of World War II in 1945. He was sent to Germany to serve as a medic, but was there less than a year before being discharged.

Robert Moore, another World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army, was drafted in 1945 at end of war. He served as a cook in the Army, but never left the States.

Also honored were veterans Dave Harrison (U.S. Marine Corps); James Ashley (U.S. Air Force); Norman Clear (U.S. Army); Gerald Hile (U.S. Army); Will Flatt (U.S. Army); Robert Leal (U.S. Marine Corps); and Walter Tharp (U.S. Navy).

Sheri DeWitt, correspondent, Indiana Conference, as shared by Ramona Trubey, member, Cicero Church



Left: Harold Abbott served as a medic in the U.S. Army in World War II. Right: Robert Moore served as a cook in the U.S. Army during World War II.

[YOUTH NEWS]



Adventurers learn to prepare healthful food.

Vanessa Oliveira

Adventurer Club formed in church with no children

Illinois—The Adventurers of the Belvidere Church began with a vision to see its church filled with children and a passion for serving the community.

In May 2013, the only children the church had moved with their parents to another state. It was very clear to the church members that without children there would be no future for the small church. They also realized there was a high concentration of Hispanic people in the area, and a high percentage of children below the poverty level. With so many children around the church with so many needs, members decided they needed to do something!

The church planned to have its first vacation Bible school; and, as part of the plan, prayer was a priority. Members divided the city in different areas and started having prayer walks, asking God to open the doors for them. After a few weeks, members started knocking on doors, inviting the children to come. In some cases, they had to come back three or even four times, but the persistence was worth it. Forty-two children attended the VBS program.

They were excited about everything provided that week, but knew only one week would not be enough. They knew they had to have something ongoing for those children, and an Adventurers club would be the perfect ministry.

As the result of more than a year of effort by a very dedicated director, Maria Mactzuma, and an equally dedicated group of members, today the Belvidere

Church has a club with 15 children who attend meetings regularly. The members report that it is exciting to see the children growing in the knowledge of the Bible and all the other changes taking place because they are doing their best to provide a place where the children can feel safe and loved.

The Adventurer meetings were recently transferred from Sunday to Saturday.

bath, and now many of those children attend a Sabbath service at least once a month; some even bring their parents. Two families are studying the Bible, and very soon Bible studies will begin with two other families.

God has been blessing the church and this ministry. The only reason members say they believe they don't have more children is because God is

giving them as many as they can handle effectively with both their limited human resources (a group of five people) and financial resources. Much more can be done! Prayers are appreciated.

Leonardo Oliveira, pastor, Belvidere Church



Peter Dansteiger

Cory Jackson, senior pastor of the Burns Church in Detroit, charged and challenged volunteer youth ministry leaders who attended the youth ministries training event themed "Building Leaders for Spiritual Boldness" at Camp Wagner in Cassopolis, Mich., Nov. 22, 2014.

Lake Region trains, challenges volunteer youth leaders

Lake Region—The days were cold, lots of snow on the ground and, by the second day, it rained, rained and rained some more. That did not stop the excited, eager youth ministry volunteer leaders from all around the conference from coming to be trained in youth ministry and inspired in spiritual worship.

Sabbath, Nov. 22, 2014, marked a new, exciting time for Lake Region Conference Youth Ministries. Well over 100 youth ministry volunteer leaders came to Camp Wagner in Cassopolis, Mich., for a weekend of ministry training, in all aspects of youth ministry, under the leadership direction of the conference's newly-elected youth ministries director, Jason C. North Sr. The theme was "Building Leaders for Spiritual Boldness." Ministry tracks included Adventurer, Pathfinder, and Youth and Young Adults, with specialized breakout concentrated sessions in "Summer Camp Operations," "Sports Ministry," "Adventist Youth," "Bible Bowl" and "Federation Operations."

Every room was filled with powerful presenters from within the Lake Region Conference. Special guest presenters included Brad Forbes director of AdventSource in Lincoln, Neb.; Michael Polite of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., and also a motivational speaker in youth ministries; Ron Whitehead, Center for Youth Evangelism executive director and Lake Union Conference youth director; and Gene Clapp, Pathfinder director for the Texas Conference and current NAD Pathfinder Bible Experience coordinator. Also in attendance was the Lake Region Conference newly-elected president, Clifford Jones. He shared with the group very challenging and encouraging words to keep the faith and move forward in the spirit of unity and harmony.

Words cannot say enough about the weekend spiritual worship leader, Cory Jackson, senior pastor of Burns Church in Detroit. At each worship session, he charged and challenged the group to new spiritual heights and beginnings, pointing them to move forward in the spirit of oneness, not later but now. Each ministry

session focused on the mission to reach out to the world, reclaim those who are missing and lost, and restore the image of Christ's character in every soul they come in contact with until Jesus comes.

In one of the session rooms, filled to capacity, was an electrifying demonstration of Bible Bowl competition under the direction of Felicia Hunter. The whole room was engaged in answering Bible questions as they were displayed on the screen. Whitehead was one of the team members and said, "This is so much fun; I want to take this home with me!" These and other comments throughout the weekend are some examples of the fun, fellowship and impact left on each participant attending the training.

The highlight of the training was at the conclusion. Each participant was given a nice volunteer staff ministry training pin and certificate, indicating their completion of all sessions. Forbes told the group that this training sets the mark for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, where the NAD Basic Staff Training pin was the first to be given out, and the LRC youth ministry leaders got it first.

As participants prepared to head for home, there were many smiles, hugs, and so many exchanges of email addresses and telephone numbers in order to stay in contact with each other. New and old friendships and ministry partnerships were developed. All said, many can't wait until next year — Aug. 21, 2015, when training will be offered again, so mark your calendars. Will we see you there?

Paulet Howard, youth ministries trainer, Lake Region Conference

Announcements

Churches, schools, conferences, institutions and organizations may submit announcements to the *Lake Union Herald* through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the *Lake Union Herald* 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

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**. Swallen Mission Conference: New Approaches for Greater Music & Effectiveness will 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 incarnational worship ministry that glorifies God, transforms worshipers, and changes the world. Participants 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/>.

2015 Children's Leadership Conference: You are invited to the third annual Children's Leadership Conference, **April 17–19**!

If you love sharing Jesus with kids, then this event is for you! We are bringing the top speakers and trainers in Adventism to help you discover how to use your gifts to serve children. The conference will be held in Chan Shun Hall on the Andrews University campus. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.cye.org/events/clc/>; phone: 269-471-8380; or email: catrina@cye.org.

Cruise with a Mission 2015: Are you a young adult looking for a service opportunity, without having to travel far distances? If so, Cruise with a Mission may just be the right opportunity for you! Cruise beautiful Alaska in 2015, recharge your spiritual batteries, and share a heart for service during this annual meaningful adventure. Cruise with a Mission offers an opportunity to release the tensions of life in the context of Christian community. Join other young adults during our return to Alaska. The ship sails from Seattle, Wash.; **July 26–Aug. 2**. Currently registering guests at <http://www.CruiseWithAMission.org>.

Illinois

Broadview Academy Alumni Association Weekend is **April 24–25**. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars! Call your classmates and start

planning for this weekend now, to be held at North Aurora (Ill.) SDA Church. Honor classes: 1945, '55, '65, '75, '85, '90, '95 and 2005. Friday night vespers, Sabbath school and church. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, we need your email addresses; postage is too expensive. Email to Ed Gutierrez at edjulie1@att.net; or call 630-232-9034. More information to come. Don't miss it!

Lake Union

Offerings

Feb. 7 Local Church Budget

Feb. 14 Adventist Television

Ministries

Feb. 21 Local Church Budget

Feb. 28 Local Conference Advance

Special Days

Feb. 1–7 Christian Home and Marriage Week

Feb. 7 Christian Marriage Sabbath

Feb. 7–28 Black History Month

Feb. 14 Health Ministries Sabbath

Feb. 21 Christian Parenting Sabbath

Feb. 22–28 Family Togetherness Week

Feb. 28 Family Togetherness Sabbath

Save the date! ASI Lake Union will hold its annual Spring Fellowship Conference, **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.asilakeunion.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.

Michigan

Battle Creek Tabernacle Sacred Concert Series 2015:

All concerts are free and will be held at 264 W. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek. **Feb. 7**, 7:30 p.m.: Singer Jeremy Hall. He has been performing concerts for many years and is well known for his beautiful baritone voice.

March 7, 7:30 p.m.: Singer and songwriter Buddy Houghtaling. He is well known in Michigan and can be seen on 3ABN as a solo artist as well as on the show "Kids Time." For more information, visit <http://www.battlecreektabernacle.com>.

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 Gymnaires reunion. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503; 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or email alumni@ucollege.edu.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Mar 6	Mar 13
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:05	6:14	6:23	6:32	6:40	7:48
Chicago, Ill.	5:11	5:20	5:28	5:37	5:45	6:53
Detroit, Mich.	5:51	6:01	6:10	6:18	6:27	7:35
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:09	6:17	6:25	6:33	6:41	7:48
La Crosse, Wis.	5:21	5:31	5:40	5:49	5:58	7:07
Lansing, Mich.	5:57	6:06	6:15	6:24	6:32	7:41
Madison, Wis.	5:15	5:25	5:34	5:43	5:52	7:00
Springfield, Ill.	5:23	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:55	7:02

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.

Obituaries

ANDERSON, Clarice M. (Erickson), age 88; born April 1, 1926, in Bayfield, Wis.; died May 12, 2014, in Washburn, Wis. She was a member of the Ashland (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Earl; son, Erlin; daughters, Kristin Kollar and Susan Schellgell; brother, James Erickson; seven grandchildren; and one step-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Myoung Kwon, and interment was in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Ashland.

BARTLETT, Sarah K., age 80; born Sept. 13, 1934, in Little Rock, Ark.; died Sept. 30, 2014, in Flint, Mich. She was a member of the First Flint Church.

Graveside services were conducted by Jeff Akenberger, and interment was in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Mich.

BRUMMETT, Esther M. (Kitelinger), age 97; born May 21, 1917, in Millington, Mich.; died June 20, 2014, in Millington. She was a member of the Vassar (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Kelvin E.; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Richard Bullock, and interment was in Millington Cemetery.

HENDERSON, Wilfred, age 95; born July 28, 1919, in Madison, Maine; died Nov. 1, 2014, in Traverse City, Mich. He was a member of the Traverse City Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mary (Bennett); son, James; daughters, Betsy Henderson and Anita Riess; brother, Maynard; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Wes Peppers and Jan Follett, and interment was in Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Traverse City.

HIAR, Paul, age 85; born April 21, 1929, in Petoskey, Mich.; died Sept. 9, 2014, in Grand Rapids, Mich. He was a member of the Faith Memorial Chapel, Carp Lake, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Dona (Bouford); and sister, Marian Reed.

Memorial services were conducted by George Dronen, and inurnment was in Carp Lake Cemetery.

KNECHT, Roger W., age 52; born June 15, 1962, in Colorado Springs, Colo.; died Oct. 14, 2014, in Lansing, Mich. He was a member of the Owosso (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Cherie (Bell); son, Jacob; daughters, Kelsea Allen and Cassidy Munson; father, William Knecht; mother, Dorothy (Sutton) Knecht; and brothers, Allen and Michael.

Funeral services were conducted by Ilko Tchakarov, and interment was in West Haven Cemetery, Owosso.

LYNNE, Sandra L. (Wilson) Reigle, age 63; born Feb. 3, 1951, in Michigan City, Ind.; died Sept. 7, 2014, in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. She was a member of the Midland (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Stephan Wilson; daughters, Kendra (Bovee) Palmer and Tabitha (Reigle) Trevorror; mother, Patricia (Pringle) Carroll; and seven grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Darryl Bentley, and interment was in Riverside Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant.

MASSEY, Sheila (Peter), age 73; born Nov. 16, 1941, in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India; died Sept. 6, 2014, in Stevensville, Mich. She was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Abdul B.; sons, Sanjiv R. and Rajiv S.; daughters, Ragine Armster, Rekha Bitterman and Shalini Randolph; and 10 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Ron Kelly, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

MOON, Barry L., age 67; born Dec. 5, 1946, in Muskegon, Mich.; died Oct. 18, 2014, in Malvern, Penn. He was a member of the Haslett (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Lori (Wright); sons, Doug and Mark Moon; stepson, Joe

VanMaele; stepdaughter, Sarah VanMaele; brother, Darryl; sisters, Gyl Bateman and Jean Gustavsen; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted, with private inurnment, in Malvern.

NEUMAN, Robert R., age 87; born Nov. 6, 1926, in Benton Harbor, Mich.; died Oct. 1, 2014, in Stevensville, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his son, Robert T.; daughters, Susan Stormont, Kathleen Bailey and Cynthia Stiles; 12 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Ron Hayes, and interment was in Riverview Cemetery, St. Joseph, Mich.

OLSON, Harry E., age 82; born Oct. 10, 1931, in Springville, Tenn.; died Sept. 18, 2014, in Benton Harbor, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Janet (Wiemerslage); daughters, Jayne Taylor and Jenell Howell; brother, William; sisters, Lucy Olson and Nancy White; and five grandchildren.

No services were conducted, with private inurnment.

OSBORN, Bert L., age 71; born March 27, 1943, in Bay City, Mich.; died Oct. 30, 2014, in Midland, Mich. He was a member of the Midland Church.

Survivors include his wife, Jacqueline (Clark); sons, Bert, Dean, Troy and Clark; sisters, Violet Woodworth and Jacqueline Osborn; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Cory Herthel and Darryl Bentley, and inurnment was in Lee Township (Mich.) Cemetery.

PSIK, Nancy J. (Cox) Parker, age 78; born Jan. 9, 1936, in Humboldt, Ill.; died Sept. 1, 2014, in Charleston, Ill. She was a member of the Mattoon (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Terry L., Dale and Jeffrey Parker; daughters, Patzy and Susan Parker; brothers, Jacob and David Cox; sisters, Beth Haverstock and Helen Slifer; six grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Larry Clonch and Godson Obia, and

interment was in Roselawn Cemetery, Charleston.

SHEEL, Rita J. (Whicker), age 68; born July 9, 1946, in Townsend, Mont.; died Sept. 15, 2014, in Myrtle Beach, S.C. She was a member of the Brookfield (Ill.) Church and the Broadview Academy Church, La Fox, Ill.

Survivors include her husband, Stephen; daughters, Tanya Sheel, Julianne Johnson, Daniell Mueller and Kimberly Sheel; brother, Hodd Whicker; sisters, Tammy Micheff and Dena Birdwell; and three grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Ken Micheff, and interment was in Ocean Woods Memorial Cemetery, Myrtle Beach.

TOUSSAINT, Rose Marie (Walker), age 89; born Sept. 9, 1924, in Washington, D.C.; died July 15, 2014, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Eugene F.; and brothers, James Jr., Donald and Anthony Walker.

No services were conducted, with private inurnment.

VAN DUINEN, Lorraine A. (Dingman), age 89; born Dec. 18, 1924, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; died Sept. 9, 2014, in Grand Rapids. She was a member of the Wyoming (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sister, Norma Jean Carpenter.

Funeral services were conducted by Dan Rachor, and interment was in Rosedale Memorial Park Cemetery, Tallmadge Township, Mich.

WALLER, Elaine L. (Johnson), age 95; born Aug. 29, 1918, in New Cristobal, Panama Canal Zone; died July 3, 2014, in Stevensville, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her two nieces, Elizabeth (Johnson) Ingram and Barbara (Johnson) Arnold; two grandnieces, Linda (Ingram) Benton and Lisa Ingram; and one grandnephew, Bruce Emanuelson.

Memorial services were conducted by Josef Greig, and inurnment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.



Classifieds

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$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>.

For Sale

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CREST: Order your Pathfinder and Adventurer club name crest at <http://www.pathfinderclubnames.com>. For more information, call 269-208-5853 or email us at pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com.

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AUTHORS of cookbooks, health books, children's chapter and picture books, call 800-367-1844 for your free evaluation. We publish all book formats and distribute to over 39,000 bookstores in 220 countries. Find our new titles at your local ABC or <http://www.TEACHServices.com>; used SDA books at <http://www.LNFBooks.com>.

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

PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR? Have questions? Need affordable, professionally-prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call free: 800-274-0016, and ask for HOPE Customer Service, or visit <http://www.hopesource.com>. We invite you to experience the Hope-source difference.

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 mail. Witnessing opportunities to the world through articles, friendships, chat, forums. Matching Adventists since 1993! Adventist owners. Thousands of successful matches! Top ranked.

HELP US HELP YOU. Naturopathic Center for Women offers natural medical care for women. Muriel Wilson, our Certified Nurse Practitioner, will help you fight diabetes, hypertension, hormone dysfunction, osteoporosis, arthritis, cancer and fibromyalgia. We offer gynecological exams and general medical care. For more information, call us at 317-859-2193. While there's life, there's hope.

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 V.O.P., over the years more than 1,000,000 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@someoncares.org, or call 260-387-7423.

WANTED TO BUY AND FOR SALE used SDA books, new or old, Your Story Hour tapes and games. For more

information, contact John at 269-781-6379 or jfschico@aol.com.

or call 269-473-2826. Appointments accepted through March 31.

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>.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS MASTER'S DEGREES in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585, or visit <https://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies>.

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

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 a soloist at the 2010 G.C. Session in Atlanta. For more information, contact Vladimir at vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com,

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



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Help! I'm a Parent will inspire and encourage parents, grandparents, and caregivers as they journey toward becoming disciple-makers of their children. It addresses common challenges experienced when raising children from birth through age seven. This resource is ideal for use individually, as a couple, or in a small group.

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Mike and Gail Tucker,
Faith for Today
Topic: Firm Foundation



Dr. Sung Kwon,
Adventist Community Services
Topic: Sharing & Service

Additional Presenters:

Dr. Christine & Pastor Kevin Bryne
Dr. Rose Gamblin
Dr. Katia Reinert
Dr. Cesar & Carolann DeLeon
Dr. John & Janice Mathews
Edwina Neely & Carolann DeLeon



Scan to watch a video featuring
Drs. Claudio and Pamela
Consuegra or go to
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Available from AdventSource at www.AdventSource.org or 402.486.8800.

For more information visit www.HelpImAParent.org.

Classifieds

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 curriculum vitae 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. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_5.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a faculty member to teach full-time in Management both On-campus and Online at undergraduate and M.B.A. levels. Qualified person should have a Ph.D. in Management. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_3.

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

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Giving Everything

BY GARY BURNS



We recently helped *one of the least of these* who couldn't praise God enough. David's faith in his Provider put us to shame.

It was cold, and David had found himself without a job, without food, and without proper shelter. "Sometimes, I get backed into a corner," he told us, "and I do bad things," which gave us some concern as he was now in the back seat of our car.

David reached that point a few years ago when he noticed people gathering at a local church on a Saturday morning. There, he met a very kind pastor who greeted him warmly and treated him "like a human being." The pastor gave David some of his own money and invited him to the worship service, where David felt welcomed and blessed.

As he experienced the blessing of worship, God moved upon David's heart in such a way that, when it came time for the offering, "I just put all the money the pastor had given me into the offering plate," he said. "I just wanted to thank God for blessing me."

I was reminded of Jesus' words regarding the widow. *They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on* (Mark 12:44 NIV). David had done just that. In an everything-on-the-line partnership with God, he gave it all!

"And do you know what God did?" David said, eager to spill the news. "He helped the pastor find me a job for \$12 an hour. Can you imagine? Twelve dollars an hour!"

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



ONE VOICE

[YOUNG ADULTS SPEAK THEIR MIND]

Gifted for His Glory

BY BENNETT SHELLEY

I have always loved to talk. From the very moment I entered this world until now, I've used my lungs to make my presence known, though not always in the most respectful manner. Even so, this inexhaustible talent has proven to be of great use. Through it, I have made many friends, a number of enemies, developed good social skills, and found many different avenues through which to witness.

One of these very avenues has blessed me tremendously, and is an amazingly simple way to witness — the telephone. After relocating to Berrien Springs, Michigan, nearly two years ago, I began to search for part-time employment. From bagging groceries at the local market to serving as the organist for a local church, I gained knowledge and enrichment through all sorts of degrees of labor.

Even though these jobs proved beneficial to developing my work ethic, I wasn't completely satisfied. I felt there was a more important work to be done — something that would use more of my God-given talents.

Finally, after a time of unemployment and waiting for the right job, I was offered a position at Adventist Information Ministry (AIM) on the Andrews University campus. To say the least, I was very excited about this position. As I completed orientation and began to work, I started to feel as though I had found the right work environment for me. The organization's management tried its very best to ensure that all employees felt as equals and a part of the AIM family. Parties and dinners were held throughout the year, birthdays were recognized and celebrated, and staff members even were included in morning worship programs. There was no denying it: I had found the right workplace for me.



Bennett Shelley

As a customer service representative, my duties include answering telephones, assisting customers and submitting orders — all tasks that fit well with my social and speaking abilities. I love the more professional office environment, and always enjoy striking up a good conversation with a long-winded customer.

I began to realize this job was the calling I had felt before. AIM was definitely a ministry — an organization that represents other Adventist ministries such as Amazing Facts and It Is Written, but I hadn't truly grasped the fact that I was a part of it all and, in a way, a missionary. It seemed like a foreign concept to serve as a missionary on the telephone.

I have been blessed tremendously as I have witnessed through prayer, offering biblical advice, and simply conversation. Hearing a person's attitude change from the start of the telephone conversation to the end is something that makes my day every time, and proves to me that God can use any form of work for his glory. He has shown me that all forms of work are valuable.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10 NIV).

Bennett Shelley graduated from Andrews Academy last May. He currently is studying English and music (with emphases in creative writing and organ) at Andrews University. Bennett is a member of Pioneer Memorial Church.

Choosing the Lord

BY PIETER DAMSTEEGT

Jazmin Jones is active in the Hope Dolphins Pathfinder club at Tabernacle of Hope in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Jazmin Jones

She was not always in Pathfinders. Born and raised in Indianapolis, Jazmin was a Seventh-day Adventist from the start. Though baptized when she was seven, Jazmin says, "I don't think I really knew the purpose of it. I just got baptized 'cause everyone else got baptized. And I was so young that it didn't really mean anything to me."

In fifth grade, Jazmin joined the cheerleading team. Later, in seventh grade, the competitions got serious with practices and games held on Saturday. Jazmin says, "I didn't pay attention to Sabbath as much or think it was important."

Jazmin recalls one day when she "heard Someone call my name, but nobody was home with me. And I kinda got scared 'cause I didn't know what it was, but I got this feeling in my heart."

She asked her grandmother about it, and her grandma wouldn't tell her. Jazmin says, "She wanted me to figure it out by myself."

After hearing the Voice call her name a few more times, over the next couple weeks, Jazmin says, "I began to think about it, but I didn't know that the Lord could talk to you. I honestly didn't. And then I started fasting and praying, and then I realized that the Lord does really talk to you; you just have to really, really listen."

From that time forward, it took Jazmin a year-and-a-half to go back to church. She says, "I came back. ... I wanted to get baptized. And I kept telling the pastor that I want to get baptized."

Jazmin was re-baptized March 17, 2011. "I am a very strong believer," she says. "I have a lot of faith. ... I choose the Lord before a lot of things."

Jazmin joined Pathfinders after she was baptized. She now counsels and mentors other young people in the club. Jazmin says, "Mostly people come to me. I think it's because of my character — like how I act and how I respond to certain things. People just come to me for advice [on a] regular basis."

Jazmin studies at Ivy Tech Community College. She's praying about where to go after she finishes her generals. Her heart is really at Southern, and she would really love to go there.

Pieter Damsteegt is an intern in the Communication Department of the Lake Union Conference.

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