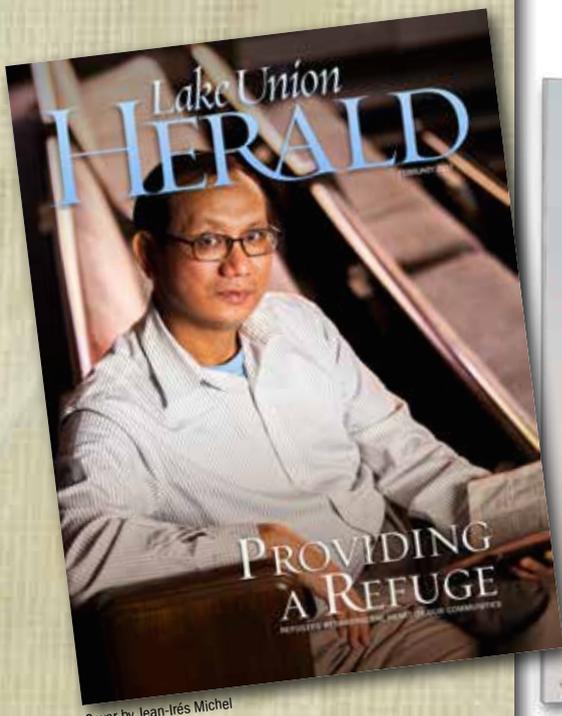
A photograph of a man with glasses and a striped shirt sitting in a chair, holding a newspaper. The background is a blurred interior space with wooden beams.

Lake Union HERALD

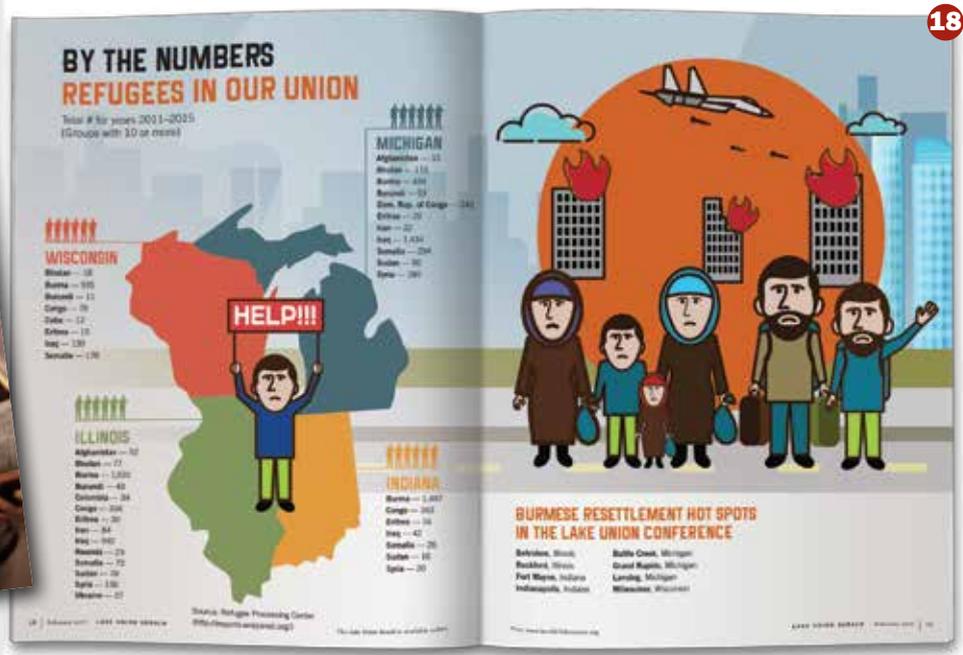
FEBRUARY 2017

PROVIDING A REFUGE

REFUGEES RESHAPING THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITIES



Cover by Jean-Irès Michel



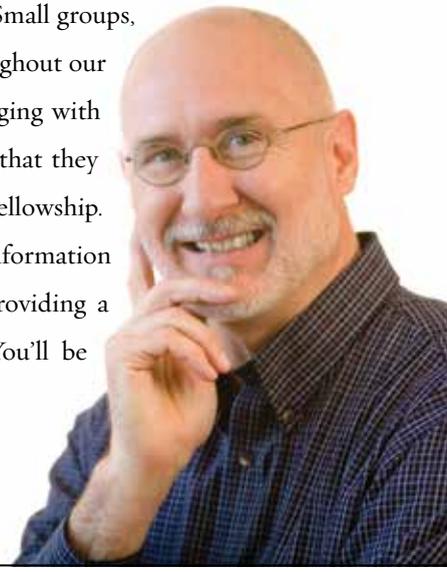
In every issue...

- 3 President's Perspective
- 4 From My Perspective
- 6 Family Focus
- 7 Alive & Well
- 8 Lest We Forget
- 9 Conversations with God
- 10 Sharing our Hope
- 11 Conexiones
- 12 Telling God's Stories
- 22 AHSNews
- 23 Andrews University News
- 24 News
- 32 Announcements
- 33 Mileposts
- 34 Classifieds
- 36 Commission Culture
- 38 One Voice
- 39 On the Edge

In this issue...

I am excited about what is happening throughout the Lake Union with the influx of people from all over the world. Many are responding to the welcome they are receiving from true disciples of Jesus. Small groups, companies and churches are springing up throughout our territory as God's good-news bearers are engaging with people that he is sending to our communities that they might be welcomed, assisted and received into fellowship. This issue provides practical knowledge and information that you can use to join the movement of providing a refuge for those God is sending your way. You'll be inspired as you read their stories.


Gary Burns, Editor



Features...

- 14 Church of Refuge *by Debbie Michel*
- 20 Make a Difference in Your Community

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY DON LIVESAY, LAKE UNION PRESIDENT



Absolute Truth

Adventists like the word, “Truth.” We’ve used phrases like, “He accepted the Truth” and “She is following the Truth,” which usually means a person collectively understands and accepts biblical revelation.

Unlike many modern relativists, I believe in absolute truth. God is absolute truth. God’s righteousness is absolutely right. God’s justice is absolutely just. God’s love is absolutely and unequivocally perfect. While I believe in absolute truth, I don’t believe that anyone on earth, save our Lord and Savior Jesus, has, knows or fully understands absolute truth. Watch out for those who believe differently.

My understanding is that the depths of truth, as related to the plan of redemption, will never be exhausted. We will gain new insights and appreciate new dimensions of God’s plan throughout eternity. It is that deep, that wonderful!

I am a Seventh-day Adventist, not just because my parents were, nor because it’s in my comfort zone. I am an Adventist because I believe God has revealed to this church, to this movement, the most accurate and comprehensive level of truth of any group or church. We may not have absolute truth but, in my view, God has granted this church an exceptional level of understanding of his character — a truth that is profoundly needed in this world bent on destruction.

Of all truth, the cross is most central to Adventist theology. It’s the power of our message. The cross reveals God’s loving character and his relentless commitment to save those who will receive him. The demonstration of God’s love on the cross, while establishing the perpetuity and unchangeability of God’s law of love, is the only way to ensure a final and eternal elimination of sin. Christ’s path to the cross informs us of our origins — why we are in this mess, and it identifies the source of the problem: Lucifer, the one God had established as the covering cherub, perfect in every respect until sin was found in him (see Ezekiel 28:13–15). Sin is the problem, and our eternally loving and self-sacrificing Creator/Redeemer is the solution. I am so thankful that I was introduced to this great truth from an early age and am compelled to share the true character of God.

God’s character cannot be dissected into truth and love; they are one and the same. Truth lovingly looks outside of self. True love makes a difference in the lives of others. True love treats enemies with concern, care and prayer. True love does not condemn, it connects! False or mislabeled love does not stand on biblical truth and becomes a perversion.

We are commissioned to proclaim truth that demonstrates God’s love. In fact, it will be our privilege to testify to unfallen worlds the truth of God’s loving character from the perspective of fallen and redeemed humanity who have experienced the graceful love of God. To say that God is love without demonstrating God’s love in our lives will have little or no power to draw people to Christ. Truth presented in an unloving way turns people against rather than drawing them towards a relationship.

So, we must ask, is our truth merely an intellectual understanding, or the reality of God’s true character in our lives? Biblical truth must also be heart truth — and in that order. The heart touched by the love of God will respond, sharing that overwhelming experience with others. Let’s make sure our hearts are in line with, and motivated by, God’s love. It’s absolutely true!



God's Migrant Strategy

BY SCOTT GRISWOLD

God is an amazing strategist who accomplishes his purposes in the most surprising ways. Migration is one of them! At the Tower of Babel, God divided the languages and sent a huge crowd in a hundred directions to preserve the world from an anti-God monopoly. Later, he had Abraham migrate from an idolatrous town to establish a family-nation that would keep God's name alive. A persecuted boy named Joseph went on a forced migration to Egypt where God promoted him from prisoner to prime minister to provide for famine refugees. After 490 years, God sent Moses to lead a mass migration to escape a murderous regime that used infanticide to control an ethnic minority.

The more I look in the Bible, the more I see immigrants, refugees and even international students, like Daniel and his three friends. Jesus himself entered into the refugee scene, fleeing Herod to Egypt and re-settling to a new hometown, Nazareth, to avoid danger.

As refugee crises continue to spill over borders, immigrants pour into America at a rate of about two million a year and international students study at our universities in record numbers, we should look carefully for God's strategy. Obviously God is not behind any of the world's suffering but, as One who sees everything coming and One who works all things together for good, we should expect to see his hand.

One quote from Ellen White has repeatedly stirred me in this area. "We should be able to see in the multiplying opportunities to reach many foreigners in America a divinely appointed means of rapidly extending the third angel's message into all the nations of earth. God in his providence has brought men to our very doors and thrust them, as it were, into our arms, that they might learn the truth, and be qualified to do a work we could not do in getting the



Scott Griswold

light before men of other tongues" (*Review & Herald*, October 29, 1914).

To make clear the urgency of this strategy, all we need to ask is, "Where are they coming from?" They are coming from the unreached countries of the world. There remain 4,054 distinct ethnic groups with less than two percent evangelical Christians (see joshuaproject.net). Presently there are 85 unreached people groups that have migrated to the United States. Some are large, like the Urdu with an American population of 297,000, mostly Islam with zero percent

Christian. Some are small, like the 4,700 Central Tibetans with two percent Christian. The amazing list reads like a frontier mission's call list.

At Pentecost, . . . *there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven* (Acts 2:5 NIV). I think we could say, ". . . there are living in America people *from every nation under heaven.*"

Are we awake to this? Are we strategic? We must rise to this challenge at every level of our church. Every conference, every union throughout the North American division can look at who is coming to North America and form



As refugee crises continue to spill over borders, immigrants pour into America at a rate of about two million a year and international students study at our universities in record numbers, we should look carefully for God's strategy.

a strategic plan. While we have needs among our current members, we have a Gospel Commission mandate to engage those who have never had an opportunity to hear the gospel in their own language and cultural context.

The first step is to find out who among the unreached has God brought to your district. You can easily get that information from the Joshua Project [website]. Then you can turn to specific ethnic demographic information on your metro areas through the excellent research at <http://www.people-groups.info> or individual town information about refugees at <http://ireports.wrapsnet.org>. This will enable you to see which of the unreached people groups live near you.

Then vote a priority list of unreached people groups in your territory. Determine the size of the population. (To what degree they can be considered unreached and their level of openness which often depends on how recently they arrived.) This can be followed by strategic plans for community service, witnessing and church planting. An example is the new church plant in the Indianapolis area among the nearly 15,000 Burmese refugees, through an initiative of the Indiana Conference. Indiana is the second (after Texas) most popular destination for U.S.-bound Burmese refugees.

Leaders often see the need and the opportunity, but recognize they do not have sufficient funds. Perhaps after identifying your priority unreached list, you could place information about your initiative on your website with an invitation for people to pray about becoming a volunteer to serve, and for donations to support ministry and church planting. I am confident that many church members would rise to the challenge. Thousands could be inspired to give to these initiatives to reach these populations and be trained

for full-time or volunteer service specifically for these projects.

The Unions can encourage this work, fostering it across conference lines where one ethnic pastor could serve several scattered groups throughout the Union's territory.

The Division is best suited to gather the leadership for a coordinated effort. Its emphasis on church planting and emerging immigrants can be combined to call the entire church to provide special care to the unreached.

However, ultimately, it is up to each of us to hear Jesus' individual call to go make disciples of every nation. You and I can develop an eye that is constantly watching with prayer for people of other cultures and religions. We can easily learn to befriend them and witness to them. I would encourage readers to visit <http://www.reachtheworldnextdoor.com> where we have gathered many ideas and resources regarding caring for immigrants, refugees and international students.

As my wife and I have wrestled with this, we have felt God's call to relocate to Houston, Texas, where over 4,000 new refugees arrive every year and thousands of unreached people have migrated. God may not call you to the other side of the States or to another country, but he does ask you to turn strategic attention to those who have arrived in your communities from unreached countries. God is giving us an incredible opportunity to participate in his plan to include these special people as citizens of heaven.

Scott Griswold has served as a missionary in Southeast Asia, a pastor of multicultural churches, and associate director of *ASAP Ministries* in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He is currently starting a Reach the World Next Door cross-cultural missionary training center.



Talking to Our Children about Refugees

BY INGRID SLIKKERS

There have been refugees since Biblical times; however, due to the current world-wide refugee crisis, many refugees are in our communities which produces political controversy with opinions discussed, not only in the public sector, but in our homes and churches. So, how do we talk to our children about this?

Sometimes the recommendation is to wait until a child brings up a topic or asks a question before discussing it. Chances are your child has heard things about this, especially in the months prior to the elections with unbarred verbalization of opinion that infiltrated even into the most intimate family



circles. Earlier this year, Guillermo Fouce, Ph.D., president of Psychologists Without Borders, said “Children are not oblivious to what happens in their environment, and when something is on everyone’s lips, they understand it.”

Experts agree that pictures are important in helping not to dehumanize, however, children may feel frightened by images they have seen from media sources and may need reinforcement in their sense of safety. As they get older they can benefit from hearing actual stories. Encourage them to look up words like “refugee” in the dictionary. The Bible also is a good source to gain understanding and perspective. Stories from the experience of the Children of Israel and Mary and Joseph fleeing with Baby Jesus to Egypt as refugees can start a conversation at family worship times. Encourage them to imagine how it would feel to flee and what it would be like to live in a refugee camp in a foreign land.

The United Nations High Council on Refugees reported this past summer that there have never been this many displaced people on earth with over 65 million people who are fleeing due to war and persecution. It is estimated that

approximately 50 percent of these are children, many unaccompanied by a relative adult. As a family you can pray for the refugee families, the unaccompanied children and the world leaders that have to make decisions regarding their care.

Children may express a desire to be involved; there are many ways this can

be accomplished. Ask your children if they know any students attending their school who may be refugees. Ask them how they can be like Jesus in their interactions with them. Ask how they would want to be treated if they found themselves in a new school in a different country.

It is vital to have open dialogue and acknowledge the spectrum of feelings. Older children can engage in discussions about policy and programs; you could ask how they would address the current refugee crisis if it was up to them.

Most of us have a story of immigration in our family’s history. Share what you know of your own family’s story with your children. For some, it may be generations ago, but imagine what it would be like to be in their shoes.

As a mom, I’ve learned that it is okay to admit that I don’t have all the answers to my children’s questions. But together, we can go to Matthew 25 and talk about what it means to care for strangers.

Ingrid Slikkers is an assistant professor in social work at Andrews University.



The Sunshine Vitamin

BY SHERINE BROWN-FRASER

Whenever I ask someone, “What is the Sunshine Vitamin?” the common, iconic answer is usually Vitamin C. Well, I can understand this response since Vitamin C is a key nutrient found in some citrus fruits such as oranges, grapefruits and lemons, plus non-citrus fruits such as pineapples, papayas and kiwis — fruits typically grown in the “Sunshine States.” However, while Vitamin C is a very important nutrient, metabolically, Vitamin D is the true Sunshine Vitamin. This vitamin may even bring sunshine to your heart.

What is Vitamin D? Vitamin D is both a vitamin and a hormone naturally made in our bodies to maintain overall health. It is synthesized by our skin when exposed to sunlight. Vitamin D supports healthy bones, the heart, kidneys, muscle, immune system, with some evidence in preventing certain cancers.

Why do we need Vitamin D? Specifically, Vitamin D has quite an impressive list of functions. For example, Vitamin D:

Regulates over 200 genes throughout the body.

Is heart-friendly: Vitamin D is recognized as being important for heart health. Vitamin D helps muscles function and regulates blood pressure.

Maintains strong bones and teeth: This is its major role. Vitamin D helps calcium and phosphorus absorption in our bodies in order to get these minerals to our bones and teeth.

Communicates: Supports the nervous system allowing the brain and body to communicate.

Is a fighter: The immune system needs Vitamin D to fight off invading bacteria and viruses.

Helps control blood sugar levels in the pancreas.

May prevent cancer: Vitamin D prevents abnormal cells from multiplying out of control in breast and colon tissues. Although the evidence is unclear, studies have looked at the effects of Vitamin D with or without calcium on colorectal,



cervical, breast and prostate cancers. Positive results have been reported; however, there is a lack of consistent or strong evidence.

How do I get Vitamin D? There are three ways to get Vitamin D: the sun, your diet or supplements. Very few foods naturally have Vitamin D, which

is why foods may be fortified. Although you can find Vitamin D in fortified orange juice, plant-based milk (or cow’s milk), mushrooms grown under UV lights, and fatty, fish-like salmon, **sunlight** is the **strongest** natural source for Vitamin D. About 10–15 minutes of moderate summer sun can give you 3,000–5,000 IU of Vitamin D. You would have to drink approximately 30–40 cups of whole milk to match that amount.

So, get out there and enjoy the sunlight, sensibly, in moderation, even in winter, if possible. Be careful to avoid extended exposure to sunlight without sunscreen. While you are out there, basking in the rays, sing a happy tune! Here’s one you may know . . . “There is sunshine in my soul today, more glorious and bright.” And, remember, in Christ we make healthy choices.

Sherine Brown-Fraser, Ph.D., RD, CPT, is the chair and associate professor of Public Health, Nutrition and Wellness at Andrews University. She is a nutritional biochemist and new mom who resides in Berrien Springs, Michigan, with her husband, Handel, and daughter, Samantha.



LEST WE FORGET

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

Remember This

BY GEORGE R. KNIGHT

And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. And he said to the people of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground'" (Joshua 4:20–22 RSV).

Those weren't just any old rocks! Each had special meaning. They were stones of remembrance, stones of history. The rocks themselves were common enough, resembling millions of others on the hills of Palestine. But these 12 pointed to something. They looked back to God's leading in Israel's experience.

The Bible is a historical book based upon a series of events beginning with Creation and the entrance of sin and flowing through God's covenant with Abraham, the Exodus, Israel's captivity and restoration, the incarnation and virgin birth of Jesus, his sinless life and death on the cross, the resurrection and the Second Advent.

Thus the Bible is a book of remembrance of God's miraculous leading of his people.

When churches lose the significance of those remembrances, they are in trouble. Adrift from their mooring, they have lost their way. In the Judeo-Christian realm, losing the way begins with forgetting the past — more specifically, forgetting God's leading in the past.

When that happens, Christians lose their sense of identity. And with a lack of identity comes a vanishing mission and purpose. After all, if you don't know who you are in relation to God's plan, what do you have to tell the world?

Christian history is littered with religious bodies who have forgotten where they have come from, and, as a result, have no direction for the future. That forgetting is a very real temptation for Adventism. It was no accident that an aging Ellen White alerted her readers to the topic. "In reviewing our past history," she penned, "having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history" (*Life Sketches*, p. 196).

As we shall see in our journey through Adventism's history, our church has its own stones of remembrance.

We neglect them at our peril.

We are happy to announce that "Lest We Forget," by George R. Knight, will be a regular column to give us an historical perspective on current issues. George R. Knight is a retired professor of church history at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. This article is from his book, *Lest We Forget*, a daily devotional, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, page nine, printed by permission.

A Leader on His Knees

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGIEND

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said: "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with those who love Him and obey His commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel" (Nehemiah 1:4–6, 8–9, 11).

Once heard a pastor say, "I do the preaching. I leave the praying up to my people." That pastor had it wrong! Nehemiah had it right! He was a leader on his knees. Prayer shaped his life and undergirded his leadership role in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and laying new foundations for God's covenant community.

Nehemiah was a high-level official in the court of Artaxerxes, king of the Medo-Persian empire. When a Jewish brother reported to him the disgraceful condition of the Jewish remnant and the city of Jerusalem, Nehemiah was devastated. He immediately began to fast and pray over the situation. How many strong leaders start by weeping over evil? The prayer that follows is a model worth emulating.

Nehemiah begins with adoration: *O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love.* Praise to God always puts things in perspective and fortifies faith.

He then moves to heart-searching confession: *I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you.* Notice that he includes himself. He acknowledges his part in the problem. Good prayer never overlooks personal guilt.

Next, he pleads the promise God made to gather his people from the ends of the earth and bring them back to Jerusalem if they return to him and obey his commands. "It's time now," Nehemiah is saying to God. "We have met your criterion. Now we humbly claim your promise and expect you to intervene in our behalf."

Finally, Nehemiah makes a forthright request to God, a request that will initiate the undertaking

that will lead to the restoration of Jerusalem. His prayer is: *Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.* "This man" was Artaxerxes for whom Nehemiah was cupbearer. The "favor" he needed was to be released from his position and sent, with provisions, to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah didn't just pray about the problem. He was ready to be involved. He reported for duty. Prayer can easily be a cop-out: "God, here's a problem. Please do something about it, would you?" If, having prayed a prayer like that, you were to tune your ear to God, you might hear him saying something like, "I *am* concerned, but I normally work through people. Are you willing to do whatever I call you to do?" Nehemiah was. That's what made him a great leader.

Whether the difficult situations we face are large or small, here's a good pattern to follow: Start with praise; move on to confession; plead the promises of God; make a specific request; and then report for duty. God likes that kind of praying.

Alvin J. VanderGriend is co-founder of the Denominational Prayer Leader's 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.

Fostering Hope

BY DEBBIE MICHEL

Twenty-five years ago Carmen Ogando heard the heartbreaking news. Children were entering the United States without parents, many of them suffering through traumatic situations such as rape and human trafficking experienced in their home countries.

The caring grandmother, herself an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, knew she couldn't just sit back and do nothing. She agreed to open her heart and her doors to three boys from Cuba. It didn't go so well. "One was doing fine, but the others had problems in school — broke my windows," she recalled. The boys lived with her for several months and their behavior became worse to the point where they landed in jail and Carmen vowed to never take any more children.

But then, eight years later, she was told of children in greater need, some escaping harrowing circumstances from places such as Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Mexico. How could she say no? "My heart was moved toward compassion," she reflected. She took action, with a deep conviction this is what we ought to be doing.

The journey wasn't easy. The children stretched the retired teacher's skills. "There were times when they didn't show love in return," and it baffled her. She came to the realization that the children had never been shown love and began to understand they didn't know how to "speak the language of love."

Carmen patiently taught them respect, obedience and love. She'd gather the children in her bedroom for worship and teach them to read from the Bible. She gave them notebooks and asked them questions to direct their thinking. These moments sparked conversations that would open up a window into their grieving souls.



Carmen Ogando shares her hope with refugee foster children in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

As Carmen reminisces about these times, she's thankful that she could share the source of her love and gradually soften the children's hearts toward their Eternal Father.

Over the years, she has fostered about two dozen children and is grateful for the opportunity to have helped some of them make a decision to follow Christ. One of the girls, now a hospital employee, got married and has children that this sacrificial grandmother is helping to raise.

Another girl Carmen helped for a brief time met one of the boys she had fostered. Both were baptized and are looking forward to marriage. They call her "mommy," a humbling

role she treasures.

At 73, Carmen hasn't slowed down. She's the leader of the Primary Sabbath school class at the Maranatha Hispanic Church in Grand Rapids and continues to open her doors to children in need.

"Even though I'm not Jesus, I can feed these children as Jesus did," she said, in between preparing food to take to her church one recent afternoon. "God has asked us to help those who are less fortunate."

Debbie Michel is associate communication director of the Lake Union Conference.

There is an urgent need for committed foster parents to refugee children in West Michigan. If you're interested, please visit: <http://www.bethany.org>.



La influencia valiosa de la mujer

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Enseñe a nuestras hermanas que la pregunta que deben hacer cada día es: -Señor, ¿qué quieres que haga?-. Cada vaso consagrado a Dios, recibirá diariamente una medida del santo aceite para que a su vez lo vacíe en otros vasos. Cada día debemos avanzar en nuestro carácter cristiano, y buscar las oportunidades de hacer la obra y la voluntad de Dios. Cada palabra hablada; cada trabajo realizado para Cristo, tendrá una influencia permanente. Hable las palabras que Dios ponga en sus labios y el Señor obrará con usted. No se desanime ni se frustre, aunque vea cosas que no puede aprobar (Hijas de Dios, p.137).

No hay duda alguna que de todas las personas que he conocido mi madre ha sido la que más ha impactado mi vida. Aun en la niñez yo notaba que ella no era feliz y que buscaba a Dios en diferentes maneras; es que ella sabía que vivir en este mundo sin Dios no puede dar paz. Cuando encontró la Iglesia Adventista tuvo la seguridad de haber hallado el camino verdadero. Con mucho tacto empezó a presentarnos el mensaje de los tres ángeles y como consecuencia de su influencia, mi hermano y yo nos bautizamos en la Iglesia Adventista dos años después. Dos años más tarde mi padre y mi hermana tomaron también el mismo paso.

Al pensar en lo que hizo mi madre hace ya más de cuarenta años, he aprendido que la influencia de una mujer consagrada a Dios es algo que no se puede medir. A veces pensamos que los ancianos y los pastores son las personas más importantes en la iglesia. Sin embargo, creo personalmente, que sin la influencia de las mujeres en nuestras iglesias los pastores no tendrían iglesias para pastorear. Por esa razón me alegro mucho que nuestras asociaciones y la Unión auspicien retiros preparados especialmente para mujeres, para así animar y aumentar su influencia en el cuerpo de Dios.

Al Departamento Multicultural de la Unión de Lago le toca este año 2017 auspiciar el Retiro de Damas que se acostumbra tener año por medio. El retiro será el primer fin de semana de junio -del 2 al 4- en el edificio Howard



Katia Reinert, oradora principal del Retiro de Damas

Performing Arts en la Universidad Andrews. La oradora principal será la Dra. Katia Reinert, Directora Asociada de Ministerios de Salud de la Asociación General. Como es costumbre, se ofrecerá una variedad de seminarios que serán de mucha bendición para quienes asistan. Agradezco a las coordinadoras de los ministerios de damas de las cinco asociaciones por su disposición de unirse para coordinar este evento especial. Quiero animar a las mujeres de nuestra Unión a inscribirse con la directora

local del ministerio de damas y así aprovechar este evento tan especial. Sé que el ir a este retiro será de inspiración y apoyo espiritual para quienes asistan como también para las personas que se relacionen con ellas.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



Falling from a Roof . . . into Ministry

BY MITCHELL GRIFFIN

My dad and I were doing yard work a few days before Thanksgiving in 2010. The rest of my family was practicing at our church school for my youngest brother's Thanksgiving program that was to take place later that evening. We had accomplished everything except removing leaves from the roof. After the most difficult part of the roof was clean, my dad told me, "I can finish this part; go inside and get ready to go." As I was changing into my dress clothes, my cell phone rang. It was my dad calling, "Mitchell, I fell off the roof! Come and help me!"

Never in my life had I bounded up the stairs and outside as quickly as I did. There, lying on our deck, was my dad.

"What happened?!" I said.

"I don't know how, but the ladder slid out from under me."

At this point, I could tell my dad was in shock and hadn't noticed his wrist and all the bones pushing against his skin. It was severely broken. I helped my dad to his feet and we walked inside. That's when he saw his wrist and all of the broken bones.

My dad is a dentist and sees blood on a regular basis without feeling queasy. On this particular day, however, he found out that he couldn't handle the sight of his own broken bones, because he started to pass out while we were walking into the house. My dad is 6'1" and 200 pounds; at the time, I was 5'10" and 130 pounds. I tried to stop his fall but it turned into a guided path to the floor.

"I'm calling 911," I said.

"Call your mother. I don't need an ambulance," he relayed.

I called her, praying she had her phone with her.

"Hello," said my mom. "I'm practicing with the choir. What's up?"

"Mom, Dad fell off the roof," I responded. "You need to come home right now."

She didn't even say "bye." All I know is she made a six-minute trip in three minutes flat.

This was a few days before Thanksgiving, and our family was supposed to leave for my grandparents' house in Maryland the next day. By the time my mom arrived, my dad's wrist had swollen to the size of a grapefruit. After I got my dad in the car, my mom handed me her credit card and said, "Take care of your brothers." Then she headed out the door with my dad to the emergency room.

I went out on our deck and realized that my dad had placed the ladder on wet leaves. The only thing I could think was, "Would this have happened if I had been there to hold the ladder?" Breaking a bone is one thing, but completely shattering your wrist is quite another. This really bothered me for a long time.

To break his fall, he stuck his left arm out to protect his head and neck, and that's what caused his wrist to break. The doctor said if he wouldn't have done that, he could have broken his neck and died instantly. So, looking back, the worst thing didn't happen. I still have my dad.

Over the past couple of years, I have seen my dad's highs and lows. When he arrived at the conclusion he would no longer be able to practice dentistry, he was really low. When he sold his practice, he was very sad to have to walk away from what he loved doing. He tried to put on a tough face for his family, but I could tell he was hurting. Although healing has occurred, his wrist doesn't have complete range of motion and his deep tissue is still slightly numb. When using fine motor skills he has a slight tremor, which is what



Kathy and Randy Griffin, with their children Gabe, Nick and Mitch.

Sarah Painter

keeps him from practicing full-time dentistry.

After transitioning away from daily dental practice, Ron Whitehead, executive director of Pathfinder Camporee and Lake Union Conference youth director, became aware of my dad's "free time" and asked him to be the Night Time program director for the 2014 Oshkosh Pathfinder Camporee. This was a stressful but very rewarding job. It took two years of planning and countless meetings to get everything just right. After the last play had finished and the fireworks were exploding, I saw my dad with tears in his eyes. He said, "In spite of the challenges, this went very well! What a good feeling."

What I've seen happen in my dad's life is nothing short of a miracle. Many people would have been angry at God and given up. Not once did I hear my dad complain about the situation he was in. Instead, he has told everyone that, "If it was God's will for me to fall, then I'm glad it happened

because I am very happy with where He has taken me. I am able to serve in a whole new way."

Currently, he is happily working as the Adventist Community Health Initiative director for the Lake Union Conference. He works with churches in the Lake Union and helps to facilitate health expos and free dental and eye care clinics with portable equipment. God really does have a strange way of telling us there is another road He wants us to take. Whether it is a sad breakup, a car accident or a severely shattered wrist, he will always be with us and show us his plan for our lives.

Mitchell Griffin is a senior at Southern Adventist University. He graduates this spring with a bachelor of science in public relations.

If you have a story that gives evidence of God working in your or someone else's life, we'd like to hear from you. Please email: herald@lakeunion.org



CHURCH OF REFUGE

BURMESE REFUGEES IN BATTLE CREEK

BY DEBBIE MICHEL

When Niang Lian Jung arrived from Burma nearly four years ago, she had much reason for hope. She could now worship freely, no longer living in fear of persecution by the Buddhist government that controlled the south-eastern Asia country, also known as Myanmar. Niang settled in Tennessee and began attending a Spanish Adventist church with the goal of forging a new life alongside fellow believers.

Except, it didn't go as planned.

Though the congregation was warm and made her feel welcome, she missed praying and worshipping in her native Zomi language. In a city without many Burmese refugees, she felt her faith slipping. "I felt spiritually weak," she said, recalling those dark days.

After a year in Tennessee, her sister convinced her to join her in Battle Creek, Michigan, home to a fast-growing Burmese refugee population.

Speaking to us through an interpreter, she told of her elation at finding a thriving refugee community when she stepped into the Battle Creek Tabernacle Church. "I felt at home," she said, her face beaming as she was surrounded by other Adventists from Burma.

Refugees, such as Niang, are pouring into many of our communities in significant numbers. According to the Refugee Processing Center, in the five-year period from January 1, 2011, to January 1, 2016, some 79,000 Burmese refugees entered the U.S. and, of that number, 15,000 settled within the four states of our union — Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin.

During several interviews, a portrait of a faithful group of Burmese refugees emerges who have a strong desire to rebuild their shattered lives but also feel the need to hold on

to cultural traditions. They are a mixture of young, old and a few college-educated professionals, eeking out a life in a land where the political rhetoric can, at times, cast them in a harsh light.

The historic Battle Creek Dime Tabernacle has anchored an Adventist community since the 1800s when Battle Creek became central to Adventist leadership and the work of the church. Over the last five years, this 750-member congregation has seen its Burmese attendance swell from a handful to more than 60 today. Members were happy to see the newcomers arrive, going out of their way to help them find warm clothing, housing and jobs. While the refugees seemed content, over time, a disturbing picture began to emerge.

Shirley Finneman first noticed the children. During children's story, they listened with rapt attention. She was thrilled to see the children so engaged but soon realized it was not as it appeared. "I found out the mothers were telling the children, 'Watch the American children. When they laugh, you laugh,'" said Shirley. "It *looked like* they were understanding, but they weren't."

When Shirley, a retired public health nurse, discovered that the refugee families had no clue as to what was being said during the worship service, she decided to take action, starting with Sabbath school.

Burmese refugee Sb Ngaih Cin ministers to the Zomi groups in Battle Creek and Grand Rapids.

Photo by Jean-Isis Michel

AS THE REFUGEES SAW THE EXTENT OF SHIRLEY'S CARE TOWARD THEM, THEY OPENED UP.

“The first thing I did was to get older girls to translate songs so mothers would know what was going on,” she said. “Lots of time in Sabbath school you’d have themes that you didn’t know were Bible themes because you’d have tractors and farms which we’d then put to a spiritual application.” But, she says, this left the children confused.

Shirley met with the Sabbath school teachers and counseled them to “Tell Bible stories and, when telling stories, point to the pictures so at least if they see a picture, they’ll understand.”

It soon became clear to Shirley that the children also needed to be taught in their native language. They were learning English at school but she felt it was important for them to retain their native language to maintain communication with their parents and grandparents.

After some resistance from the refugees who told her they felt inadequate to teach Sabbath school, Niang approached her.

Niang, it turns out, was a former kindergarten teacher and well suited for the task. While living in Burma she completed distance education classes and, before fleeing, was just two classes shy of a receiving her master’s degree in elementary education from the Philippine-based Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies.

With encouragement from Shirley, Niang taught the children songs and Bible lessons in their native Zomi language and, before long, the children were performing those songs during the worship service. This boosted Niang’s confidence, knowing she could share her talents with the congregation.

As the refugees saw the extent of Shirley’s care toward them, they opened up. “Until you become friends, they don’t share,” she said. They struggled to adapt to the American culture, and language was a big factor. “I could see in their eyes that they were discouraged,” she said. They told her, “We’re in a new place; we don’t know the language — we’re totally cut off.”

Shirley remembered the success she’d had learning a foreign language while stationed in Japan with her military chaplain father, using hymnals and the Bible. She asked to borrow one of their hymnals and requested songs they’d like

to sing. “They picked out songs like ‘The Lord’s our Rock, in him we hide, a shelter in a time of storm;’ it was clear they needed to know the Lord was with them.”

She had them first sing in their own language and then repeat the song in English. When they had trouble pronouncing their r’s, she felt impressed to have them sing the hymn, “Redeemed.”

“As we sang,” she said she noticed, “the Holy Spirit would come and encourage them,” which helped form a tight bond with the group. “They knew I knew what they were singing, and it brought them courage that someone else cared.”

In a few weeks, several of the men had learned enough English to get jobs in the factory. It was gratifying, she said, to see them “have courage and know the Lord was with them.”

Tuan Go Pau, 34, was tapped to teach the adult Sabbath school class. Armed with bachelor and master’s degrees in Business Administration from Spicer Memorial College in India, he fled Burma because he felt if he remained he would never realize his full potential. Despite his level of education, Christians who make up less than 10 percent of the population routinely face discrimination.

In 2008, when he entered the refugee camp in Malaysia, he noticed, to his dismay, that the government prevented the refugee children from attending public schools. He volunteered to teach the children and, in the process, created a formal learning center that was serving 100 children by the time he left.

Shortly after his arrival in the U.S. in 2011, Tuan was offered employment with Catholic Charities as a social worker in Tucson, Arizona. While the work was fulfilling, similar to Niang’s experience, he grew lonely and, after a year, left to join relatives in Battle Creek.

When he visited Battle Creek Tabernacle, there were only a few refugees and “they didn’t go to church much,” he recalled. “When they did go, most didn’t understand anything.”

When the church elected Tuan to serve on their board as a liaison with the refugees, he knew the priority was their spiritual wellbeing. But, he wasn’t a trained pastor and none was in their midst.



Christiana Michel

Battle Creek Church member Shirley Finneman noticed that the Burmese refugees were struggling to understand the worship service and supported them in a push to have a service in their language.

Around this time, Shirley was invited to a Zomi camp meeting in Indianapolis. There she was introduced to Sb Ngaih Cin, a refugee who arrived in Grand Rapids with his wife and three children in March 2012.

Sb had received his undergraduate degree in religion from Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary and a master's degree in education from Spicer Memorial College, and had worked for several years as a pastor and principal in Burma.

He found it difficult to organize evangelistic meetings and it was not uncommon for pastors to face jail time for preaching. He also felt oppressed under the military regime that forced its citizens to repair schools and roads, often on the Sabbath.

In 2008, he went to Thailand in search of a teaching position but found nothing. It was a similar story in Malaysia, so he settled for various odd jobs as a factory worker, hotel receptionist and bakery cashier.

When Sb arrived in Grand Rapids, he was optimistic about the future, if not for himself, then his children. He joined the Grand Rapids Wyoming Church and became an active member, serving as elder.

The Wyoming Church also was experiencing its own infusion of Burmese refugees, but since they weren't counted separately from the rest of the church population, their growth went largely unnoticed.

At the Zomi camp meeting, where Shirley's and Sb's paths crossed, they discussed combining their efforts to minister to the burgeoning group. Most of the Burmese refugees were Christians and they concluded this was a prime opportunity to not only do inreach amongst the Burmese Adventist, but also spread the Three Angels' message beyond. "God is sending us trained workers so they can more quickly share the gospel," Shirley noted with excitement. "Ellen White talks about this. God in his providence has thrust these people into our arms to evangelize that they can reach people of their own culture."

The refugee group leaders decided to move forward in faith and began offering worship services in their native languages. While Sb works in a factory assembling wires for electronics, he has taken on the additional role as volunteer

pastor for the Grand Rapids and Battle Creek groups. Once a month he travels to Battle Creek and conducts services there, while the group in Grand Rapids now meets in a facility provided by a Sunday church which has allowed them to use the facilities all day on Sabbaths. Sb said that this has lifted the Battle Creek group's spirits. "Everyone can now sing and participate."

It's a step many such as Sam Ngala, pastor of Hope Adventist Church, a Burmese church plant in Indianapolis, are elated to see happen, while acknowledging more needs to be done, such as hiring more pastors. Sam is one of only two Burmese pastors in the Lake Union. "Many times leadership says, 'in order to hire more pastors we need a level of tithing to match.' But [the refugees] don't earn enough. If we wait, it's too late."

Meanwhile, Shirley and the Burmese refugees are prayerfully moving forward with grand plans for the future. They have stepped out in faith and are holding classes for immigrants in the Burma Center, a non-profit entity established in a former Battle Creek public school. Niang and Tuan have volunteered to help teach English as a Second Language (ESL) and conversational English classes, sewing, quilting, needlework and health classes.

It's a mission that's stretched heavenward. "There are places in Burma our [missionaries] cannot go," Shirley maintained. "We're able to reach four tribes here in Battle Creek that we've never been able to reach before."

And, it's a vision that Niang and others have caught. While she works in a factory assembling car parts, she believes that God is assembling refugees here in the U.S. for such a time as this: "God has brought me here to minister to my community."

Debbie Michel is associate communication director for the Lake Union Conference.



Niang Lian Jung agreed to teach the children's Sabbath school class in the Zomi language, a move that triggered parents to attend church more regularly.



When Tuan Go Pau arrived at the Battle Creek Church in 2013, he was one of the first Burmese refugees. He has watched the group grow to more than 60.

BY THE NUMBERS

REFUGEES IN OUR UNION

Total # for years 2011–2015
(Groups with 10 or more)



MICHIGAN

Afghanistan — 33
 Bhutan — 119
 Burma — 434
 Burundi — 53
 Dem. Rep. of Congo — 242
 Eritrea — 29
 Iran — 22
 Iraq — 1,434
 Somalia — 294
 Sudan — 96
 Syria — 180



WISCONSIN

Bhutan — 18
 Burma — 935
 Burundi — 11
 Congo — 79
 Cuba — 12
 Eritrea — 15
 Iraq — 139
 Somalia — 178



ILLINOIS:

Afghanistan — 52
 Bhutan — 77
 Burma — 1,031
 Burundi — 43
 Columbia — 34
 Congo — 316
 Eritrea — 30
 Iran — 84
 Iraq — 592
 Rwanda — 23
 Somalia — 72
 Sudan — 78
 Syria — 130
 Ukraine — 27



INDIANA

Burma — 1,497
 Congo — 163
 Eritrea — 16
 Iraq — 42
 Somalia — 26
 Sudan — 10
 Syria — 20



Source: Refugee Processing Center
 (<http://ireports.wrapsnet.org/>)



BURMESE RESETTLEMENT HOT SPOTS IN THE LAKE UNION CONFERENCE

Belvidere, Illinois
Rockford, Illinois
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Indianapolis, Indiana

Battle Creek, Michigan
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Lansing, Michigan
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

PERSONALLY

- Prayerfully study the Great Commission and the inspired counsels on the “heaven-sent opportunity” to reach out to “The Stranger in Our Midst” — people from other nations at <http://www.bit.ly/AdvRefMin>.
- Get acquainted with refugees and immigrants near your church. “It is acquaintance that awakens sympathy, and sympathy is the spring of effective ministry” (*Education*, p. 262).
- Check the Restaurant and Grocery sections of your local phone directory to see what ethnic foods are available in your area. This is one indicator of specific ethnic populations in your area.
- Pray that God will guide you to the people he has brought for you to introduce to Him.
- Talk to people you meet in local grocery and department stores and apartment complexes who look like they may be from another country. If they are fluent in English, ask if they are bilingual, then ask what languages they speak. If they are not fluent in English, ask if they know another language.
- Be a friend. Ask what it is like being in this country. Ask what is hard about life in this country. Help them learn English.
- Learn a greeting in their language. Learn how to say “Thank you” in their language. Exchange contact information if they seem comfortable.
- Stay in touch. Invite them to your home for a meal. Ask about their culture. Ask about family — here and abroad. Imagine what life must be like for them. Show that you care. Ask if there is anything they need. Meet that need to the best of your ability.
- Invite them to church. Offer to take them. (They may not have transportation.) Use the phrases you learn in their language to greet others who speak the same language.
- As God leads, share with the church what you are learning and doing. Ask them to pray with you for the unreached refugees and immigrants in your area. As your

refugee/immigrant friends begin coming to church with you, introduce them to your friends at church. These connections are crucial. Remember the following counsel, and let God lead.

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior 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” (Ministry of Healing, p. 143).

WITH YOUR FRIENDS

- Contact a local college or university and find out if they have foreign exchange students and, if so, from which countries. Imagine yourself in their situation, often with no transportation, and few, if any, American friends. Be a friend. Invite them to join you for special events and holidays. Provide transportation. Take them shopping. Ask them about their country.
- When you find refugees, immigrants or visitors from other cultures, tell your church about them. Ask your church to pray for a way to reach out to them.
- Help children with homework.
- Play with the children. Find and plan constructive and educational activities for them. (Take a child by the hand, and you take the parent by the heart.)
- Provide music lessons for the children. Help them find an instrument.
- Offer to help them learn to drive, study for their citizenship test, etc.
- Picture yourself in their situation, and ask God for wisdom to anticipate their needs.
- Ask them what their needs are.

AS A CHURCH

- Pray that God will lead you to some of his “guests” from other countries.
- Watch for unexpected guests at your church who seem shy and may not be fluent in English. Get to know them. Ask where they are from, how long they have been

in America, and where they live. Be creative. Use “sign language” or paper and pencil. Find a way to communicate. (Where there is a will, there is a way!)

- Visit the guests from other countries who visit your church (even if you are not the pastor). Their hearts will be warmed to know someone cares.
- Invite them to give a special music, read a scripture, or pray in their language. Involve them.
- If no refugees or immigrants are visiting your church, go out and find them!
- Invite them to your community services center.
- Organize ESL classes and/or tutoring for refugees within walking distance from their homes. (Contact NAD for resources.)

When a few refugees begin to come to church:

- Provide transportation to those who would like to attend but cannot.
- Provide Bibles, Sabbath school lessons and other materials in their language. (See <http://refugeeministries.org> for resources).
- Provide a room for them to study the Sabbath school lesson together in their language.
- Ask what they need. Prayerfully find ways to help. Remember God has a special love for refugees and often works unusual miracles in their behalf. (See the book of Exodus.)
- Help their children to be able to attend Adventist schools.
- Tell your local conference and North American Division Refugee and Immigrant Ministries about them so you can receive updates and additional resources as they become available.

As the group grows:

- Appoint, or ask them to appoint, a representative of their group to be on their church board. Give the representative some time at each board meeting to give an update of the progress, needs, and challenges the group is facing.
- Keep dialogue open with the representative as well and other members as their group grows and the needs change.
- Expedite membership transfers to show your eagerness to have them in your church.
- Invite an Adventist pastor to speak to them in their own language and help them organize their group to function more effectively. (Contact ARIM for details.)

- Watch for the time when they will need a time and place to conduct full worship services in their language. Facilitate their search.
- Spawn a church plant. Enjoy the fellowship of these brothers and sisters in Christ, but don't discourage them from launching out on their own as a separate and distinct congregation so that they can more effectively reach unreached people of their language group.

Source: Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Ministries (<http://www.refugeeministries.com>)



**IF NO REFUGEES OR
IMMIGRANTS ARE
VISITING YOUR
CHURCH, GO OUT
AND FIND THEM.**



Nurses at Adventist Medical Center GlenOaks bid a fond farewell to one of their own

“Miss Margaret” was a familiar face at Adventist Medical Center GlenOaks. Many knew her by the trademark flower she always wore in her hair and the stories she told about working as a nurse decades ago. Over the past few years, Miss Margaret developed numerous health problems and was a frequent patient on the medical-surgical unit and in the ICU where, one morning this past summer, her life came to a peaceful close. She was in her mid-nineties. “Our nurses felt like she and her son were part of our family,” said Jillian Pateros, director of Nursing. “She knew many of our attending physicians when they were residents and would bring in pictures of them when they were young. She saw a lot in her lifetime.”

After Miss Margaret passed away, the nurses who took care of her expressed their appreciation for her service and friendship by giving her an impromptu memorial service. “She was such a special person. We had to do something for her because she gave so much to this hospital as a nurse and then entrusted us with her care as a patient,” said Suzette Mahneke, associate vice president of Nursing and covering ICU that morning, who had found out from Pateros that Miss Margaret had passed away. Since the chaplain would not be able to come to her room until he arrived later that morning, Mahneke and Pateros gathered the nurses who had taken care of Miss Margaret for an impromptu prayer service.



Nurses at Adventist Medical Center GlenOaks reenact the scene when they said goodbye to Miss Margaret.

The six nurses held hands with each other, and Miss Margaret, and formed a circle around her bed. “It was very sad,” Mahneke said, “but by doing this I felt we honored nursing, each other and, especially, Miss Margaret.”

It was an emotional experience for the six nurses involved. One of them was Pateros who is normally in the ER. “Being an ER nurse, I don’t ever have the time to do things like that. It was very moving for me to be able to take the time to say a proper goodbye to somebody who has done so much for our profession,” said Pateros.

Also present was ICU nurse Kimberly Kwasniewski. “I thought it was very special that her service as a nurse was being recognized by the people caring for her. It was a nice ending,” Kwasniewski said. “I’m glad to work for a hospital that isn’t afraid to incorporate prayer and faith into our caring for one another.”

Pateros felt that this experience was a perfect example of GlenOak’s mission

in action. “There is something to be said for taking care of the whole person, not just medically treating their disease, but treating the person... It’s very true to what we practice here every day,” Pateros said.

Julie Busch, associate vice president of communications for Amita Health



Adventist GlenOaks Hospital, Glendale Heights, Ill., part of the Adventist Health System.



Ralph Trecartin accepted the position as dean of the Andrews University School of Business Administration and associate provost for the University.

New SBA dean has passion for others-focused leadership

Ralph Trecartin entered Atlantic Union College as a theology major with every intention of becoming a pastor. When he added accounting as a minor, he never saw the change in his future coming.

“I would go from studying Greek to studying about debits and credits and contemplating the types of decisions that would be made as a result,” he recalls. “I’ve always found it very rewarding to build and sell things, and when it was time to leave pastoral ministry and attend the Seminary at Andrews, I chose to walk the road less traveled.”

He enrolled in the Master of Business Administration program instead.

“While there, I was asked to teach accounting and so embarked on a life journey that was never expected in my adolescent years,” he says.

Once he achieved his Ph.D. in finance, Trecartin spent a number of years trying to think of ways to solve the world’s problems, while at the same time enjoying the entrepreneurial aspects of building study abroad programs and moving currencies around the world.

These experiences culminated in Trecartin accepting the position as dean of the Andrews University School of Business Administration and associate provost for the University. He began his new role in January 2017.

Trecartin identifies four areas in his professional life about which he finds himself passionate: student success, high impact educational practices, adventure education and denominational administrative mission.

“Student success should be our number one goal,” he says. “This includes all of the exciting elements that are included in the creation of an educational experience that leads to professional success.”

In the Adventist context, this includes encouraging a much more holistic worldview through meaningful relationships and lives of service.

“Serving God and man with an eternal framework in mind is the path to success in all areas of life,” Trecartin says.

He admits that some would view “administrative passion” as an oxymoron. Yet, he says, there’s never a lack of changes taking place in his field, which keeps things interesting and exciting.

“New issues and opportunities need to be addressed with complete dedication and informed thought processes,” he says.

Though Trecartin prefers listening, he enjoys teaching immensely. He revels in the opportunities to get to know his students well, engaging in intense dialogues and developing lifelong professional friendships with them.

“Teaching is sort of like parenting,” he says. “There is pride in seeing students succeed.”

Trecartin sees business administration as a ministry opportunity. He says it is not only continually engaging, but it offers a sense of fulfillment and excitement you might not expect.

“There is a great need for service-minded business professionals in contrast to self-oriented leaders,” he says. “In business administration there are untold opportunities to make life better for others and to have an eternal influence.”

For more stories about real people at Andrews University, visit <http://andrews.edu/stories>.

Becky St. Clair is media communications manager at Andrews University.

[CONFERENCE NEWS]

Indiana Women's Ministries held Fall Retreat

Indiana—More than 100 women attended the Indiana Conference Women's Ministries Fall Retreat on Lake Monroe, Ind., Oct. 21–23, 2016. Jaclynn Huse and her daughter Shelby were the featured speakers and musical artists. On sabbatical from Southern Adventist University, Huse, a professor of nursing education, inspired attendees with her theme, “The Best is Yet to Come,” referring to Jesus’ soon return.

Lesia James from Angola said, “It is a faith shot in the arm — boom!” This middle school teacher went on to say, “We are a church family, but it is good to get away and know my friends in a new environment.” Women's Ministries Director Tammy Begley explained, “It is a time for Christian women to relax, refresh and build new friendships and discuss deeper issues around the table.” Prayer nuggets, a give-away table and glorious fall weather added to the weekend experience at the Four Winds Lakeside Inn, just south of Bloomington.



Tammy Begley and featured speaker Jaclynn Huse get ready for “The Best Is Yet to Come.”

Colleen Kelly



Women's Ministries director Tammy Begley and her committee presented guest speaker Jaclynn Huse with a thank you gift for the weekend program.

A special tribute was made to Shari Blackburn, former Women's Ministries director, who passed away this past July. Many thanks to Tammy Begley, Julie Loucks and their committee for organizing the event. Enough funds were collected to offer 30, \$25 “She is My Sister” scholarships to assist registration fees for attendance next year.

Colleen Kelly is the communications and marketing specialist for Indiana Conference.



Justin Kim, associate director of Sabbath School for the General Conference, was one of the main speakers.

Jilliana Dunn

Young adults from public campuses challenged to go against the mainstream

Michigan—On Nov. 4–6, 2016, the Michigan Conference Youth and Public Campus Ministry Department teamed up for its annual Public Hi-C Retreat at Camp Au Sable. As an event geared toward Adventist youth and young adults who attend public

high school or public college, students were encouraged to invite their non-Adventist school friends for a weekend of spiritual revival and camp fun.

For the second year in a row, registration was closed at full capacity with close to 50 attendees coming by invitation of an Adventist student. For many, it was their first experience with Seventh-day Adventists and this served as the perfect weekend for friends to grow in Christ together, sharing what they believe.



Juliana Dunn

Adventist youth and young adults who attend public high schools or colleges invited their non-Adventist friends for a weekend of spiritual revival and camp fun at Michigan's Camp Au Sable.

The theme was “Counter Culture” and the main speakers were Chad Bernard, principal of Weimar Academy, and Justin Kim, associate director of Sabbath School at the General Conference. To go along with the theme, attendees were encouraged to put their cellphones in a bucket during meal times in order to really be intentional about connecting with each other.

“All of the messages were challenges to go against the grain of mainstream culture and to adopt God’s culture,” said Israel Ramos, director of Public Campus Ministry for the Michigan Conference. “They pointed to inspiring people in the Bible like Noah and Mary Magdalene who were fearless of ridicule and embarrassment and clung to God’s promises despite social pressure. Students were encouraged to have this type of faith.”

Mentorship is a key component of Hi-C. Attendees were placed into

family groups, consisting of both high school and college students which met as small groups throughout the weekend. For Sabbath vespers, they heard from Michelle Odinma who shared Christ through her powerful music ministry.

Saturday night was a time to fellowship and bond. There was a friendly dodgeball tournament, board games, munchies and night go-karting. Students reconvened for Mentor Exchange, one of their favorite parts of Hi-C, an open mic time for college/grad students to give advice to high school students. Advice varied from how to avoid student loans, to how to balance life and studying. Most often mentors shared how to be a true Christian, sharing personal mistakes to encourage better decisions. Ramos said, “God truly blessed, as students inspired other students to be faithful to God.”

The night ended with Ken Micheff, youth director, and Craig Harris,

associate youth director, giving an appeal for one of the youth department’s initiatives: “One Year for God,” a specific appeal to make a commitment to give God one year of life through mission service before the age of 25. About 15 young people came forward in response to this challenge.

Will you join us in praying for our Hi-C youth and young adults — that they will not only stay in our Church, but that God will use them to be missionaries in the concrete jungles of their schools and universities? To contact the Michigan Youth Department or CAMPUS (Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students), visit their website: <http://www.miadventistyouth.org> or <http://www.campushope.com>

Judy Ramos is the administrative assistant for the Michigan Youth Department.



Jean-Les Michel

ACS director Jane Salisbury and her husband Herb help provide clothing, furniture and household items to residents in need, including refugees referred by Bethany Christian Services.

Kalamazoo ACS assists newly-arrived refugees

Michigan—The Kalamazoo Adventist Community Services began partnering last September with Bethany Christian Services to provide clothing, furniture and household items for refugees.

It all started with a phone call to Jane Salisbury, ACS director. When she later met with a Bethany representative, he was impressed with the neat racks of clothing, categorized and labeled by gender and size. He told her, “We have bins with stuff in storage, but rather than having clients dig through

those bins, how about us giving them to you?”

Salisbury said Bethany has since brought to the center some 30 families or children, fleeing dangerous situations in places such as Syria and Rwanda.

“The biggest challenge is language,” she explained. “Some come with a translator, but sometimes we just use sign language.”

The Kalamazoo ACS is gladly accepting donations and is currently in need of silverware. Salisbury, 83, along with her husband, Herb, 86, work closely with a team of 16 dedicated volunteers. All items in the store are made available free of charge.

Between Jan. 1 and Dec. 20, 2016, Kalamazoo ACS has assisted 530 people, distributing over 30,000 pounds of clothing, bedding and food to families in need.

Bethany, headquartered in Grand Rapids, works to bring and keep families together through services such as sponsorship, foster care, family support and adoption.

Debbie Michel, associate director of communication, Lake Union Conference

Strong Tower Radio gets creative with ministry

Michigan—Sometimes it is necessary to think outside the box.

Strong Tower Radio (STR) broadcasts the Three Angels’ message 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, on 11 radio stations and one television station. These broadcasts cover 40 percent of Michigan as well as parts of Illinois, Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada. While this outreach has been successful, there’s a need to keep improving.

Two-and-a-half years ago, Deborah Blosser and Tim Duman directed a musical program with an old-time radio theme at the Mt. Pleasant Church. They decided to make it real with Strong Tower Radio host George Corliss. In the process of planning, the men’s quartet from the church was asked to become the station’s musical ambassadors and, on the night of the program, they made their first appearance as the Strong Tower Radio Quartet.

The first program was a great success and it continued to grow and

become effective; we just finished the ninth program at the Wyoming Church, Dec. 10, 2016. The vision is to continue as a Strong Tower Radio community outreach and fundraiser.

The STR Quartet headlines “The Old Time Radio Variety Hour,” as the musical vespers is now called. This Christmas, they were the headline concert group for the United Methodist Church at its Silver Bells concert series in Lansing. Additionally, they did a concert tour this summer in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula for churches of several denominations.

The STR Quartet, ASK Jesus Prayer, plus STR radio personalities are available to present and preach to organizations and churches in the STR current and future broadcast areas. For more information, visit: <http://strongtowerradio.org>, Strong Tower Radio Facebook page, call 231-468-2087, or write to P.O. Box 567, Cadillac, MI 49601.

Tom Mejeur, Strong Tower Radio staff member



One of several songs and voice plays during the December 10th Wyoming SDA Church Strong Tower Radio’s 9th “Old Time Radio Variety Hour” live studio recording. Pictured here is an echo choir with the children leading and the Strong Tower Radio Quartet antiphonal singing.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Police shown appreciation at Capitol City Church

Lake Region—On the third of December, 2016, the Capitol City Church recognized men and women of the Indianapolis Metro Police Department's North District during a Police Appreciation luncheon.

The police officers conducted a roll call before the luncheon. Sergeant Terry Eden, the highest-ranking officer present, accepted a plaque of appreciation on behalf of the North District. Each officer was presented with a gift bag containing helpful items while on patrol as well as the book *Steps to Christ*.

"It's really nice to come to something like this where you know there's not going to be the typical confrontational nature that goes along with most of the calls we get," said Eden. He went on to say, "I wish there would be a day when police aren't needed (except for traffic accidents) because churches and organizations like this would step in and support the community. But, until then, we're here."

Over the past year, the North District has been graciously partnering with area churches with an aim to increase awareness of how the community and police can work together to bridge their efforts in dealing with various community issues.

The North District also has made itself available for protection by its presence during the June 11 "March for Non-Violence" at 34th Street and Keystone Ave. On Nov. 12, they served as youth marched down 49th Street from Kingsley Ave. to Arsenal Park for a balloon lift and prayer gathering for the families of black youth who have lost their lives through violent acts.



Indianapolis Metro Police Department's North District Sergeant Terry Eden accepted an award of appreciation from Capitol City pastor, William Lee.



Each officer was presented with a gift bag containing useful items, including the book, *Steps to Christ*.



Capitol City Church prayed for the officers and treated them to lunch.

Roughly 25 officers were able to see that members of the Capitol City Church truly appreciate the service and protection dutifully provided by them and the entire North District, which makes it all

the more possible for the church to lift up the name of Jesus in the community.

Wayne Burrell, Communication Ministry leader,
Capitol City Church

Madison East Church honors veterans

Wisconsin—The Madison East Church sanctuary was filled Saturday evening, Nov. 12, for a special program honoring veterans in their church and community. *USS Indianapolis* survivor Melvin Jacob, Marine Corps Guard and Sun Prairie resident, was the invited guest speaker. Jacob shared his story of surviving the sinking of the *USS Indianapolis* with the audience as Madison East Church member James Flood guided him with questions.

Just past midnight on July 30, 1945, the *USS Indianapolis* was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, sinking the ship in approximately 12 minutes. Jacob was one of 1,196 people aboard the ship that was carrying top-secret cargo — the uranium and components to the atomic bomb code-named “Little Boy,” of which they were unaware at the time. The attack left 900 stranded at sea, exposed to vicious shark attacks, dehydration, hallucinations and salt-water poisoning. Only 317 survived the horrific four-day ordeal.

Jacob shared the circumstances and miscommunication that kept survivors from being found for days. He spoke of his stunned reaction after the torpedo hit, how he slid down the ship as one end rose from the water, then, following his lieutenant, jumped into the water and frantically swam before the suction could take him down with the ship. He never saw his lieutenant again. Jacob cringed as he shared the anguish he felt, hearing friends scream out from shark attacks and knowing he was unable to help. When asked how he didn’t lose hope of being rescued, Jacob shared, “I kept thinking about my girl back home and how I would use my survivor furlough days.” Jacob



Melvin Jacob was one of the survivors of the *USS Indianapolis* submarine torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in 1945. He spoke at the Madison East Church for a program honoring veterans.

made the audience laugh with injected humor and realism into his storytelling, bringing a message of hope in darkness.

After a few questions from the audience, a poem was read and all veterans were asked to stand and be recognized. Each veteran shared their military service and was presented with an American flag pin. The evening ended with a music video and closing prayer by Titus Naftanaila, pastor of the Madison East Church.

“This was a program that allowed our church to say thank you to the veterans in our church and community,” said the community secretary, Teresa Harrison. The program was advertised on local television news stations, Christian radio, local newspapers and social media. One visiting community veteran was asked what civilians can learn from these stories of courage. The veteran replied, “[We] should honor the United States at all times — show honor always.”

Teresa Isensee Harrison, Communication secretary, Madison East Church



Nine Marine survivors of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*. Top row (left to right): Miles Spooner, Earl Riggins, Paul Uffelman, Giles McCoy, Melvin Jacob. Bottom row (left to right): Max Hughes, Raymond Rich, Jacob Greenwald, and Edgar Harrell (1945).



The U.S.S. *Indianapolis* (CA-34), 1945, in the last known photograph of the great ship, just days before she sunk.

Refugees invigorate Rockford Church

Illinois—The Rockford Church is growing faster than field corn in July.

This growth comes in large part from the influx of refugees, many of which come from Burma (the Chin and Karen people) and Rwanda (Congolese). Currently there are about 26 refugee families (about 62 adults and 64 children) attending the church.

The Karen refugees began arriving seven years ago while the Rwandans resettled in the last four years. The most recent, a family of eight from Rwanda, arrived in December. They are brought to the U.S. on contract with Catholic Charities. Church members have no advance notice of their arrival at Chicago O'Hare airport and first meet them when they find their way to the church service.

After living in refugee camps for almost two decades, the refugees still face tremendous obstacles when they arrive, such as language, housing, cultural differences, transportation and obtaining jobs. Although the local community college has a two-year follow-up program that helps to get them settled into apartments, schools and eventually jobs for the adults, this is a short time to get them on their feet.

The Rockford Church members have pitched in to help with members donating furniture, clothes, bedding and transportation. A linen closet was established. One member gave driver training to several individuals so most of the families now have at least one licensed driver and a vehicle. The 22 refugee children in the church school, Alpine Christian School, are partially funded by donations and fundraising



Eric (center) is a junior at the public high school taking the pre-engineering courses. He ranked 13th out of 430 in his class. His brother Elli (left) and friend Vincent (right) also attend public high school. All three attend Sabbath school and church on a regular basis.

efforts. Most of the families pay something toward their tuition and several church members have provided part-time work around their homes to supplement the refugees' incomes.

The refugees are very anxious to work hard and become self-sufficient. For most of the adults that means learning English and learning to drive so they can get a job. Last summer, two of the Rwandan ladies worked in the hot fields de-tasseling corn.

Why was Rockford blessed with these new members? Perhaps it is because of the efforts that were made during the 1950s through the 1980s to support the Harvest Ingathering campaign. It was not uncommon for the Rockford Church to raise \$10,000 a year for the Ingathering funds and, with these funds, missionaries were sent around the world to tell others about Jesus and the Three Angels' message. Those that were reached

by our missionaries now need a new home and a safe place to worship and fellowship.

William Smith is head deacon and youth room leader at the Rockford Church.



Tha Du attended the grandparents' breakfast at church school with his grandnephew.



Earliten Sabbath School teachers

Special music presented by the Zomi Refugee Company.

Refugee Awareness Sabbath at Village Church

Michigan—In an attempt to create awareness about the plight of and opportunities for ministry to our sometimes unknown and unseen neighbors, the Seventh-day Adventist Church set aside one Sabbath last June as “World Refugee Day.” However, the Village Church already had planned summer activities and delayed recognizing the day until September 2016, which allowed for the creation of a life-transforming event impacting the lives of young people who had little awareness about the life of refugees.

The Earliten Sabbath school class and their leaders – Conrad Vine, Christina Goosey, Michael Gusky, Alistair Norris and William Wells – had been seeking ways to support the Zomi and Burmese refugees in Grand Rapids. After spending a Sabbath with them earlier in the year and visiting newly-arrived refugees, the Village Church group decided to invite the refugee congregation for a joint worship. This worship included a sermon from Andrews University student, Suan Khai, who shared his testimony of God’s protection and guidance during his years as a Burmese refugee. The special Sabbath was highlighted by a fundraiser to meet the needs of the refugee church congregations so they are better equipped to expand their ministry to the thousands of refugees in Michigan.

To close this Sabbath, the leaders of the Sabbath school class conducted a refugee crucible fundraiser, providing a simulated refugee experience. On several occasions, participants carrying a large, heavy piece of wood cried out in agony, but were pressured to adapt and change scenarios. At the end, many said they wanted to go home. This provided

an opportunity for instruction on how refugees feel when they are displaced and unsettled.

To date, these young people and the local church has raised \$2,700 to assist the refugee group with purchasing their own church facilities.

If you would like more information on organizing a Refugee Awareness Sabbath, crucible or have interest in donating towards supporting this mission project, please feel free to contact the Village Church at villagesda.church@gmail.com or William at wells@Andrews.edu.

William Wells is a student in the Theological Seminary at Andrews University.



Earliten Sabbath School teachers

The youth were put through vigorous activities to simulate what it is like to be physically fatigued when fleeing as a refugee. Dillion and Ethan are pictured here carrying a large board.

Mizo Church celebrates new facilities

Indiana—On the third of December, 2016, in a sanctuary filled with 150 jubilant worshippers, the Indianapolis Mizo Church congregation praised God for blessing them with their own place of worship. For 11 months prior to this, the group, led by Lalmuansanga Chawngthu, rented facilities from a Methodist church.

Chawngthu said that the congregation was very excited and deeply



Lalmuansanga Chawngthu, (left) pastor of the Mizo Church, wants to establish a Center of Influence for Asian Refugee and Immigrant Ministry in the Indianapolis area.

moved that they could worship in a proper building for the first time in their lives and also not have to move. “In Myanmar,” he said, “they moved from place to place.”



Celebrants were excited and deeply moved that they could worship in their own building.

As the influx of refugees to the area continues to grow due to continued ethnic cleansings in Myanmar and India, plans are for the church to serve as more than a place of worship.

Harvey Kornegay, evangelism coordinator for the Indiana Conference, explained, “We want this to be a headquarters for us to serve other immigrants — a help for refugees who come with just the clothes on their back, a place to come for information and talk in languages they understand.”

It is customary in the Burmese community, according to Chawngthu, for church buildings to serve these multi-purpose needs and he’s looking forward to serving even more refugee groups. It is with this in mind that the group plans to change the name from the Mizo Church, named for their tribe, and perhaps keep the original Greenwood Church name.

“We have different groups and want to be inclusive of other dialects,” said Chawngthu. “Future plans are to have all the different dialects have their own service at the church. We are expecting

this church building to be a starting place to spread the good news.”

As plans progress prayerfully, it is with an eye toward further evangelism, which Steven Poentiz, Indiana Conference president, fully supports. “There is great opportunity for growth and expansion — disciples for Christ’s kingdom. And that reflects action which Ellen White references,” he said. “Because some of these folks travel back to their home countries and share the progress of the work here, then, more immigrants will be carrying the Three Angels’ messages to their people.”

An official celebration for the new facilities will be held in the spring or summer.

Debbie Michel, associate director of communication, Lake Union Conference



Indiana Conference president Steven Poentiz (second from right) says, “there is great opportunity for growth and expansion — disciples for Christ’s kingdom.”



The new church sanctuary.

[GC NEWS]

GC challenges members to hand out one book a week

The book, *Story of Hope*, an unabridged republication of *The Story of Redemption*, is the Missionary Book of the Year. The General Conference is challenging every Seventh-day Adventist to share one book a week. “I believe that if our people are challenged, they will rise to the challenge, and if every member passed out one book a week for 52 weeks, we would pass out one billion books this year,” said Mark Finley, evangelist for the General Conference.

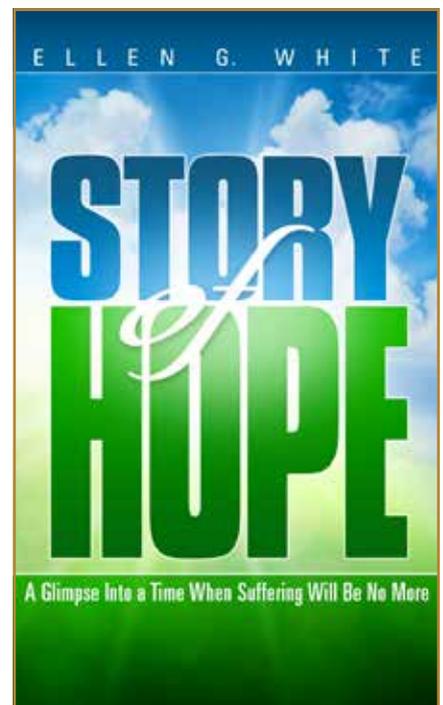
The GC also is printing one billion GLOW tracts in multiple languages around the world. Finley wrote a new GLOW tract called, “The Certainty in an

Uncertain World.” GLOW is an initiative jointly run by the Pacific Union Conference and the General Conference.

“GLOW tracts can be easily placed in your pocket. You can simply have a dedicated pocket for tracts. Pass them out to a friend, a neighbor, somebody at the store,” said Finley. “Literature can make a difference. As you give out a tract, as you give out a book, it can change someone’s life for eternity.”

There are two main hubs for GLOW in North America — the Central California and Michigan Conferences. Those wishing to begin a GLOW program in their field may want to connect with these two conferences. For more information, please visit: <http://mission365.net>

Lake Union Herald staff



The Story of Hope, an abridged version of Ellen G. White’s *The Story of Redemption*, is the sharing book of the year.

Announcements

Churches, schools, conferences, institutions and organizations may submit announcements to the *Lake Union Herald* through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the *Lake Union Herald* website at <http://www.herald.lakeunion.org> and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources, as these events are subject to change. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at <http://www.herald.lakeunion.org>.

Andrews University

Howard Performing Arts Center

Events: For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, contact HPAC Box Office by phone at 888-467-6442 tollfree or 269-471-3560, by email: hpac@andrews.edu, or on its website at <https://howard.andrews.edu/events/>. Please verify dates and times of programs as these events are subject to change.

Feb. 4, 8:00 p.m.: Wind Symphony Concert (Tickets required.)

Feb. 5, 4:00 p.m.: Sunday Music Series – Peter Cooper, Piano

Feb. 11, 8:00 p.m.: Love is in the Air Choral Concert (Tickets required.)

Feb. 12, 7:00 p.m.: Howard Center Presents – Vienna Boys Choir (Tickets required.)

Feb. 25, 8:00 p.m.: Symphony Orchestra Concert (Tickets required.)

March 2, 7:00 p.m.: Music Festival Showcase Recital

March 3, 7:30 p.m.: Wind Symphony Vespers Concert

March 4, 4:00 p.m.: Music Festival (Band & Keyboard) Concert

March 15, 7:00 p.m.: Michigan SDA Conference Band Festival

Illinois

Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend will be held **April 28-29** at North Aurora Church. Friday night vespers, Sabbath school, church, lunch and afternoon music program. Mark your calendars; call your classmates and start planning for this weekend now!

Honor classes: 1947, '57, '67, '77, '87, '92, '97 and 2007. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, **we need your email addresses.** Send questions or information to Natanja and Kerry Hensley at bva.alumni.cte@gmail.com, or call Dale Rollins at 224-407-0233. For more information, visit <http://www.broadviewacademy.org>.

Michigan

"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Alumni Reunion will take place **June 9-11** for alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1937, '47, '57 and '67. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit <http://www.glaa.net>.

Lake Region

Lake Region Conference Leadership Summit 2017: All pastors and their church officers and leaders are invited to attend **April 7-8** at the South Bend (Ind.) Century Center. Titled "Constructing Constellations," the Summit's focus is to build leadership teams for each church. The Summit is

to encourage church pastors to bring their church officers and leaders as a team, to sit together, and learn how to function cooperatively in concert in fulfilling the mission God has given their churches in the area where they reside. Keynote speakers: Dan Jackson; Edith Fraser; David Franklin; Abraham Jules; Wesley Knight; Don Livesay; Dwight Nelson; John Nixon; Jose St. Phard; Frederick Russell; Dûane Schoonard; Ron Smith; Debleaire Snell and Jesse Wilson. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.adventistsource.org/as30/events.aspx>.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Feb.** Local Church Budget
- Feb. 11** World Budget (emphasis: Adventist Television Ministries)
- Feb. 1** Local Church Budget
- Feb. 25** Local Conference Advance

Special Days

- Feb. 4-25** Black History Month
- Feb. 11** Christian Marriage Sabbath
- Feb. 1** Health Ministries Sabbath
- Feb. 11-18** Christian Home and Marriage Week
- Feb. 18** Christian Parenting Sabbath

Save the Date! ASI Lake Union Spring Fellowship is coming up **April**

21-22 at Blue Gate Garden Inn in Shipshewanna, Ind. Come, enjoy and fellowship with us as we share testimonies and profound gratitude to our Savior. You will have the opportunity to enjoy many of our exhibits or request to bring your own. Save the date and meet our guest speaker for the weekend Derek Morris, director for Hope Channel. For more information, call 269-473-8200 or email carmen.avila@lakeunion.org.

North American Division

Union College Homecoming is **April 6-9**. Honor classes: 1947, '57, '62, '67, '77, '87, '92; '97 and 2007. This is the 125th Year Celebration! For more information, contact the alumni office at 401-486-2503; 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or alumni@college.edu.

LaSierra Academy Alumni Reunion to be held **April 28-29** at 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside, Calif. This is the 95th Year Celebration! Honor Classes: 2s and 7s. Welcome Reception: Friday, April 28, 7:00 p.m., LSA Library. Honor Class Services Registration: Sabbath, April 29, 9:00 a.m. Services at 10:00 a.m. Potluck Luncheon. Alumni/Varsity Basketball: 8:30 p.m., Sat. evening. Please update your contact information at JNelson@lsak12.com; 951-351-1445, ext. 244; or <http://www.lsak12.com>.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Feb 3	Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 24	Mar 3	Mar 10
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:02	6:11	6:20	6:29	6:37	6:45
Chicago, Ill.	5:07	5:16	5:25	5:34	5:42	5:51
Detroit, Mich.	5:48	5:57	6:06	6:15	6:24	6:32
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:06	6:14	6:22	6:30	6:38	6:46
La Crosse, Wis.	5:18	5:27	5:37	5:46	5:55	6:04
Lansing, Mich.	5:53	6:03	6:12	6:21	6:29	6:38
Madison, Wis.	5:12	5:21	5:30	5:40	5:48	5:57
Springfield, Ill.	5:20	5:28	5:36	5:44	5:52	6:00

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

Edward and Elizabeth Wery celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Oct. 28, 2016, with a family dinner in Wilson, Mich. They were members of the Wilson Church for 59 years.

Edward Wery and Elizabeth Borden were married Oct. 28, 1956, in Wilson, by Paul Yecke. Edward worked at Robinson Furniture Factory until he went to work in Howard Berger's construction business. He worked a total of 52 years in the building trade. Elizabeth worked at Robinson Furniture Factory until the birth of their first child. She then became a stay-at-home mom until their youngest was 15. She went back to work, working a total of 23 years. She and Edward retired together.

The Wery family includes Debra and Steve Besson of Escanaba, Mich.; Steve and Deborah Wery of Carney, Mich.; Ronald and Terri Wery of Gladstone, Mich.; Gary and Margaret Wery of Gladstone; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

CURRIE, Austin B., age 20; born Jan. 2, 1996, in Brunswick, Maine; died Nov. 19, 2016, in New Buffalo, Mich. He was a member of the Burr Ridge Church, Darien, Ill.

Survivors include his father, Jeffrey J.; mother, Cathleen I. (Moore); brother, Jeffrey "Taylor"; sister, Morgan N. Currie; paternal grandparents, Nathaniel E. and Judith A. Currie; and maternal grandparents: Donald G. and Gabriele C. Moore.

Memorial services were conducted by Arek Bojko, Danaran Frederick and Kenneth

Parker, with private inurnment, Eastwood Cemetery, Lancaster, Mass.

DEDEREN, Raoul, age 91; born April 25, 1925, in Pepinster, Belgium; died Oct. 24, 2016, in Ann Arbor, Mich. He was a member of the Ann Arbor Church. Raoul taught at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary starting in 1964 and for decades trained thousands of ministers for the World Church.

Survivors include two grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Steve Conway, and interment was in Bethlehem Cemetery, Ann Arbor.

HENDRICKSON, Robert G., age 50; born March 16, 1966, in Eugene, Ore.; died Dec. 3, 2016, in Coloma, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Ami (Long); daughter, Cassandra Hendrickson; brother, John H. III; sister, Hallie Thomas; and half-sisters, Karen Allen and Heather Ghrist.

Memorial services were conducted by David Haase and Skip MacCarty, with private inurnment, Coloma.

KAISER, Ruth H., age 93; born July 19, 1923, in North St. Paul, Minn.; died Oct. 10, 2016, in Stevensville, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich. Ruth taught at the Village SDA School and the Ruth Murdock Elementary School in Berrien Springs for many years.

Memorial services were conducted by Don Dronen, and interment was in Gleason (Wis.) Cemetery.

KOERTING, Chandler M., age 20; born Feb. 11, 1996, in Orlando, Fla.; died Nov. 19, 2016, in New Buffalo, Mich. He was a member of the Hinsdale (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include his father, Michael; mother, Janice (Ringwelski); brother, Connor; paternal grandparents, Kurt and Ruth Koerting; and maternal grandparents, Jerome and Josephine Ringwelski.

Memorial services were conducted by Kenneth Parker, Arek Boyko and Danaran Frederick, with private inurnment, Apopka, Fla.

LACOURT, Curtis Lee, age 85; born Oct. 25, 1930, in Oconto, Wis.; died June 30, 2016, in Oconto. He was a member of the Lena (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his sons, Mike and Mitch; brothers, Marvin and Edwin; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Graveside services were conducted by Duane Wardecke, and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Oconto.

MASHNI, Luzetta (Fickett), age 86; born May 5, 1930, in Garland, Maine; died Nov. 4, 2016, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her husband, Faud; sons, Samuel, Peter and Joseph; brother, Roy Fickett; and six grandchildren.

Memorial services will be conducted at a later date, with private inurnment in Maine.

RIDEOUT, Richard M., age 71; born Feb. 12, 1945, in Berrien Springs, Mich.; died July 16, 2016, in Yucaipa, Calif. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs. Richard worked at Your Story Hour, beginning in 1975.

Survivors include his brother, Stephen A.; and sister, Constance Lorenz.

Memorial services were conducted by Dan Augsburg, with private inurnment.

SIEWERT, Bernhard P., age 94; born July 28, 1922, in Gdansk, Germany; died Nov. 15, 2016, in Stevensville, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Anneliese (Krienen); daughter, Marion Vanze; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Private inurnment has taken place.

TAYLOR, George M., age 87; born April 22, 1929, in Connersville, Ind.; died July 30, 2016, in Saginaw, Mich. He was a member of the Otter Lake (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his sons, Harold, Michael, Leonard, Eric and Maurice; daughters, Ruth Hittle, Kathleen Taylor and Mary L. Austin; brother, David; sister, Frances Campbell; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Victor Vaughn, with private inurnment in Smith Hill Cemetery, Otisville, Mich.

TAYLOR, Jane L. (Lerche), age 83; born Oct. 5, 1932, in Thetford Township, Mich.; died July 4, 2016, in Caro, Mich. She was a member of the Otter Lake (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, George; sons, Harold, Michael, Leonard, Eric and Maurice; daughters, Ruth Hittle, Kathleen Taylor and Mary L. Austin; 11 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Leonard Kitson, with private inurnment was in Smith Hill Cemetery, Otisville, Mich.

WOODS JR., Edward, age 71; born Aug. 21, 1945, in Benton Harbor, Mich.; died Dec. 9, 2016, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Highland Avenue Church, Benton Harbor.

Survivors include his wife, Edith (Sloan); sons, Edward III and Brian; daughter, Trishonda Woods; sisters, Peggy Hunter, Eddie Akande and Elizabeth Woods; and two grandchildren.

Funeral Services were conducted by Edward Woods III, and inurnment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

Classifieds

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

For Sale

CITRUS FUNDRAISING for your church or school. Hand-selected citrus direct from the grove. **Indian River Fundraisers.** For more information, call tollfree 800-558-1998.

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

At Your Service

ADVENTIST BOOKS: Whether you're looking for new titles or reprints from our pioneers, visit <http://www.TEACHServices.com> or ask your ABC for our titles. For **used** Adventist books, visit <http://www.LNFBBooks.com>. **AUTHORS:** Interested in having your book published, call 800-367-1844 for free evaluations.

MOVE WITH AN AWARD-WINNING AGENCY.

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Miscellaneous

WANTED TO BUY AND FOR SALE used SDA books new or old, Your Story Hour tapes and games. For more information, contact John at 269-781-6379.

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

FREE VOCAL MUSIC CONCERTS WITH

PERSONAL LIFE EXPERIENCES. A former voice instructor from Andrews University with his family will give free Sat. evening vocal music concerts with testimonies. Two music CDs and a DVD music video are available after the concert. For more information, contact Vladimir Slavujevic at 269-473-2826, or email him at vlado.slavujevic@yahoo.com.

Employment

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

is seeking applications for a full-time faculty member specializing in British literature of the 18th or 19th century. Preferred candidates will have a Ph.D.; a creative writing background is a

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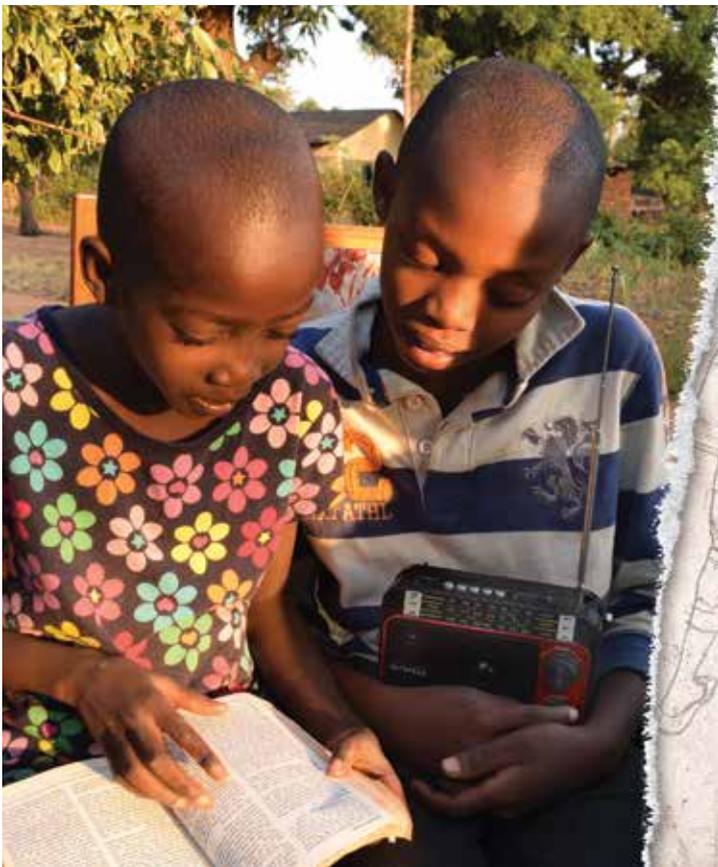
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COMMISSION CULTURE

COMMISSIONED TO STAY HOME

BY GARY BURNS

I visited New York Harbor for the first time as a young teen. It was an awesome feeling to stand at the feet of Lady Liberty and read the poem "New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus:

"...Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she with silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

It wasn't until much later in life that I realized those words do not resonate in the hearts of many Americans – some, merely out of ignorance and lack of personal experience, others out of fear of personal loss of income or comfort and culture.

Recently, the political temperature for immigrants is below freezing, yet it's that very chill that gives

commissioned disciples of Jesus great opportunity to provide some love and warmth, in spirit and truth.

Maybe you've always thought that you couldn't be a missionary in a foreign land. Maybe you felt that missionaries to foreign lands were privileged and by reason of their ministry, even more spiritual than you.

Maybe, you've been commissioned to stay home – commissioned to help welcome and make to feel at home those whom God has sent to your community from foreign lands.

So, when you read: *Go ye therefore*, think: going out your door, going down the street, going to the market where the world is literally at your doorstep.

Let's provide some love and warmth in this cold-shouldered climate and open wide that golden door!

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

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A World in Shambles

BY VALERIE SIGAMANI

“Run! Run! Run!” said Victoria’s brother. She looked back in fear, thinking that perhaps her speed was not quick enough to outrun her abuser. She then realized she was far ahead and the bushes around her concealed her location very well. Breathing deeply, she began to take slower steps, as she felt a sharp pain in her feet. She discovered that pieces of rocks and twigs had burrowed into her skin. She looked away and squinched her nose as she plucked them out of her foot. “There is a long way to go,” she thought in her mind, “1,479 miles.”

This is the story of too many youth today that are living in war zones and crime-ridden cities, a phenomenon that is not just in Syria, but in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America. The world is in shambles, and it’s up to the people of God to do something.

I think many of us are desiring a deeper religion, one that does not just constitute Bible reading and church attending — one that is more than a culture, rather a deep-seated conviction that feeds our souls. As we watch the news in despair for those on the other side of our screen, we ask, “What can we do?” I have good news. True religion constitutes action.

The disciples came to Jesus as he leaned upon the well. “Teacher, eat!” they said. Jesus responded, *I have food to eat that you know nothing about . . . My food . . . is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work*” (John 4:32, 34 NIV).

Jesus was trying to teach the disciples a lesson of gospel-work and true religion. True religion requires loving action. God knew it would not be sufficient for us to just *read* about salvation, but the full meal is to partake in the *work* of salvation. This is the *food* Jesus spoke of — to share salvation with

a woman who was regarded as unclean, a stranger and a sinner because, in his eyes, he saw a woman that had potential to change the world, become strong and be his disciple.

For Victoria, thankfully she managed to find a refugee camp. Since this 17-year-old was without family, without a home, she was able to apply for a family in a safe country to take her in as a foster child.

I’ve dealt with many refugees, like Victoria, who are coming to the United States. We can react in two ways: we can reject them by keeping them at arm’s distance, or we can embrace them like God called us to do. *And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt* (Deuteronomy 10:19 NIV).

Then, we could take this opportunity to share God’s message with them. It is a cross-cultural mission, no doubt, but it’s a call that Jesus has given to us as food for our souls.

Valerie Sigamani, an Andrews University graduate student, works with Bethany Christian Services in Southwest Michigan. She is currently working in its refugee program where she matches refugee youth with volunteers that will support and guide them in their new life in the United States.

Valerie received a \$100 scholarship for this article. If you’re between the ages of 14–30 and have a personal story of faith and/or want to challenge your peers and/or the church, please email your submission to: herald@lakeunion.org.



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

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

Resettled for Life

BY DEBBIE MICHEL

As a child born and raised in a Thailand refugee camp, Tha Kler Soe dutifully went to the Adventist school based at the camp. His parents were Buddhists with very little education, but their goal for their first-born son was to become successful and help them escape their hard circumstances.



Tha Kler Soe

As Tha matured into his teenage years, the lessons on the Sabbath day and Three Angels' message took root and he vowed to follow Christ for the rest of his life. "I found truth in the Bible," he says.

It was only a few months after his baptism the family received word that, after living 15 years in the refugee camp, they would be allowed to migrate to the United States. Tha remembers how happy his family was that they would be "gaining more education and more freedom." It would mean, he says, "we would get a better life."

Today, when most 21-year-olds are graduating college or furthering their professional lives, Tha has dedicated himself to helping the burgeoning refugee population in Rockford, Illinois.

"He's a big help to me," says lay leader Ywa Hay Tha, himself a Burmese refugee. At the Rockford Church, there are more than 50 Karen members and there are challenges for this group of immigrants. Ywa says Tha is a leader who has distinguished himself as someone who is willing to help with whatever, whenever.

On any given week, Tha can be found accompanying adults to their medical or other appointments and helping translate for them. He jokes that this is a good way to build trust with the parents, "so we can gain more youth in the church." He also regularly leads the vespers services and youth programs each week, that is, when he's not busy delivering Bible study lessons. One burden for him is to see his parents become Adventists. He's joyful that his younger sister who attended the Alpine Christian School, a K-8 Adventist school where half the population is of refugee background, was recently baptized.

Nowadays he works as a part-time cook in a Thai restaurant and continues to pray to know God's plans for his life. He contemplates pursuing a career in medical evangelism, influenced largely by an Adventist woman he witnessed doing naturopathic remedies at the camp. "I'm thankful to God," he says, "for my work with the Karen youth."

Debbie Michel is the associate director of communication for the Lake Union Conference.

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