

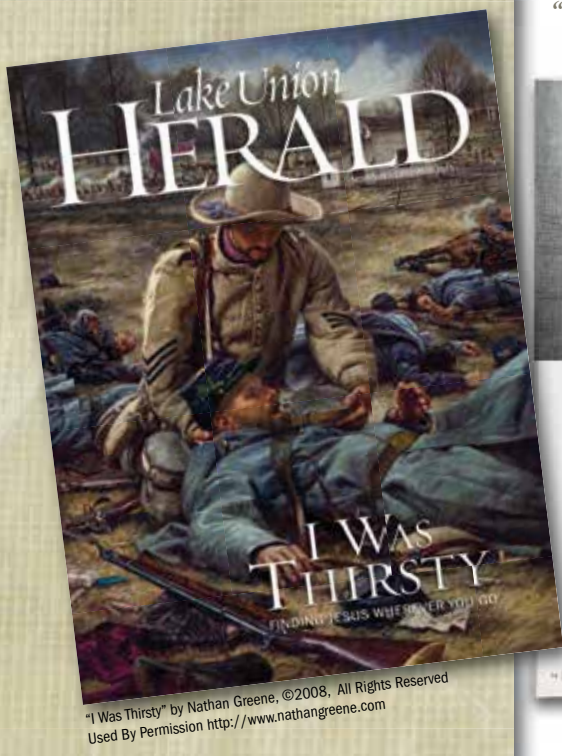
# Lake Union HERALD

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

## I WAS THIRSTY

FINDING JESUS WHEREVER YOU GO





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## In this issue...

We choose our editorial themes for the *Herald* in the fall of the previous year, so the subject of this edition was determined over a year ago. Who would have known that the messages of Isaiah 58 and Matthew 25 would come across so powerfully in our lives in just the last few weeks? Not only to us personally, but the whole world has been reminded by the personal example demonstrated by the leader of the Catholic Church during his recent visit. Though we differ on theology and ecclesiology, we can affirm his example of compassion with action.

Begin this edition by reading Isaiah 58 and noting the connection God makes between compassionate care for the marginalized and disenfranchised and honoring the Creator and Sabbath. Note also the blessings that are yours as you engage in Christ's work.

*Gary Burns*

Gary Burns, Editor



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## Be It Resolved...

**A**s the national presidential election approaches, America is polarizing again. As one news network's commentators spew caustic, accusatory and defaming rhetoric, another network spins the story in the opposite direction with similar verbal artillery.

Sin began when Lucifer turned inward, denying God's character and exalting himself. He raised suspicion, dropped innuendos and implied a conspiracy to win the angels' allegiance away from God. His object was to destroy and denigrate the holy character of God.

It is said that when one assembles a number of lawyers in a room, there will be the same number of opinions. Even within the Church, opinions are from one end to the other. Just look at the many denominations within Christianity. While conflict is an unavoidable part of life, how we engage one another over conflicting ideas reveals where our heart is.

At the 2014 Year-end Meetings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, delegates approved the following statement on civil discourse that may be useful to consider as you deal with conflict:

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

*We, therefore, resolve to avoid participating in, or being party to, all forms of unhealthy and demeaning discourse. Our aim is to govern our communication according to the high standards of Christian conduct found in the guidelines of this statement so that God may be glorified in all we say and do.*

Not bad! This fits with Matthew 18, the Golden Rule, with the command to love one another, and it gets quite specific about details. It is time for us to hold each other accountable for holy interactions and godly responses to disagreement — talking to each other instead of talking *about* each other, to be an absorber of gossip rather than a conveyor. It's time to break the cycles of expanding stories that bounce around the internet like Super Balls in a vacuum chamber, while causing as much damage as if they were hand grenades.

As a director of a new summer camp, I spent some time collecting a small string of horses. Two, in particular, were determined not to be placed in the horse trailer. They kicked, jumped and pulled away, hurting themselves as they were edged an inch at a time into the trailer. Once in and the doors shut, they continued to thrash about. But, as soon as we started down the road, the fighting stopped.

When we move forward, personally and as a Church, when we focus on mission, it's great to see the kicking and fighting stop. When we focus on Jesus, the above resolutions become second nature and our energy is directed towards bringing others to to him. Let's resolve to move forward!



## FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

# The Gift of Self-Sacrifice

BY ELLEN WHITE

**T**he holidays are approaching. In view of this fact, it will be well to consider how much money is expended yearly in making presents to those who have no need of them. The habits of custom are so strong that to withhold gifts from our friends on these occasions would seem to us almost a neglect of them. But let us remember that our kind heavenly Benefactor has claims upon us far superior to those of any earthly friend. Shall we not, during the coming holidays, present our offerings to God? Even the children may participate in this work. Clothing and other useful articles may be given to the worthy poor, and thus a work may be done for the Master.

Let us remember that Christmas is celebrated in commemoration of the birth of the world's Redeemer. This day is generally spent in feasting and gluttony. Large sums of money are spent in needless self-indulgence. The appetite and sensual pleasures are indulged at the expense of physical, mental, and moral power. Yet this has become a habit. Pride, fashion, and gratification of the palate, have swallowed up immense sums of money that have really benefited no one, but have encouraged a prodigality of means which is displeasing to God. These days are spent in glorifying self rather than God. Health has been sacrificed, money worse than thrown away, many have lost their lives by overeating or through demoralizing dissipation, and souls have been lost by this means.

God would be glorified by his children should they enjoy a plain, simple diet, and use the means entrusted to them in bringing to his treasury offerings, small and great, to be used in sending the light of truth to souls that are in the darkness of error. The hearts of the widow and fatherless may be made to rejoice because of gifts which will add to their comfort and satisfy their hunger.



Ellen White

Let all who profess to believe the present truth calculate how much they spend yearly, and especially upon the recurrence of the annual holidays, for the gratification of selfish and unholy desires, how much in the indulgence of appetite, and how much to compete with others in unchristian display. Sum up the means thus spent all needlessly, and then estimate how much might be saved as consecrated gifts to God's cause without injury to soul or body. Mites and more liberal gifts may be brought in, according to the ability of the giver, to aid in lifting debts from churches which have been dedicated to God. Then there are missionaries to be sent into new fields, and others to be

supported in their respective fields of labor. These missionaries have to practice the strictest economy, even denying themselves the very things you enjoy daily, and which you consider the necessities of life. They enjoy few luxuries.

If, after prayerful consideration of this matter, you are not moved to prompt and zealous action, we shall know that you have forgotten your first love, that you have lost sight of the sacrifice Jesus has made for you that you might be blessed with the gift of eternal life. Said Christ, "If any





man will be my disciple, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.” Self-denial is a mark of Christianity. To offer to God gifts that have cost us something, a sacrifice that we shall ask him to use to advance his cause in the earth, will be pleasing to him. The Saviour will accept the freewill offerings of every one, from the oldest to the youngest. Even small children may participate in this work, and enjoy the privilege of bringing their little offerings. While we have been mindful of our earthly friends from year to year, have we not neglected our heavenly Friend? In bestowing our gifts liberally upon our friends, have we not forgotten God and passed him by?

*Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it [Malachi 3:8–10 KJV]...*

While God in his providence has laden the earth with his bounties and filled its storehouses with the luxuries of life, there is no excuse whatever for allowing the treasury of God to remain empty. Christians are not excusable for permitting the widow's cries and the orphan's prayers to ascend to Heaven because of their suffering want, while a liberal Providence has placed in the hands of these Christians abundance to supply their need. Let not the cries of the widow and fatherless call down the vengeance of Heaven upon us as a people. In the professed Christian world, there is enough expended in extravagant display, for jewels and ornaments, to supply the wants of all the hungry and clothe the naked in our towns and cities; and yet these professed followers of the meek and lowly Jesus need not deprive themselves of suitable food or comfortable clothing. What will these church members say when confronted in the day of God by the worthy poor, the afflicted, the widows and fatherless, who have known pinching want for the meager necessities of life, while there was expended by

these professed followers of Christ, for superfluous clothing, and needless ornaments expressly forbidden in the word of God, enough to supply all their wants?

We see ladies professing godliness wear elegant gold chains, necklaces, rings, and other jewelry, with a profusion of feathers and ribbons and expensive trimmings, while want stalks in the streets, and the suffering and destitute are on every side. These do not interest them, nor awaken their sympathy; but they will weep over the imaginary suffering depicted in the last novel. They have no ears for the cries of the needy, no eyes to behold the cold and almost naked forms of women and children around them. They look upon real want as a species of crime, and withdraw from suffering humanity as from a contagious disease. To such, Christ will say, *I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick and in prison, and ye visited me not.*

But on the other hand Christ says to the righteous: *For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me [Matthew 25:35–40 KJV].* Thus Christ identifies his interest with that of suffering humanity. Deeds of love and charity done to the suffering are as though done to himself.

*As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man.* There will be feasting and merriment, sorrow and want and anguish, until the end comes. Then the wicked shall reap that which they have sown — corruption.

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Ellen White is a co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This perspective is adapted from an article by Ellen G. White, published under the title "Christmas Presents," in the November 21, 1878, edition of the *Review & Herald*.



# FAMILY TIES

## That's Not Fair!

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

If you are a parent or a teacher, you have heard the cry, “That’s not fair!” You likely have said it yourself, even as an adult! We object when we believe we have been treated unfairly, no matter our age, and whether or not we openly acknowledge it.

Fairness is difficult to define clearly. People often see decisions that help them as being “fair” and those that do not as being “unfair.” Fairness is often a matter of perception, and often there’s more than one fair choice.

Developmentally, three- and four-year-olds who are learning about relationships and rules generally define “fair” according to their own needs and desires of the moment. I remember the Sabbath school song that began with “I have a dolly (or truck) and you have none....” Some of the more compliant children, and those who were better at understanding the concept, shared. But most often their hearts were not happy, because it wasn’t fair they had to give up their dolly or truck when they weren’t ready.

Five- to six-year-olds are beginning to understand others have rights, and are more interested in conforming to the rules. They are learning to cooperate but may respond negatively to criticism and punishment by sulking, or with what we define as rude behavior. They do better when adults help them understand why certain behaviors, like treating others with fairness, are necessary.

Seven- to eight-year-olds continue to build on their understanding of the need for rules, but sometimes find themselves in trouble for being tattletales. Often, they are just trying to figure out how the world works and if the rules are the same for them as for others. They may not always play fair and may even unintentionally break the rules because they simply can’t remember two things at once — what they want to do and what they are supposed to do. Adults can encourage these children by playing games with them and positively encouraging (as opposed to criticizing) them to learn the rules and play by them.



Ten- to twelve-year-olds check out family rules, comparing them to those of their friends and neighbors. Parents often feel challenged by their penchant for not only comparing but testing, disagreeing with, and arguing about what’s fair. It’s natural to challenge parental values one moment and then be the open, cooperative and affectionate kid another.

Throughout each stage, children deserve adults who model what fairness is and who will help them learn the skills they need to get along with others. Here’s an idea to try when conveying this important lesson: You will need one uncooked fresh egg, a clear glass filled with one cup of water, a tablespoon, and one-fourth cup of salt.

Carefully, place the egg in the glass of water. Share that the egg (you may even want to give it a name) represents someone who is not being treated fairly. The egg sinking to the bottom represents how someone who is left out or mistreated can feel — sad, depressed, defeated, unappreciated or unloved. Remove the egg from the water and set it aside. Add salt to the water, one spoon at a time, stirring in each spoonful, and explain that the salt represents different ways they can show fairness toward others. Ask for examples of showing fairness (following the rules when playing a game, taking turns, sharing, treating others with honesty and respect, taking action to help when someone is treated unfairly, etc.) After you have added all of the salt, put the egg back in the water (it will now float). Explain that now the egg is being supported with kindness and “held up” by the fairness and acceptance of others. (See <http://www.yessafechoices.com/fairness>.)

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

# HEALTHY CHOICES

**Seeds lower your risk  
of heart disease  
and diabetes.**



## ‘Tis the Season

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

**Seeds are very  
nutritious and contain  
healthy fat.**

**T**he year-end holiday season normally exposes us to a greater abundance of nuts and seeds. Cashews, almonds, pistachios and pecans, often chocolate-coated, are all popular. But seeds also can be important. The regular use of seeds and nuts can reduce the risk of heart disease and diabetes. They are rich in phytonutrients along with healthy fat and many vitamins and minerals.

Sesame, with its rich nutty flavor, is a common ingredient in various cuisines around the world. Sesame seeds can be added to breads, bagels and buns. Sesame seeds also may be baked into crackers, snacks or cakes. Sesame seeds can be mixed with sugar, or honey and coconut, and made into sweets. Tahini (sesame seed paste) is used to make hummus and the confectionery *halvah*. Sesame is a rich source of fiber, unsaturated fat and B vitamins as well as calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc and manganese. Sesame seeds also contain a number of lignans, which protect against breast cancer.

Poppy seeds are widely used as a decoration on top of many baked goods such as breads, bagels, buns, crackers and sweet pastries, or ground and added into bread dough. They are also eaten with pasta and used in candy bars. The seeds are a rich source of calcium, iron, potassium, magnesium and phosphorus.

Chia was used by the Aztecs in ancient times as a staple food crop. The seeds can be sprinkled on cereal, added to yogurt, bread and tortillas, served alongside rice, and even soaked in fruit juice and added to desserts and smoothies. Ground chia seeds can be added to bread dough. Chia gel can be used as an egg replacer in cakes. Its rich content of fiber and omega-3 fatty acids enables chia seeds to lower the risk of heart disease and diabetes.



Chia seeds are a rich source of the B vitamins, antioxidants, and the minerals calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, manganese and zinc. Today, organic fruit-containing chia beverages and fruit chia bars providing 1000 to 2500 mg of healthy omega-3 fatty acids are gaining popularity. Drinking a beverage containing soy, nopal, chia

seed and oats daily for two months may reduce a person's triglyceride levels.

Flax seed is rich in omega-3 fatty acids and is commonly used in breakfast cereals, breads and various bakery products. Brown and golden flax seeds have similar nutritional properties. While whole flax seeds are chemically stable, ground flax seed can go rancid at room temperature in a few days. Ground flax seed needs to be placed in sealed containers and stored in the refrigerator or freezer. Flax seeds do contain a number of health-promoting polyphenolic compounds and have a good level of B vitamins. Their soluble fiber content makes them useful for lowering the risk of diabetes and heart disease. Flax seeds are especially rich in magnesium but have ample levels of calcium, iron and zinc as well.

Sunflower seeds can be added to salads and pasta to provide a nutty flavor as well as some extra nutrition. Dips, spreads and a cheese can all be made from ground sunflower seeds.

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





# PRESENT TRUTH

*Following the Lamb wherever He goes*

## Reflectors of the Perfect Law

BY THE EDITORS

*There are many self-serving, greedy, mean-spirited, argumentative and militant voices in America that wave the flag and raise the banner of "Christian." Their crusades are regularly featured and debated on the various news sources. Some of these news sources regularly feature stories that stand in marked contrast — stories of compassion. While these are about people who demonstrate the compassion of Christ, they are not noted as being "Christian," and the stories are often about people who are atheists, humanists and people of no faith. What has happened to us, that "Christian" has become such a bad name? — The Editors*

“Christ has linked His interest with that of humanity, and He asks us to become one with Him for the saving of humanity. *Freely ye have received, He says, freely give* (Matthew 10:8). Sin is the greatest of all evils, and it is ours to pity and help the sinner. There are many who err, and who feel their shame and their folly. They are hungry for words of encouragement. They look upon their mistakes and errors, until they are driven almost to desperation. These souls we are not to neglect. If we are Christians, we shall not pass by on the other side, keeping as far as possible from the very ones who most need our help. When we see human beings in distress, whether through affliction or through sin, we shall never say, ‘This does not concern me.’

*“Ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness* (Galatians 6:1). By faith and prayer press back the power of the enemy. Speak words of faith and courage that will be as a healing balsam to the bruised and wounded one. Many, many have fainted and become discouraged in the great struggle of life, when one word of kindly cheer would have strengthened them to overcome. Never should we pass by one suffering soul without seeking to impart to him of the comfort wherewith we are comforted of God.

“All this is but a fulfillment of the principle of the law — the principle that is illustrated in the story of the good Samaritan, and made manifest in the life of Jesus. His character reveals the true significance of the law, and shows what is meant by loving our neighbor as ourselves. And when the children of God manifest mercy, kindness, and love toward all men, they also are witnessing to the character of the statutes of heaven. They are bearing testimony to the fact that *the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul* (Psalm 19:7). And whoever fails to manifest this love is breaking the law which he professes to revere. For the spirit we manifest toward

our brethren declares what is our spirit toward God. The love of God in the heart is the only spring of love toward our neighbor. *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? Beloved, if we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us* (1 John 4:20, 12)” (*The Desires of Ages*, pp. 504–505).

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

- What does it mean to be one with Christ? List some specific indicators you find in the passage above.
- What happened in the heart of impetuous, arrogant and self-interested Peter that needs to happen to us? (see 1 Peter 3:8, 9)
- How does obedience to the truth (the law) express itself? (see 1 Peter 1:22)

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The Lake Union Herald Editors



# Praying Like a Child

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

When Jesus taught us to pray, *Our Father*, he was teaching us to pray as children. The words *Our Father* are more than a way to address God. They involve us in a relationship — a Father/child love relationship. That's the kind of relationship John had in mind when he said, *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!* (1 John 3:1 NIV)

Jesus was the first person on earth ever to call God his Father. No Old Testament prophet, priest or king ever dared to address God in that way. Already as a young boy, Jesus shocked his parents with the question: *Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?* (Luke 2:49 NIV) John's gospel records Jesus using the term Father at least 118 times, 13 of these as he speaks to his Father in prayer.

You and I are invited into the same privileged relationship that Jesus had with his heavenly Father. Jesus did everything necessary to remove the sin that made such a relationship impossible, and has now given us *the right to become children of God* (John 1:12 NIV). Dennis Fuque makes the point: "The closest, most meaningful, important and significant relationship in the entire universe is between the Father and the Son. This is the relationship we, as His children, have been invited into" ("The Lord's Prayer as Real Prayer," pre-publication manuscript, p. 28).

Knowing that God is our Father means we can come to him as comfortably as a small child comes to his or her daddy. We can approach him simply, directly and confidently without pretense or pomposity. And we come knowing he is ready to hear us and listen to our prayers with tender sympathy and patience. This does not mean we can treat him with a casual chumminess that brings him down to our level. We must forever remember he is *Our Father in*

heaven (see Matthew 6:9). He can be approached by his children comfortably but not mechanically. His tender love is combined with awesome power. His power and love work together in such a way that his love is backed by power, his power is directed by his love. In his love, he draws near; in his might, he remains transcendent.

The prayer words Jesus puts in our mouth settle one more thing. They settle our relationship to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus does not teach us to say "my Father," but *Our Father*. There is not an "I," "me," "my" or "mine" in the whole Lord's Prayer. We are all part of the Father's very large family made up of believers from other neighborhoods, churches, nations and cultures. To say *Our Father* is to remember we walk and pray with millions of other children of God whom the Father also hears with tender sympathy.

## Something to Think About

- Why did Jesus teach us to address God as Father and not "Almighty God," "Lord of Heaven," "Great King," or some other such title?
- What does it mean to you to know that God is your heavenly Father?

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.



## Loving Like Jesus

BY DENISE SCROGGS

**A**cts of Kindness, a community outreach initiative of the Niles Westside Church in Michigan, started as an idea during a walk through our neighborhood. A house at the end of the street had the appearance of neglect. Shrubbery was overgrown, gutters coming down, windows had paint peeling and, yet, someone lived there. There had to be a story behind that house.

The story was that a lady, whose name is Nancy, lived there, caring for her elderly, handicapped mother. When asked if she would mind if some help was given to her yard, Nancy excitedly accepted the offer. When the Junior-Earliest Sabbath school class was contacted about helping, they willingly accepted the request.

A Sunday was spent cleaning out brush, raking leaves and chopping down small trees. Nancy was amazed that children “of that age” would spend a Sunday cleaning her yard. To top it off, a plate of homemade cookies was given her to enjoy. All Nancy could say was, “I should have made all of you cookies for what you have done for me. I was truly blessed. Thank you, thank you.” When that Sunday was over, the desire for more Acts of Kindness grew.

Next, the church family became involved and took on a major project of siding the house of Hope and Terry Housam. This came about as a direct result from a simple Sabbath lunch invitation. While talking with Hope and Terry after lunch, it was discovered that their homeowners’ insurance was about to be cancelled due to some home repairs not completed.

Amazed that an insurance company could cancel someone for lack of siding and soffit, a plan started to take shape. The message was sent out to the Niles Church family, asking for help on a Sunday in April. About a dozen people showed up, and work began. All ages came to help. Women provided food for the workers throughout the day.

Although it took most of the summer, the project was completed by several dedicated, mission-minded volunteers. It was a beautifully-finished job and, best of all, their insurance was reinstated. Hope and Terry expressed great appreciation for all that was done. Hope stated it simply, “We have been blessed by everything that was done.”

The Acts of Kindness initiative is a mission work to the community and church family around us. As the Lord brings opportunities, the Acts of Kindness will continue to show God’s love just as Jesus did, meeting the needs of people where they are.

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Denise Scroggs is a member of the Niles Westside Church in Michigan. This is an expanded version of the story that originally was published in *Niles Westside News*.



*Acts of Kindness volunteers from the Niles Westside Church in Michigan are connecting with their community as opportunities to help arise.*

Denise Scroggs





## Lo mejor nos espera todavía

POR CARMELO MERCADO

*Poniendo nuestra confianza en Dios, debemos avanzar firmemente, para hacer su obra con abnegación, confiar humildemente en él, entregarnos a su providencia nosotros mismos y todo lo que concierne a nuestro presente y futuro, mantener firme el principio de nuestra confianza hasta el fin y recordar que recibimos las bendiciones del cielo, no porque las merezcamos, sino porque Cristo las merece y porque mediante la fe en él aceptamos la abundante gracia de Dios. —Consejos sobre la salud, p. 234*

Parece increíble pensar que ya estamos terminando el año 2015 y que pronto entraremos en un nuevo año. Al pensar en todo lo que ha ocurrido durante este año no hay duda que podemos estar agradecidos de lo mucho que Dios ha hecho por nosotros. Podemos darle gracias por las almas que se han unido al pueblo remanente, por las congregaciones nuevas que se han formado y por las oportunidades que Dios nos ha dado para crecer espiritualmente.

¿Cómo será el año 2016? Permítame darles información sobre las actividades que se llevarán a cabo en la Unión del Lago.

1. Conéctate 2016: El énfasis de Conéctate para este año es evangelismo. Para ayudar a los jóvenes a que compartan su fe y sus talentos hemos organizado cuatro encuentros de entrenamiento en evangelismo juvenil. Estos entrenamientos se realizarán en cuatro ciudades diferentes antes del congreso Conéctate. La primera reunión será los días 11 y 12 de diciembre en la academia adventista en Milwaukee. El pastor Roger Hernández será el invitado especial. Para obtener más información acerca de Conéctate 2016 (3-5 de junio) y los entrenamientos de evangelismo diríjase al sitio web “Conectateluc”. También pueden ir a Facebook y buscar la página de Conéctate.
2. Se espera que durante este año 2016 TODAS las iglesias de la Unión del Lago hagan énfasis en evangelismo y discipulado. Muchas de las iglesias planean tener por lo menos dos ciclos de evangelismo. El primer ciclo se hará en forma simultánea en el mes de marzo.



El comité directiva de Conéctate planeando el próximo congreso de jóvenes.

3. Preparar a pastores para hacer evangelismo: Para equipar a los pastores para que su evangelismo resulte en una mayor ganancia de almas la Unión del Lago y el Seminario Teológico Adventista en la Universidad Andrews ofrecerán un cursillo en evangelismo enseñado por el pastor Alejandro Bullón. Además, la Unión está organizando un viaje misionero a Cuba para los pastores que deseen ofrecer de su tiempo para dar campañas evangelísticas en las iglesias de ese bello país.
  4. La Voz de Esperanza en Grand Rapids: El equipo de La Voz de la Esperanza (pastor Omar Grieve, su esposa Nessie y el cantante Junior Marchena) estará en la ciudad de Grand Rapids, estado de Michigan del 3 al 10 de octubre de 2016 para realizar una campaña evangelística. Tanto la Asociación de Michigan como la Asociación Regional del Lago combinarán sus esfuerzos y recursos para lograr una mayor ganancia de almas.
- Invito a los lectores de esta página que mantengan estos planes y proyectos en sus oraciones para que el Espíritu Santo los acompañe con su dirección y presencia.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

# I WAS IN PRISON

BY ELLIOT LEE

I remember the first time I participated in a prison ministry. God had been pointing out Isaiah 58 as a guide for what I needed to work on in my life. It's so easy to get caught up in doing my stuff and taking care of my things, even going to church, to get in my Jesus time, so to speak, but it still winds up being all about me. I saw prison ministry as one opportunity for me to care more about others.

My first visit was with Paul Nedrow, our prison ministry leader for the South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church. I wasn't sure what to expect. Most of my ideas about prison had been shaped by the media where prison is portrayed as a very scary place and a lot of crazy stuff happens. I had a lot of apprehension and thought, *What's going to happen next?* and *What if there is a riot today?* and stuff like that.

When the worship service began, it was very different from any I had been to before, and I wasn't sure how to interact with the offenders (I learned "offenders" is the term the state of Indiana uses). I was there to observe and to offer a prayer. After that first visit, my horizons were opened a bit to include the world on the other side of the fence, and I found myself going back from time to time.

Many people have stereotype images of what prisoners and prison life is like. They think that those in prison are mean and don't like people, and they will try to intimidate and manipulate you — but they're just people. As I began to get more involved in prison ministry, I began to realize that the prison system was not that much different from boarding academy. Now, those of you who attend boarding

academy are probably saying right now, "I told you!" What I mean is that life is structured. There are forms, times for recess and extra-curricular activities, meals in the cafeteria, and even classes for some, and also what you might call a work-study program. And like boarding academy, other stuff goes on — like bullying and trying to get around the rules. My point is that, at the end of the day, they are people, too, and not much different from you and me.

It's a big blessing to go to the prison because, when I get busy and my focus is on my own life, I care less about those in prison and begin to doubt my effectiveness and their sincerity. I begin to see those in prison as a bunch of bad people who need to get some things sorted out in their life. But when I go, I'm always reminded that these guys are better Christians than I'll ever be at that point in their life, because we have this stereotype of jailhouse religion that people will put on an act of being religious to get favors, but the reality is that it's harder to be Christian in prison. They get ridiculed by others, and they may have to give up their recreation time to come to our services. Because of that opposition and because they have lots of time when



they can study the Bible deeply, God becomes very real to them. When I go to the prison, it is so encouraging to hear how God is so real to them.

One day, Paul needed me to fill in for him when he was called away for an emergency. After that experience, I started going regularly and got more involved. When Paul moved from the area, I became the group leader. Who would have thought?

Each week, I try to open it up and ask, “What has God been doing in your life this week?” If you do that at church, someone might say, “I’m thankful that my car got fixed this week.” But when you do that in prison, someone might say, “God saved me from dope. I’m free now!” or “God brought me here to save my life!” It’s encouraging to see real Christian faith in action. And I see it in prison. I get a lot out of it personally.

When you see all the struggles that they’re going through — not having family or not being able to be with their family, it’s moving to hear someone say, “I had my first contact in three years!” It makes me more thankful for what I have and gives me compassion for them and what they’re going through. Some have burned all their bridges by the time they got to this point, and they have no one — except maybe you.

Some people wonder about race issues in prison. We have people participating from every background, and it’s never been an issue at any of our services. The Christian community is a brotherhood, like a gang. The unifying influence of the Spirit is real. You’ve got to see it for yourself. Try it. Go just once. All we need for you to join us for a service is to file a request, along with a copy of your driver’s license, and we’ll arrange to get you a pass. The process isn’t much different than going through airport security, and you’ll be given a packet that explains the guidelines and rules of behavior while you are there.

The volunteer coordinator or community service coordinator at the prison is the one who puts groups on the calendar and processes new volunteers through the orientation process. So, if you wanted to start a prison ministry, the coordinator would be the person you would want to talk to. The next step would be to go through the process of filling out forms, getting a TB test, and going through their orientation.

Now, in addition to providing or assisting with a worship service, there are other opportunities — like teaching a class, which is offered as an activity option. And, not all prisons are alike. There are state and federal prisons, and there are local jails. Each has its own protocol and options

for volunteer work. There are state, federal and local jail ministries. Jail ministry is short-term, and individuals usually are there for short periods of time. In my experience, the Indiana prison system is very open to faith-based programs, but each state and each prison system is different.

What motivates you? I said before that my motivation is Isaiah 58. But let’s also remember Hebrews 10:25, *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near* (NLT). Prison ministry does just that. We step out of our self-protecting comfort and create the opportunity to meet together with and encourage those who are in prison. One way we can encourage is to share what we know to be true. Many have misconceptions of God. Sharing what is true from God’s Word is very encouraging and will strengthen their faith.

A few weeks ago, one guy asked if I knew of a good church in South Bend. I told him where I go to church, and he said, “Oh, my daughter went to that church for a while, and I told her it was a cult.” Now he’s trying to encourage his daughter to go back. So, maybe your connection with a ministry to people in prison is closer than you think. She might be sitting next to you!

I don’t know what God wants you to do, but I do know he wants you to do something. In Matthew 25:34–40, Jesus describes those who are his as the ones who gave him something to eat when he was hungry, water when he was thirsty, clothes when he was without, who invited him into their homes when he was a stranger, and visited him when he was sick and in prison.

Ask Jesus to give you a heart for those in prison. Give yourself the opportunity to hear their stories firsthand. Your life will be changed when you visit Jesus in prison. Be prepared to share what God has done for you. Maybe the next time you share you’ll describe what Jesus has done through one of your friends in prison!

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Elliot Lee is a member of the South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the coordinator of the Practical Christianity prison ministry at Westville Correctional Facility in Westville, Indiana.

**WHEN I GET BUSY AND  
MY FOCUS IS ON MY OWN  
LIFE, I CARE LESS ABOUT  
THOSE IN PRISON.**

# The Work of

# LOVE and MERCY

WORKING TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

BY ELLEN WHITE

C

hrist says to his redeemed people, *Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me [Matthew 25:34–40 KJV].*

To be a patient toiler in that which calls for self-denying labor, is a glorious work, that Heaven smiles upon. Faithful work is more acceptable to God than the most zealous and thought-to-be, holiest, worship. True worship consists in working together with Christ. Prayers, exhortation and talk are cheap fruits, which are frequently tied on, but fruits that are manifested in good works, in caring for the needy, the fatherless, and widows, are genuine fruits, and grow naturally upon a good tree.

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: “To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world” [James 1:27 KJV]. The doing principle is the fruit that Christ requires us to bear; doing deeds of benevolence, speaking kind words, and manifesting tender regard for the poor, the needy, the afflicted. When one’s heart sympathizes with others burdened with discouragement and grief; when his hand clothes the naked, and the stranger is made welcome to a seat in his parlor and in his heart,





then angels come very near, and an answering strain responds in Heaven. Every act, every deed of justice and mercy and benevolence, makes music in Heaven. The Father from his throne beholds and numbers the performer of them with his most precious treasures. *And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, when I make up my jewels.* Every merciful act to the needy, or the suffering, is as though done to Jesus. Whoever succors the poor, or sympathizes with the afflicted and oppressed, and befriends the orphan, brings himself into a more close relationship to Jesus.

*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal.* Matthew 25:4–46 [KJV].

Jesus here identifies himself with his suffering people. I was hungry and thirsty; I was a stranger; I was naked; I was



sick; I was in prison. When you were enjoying your food from your bountifully spread tables, I was famishing of hunger in the hovel or street, not far from you. When you closed your doors against me, while your well-furnished rooms were unoccupied, I had not where to lay my head. Your wardrobes were filled with an abundant supply of changeable suits of apparel, upon which means had been needlessly squandered, which you might have given to the needy. I was destitute of comfortable apparel. When you were enjoying health, I was sick. Misfortune cast me into prison and bound me with fetters, bowing down my spirit, depriving me of freedom and hope, while you roamed free. What a oneness Jesus here expresses as existing between himself and his suffering disciples. He makes their case his own. He identifies himself as being, in their person, the very sufferer. Here, mark, selfish Christian, that every neglect of yours to the needy poor, the orphan, the fatherless, is a neglect to Jesus in their person.

But there are some persons who make high professions, whose hearts are so encased in self-love and selfishness that they cannot appreciate these things. They have all their lives thought and lived only for self. To make a worthy sacrifice to do others good, to disadvantage themselves for the purpose of benefiting others, is out of the question with them. They have not the least idea that God requires this of them. Self is their dear idol. Precious weeks, months, and years of valuable time pass into eternity, but they have no record in Heaven of kindly acts, of sacrificing for others' good, of feeding the hungry, of clothing the naked, or taking in the stranger. Entertaining strangers at a venture is not agreeable; if they knew that all who shared their bounty were worthy, then they might be induced to do something in that direction. But there is virtue in venturing something. Perchance we may entertain angels.

There are orphans that can be cared for; but many will not venture to undertake such a work; for it involves more labor than they care to do, leaving them but little time to please themselves. But when the King shall make investigation,

these do-nothing, illiberal, selfish souls will then learn that Heaven is for those who have been workers; those who have denied themselves for Christ's sake. No provisions have been made for those who have ever taken such special care in loving and looking out for themselves. The terrible punishment the King threatened those on his left hand, in this case, is not because of their great crimes. They are not condemned for the things which they did do, but for that which they did not do. They did not those things Heaven assigned them to do. They pleased themselves, and can take their portion with self-pleasers.

Has the injunction of the apostle no force in this age: *Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares?* Our Heavenly Father lays blessings disguised in our pathway, which some will not touch for fear they will detract from their enjoyment. Angels are waiting to see if we embrace opportunities within our reach of doing good — waiting to see if we will bless others, that they in their turn may bless us. The Lord himself has made our circumstances to differ, keeping some poor, and allowing others to become rich, that all may have an opportunity to develop character.

When Elijah came to the widow of Sarepta, she shared her morsel with the prophet of God, and he therefore wrought a miracle, so that in the act of making a home for God's servant, and sharing her morsel with him, she was herself sustained, and her life and that of her son preserved. Thus will it prove in the case of many, if they do this cheerfully for the glory of God. Others plead their poor health; they would love to do if they had strength. Such have so long shut themselves up to themselves, and thought so much of their own poor feelings, and talked so much of their sufferings, trials, and afflictions, that it is their present truth. They cannot think of any one else, however much they may be in need of sympathy and assistance. You who are suffering from poor health, there is a remedy for you. If you clothe the naked, and bring the poor that are cast out to your house, and deal your bread to the hungry, then shall

Faithful work is more acceptable  
to God than the most zealous and  
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your light break forth as the morning, and your health shall spring forth speedily.

Doing good is an excellent remedy for disease. Such are invited to bring their prayers to God, and he has pledged himself to answer them. *His soul shall be satisfied in drought, and he shall be like a watered garden, whose waters fail not.* Wake up, brethren and sisters. Don't be afraid of good works. *Be not weary in well doing, for in due time ye shall reap if ye faint not.* Do not wait to be told your duty. Open your eyes, and see who is around you, and make yourselves acquainted with the helpless, afflicted, and needy. Hide not yourselves from them; close not your eyes to their needs. Who gives the proofs mentioned in James of possessing pure religion, untainted with any selfishness or corruption? Who is anxious to do all in his power to aid in the great plan of salvation?

As you regard your eternal interest, arouse yourselves, and begin to sow good seed. That which ye sow shall ye also reap. The harvest is coming, — the great reaping time, when you shall reap what you have sown. There will be no failure in the crop. The harvest is sure. Now is the sowing time. Now make efforts to be rich in good works, *ready to distribute, willing to communicate, laying up in store for yourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that ye may lay hold on eternal life.* I implore you, my brethren, in every church, rid yourselves of your icy coldness. Encourage in yourselves a love of hospitality, a love to help those who need help.

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

Many shrink at the idea of making any sacrifice for others' good. They are not willing to suffer for the sake of helping others. They flatter themselves that it is not required of





# It is impossible for you to fasten upon the arm of God with one hand, while the other is employed in administering to your own pleasure.

them to disadvantage themselves for the benefit of others. To such we will say, Jesus is our example.

When the request was made that the two sons of Zebedee might sit the one on his right hand and the other on his left in his kingdom, Jesus answered, *Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. And he said, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with, but to sit on my right hand and on my left is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.* How many can answer, We can drink of the cup; we can be baptized with the baptism; and make the answer understandingly? How many imitate the great Exemplar? All who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ, in taking this step pledge themselves to walk even as he walked. Yet the course many pursue who make high profession shows that their lives are far from being in conformity to that of the great Pattern. They shape their course to meet their own imperfect standard. They do not imitate the self-denial of Christ, or his life of sacrifice for the good of others.

I once heard a wealthy farmer describe the situation of a poor widow living near him. He lamented her straitened circumstances, and then said, "I don't know how she is going to get along this cold winter. She has close times now." Such have forgotten the work of Christ, and by their acts say, "Nay, Lord, we cannot drink of the cup of self-denial, humiliation, and sacrifice you drank of, nor be baptized with the suffering you were baptized with. We cannot live to do others good. It is our business to take care of ourselves."

Who should know how the widow will get along, unless it be those who have well-filled granaries? The means for her to get along is at hand; and dare those whom God has made his stewards, to whom he has entrusted means,

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

Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; and if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon-day. And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones; and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

The fast is described which God can accept. *To deal thy bread to the hungry, and to bring the poor that are cast out, to thy house.* You are with one hand to reach up, and by faith take hold of the mighty arm which bringeth salvation, while with the other hand of love you reach the oppressed, and relieve them. It is

impossible for you to fasten upon the arm of God with one hand, while the other is employed in administering to your own pleasure.

If you engage in this work of mercy and love, will it prove too hard for you? Will you fail, and be crushed under the burden, and your family be deprived of your assistance and influence? Oh, no! God has carefully removed all doubts upon this question by a pledge to you on condition of your obedience. This promise covers all the most exacting, the most hesitating, could crave: *Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health spring forth speedily.* Only believe that He is faithful that has promised. God can renew the physical strength; and more, he says he will do it. And the promise does not end here. *Thy righteousness shall go before thee. The glory of the Lord shall be thy reward.* God will build a fortification around you. Neither does the promise end at this point. *Thou shalt call, and the Lord shall answer. Thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am.* If you put down oppression and remove the speaking of vanity, if you draw out your soul to the hungry, *then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday. The Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought [famine], and make fat thy bones; and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and a spring of water, whose waters fail not.*

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

Are you afraid that an influence will be introduced into your family that will cost you more labor, read that chapter. Your fears may be groundless, and a blessing may come, known and realized by you every day. But if otherwise, if extra labor is called for, you can draw upon One who has promised: *Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily.* Why God's people are not more spiritually-minded, and have no more faith, is because they are narrowed by selfishness. The prophet is addressing Christians; not sinners, not unbelievers, but those who make great pretensions to godliness. It is not the abundance of your meetings that God accepts. It is not the numerous prayers, but it is right-doing, — doing the right thing, and at the right time. It is to be less self-caring, and more benevolent. Our souls must expand. Then God will make them like a watered garden, whose waters fail not.

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Ellen White is a co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This challenge is adapted from an article she wrote, published in the August 16, 1881, edition of the *Review & Herald* under the title, "Doing for Christ."



## I WAS...

I was hungry and you formed a humanities club and discussed my hunger.

I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel and prayed for my release.

I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.

I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health.

I was homeless and you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love of God.

I was lonely and you left me alone to go and pray for me.

You seem so holy, so close to God.

But I'm still very hungry and lonely and cold.

— Author unknown



# TELLING GOD'S STORIES

## A Son Becomes a Brother

BY JOY HYDE

One thing Johnny Ginnetti and his father, Lou, have in common is love for the game of golf. Almost weekly, they get together for a round or two on the links, weather permitting. Since they played so often, Johnny was aware that his dad needed a new driver. So, naturally, Johnny told Lou that for his birthday he would get him the driver of his choice.

Lou thanked Johnny for the offer, but declined. Instead, Lou, a member of New Beginnings Church in Brighton, Michigan, told Johnny, "All I want for my birthday is for you to go to a Bible prophecy seminar."

Johnny thought that was a pretty easy thing to do for his dad and agreed to go. There were several locations in suburban Detroit hosting such an event at the end of September 2014. Johnny decided on the site closest to his place of business. That was at the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan.

Johnny was in for a surprise. You see, when he agreed to grant his dad's birthday wish, he thought it was a one-night occurrence. When he got to the church on opening night, he realized there were meetings four nights a week for four weeks. He wondered how he could get out of this commitment.

Since he's a busy business owner, Johnny did not have time for this on top of his already-packed schedule. That was until he heard the words of truth spoken from the pulpit that first night. He was enthralled with what he heard. Johnny attended all the meetings but one. He says, "I made



*Lou and Johnny Ginnetti*

up for that one absence when I came on a night that the meeting had been cancelled."

Behind the scenes during Johnny's meeting attendance was Lou and Johnny's mother, Melu, praying that Johnny's heart would be open to the Holy Spirit's prompting and accept biblical truth. Not only did Johnny attend the prophecy seminar, but he also attended the follow-up Daniel seminar through the month of November and began regularly attending Sabbath morning services.

On December 20, 2014, after attending yet more meetings on baptismal preparation, Johnny made his public declaration of his acceptance of the Word of God and was baptized. Lou was just beaming.

After the baptism, Lou said to Johnny, "You were my son; now you are my brother."

Now, not only do they love the game of golf but, more importantly, Lou and Johnny share a love for their Lord, Jesus.

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Joy Hyde is the communications secretary of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan.



# Sharing the Love of Christ

BY DAN ANDERSON

I grew up in a broken home. Dad was an alcoholic and a drug addict, and I followed the same pattern. I dated a girl who gave me a Bible for Christmas, but I was angry and threw it in a box. A few years later, I came across that Bible, and something prompted me to read it.

I began with Genesis 1 and became convicted about many things. I called my Dad and said, “Why do we eat pork? The Bible says not to eat it.”

“Oh, don’t worry about that stuff,” he said.

Then I asked, “Why do we go to church on Sunday? That’s not what the Bible says.”

And Dad said, “Yeah, well, you don’t need to worry about that.”

Then I discovered that when we die it’s like a sleep, and I said, “Dad, everyone tells me that Grandpa’s in Heaven looking down on me, but that’s not what the Bible says. Has anyone ever read this Book?”

Again he said, “Ya know, you just don’t need to worry about any of that.”

I kept going down the drug and alcohol path, but a few years later prayed, “God, somehow I need to get out of this.” Seven days after saying that prayer, I got set up in a drug deal and took off running from the cops. Suddenly, a peace came over me and something said, “Dan, it’s over.” I pulled to the side of the road, got out of the car, and waited for the cops.

I decided to attend a church where I heard about Jesus who loved me so much that he died for me while I was still a sinner. It broke me. I went up front and said, “Lord, I don’t know if you are real or not, but if you set me free, I’ll follow you for the rest of my days.”

At that time, I was smoking a cigarette every eight minutes, drinking a fifth of brandy every day, and using every narcotic under the sun, but I walked out of church that day healed. Delivered. I never touched any of that stuff again, and it’s been almost 15 years. From that day on, I’ve been following Jesus.



Lonah and Dan Anderson

Soon I moved to Hudson, Wisconsin. I was hungry for the Word and wanted to know everything I could about Jesus. I visited several churches but didn’t find what I was looking for. One day, a flier came in the mail, announcing a Daniel seminar, so I went. While I questioned some things taught, I already believed the state of the dead, the Sabbath, and unclean foods. I thought, *This group follows the Bible*, and I was baptized after the seminar.

One guy, Dan Herwick, took me under his wing, and we went out to give Bible studies. This was exciting! When the Hudson Company held more evangelistic meetings, I set up

over 100 yard signs, put hundreds of fliers on parked cars, and handed them out in stores.

Still feeling God’s call to something deeper, I spent four months in Bible study training at Amazing Facts. That year my wife, Lonah, and I held over 200 Bible studies, and five people were baptized.

I still hold Bible studies and am currently doing an evangelistic series with Dan. When you know the world is dying and you have a message of hope, I believe that to not go out and proclaim it is a sin. I just want to share the love of Christ and see people get into a relationship with Jesus so they can experience the joy. Then, hopefully, the cycle will continue. That’s how this message spreads. You keep sharing, and someone else shares, and they share with someone else. What else is there?

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Dan Anderson is head elder of the Hudson Company in Wisconsin. He shared his testimony with Juanita Edge, communication director of the Wisconsin Conference.



## Pathway of Blessings reveals messages of the power of Christ

They came from the hospital and the community — nurses and doctors, staff members and board members, and just people who believe in the power of Christ. They came to bring the grace of God to the bare concrete floors of what will soon be a new Emergency Department at Adventist Medical Center La Grange.

On June 23, the hospital hosted an all-day “Scripture Signing” to infuse the area with healing messages of inspiration and support. More than 100 hospital friends, family and staff workers visited the construction site — dropping to their knees to write beloved scriptures, inspirational quotes and personal blessings on the cold, unfinished foundation floor, warming it with the strength of their faith and love.

Powerful and empowering messages now fill the floor, ready to be covered with linoleum and welcome the steps of new visitors needing urgent care. One messages states, “God bless all who walk these floors, and heal those who come through our doors,” while another urges, “Work with all your heart; it is the Lord you are serving.” How thoughtful and wondrous for an emergency area that can be fraught with fear and despair to have its very foundation instilled with the power of God’s grace through written prayers delivered with love and humility by the staff and surrounding community.

The Scripture Signing was organized by Pastoral Care, Foundation and the Emergency departments, and was inspired by a similar signing which graced the unfinished floor and walls of the Chapel at nearby Adventist Medical Center Hinsdale when it was under construction a number of years ago.

When the day ended and the final message was entered, Aleksandra Tarnudzic, chaplain and manager of



On June 23, hospital friends, family and staff wrote scriptures, inspirational quotes and personal blessings on the concrete floor of the new Emergency Department at Adventist Medical Center La Grange.

Pastoral Care at La Grange, was awed by the result, “All of these people helped build a Pathway of Blessings for patients, visitors and caregivers to walk — connecting the Emergency Department to the hospital and the additional healing offered there,” she states.

Tara Yurinich, director of Emergency Services for La Grange, was surprised at the number of people who responded to the invitation to participate in the Scripture Signing. She notes, “I looked at the Signing as an excellent opportunity for staff members to add something personal of themselves to the new emergency area through their written words. I did not expect the large number of people who came from outside of our department to lend their inspiring messages to the site. It feels like the whole hospital community is supporting us in creating a new, expanded area that will better serve our patients and staff.”

The new construction will enhance and expand the hospital’s emergency services area and provide better access to emergency care, an inviting area for patients and family, and a lot more



Once complete, the emergency services area will conceal hidden messages and blessings of those who believe in Christ’s power.

privacy for those receiving treatment. Once complete, the hospital’s new emergency services area also will carry the hidden messages and blessings of those who believe in the power of Christ.

Julie Busch, assistant vice president for communications, AMITA Health



## Get Clear. Get Close. Get Clean.

### Finding proximity with God

"Last year, as team of chaplains, we asked the Lord to fill us with a vision of how Andrews can be useful for what his purpose is right now," says June Price, University chaplain. "I firmly believe that God placed our chaplain team together, in this particular mix of three people with a particular mission in mind, and we need to know what it is. If we're left to our own devices, we will be nothing but flesh on parade, and that won't bring glory to God."

Price and her associate chaplains, Michael Polite and José Bourget, began the year under the conviction to independently seek God's desire for Campus Ministries. Then, in early fall, after a few weeks of private prayer, the team spent a day in collective prayer, asking God to reveal his plan. At the end of the day, they all felt a singular thread confirmed in their hearts: "I need to be close to my people again."

"We've become too busy, too cold or too stiff-necked, as God said to the Israelites, that we aren't really in connection with God anymore," says Price. "So, we asked God what that would look like here in Campus Ministries and on campus. We began to share with each other what God had placed on our hearts. Immediately, texts such as James 4:8: *Draw close to me and I will draw close to you* came flooding into our minds."

Out of this time of surrender, the word "proximity" was birthed as a vision of operation for Campus Ministries. This vision is based on Jesus' prayer in John 17. Proximity: Get Clear. Get Close. Get Clean.

"The Proximity vision is a simplified, yet comprehensive, description of the gospel," says Polite. "In a society where biblical literacy is becoming less common, the emerging generation thrives on 'no frills' teaching that promises easy-to-follow, logical steps.



Students find closer proximity to God through prayer during University Vespers.

Proximity will offer our students the simplicity they value while simultaneously offering them a Christocentric spiritual plan."

What does Proximity look like, exactly?

"Get Clear" means to know God for who he really is. "The effect of being in close proximity with God yields a clarity of who he is," says Price. "Not what my culture says he is, or what my projection of him is, but a deep, serious hunger to let him teach me."

"Get Close" means not only getting closer to Christ, but closer to each other. Jesus prayed, in John 17:21, *I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one — as you are in me, Father, and I am in you.*

"This isn't 'come-and-feel-good' spirituality, but spirituality that requires us to grow in our walk with God and with other people," says Bourget.

"Get Clean" means to be sanctified through truth. Jesus asks the Father to sanctify man through his truth in John 17:17.

Our cleanness comes not through our own ideals or even our good works, but through God's work in our lives and our proximity to him.

"Where are you in relation to God?" Price explains. "We need to thirst for a deeper proximity to God. John 17:3 says

that eternal life is knowing God and Jesus Christ, whom he sent. We need that, and it needs to be perfectly clear to us."

The three chaplains alternately will speak on each of these three outgrowths of Proximity on Friday evenings during the fall semester. There also are plans in place for a Bible study, led by Price, specifically focusing on "Get Clear," along with numerous other discipleship endeavors to invite a close proximity to God.

"Until we're willing to see God without manipulating him to our liking, we can't be clear on who he really is," Price explains. "We're going to meet the students where they are, and give them a catalyst for deeper conversations and exploration into God and into their own faith. Proximity to God isn't an arrival point; it's a lifelong journey."

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



This year Campus Ministries has a specific focus for the campus to become clear on who God is, draw close to him and others, and find cleanness as a result.



### Belleville Church offers Creation learning opportunity for kids

Michigan—Who invited the lions, elephants, jellyfish and swinging monkeys to the latest District 12 outreach rally? It was creative children's ministry leaders, of course! Sabbath, March 28, was an exciting day for Michigan local churches. In preparation for this year's rally, District 12 pastors and conference officials decided to make an extra effort to include families with children at the rally. They put together a special team of volunteers from the Ann Arbor, Belleville, Cherry Hill and Farmington churches to develop a unique program just for kids.

It was exciting to see that children's ministry leaders didn't just show a video to entertain the kids or put them in a room to babysit for a few hours. They developed a program that, hopefully, the children will remember for many years to come. The Troy Adventist Academy's gymnasium was transformed into the Garden of Eden, complete with life-sized animals, the Tree of Life and a glittering waterfall.

The opening program began with songs and an interactive Bible story in which the kids and adults could participate in the telling of the Creation story. The children were then separated into groups to experience a two-hour vacation Bible school-type program.

One of the goals of Creation Celebration was to have kids participate in events that helped them learn about their Creator and what he formed on each day of the Creation week. Every rotation was designed with this in mind. In the snack station, kids put together their own trail mix with edible reminders from each day. White yogurt chips and dark carob chips represented the darkness and light on Day One. Other delicious items included Frosted Mini-Wheats cereal, pretzel



*In conjunction with the March 28 District 12 outreach rally, a special team of volunteers from the Ann Arbor, Belleville, Cherry Hill and Farmington churches in Michigan developed a unique program for kids to help them understand the Creation story.*

stick trees, edible sun, moon and stars, goldfish and animal crackers. Perhaps the most creative snack, though, were the vegan marshmallow pillows to remind them God rested on the seventh day.

Next, it was off to games, where the kids enjoyed racing to separate into piles, small animals, plants, flashlights, balloons and more of what was created on each day. The hands-on science station taught how clouds are formed and the children made some unique creations of their own.

The craft rotation was designed with the Grow Michigan evangelism initiative in mind. Colorful paper lunch bags were decorated to be used as a witnessing tool for each child. They then included a miniature *Primary Treasure*, a bag of mints with a label that read, "You were MINT to know Jesus," and a bookmark that used the acronym CREATION to help others learn about health lifestyle choices.

God truly blessed these efforts in planning for this unique children's ministry event. Creative ideas, props, craft materials and talents were shared

among the various children's ministry leaders. While the team worried about setting up in an unfamiliar gym, developing a program and spreading a \$100 budget for 70+ kids, God took charge of this event. Not only did he bring in many of the children from Michigan churches, he also brought several visitors from the Troy Church's preschool program.

As parents watched the setup on Thursday evening, many were intrigued and came Sabbath afternoon to attend with their children. One local teacher pointed out that a little girl who had the opening prayer was actually a Hindu who just prayed to Jesus for the first time. It was amazing to see how God used these humble efforts and brought many volunteers together to help. If you'd like to find out more about exciting events like these, please check your local church for upcoming vacation Bible schools and children's ministry events.

*Sarah Canada, vacation Bible school and children's ministries leader, Belleville Church*



Laura Carroll

Part of the health assessment in the health tent was getting your blood pressure taken. Peggie Schau (center), Buchanan Church volunteer, takes the blood pressure of one of the tent's participants while Phyllis Bobelenyi (left), Buchanan Church volunteer, looks on. Phyllis was helping with registration.

## Buchanan Church participates in Faith and Family Ministry Celebration

Michigan—Responding to an invitation to conduct a health promotion activity for the local community's three-hour Faith and Family Ministry Celebration on Sunday, Aug. 30, the Buchanan Church decided to set up a tent and offer health screenings.

Using the NEWSTART® program as a template, stations were established around the sides of the tent to correspond with each of the nine words represented by each letter of the program's acronym: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, Trust in God. A colorful banner, with the word defining the health principle being illustrated, hung at that station. Appropriate volunteers staffed and conducted tests in their respective areas.

Each screened person received a registration sheet to complete, providing answers to appropriate questions relating to health habits and a record of their test results. This information was then reviewed by Tammie Riess, a nurse practitioner, and/or Harold Brown, a physician, both volunteers from Physicians Health Care of Buchanan, who provided an evaluation of the person's health status. Community participants received advice about how to improve or correct their health. At the last station, community guests had an opportunity to have a brief conversation with Bryan Choi, pastor of the Buchanan Church, and received appropriate literature and information about future seminars.

About 70 persons were screened during the three-hour event. "Everyone I spoke to," said Choi, "had positive comments about the health screening. They really enjoyed the massage [at the Rest station] and appreciated Dr. Brown's advice." Ninety-six miniature



Laura Carroll

Literature was given out as well as spiritual advice by Bryan Choi, pastor of the Buchanan Church, at the final station in the health tent — Trust in God.

loaves of whole wheat bread, each with an appropriate GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) health tract, were distributed at the Nutrition station, and many bottles of water were offered at the Water station.

Fourteen volunteers staffed the nine stations during the three-hour celebration. Additionally, five volunteers took care of the delivery, setup and tear down of the stations. The church's goal was to become better acquainted with the community, and volunteers believe that was achieved.

If you would like to hold a similar screening program or another type of health program, contact Randy Griffin, director of Lake Union Adventist Community Health Initiative Department, at 317-409-3260 or Randy.Griffin@lakeunion.org.

Bruce Christensen, communication secretary, Buchanan Church

## Lake Region treasurer leads ten to Jesus in Indianapolis

Lake Region—The Tabernacle of Hope Church in Indianapolis, Ind.,

welcomed the community to a series of Bible presentations in September. Yvonne Collins, treasurer of the Lake Region Conference, led out in the meetings that ran from Sept. 12–26. The series was based on last-day events. Collins said, "We're trying to equip the people

for the Second Coming of Jesus, and we want to help them realize that Christ is coming to the door, and we have to be ready! We can't wait!"

Evelyn Robinson, a Lake Region Conference Bible instructor, assisted in transportation of individuals to the



meetings; she ended up making two or three trips per night to pick up attendees. She also helped with visitation to those coming to the meetings. Robinson said, "We've been having a wonderful time here. I've been going out visiting individuals, sharing the Word of God with them, and assisting the evangelist Yvonne Collins leading people to Christ."

Several of the individuals who attended the evangelistic series are refugees from Rwanda, Africa. They speak in Swahili (the language of parts of Southeast Africa) and Kinyarwanda (the official language of Rwanda). The Conference provided an interpreter to translate for the meetings.

Tricia Wynn, pastor of Tabernacle of Hope Church, said, "We've had the meetings on our church calendar all year — we usually have [a series] in September, so the church looks forward to it. For the three years I've been here, minus last year, we've done something every fall." Last fall, their church assisted with Voice of Prophecy meetings with Shawn Boonstra in Indianapolis.

Every night of this series a dinner was served. Church members prepared a meal for the attendees, not just chips and crackers, but dinner. "It gives us time to fellowship and talk," said Wynn.

One attendee, from a nearby church of another denomination, said, "Elder Collins is really anointed. I heard from the Lord tonight and it just touched my heart, and it was meant for me to be here. It's not a coincidence that I just met her and that I'm here tonight. I grew up at the church across the street, and I had never been here before, and so this is just a blessing to experience this service and this worship. The Lord, he spoke every night."

There were various special moments during the series, including a guest choir from a sister church and an anointing service at which all the Lake Region pastors from Indianapolis area and the executive secretary from the Conference office, Timothy Nixon, were present to pray for the members and visitors.



On the closing day of the series, Sept. 26, Yvonne Collins (far left), evangelist and treasurer of Lake Region Conference; Evelyn Robinson (second from left), Lake Region Conference Bible instructor; and Tricia Wynn (far right), pastor of Tabernacle of Hope Church in Indianapolis, welcome 11 new members to Tabernacle of Hope Church in Indianapolis. Nine were baptized, and two joined by profession of faith.



Yvonne Collins, treasurer of the Lake Region Conference, delivers a stirring message of hope in Jesus to community guests during a series of Bible presentations she shared in September at Tabernacle of Hope Church in Indianapolis.

On Sabbath, Sept. 26, the final day of the series, nine individuals were baptized and joined the Tabernacle of Hope Church family, and two joined by profession of faith.

Clifford Jones, Lake Region president, said, "We are happy that our Conference treasurer Yvonne Collins

could serve as the speaker for this evangelistic service, and we thank God for her anointed preaching and for the souls that responded and gave their hearts to Christ and were baptized today."

Pieter Damsteegt, communication intern,  
Lake Union Conference





Wayne Burrell

Group games and activities helped make Capitol City Church's Sidewalk Sabbath School a success.

## Capitol City Church innovates children's Sabbath school

**Lake Region**—On Sept. 12, Capitol City Church's lower division Sabbath school held its first "Sidewalk Sabbath School" event. The purpose was to in-reach our missing children and get kids excited about Sabbath school. The event was designed to also create curiosity in the Indianapolis, Ind., community so future outreach is more effective.

Lower division Sabbath school leader, Nicole Morris, led a spirit-filled

90 minutes of ministry that took place right in the church parking lot. There were group games and activities such as human rock, paper, scissors. The kids and youth got to see real-life dilemmas narrated by supportive adults and acted out by the youth. These were aimed at reminding them that no matter how bleak their situation they can always trust in God.

The event was deemed a success because most of the kids [who attended] were there by 9:30 a.m.

"It was great to see so many of our men represented despite it being a children's program. This is impactful to the young men to see older men interacting with them. All around, the success was seen in the smiles. Even the folks passing by were smiling," stated Nicole Morris.

The several dozen adults and kids that participated in Sidewalk Sabbath School were treated to a delicious continental breakfast. The sounds of contemporary gospel filled the air along with the smiles and laughter of the kids. The event was made possible by the

support and prayers of ministry staff, parents and church members.

"I had a good time. I thought it was a fun way to do Bible school, different than usual. I like to be moving around instead of sitting and listening to someone speak," said Amir (age 16).

William J. Lee, Capitol City Church senior pastor, believes strongly that ministry has to go beyond the four walls of the church. In addition to planned church programs, he believes each disciple of Christ can make Jesus famous in the way they live and by their witness to others.

The idea for this event came from a Sabbath school training program at Andrews University attended by a few teachers. Expect to see similar activities where the church takes the Good News directly to the people of their community. Together, they can light their community on fire for Christ as they move forward on their knees.

Wayne Burrell, communication specialist,  
Capitol City Church

## Capitol City Church takes church to the community

**Lake Region**—On Aug. 22, the Capitol City (Ind.) Church ended Sabbath school early and closed its church doors. Congregants then reconvened, under the beautiful blue skies of downtown Indianapolis, to hold "Church in the Park."

Dozens of Capitol City disciples descended on the Veterans Memorial Plaza to meet the spiritual and physical needs of friends in the community. The church's job is to *Go into all the world and preach the gospel....* (Mark 16:15 NIV). So often, churches get comfortable assembling for worship and forget where the true front line is in this battle to win souls for Christ.

"Ministry must not only happen in the church, but it must go outside the four walls of our churches in our communities," said William J. Lee, senior pastor of Capitol City Church.

The spirit of prayer filled the park that day. Many members talked with those who came, offered support, encouragement and prayed with them.

Praises filled the park as Highest Praise Chorale led the attendees in vibrant worship and praise. Lee delivered a powerful word from the story of Jonah about how God can deliver and save. The Holy Spirit led almost a dozen individuals to answer the appeal for special prayer and give their lives to Christ.

This event was spearheaded by the Personal Ministries Department, led by Terri King. Through the support of the entire church, 200 care packages, which included food, blankets and toiletry items, were distributed to those in need. Resource stations were erected to provide inspirational reading materials as well as help for veterans.

Ellen White stated in *The Ministry to Healing*, page 143, "The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago — a revelation of Christ. A

great work of reform is demanded, and it is only through the grace of Christ that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished. Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"

Wayne Burrell, communication specialist,  
Capitol City Church



Wayne Burrell

The spirit of prayer and praises filled Veterans Memorial Park on Aug. 22 as Capitol City Church held "Church in the Park."



Helen Johnston

### Lake Union young adults distribute thousands of books

Michigan—Helen Johnston paused for a moment to pray for people she would meet on the next street, when the impression came to her that a man on that street would open the door and need a copy of the book *The Great Controversy*. A few doors down, she met a middle-aged man. She first showed him a health book as an icebreaker, but soon transitioned to *The Great Controversy*. He seemed to be very interested in the book. The only problem was that he didn't have any money. They went back and forth about him keeping the book, even though he couldn't share a donation, as she recalled, in the back of her mind, her prayer and the impression at the beginning of the street. Eventually, the man donated some change toward her schooling but declined to keep the book; he didn't feel that he had given enough. As Johnston turned around, holding a mason jar full of coins, she fumbled and spilled the coins all over the welcome mat!

She asked the man to hold *The Great Controversy* while she quickly collected the



Michigan literature evangelists (pictured here) knocked on doors this summer. They, along with Indiana literature evangelists, met many individuals who wanted to learn more about Jesus.

coins. When she had finished picking up the coins, she started to walk away, saying, "God bless you, sir." She got halfway down his front walk when he realized he still had the book and called to her to come back and get it. Helen just waved, smiled, and said, "Just keep it and promise me you'll read it."

His face turned to a wry smile, "Fine. You win. I promise I'll read it, and God bless you, too!"

Johnston continued, and then stopped and prayed on the sidewalk outside of his view to thank God for what he had done through her to help get *The Great Controversy* in this man's home. What God did there was amazing, but wait! God wasn't finished yet.

Later that day Johnston moved to an upscale neighborhood. At one door, a tall, blond lady answered. Johnston began her canvass with, "Hi, my name is..."

But before she could even tell the woman her name, she interrupted, "It's Helen, right?"

Johnston was shocked. She was sure she had never seen this lady before in her life! So how could she have known her name? It must have shown on Johnston's face because she smiled, showed her a blank check for \$20, and explained, "I am a Seventh-day Adventist, too, and this morning, as I was praying during my devotions, I just had this impression that a young girl named 'Helen' would come to my door today, and that I was to give her \$20 because she had given *The Great Controversy* to a ... man and needed money to make up for it."

Johnston was speechless. She couldn't believe what she was hearing. Did God

just use her to put *The Great Controversy* into the hands of a man of another faith and arrange for an Adventist lady, a few streets a way, to pay for it? Amazing! Nothing short of amazing!

And, really, it is amazing what God did through Johnston and all the rest of the student literature evangelists in the Lake Union this past summer. During the summer of 2015 that is now past, 100 students distributed 60,000 books and raised \$465,000 in ten weeks.

One more thing was added to their ministry experience this summer — an iShare Conference. The purpose of iShare is to inspire Adventist youth to go back and make a difference in their local schools and churches. This past summer, the first annual iShare Conference in the Lake Union was held at Indiana Academy with 200 attendees on Sabbath morning. You are invited to watch the video report here: <http://vimeo.com/136472824>. What a thrilling experience it was for the youth to look back at what God had done and inspire one another to keep on sharing him until he comes!

Matt Hastly, literature ministries director, Indiana Conference, with Kamil Metz, literature ministries director, Michigan Conference



Indiana (pictured here) and Michigan literature evangelists distributed 60,000 books in ten weeks.



## Michigan Conference reaches the world through Public Campus Ministries

Public Campus Ministries has recently emerged in the Seventh-day Adventist Church as one of our most important denominational ministries and a focal interest for the General Conference. According to world church statistics, conservative numbers show that more than 80 percent of our Adventist young people are attending non-Adventist universities. One of the greatest challenges this statistic poses is the sad reality that a large portion of them will abandon Adventism by the time they start their careers.

Delegates at the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, showed special attention to young adult Adventists in two major ways. The Give Them the Keys initiative dedicated the entire sum of the Sabbath offering for youth evangelism projects selected, organized and conducted by young people. A portion of those funds will be allocated to public campus ministry around the world. Additionally, delegates voted a major change to the *Church Manual* by appointing Public Campus Ministries directors for local churches. These directors are to serve as leaders in public campus ministry, also serving on local church boards.

Both decisions taken in San Antonio came as recommendations from a recent Public Campus Ministries Summit and Symposium held at the Church headquarters last spring. Symposium delegates who represented the 13 world divisions presented multiple recommendations to General Conference leadership, stressing the need to properly invest in Adventist young people studying in non-Adventist universities.

For more than 15 years, the Michigan Conference has led the front on public campus ministry. To date, it is the only local conference in the world that has a department that solely addresses this ministry. The Michigan Conference



Israel Ramos (kneeling, left), Public Campus Ministries director, and Any Im (standing right with red tie), associate director, are pictured with students in front of the CAMPUS building, adjacent to the East Lansing Church in Michigan.

Public Campus Ministries Department primarily supports local church pastors ministering to congregations in university towns, promotes public campus ministry in local churches, and trains Adventist young people to evangelize their campuses using God's Word while strengthening their own doctrinal beliefs and biblical spirituality.

Additionally, the Michigan Conference established the Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students (CAMPUS), a division of the Public Campus Ministries Department. CAMPUS runs the Missionary Training Program where students take a year of the academic career to serve as missionaries on public campuses in Michigan. More than 100 young people have been trained in this program, many of them serving as soul-winning missionaries on their college campuses and leaders in youth organizations like Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) and others. CAMPUS also provides apologetic resources to help students on their journey with faith and academics. Finally, CAMPUS provides training and opportunities for graduates and young

professionals to serve the church with their talents, service and resources.

By locally participating in public campus ministry, members of the Michigan Conference have invested in the world church with this venture, bearing fruit in San Antonio. More than half of the North American Division Mission Year Volunteers come from Michigan. A large majority of public campus ministry chaplains in our Division are serving our local territory or have been trained and impacted by CAMPUS. And Michigan's model that focuses on empowering local churches to take charge of public campus ministry continues to gain momentum around the world as one of the most viable and uniquely Adventist models of this ministry.

As the Seventh-day Adventist Church moves forward in developing public campus ministry, we can be thankful to God who gave Michigan the vision to organize this ministry at the conference level. There is still a lot of work to be done. Thousands of Adventist young people are being lost every year on public campuses. Millions graduate from one of the most crucial stages



in their lives without the opportunity to hear the message of the crucified, risen and soon coming Savior. In Michigan alone, we need hundreds of baptisms on our college campuses!

What can you do to help? If you are a local church in a university town, create a Public Campus Ministries director to sit on your church board. Our goal is to have every church near a campus appoint someone to this position in the next year. Support your student group with funds, food or space to hold small groups, social events, evangelistic meetings, retreats and conferences like GYC. Contact our department when you know of a student who has decided to attend a public college or university in Michigan or anywhere else. In most



*Israel Ramos, Public Campus Ministries director, teaches students how to reach their peers for Jesus.*

cases, the decisions students make within the first month of their college life will affect the rest of their time in college. Even if you are not a member at the university church, you can still support public campus ministry by sponsoring a missionary or sending a non-Adventist student contact to GYC or Michigan Conference Hi-C and Spring retreats.

Public colleges and universities have students from around the world. Literally, world missions comes to us. When we reach the campus, we reach the world. Let's pray for and work with our students — our missionaries, our Adventist ambassadors on our public colleges and universities — that the day will soon come when reformations of primitive godliness will be revived, led by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, preparing public campuses for the imminent return of Christ.

Israel Ramos, director of Public Campus Ministries, Michigan Conference

Editor's note: Indiana and Wisconsin conferences also offer leadership in public campus ministry.



Photos by Jane Thayer

*At the "Stuff a Bus" event, people brought backpacks and school supplies for qualified students in both public and parochial schools in Berrien Springs, Mich.*

## Berrien Springs group collects backpacks for students

Michigan—A newly-formed community group has collected backpacks, school supplies and money to provide for the needs of 200 qualified students who attend the Berrien Springs public or parochial schools. The project was initiated by Bonnie Chadderdon, director of the AfterSchool Rocks program in the Berrien Springs High School; Gresford Thomas, a Seminary student; and Alyssa Valenzuela, a counseling intern at the high school and May graduate of Andrews University. Others soon joined to help.

Because the group was not formed until the end of June, it took a flurry of

planning and activity to set up a system to promote the backpack drive, collect the materials, find a place to store and sort them, and drive to nearby towns to purchase school supplies as various stores gave special deals on back-to-school supplies.

Selecting the name "Backpacks for Berrien," the group obtained permission from businesses, churches, banks and other public places to set up collection boxes and jars for donations.

A "Stuff the Bus" event was held to raise awareness of the project and collect backpacks and school supplies. A big green school bus was provided by Johnie and Mandy Boone, and parked at the township hall. (Green and white — for Shamrocks — are the Berrien Springs schools' colors.) Choosing a day to have the event was no easy matter. The backpack program was a community-wide drive.



*Alyssa Valenzuela checks contents of the backpacks.*

All of the school supplies and the 200 backpacks collected or purchased with donations were taken to the Living Word Fellowship gymnasium. Tables were set up and the supplies sorted. Backpacks were somewhat sorted by grade level, with secondary students getting the sturdier models. Grade-appropriate school supplies were grouped into four levels: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

The filled backpacks were taken to the four public schools, three Adventist schools, and one Lutheran school where they were distributed by the administration. The Backpacks for Berrien group suggested that one criterion be students who qualify for free or reduced lunches.

At the end of the day the backpacks were delivered to the schools, Evelyn Savory, principal of Ruth Murdoch Elementary School, reported, "I am pleased to let you know that we have already started the distribution and have seen not only the response of surprise from both children and parents, but also tears of appreciation on the faces of the adults as they leave the office."

Jane Thayer, associate professor of Religious Education, Emerita, Andrews University



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 events:** For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, contact HPAC Box Office by phone at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or email at [hpac@andrews.edu](mailto:hpac@andrews.edu), or on its website at <https://howard.andrews.edu/events/>.

**Nov. 1, 4:00 p.m.:** Andrews Academy Concerto Night

**Nov. 8, 4:00 p.m.:** Second Sunday Concert – “Images and Fleeting Moments.” Claricello performs a series of works for clarinet/bass clarinet and cello that highlight how composers can capture an emotion or a memory and let you experience those feelings through their music.

**Nov. 15, 4:00 p.m.:** American pianist Victor Rosenbaum has concertized widely as soloist and chamber music performer in the United States, Europe, Asia, Israel and Russia in such prestigious halls as Tully Hall in New York and the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia.

**Nov. 16, 7:00 p.m.:** Berrien Public Schools Men’s Invitational: Young men from area schools are joining forces for the Men’s Invitational workshop and evening concert at the Howard Center.

**Nov. 22, 4:00 p.m.:** The Aureole Trio claims a unique blend of instruments – flute, viola and harp. These consolidate the entire orchestral palette into its three essential components, performed with an infinite array of colors and sounds. Laura Gilbert is the trio’s flautist, Mary Hammann is the violist, and Stacey Shames is the harpist. (Tickets required.)

**Dec. 4, 7:00 p.m.:** Welcome Christmas Concert. Andrews University Department of Music presents its annual holiday concert featuring Orchestra, Chorale and Singers.

**Dec. 5, 8:00 p.m.:** Wind Symphony Holiday Concert. Andrews University’s wind ensemble presents its annual concert under the direction of Alan Mitchell. (Tickets required.)

**Dec. 12, 7:00 p.m.:** Andrews Academy Christmas Pops Concert. A fun musical event celebrating Christmas. For more information, email [penn@andrews.edu](mailto:penn@andrews.edu).

**Dec. 13, 4:00 p.m.:** Second Sunday Concert – Carol Sing. This annual favorite brings in all the sounds of the season! Come prepared to sing your treasured well-known Christmas carols from your seat with a song leader and musicians on stage.

**Dec. 15, 7:00 p.m.:** Ruth Murdoch Elementary School’s Instrumental Christmas Concert

**Dec. 16, 7:00 p.m.:** Berrien Public Schools Holiday Concert. The choirs of the Berrien Springs middle school and high school perform a holiday concert under the direction of Carrie Vandenburg.

**Dec. 17, 7:00 p.m.:** Cypress Ridge High School Symphony Orchestra

**Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.:** Phil Wickham in Concert, the popular Christian artist known for “This Is Amazing Grace” and “Safe.” (Tickets required.)

**Feb. 7, 2:00 p.m.:** Ladysmith Black Mambazo in Concert. This group is known for its intricate vocal rhythms and harmonies borrowed from traditional music from the mines of South Africa. (Tickets required.)

**Andrews University Junior Preview, Nov. 8-9:** Explore everything Andrews has to offer and meet friends from other schools! For more information, contact Shelly Erhard at [shelly@andrews.edu](mailto:shelly@andrews.edu) or 269-471-3059.

**Feast of Lights.** Celebrate the holiday season in a unique, worshipful way

with Andrews Academy. Held **Dec. 11, 7:00 p.m.**, in Pioneer Memorial Church on the Andrews University campus. For more information, email [penn@andrews.edu](mailto:penn@andrews.edu).

## Indiana

### Indiana Academy Admissions Dates for 2016-2017

**Oct. 23:** IA Online Application Open

**Oct. 23-Jan. 15:** Priority Acceptance

**Jan. 16-March 4:** General Acceptance

**March 5-May 13:** Late Acceptance (as space is available)

**Indiana Academy Senior Dedication Weekend** will be held **Nov. 7**. Indiana Academy is located at 24815 State Road 19, Cicero. For more information, contact the school at 317-984-3575.

**Indiana Academy and the Cicero Church** will be hosting their annual Journey to Bethlehem on **Dec. 5 and 6**. This is an outdoor, guided tour with live actors in 12 scenes. All are welcome to come. For more information, visit <http://www.jtbchristmas.com>.

**Indiana Academy** will host their annual Night of Hope Christmas concert the evening of **Dec. 12** in the Cicero Church. The church is located at 24445 State Road 19, Cicero. All are welcome to come.

## Lake Union

### Offerings

**Nov. 7** Local Church Budget

**Nov. 14** Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)

**Nov. 21** Local Church Budget

**Nov. 28** Local Conference Advance

**Dec. 5** Local Church Budget

**Dec. 12** Adventist Community Services

**Dec. 19** Local Church Budget

**Dec. 26** Local Conference Advance

### Thirteenth Sabbath

**Dec. 26** Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

## Special Days

**Nov. 1-7** Week of Prayer

**Nov. 7** Stewardship Sabbath

**Nov. 7-28** Native Heritage Month

**Nov. 14** Human Relations Sabbath

**Nov. 15** National Philanthropy Day

**Nov. 21** Welcome Home Sabbath

**Dec. 5** Bible Sabbath

### Called to Serve Youth Evangelism Congress:

In 2013, 450+ senior youth and young adults, ages 16-35, of the Lake Union Conference gathered together to be empowered and resourced for evangelism back in their local churches and communities. As a result, young adult leaders used up to \$32,000 dollars from a joint evangelism fund from the Union and local churches to launch new ministries. Coming in 2016, senior youth and young adults will meet again in Chicago for a congress. On **Feb. 12-14, 2016**, the Lake Union Conference will offer another Youth Evangelism Congress for those who believe they have been “Called to Serve.” For more information, contact Janelle Aguilera at [aguilera.janelle@gmail.com](mailto:aguilera.janelle@gmail.com) or 707-328-7285.

## Wisconsin

**Public Campus Ministries Retreat:** On **Nov. 13-15**, the Wisconsin Conference will be sponsoring a Public Campus Ministry Retreat at Camp Wakonda. The purpose of the weekend is to provide tools and inspiration for sharing our faith on the public campus. Ron Pickell from the NAD will join us for the weekend. We would like to invite current students on public campuses as well as pastors and lay leaders who are passionate about collegiate/young adult ministry. There is a fee for the weekend. To register, visit <http://wi.adventist.org/article/264/ministries/public-campus-ministry>.

# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 27	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25	Jan 1	Jan 8
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:35	5:27	5:21	5:17	5:15	5:14	5:15	5:19	5:24	5:30
Chicago, Ill.	4:40	4:33	4:27	4:22	4:20	4:19	4:21	4:24	4:29	4:35
Detroit, Mich.	5:21	5:13	5:07	5:03	5:00	5:30	5:01	5:04	5:09	5:16
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:38	5:31	5:26	5:22	5:20	5:20	5:22	5:25	5:30	5:36
La Crosse, Wis.	4:50	4:42	4:36	4:31	4:28	4:27	4:29	4:32	4:37	4:44
Lansing, Mich.	5:26	5:18	5:12	5:08	5:05	5:04	5:06	5:09	5:14	5:21
Madison, Wis.	4:45	4:37	4:30	4:26	4:23	4:23	4:24	4:27	4:32	4:39
Springfield, Ill.	4:52	4:45	4:40	4:36	4:34	4:34	4:35	4:39	4:44	4:50



# MILEPOSTS

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

## Anniversaries



**Barbara and William Fisher** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 1, 2015, by a great gathering of family, friends and longtime patients from William's medical practice, at the Richmond (Ind.) Church school. They have been members of the Richmond Church for 43 years.

William Fisher and Barbara Sue Stanhiser were married Aug. 1, 1965, in Berrien Springs, Mich., by Charles Wittschiede. William has been a physician in his own Family Medical Practice. Barbara has been a Registered Nurse.

The Fisher family includes William Brian Fisher of Stuart, Fla.; Brett and Jeanie Fisher of Klamath Falls, Ore.; Brad and Jennifer Fisher of Collegedale, Tenn.; Bryce Fisher of Dekalb, Ill.; and six grandchildren.



**Ellowyn and Dwight St. Clair** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 25, 2015, by spending Sabbath worship and a picnic in nature with family and friends at Powers Bluff County Park in Arpin, Wis. They

have been members of the Bethel (Wis.) Church for 36 years.

Dwight L. St. Clair and Ellowyn J. Cook were married Sept. 5, 1965, in Cedar Lake, Mich., by Harold Jewkes. Dwight has been a registered nurse many years and retired from metal work at Berg Manufacturing in 2005. Ellowyn has been a licensed practical nurse for 32 years, retiring in 2007, and a homemaker.

The St. Clair family includes Barry and Barbara St. Clair of Pikeville, N.C.; Linden and Michelle St. Clair of Deer Lodge, Tenn.; Emily and Arnold Thurman of Arpin, Wis.; 10 grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and two step-great grandchildren.

## Obituaries

**DABNEY, Henrietta F. (Ridley)**, age 86; born Jan. 26, 1929, in Atlanta, Ga.; died Sept. 8, 2015, in Whittaker, Mich. She was a member of the Ypsilanti (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Forbes, Wayne, Karlos, Cornell and Rory; daughters, Angela Moore and Tonia Dabney; 13 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Winston C. Patterson, and interment was in Forest Hill Cemetery, Ann Arbor, Mich.

**DECKARD, Rachel J. (Kerchenko)**, age 90; born Oct. 8, 1924, in Plaza, N.D.; died June 4, 2015, in Pontiac, Mich. She was a member of the Waterford (Mich.) Riverside Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Lori Riley; and one step-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by John Hood, and interment was in Ottawa Park Cemetery, Clarkston, Mich.

**DENNIE-WOODARD, Ora M. (Taylor) Diggins**, age 90; born June 28, 1925, in Magnolia, Miss.; died Sept. 14, 2015, in Gary, Ind. She was a member of the Mizpah Church, Gary.

Survivors include her husband, Winfield Woodard; sons, Calvin and Mark Dennie;

daughters, Evelyn (Dennie) Thomas, Dawn Dennie, Karen (Dennie) Caldwell and Juanita (Dennie) Offiong; 13 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Philip Willis, and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Hobart, Ind.

**HALVORSEN, Thomas W.**, age 58; born Dec. 6, 1956, in Paw Paw, Mich.; died July 29, 2015, in Kalamazoo, Mich. He was a member of the Glenwood Church, Dowagiac, Mich.

Survivors include his sons, James W., Thomas E. and Scott H.; stepsons, Brandon and Timothy Hughes; daughter, Tonya (Halvorsen) Carr; brothers, Marvin and Jerry; sisters, Sharon Skinner, Ruth Benjamin, Marie McPherson, Linda Owen and Connie Halvorsen; and eleven grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Marvin Halvorsen, with private inurnment.

**HARRIS, Anne (Krpalek)**, age 81; born June 15, 1934, in Borsice, Czechoslovakia; died Aug. 14, 2015, in San Antonio, Texas. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her son, Ronn M.; daughters, Deborah A. Frey and Michel T. McGervey; one grandchild; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted, and entombment was in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, Ill.

**LAUER, Mary F. (Petrella)**, age 87; born Aug. 21, 1928, in Enterprise, Ky.; died Sept. 17, 2015, in Davison, Mich. She was a member of the First Flint (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Ken; daughters, Katherine Hanner, Cheryl Kilpatrick and Teri Culver; brothers, Joe and Clyde Petrella; sisters, Wilhelmina Demaio, Elizabeth Gardner and Kay Hitko; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Justin Ringstaff and Jonathan Chittwood, and interment was in Flint Memorial Park.

**MANN, Jerome**, age 71; born Nov. 25, 1943, in Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; died Aug. 26, 2015, in Sevastopol, Wis. He was a member of the Sturgeon Bay Church.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley

(Scharffenberg); sons, Adlai and Loren; daughters, Eunice Collins and Ramona Klevgard; mother, Jeannette (Wilke) Mann; brother, Jim; sister, Claudia Lindow; one grandchild; five step-grandchildren; nine step-great-grandchildren; and one step-great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Michael Edge, and interment was in Bayside Cemetery, Sturgeon Bay.

**MOHR, Bernyl "Bernie" G.**, age 82; born May 24, 1931, in Hillsdale County, Mich.; died Dec. 28, 2013, in Reading, Penn. He pastored several Michigan churches and the La Crosse (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Lois R. (Feldbauer); son, Steve B.; daughter, Rana R. Kane; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Kris Eckenroth, with private inurnment.

**MORRIS, Jane A.**, age 95; born May 20, 1920, in Haybrook, Minn.; died Sept. 13, 2015, in Green Bay, Wis. She was a member of the Green Bay Church.

Interment was in Foster City (Mich.) Cemetery.

**NOTTELSON, Darrel C.**, age 87; born March 23, 1928, in Wausau, Wis.; died Aug. 3, 2015, in Friendship, Wis. He was a member of the Oxford (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon (Sette); son, David Nottelson; stepsons, Glen and Thomas Bass; daughter, Sonja Ross; stepdaughter, Pamela Ransom; sisters, Phyllis Clementi and Avonne Thompson; nine grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by William Ochs, with private inurnment.

**STEFFEN, Willis E.**, age 93; born Nov. 13, 1921, in Bristol, Wis.; died Aug. 27, 2015, in Ocala, Fla. He was a member of the Bethel and Lancaster churches in Wis.

Survivors include his sons, Thomas and Samuel; daughter, Fairy Eskildsen; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Samuel Garvin, and interment was in Graceland Cemetery, Mineral Point, Wis.



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>.

## Employment

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY BUSINESS DEPARTMENT** seeks finance faculty to begin spring or fall term 2016. Successful candidate will possess proficiency in previous teaching experience. Candidate should hold earned doctorate in finance or related field. Master's candidate with minimum of 18 graduate hours in finance considered. Instruction in multiple areas preferred. Send cover letter and CV to Aaron Moses at [mosesa@swau.edu](mailto:mosesa@swau.edu).

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY** is seeking

applications for a tenure-track faculty position in psychology to begin Sept. 2016. We are seeking an enthusiastic person who will lead and direct WWU's master's program in counseling psychology. An earned doctorate in Clinical or Counseling Psychology or Counselor Education is required. Applicants should be license-eligible in the state of Washington. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC** seeks a faculty member. This individual is responsible for teaching full-time undergraduate and graduate

courses in music history, musicology and research in music. A preferred qualified person should have a Ph.D. in Musicology/Music History. Evidence of excellence in teaching and potential for scholarly activity are essential. Commitment to teamwork and collegiality. Excellent interpersonal skills. Ability to work with students and colleagues with a wide range of national, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/838>.

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY PUBLIC HEALTH/ WELLNESS** seeks administrative assistant. Responsibilities: provide administrative and office support for the department chair. Manages a variety of general office activities by performing various duties described in the full position description. Qualifications: B.A. degree or its equivalent.

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## Lake Union Herald Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

This Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation was filed on September 29, 2015, with the U.S. Postal Service for the *Lake Union Herald*, for publication number 0194-908X, a magazine owned and published by the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 8450 M 139, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-9400; P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. It is published monthly (except June/July and November/December) at a subscription price of \$12.50 (domestic). For further information, contact Gary Burns, editor, or Diane Thurber, managing editor, 269-473-8242, at the same address above.

The following figures for the extent and nature of circulation apply to the year ending with the October 2015 issue of the *Lake Union Herald* and were printed in the November 2015 issue of this publication.

	Average for Year	Actual No. for October Issue
Total number of copies	33,384	34,101
Total paid or requested outside-county mail subs	78	72
Total paid or requested inside-county mail subs	1	0
Sales through dealer, carriers, street vendors	0	0
Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
Total paid and/or requested circulation	78	72
Total free outside-county distribution	30,006	30,385
Total free inside-county distribution	3,300	3,644
Other classes mailed free through USPS	0	0
Total free through carriers or other means	0	0
Total free distribution	33,306	34,029
Total distribution	33,384	34,101
Copies not distributed	231	231
Total	33,615	34,332
Percent paid and/or requested circulation	23%	21%



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as an adjunct voice instructor, he has recorded/appeared on 3ABN and performed as soloist at the 2010 G.C. in Atlanta. For more information, contact Vladimir at [vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com](mailto:vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com) or call 269-473-2826. Appointments accepted through Dec. 31.

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**DEMAND IS HIGH FOR AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE MANAGEMENT** with an expected job growth rate of 17 percent. Southern Adventist University offers both associate and bachelor degrees in automotive service management. Both programs feature hands-on experience with ASE master mechanics and a focus on incorporating

Christ-centered values. Southern students have an 85 percent pass rate on ASE certification exams. Part-time work opportunities are available in the on-campus auto shop. For more information, visit <http://southern.edu/tech>.

**THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT JOB OUTLOOK IS STRONG** with an expected growth rate of 16 percent. Southern Adventist University offers both associate and bachelor degrees in construction management. Students learn to unravel the complex components of commercial and residential construction projects and gain management techniques and leadership skills needed to supervise a job site. Southern's program features hands-on experience while incorporating Christ-centered value. For more information, visit <http://southern.edu/tech>.

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## PARTNERSHIP with GOD Dancing With God



Our friends down the street have been a great addition to our neighborhood. We both moved in about 12 years ago. At our first "block party," we learned their son, Randy, who still holds the Berrien Springs High School record for pole vaulting, has been totally dependent on others for all his physical needs since his senior year from a congenital problem with the blood vessels in his brain. Randy loves life and has a great sense of humor. Randy's I.Q. is higher than mine — much higher, yet his method of communication is limited through facial expressions and vocal signals.

A few weeks ago, Randy and I got closer than we ever had before. We danced! Well, that's what I call it. Randy's mother and father are his primary

caregivers, but currently both are in recovery and unable to move him.

With help, Randy can slide from his bed to a standing position. Then, with my arms around him and leg to leg, we can lean right then left, shifting our weight and shuffling our feet in a 180° waltz across the floor to his wheelchair — and it takes a few measures to make the transition! Then we roll out to the living room and, "one, two, three," stand and waltz to his easy chair.

God has given me a very special gift in Randy that has helped shape this edition of the *Herald*. One day, while we were waltzing through a transition, the words, *You did it unto me*, came to mind. Wow! I was not only in partnership with God, I was dancing with God!

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

# The Touch of the Divine

BY DANIELLE PEREZ

“I’m not interested!” The man turned to walk away, obviously irritated. Normally, I would have gone to the next door, but I felt the distinct impression God wanted to reach him.

“Sir,” I said quickly, “don’t you want something better for your life?”

He turned back toward me, questioning me with his eyes. After a long pause, he asked quietly, “What do you have?”

It was a normal day for me. Well, as normal as “normal” can get in a ten-week canvassing program. It was the middle of July, and while my family and friends were enjoying their summer break, I was living with 20 other young people, knocking on doors and sleeping on floors in spare rooms. Today hadn’t been anything special — most everyone I met was busy or didn’t want what I had to offer. Everyone, that is, except this man.

“What do you have?” I smiled and handed him a copy of *Steps to Christ*, telling him a little about it. He thumbed through, then let his hands drop listlessly to his side.

“I’m leaving for Afghanistan tomorrow.” His voice trembled as he spoke. “I got married a year ago and have a one-month-old son.” His eyes met mine, and I could see tears of confusion and fear welling up.

He shared that he was afraid of war, afraid of death. Would he ever see his family again? “The book in your hands will help you have security of salvation — even if you don’t come back from war,” I said gently. “You can have the hope of seeing your family again.” He nodded thoughtfully, and went into the garage to get his wallet.

“I don’t think it’s a coincidence you came today,” he said, as he walked back toward me. “In fact, I was supposed to be deployed today, but I got a call this morning saying



Danielle Perez

they were delaying the deployment until tomorrow.”

We stood there silently, reverently, letting the enormity of the situation sink in. “God delayed my deployment so I could meet you.” His voice cracked, and I looked up to see tears flowing freely down his face. We prayed together, and I went to the next door, never to see him again.

I’ve reflected on this incident multiple times, awestruck at the timing and wisdom of an omnipotent God. For me, it was a normal day. For Heaven, it was a day filled with promise.

I wish I could say my perspective was completely changed that day, that I learned to see every “normal” day as an opportunity to brush shoulders with people hungering for Jesus. Unfortunately, I have spent far too many days since then worried about work, school, friends, even Facebook or Twitter, not even noticing the precious souls around me.

It is my heart’s cry that I — that we — will be more sensitive to the plans of Heaven. Today is a new day. Will it be “normal,” or will we look for the touch of the Divine?

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Danielle Perez currently is assistant director of literature ministries for the Indiana Conference. She enjoys doing evangelism, reading, spending time with friends, and exploring the great outdoors.



## Stepping Out in Faith

BY JEFF GEHRING

God's power and grace never cease to amaze me. In any situation, at every moment, he is there with us every step of the way. I have always believed God could work miracles, but have never personally experienced one in my life — until the day I stepped out in faith pleading for one.



Jeff Gehring

It was winter 2013. I was on a mission to Mexico and, during this mission trip, we built churches, offered vacation Bible schools, health expos, went door-to-door, and held evangelistic meetings.

David, our Bible worker, approached me and asked me if I would give a sermon for one of the evangelistic meetings. Thinking he was crazy, I was going to tell him "No" but, instead, I told him "Yes." Totally blown away that I said "Yes," I tried to tell him I actually meant to say "No!" But David already told me Sunday would be the day I would preach, and the topic would be Daniel 1. Feeling God spoke to me, telling me I needed to do this, I gave in.

That night I started to prepare for my sermon, but I felt ill. The next four days, I continued to worsen. By the time Sunday rolled around, I had lost my voice and had strep throat. I approached David, and told him, with the little voice I had left, that I wouldn't be able to preach my sermon. David looked me straight in the eye and asked me, "Jeff, where's your faith in God? The devil is trying to prevent you from giving your sermon; God has blessed you with your sermon. Now, preach what God has revealed to you!"

Realizing he was right, we started praying for God to perform a miracle in my life that day.

The time came to leave for the meeting; I tested my voice, and had no voice. Walking into the church, I had no voice. Walking up to give my sermon, no voice.

David handed me the microphone and, with one last giant breath of faith, I started my sermon. The pain was gone, and my voice was back!

Looking back, I see that all we need is faith. God longs to show us how great he is, and wants to help us every day. Are we willing to be used by him?

Jeff Gehring is a junior at Great Lakes Adventist Academy in Cedar Lake, Michigan.

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### THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

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

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

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Adventist Health System: Anthony Vera Cruz [Anthony.VeraCruz@ahss.org](mailto:Anthony.VeraCruz@ahss.org)  
Andrews University: Rebecca May [RMay@andrews.edu](mailto:RMay@andrews.edu)  
Illinois: Shona Cross [scross@illinoisadventist.org](mailto:scross@illinoisadventist.org)  
Indiana: Steve Poenitz [spoenitz@yahoo.com](mailto:spoenitz@yahoo.com)  
Lake Region: Paul Young [communication@lakeregionsda.org](mailto:communication@lakeregionsda.org)  
Michigan: Justin Kim [jkim@msda.org](mailto:jkim@msda.org)  
Wisconsin: Juanita Edge [judge@wi.adventist.org](mailto:judge@wi.adventist.org)

### CORRESPONDENTS

Adventist Health System: Anthony Vera Cruz [Anthony.VeraCruz@ahss.org](mailto:Anthony.VeraCruz@ahss.org)  
Andrews University: Becky St. Clair [stclair@andrews.edu](mailto:stclair@andrews.edu)  
Illinois: Shona Cross [scross@illinoisadventist.org](mailto:scross@illinoisadventist.org)  
Indiana: Betty Eaton [counselbetty@yahoo.com](mailto:counselbetty@yahoo.com)  
Lake Region: Paul Young [communication@lakeregionsda.org](mailto:communication@lakeregionsda.org)  
Michigan: Julie Clark [jclark@msda.org](mailto:jclark@msda.org)  
Wisconsin: Deidre Roat [droat@wi.adventist.org](mailto:droat@wi.adventist.org)

### LAKE UNION CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

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### LOCAL CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONS

**Adventist Health System:** Don Jernigan, president/CEO, 900 Hope Way, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714; 407-357-1000

**Andrews University:** Niels-Erik Andreasen, president, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0670; 269-471-7771.

**Illinois:** Ray Pichette, president; Ron Aguilera, secretary; Michael Daum, treasurer; 619 Plainfield Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527-8438; 630-856-2850.

**Indiana:** Steve Poenitz, president; Mark Eaton, secretary/treasurer; street address: 15205 Westfield Blvd., Carmel, IN 46032; mailing address: P.O. Box 5000, Westfield, IN 46074; 317-844-6201.

**Lake Region:** R. Clifford Jones, president; Timothy Nixon, secretary; Yvonne Collins, treasurer; 8517 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60619; 773-846-2661.

**Michigan:** Jay Gallimore, president; James Micheff Jr., secretary; Leroy Bruch, treasurer; street address: 320 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing, MI 48933; mailing address: P.O. Box 24187, Lansing, MI 48909; 517-316-1500.

**Wisconsin:** Michael G. Edge, president; Brian Stephan, secretary/treasurer; street address: N2561 Old Highway 16, Fall River, WI 53932; mailing address: P.O. Box 100, Fall River, WI 53932; 920-484-6555.

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

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