

Lake Union HERALD

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

FOR ILLINOIS MEMBERS
ILLINOIS FOCUS INSIDE

THE CREATOR'S GIFT OF CREATIVITY





Andy Im

At Michigan Conference's 33rd quinquennial session, held Sunday, Sept. 30, James Micheff and Justin Ringstaff were re-elected as president and executive secretary, respectively. Michael Bernard was voted to serve as treasurer, following the retirement of Leroy Bruch. For more on this story, visit lakeunionherald.com.



Greg Edge

The Wisconsin Conference constituency held their 38th session on Oct. 7 and re-elected Mike Edge as president, Brian Stephan as secretary/treasurer, Adam Case as Ministerial director, Linda Rosen as Education superintendent, Juanita Edge as Communication director, Eric Chavez as Youth director, and Cindy Stephan as Planned Giving and Trust director. For a recap video, visit <https://vimeo.com/lakeunionherald>.



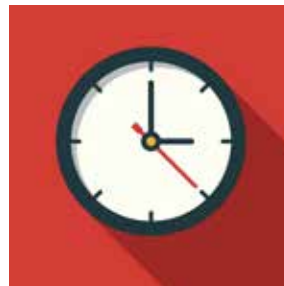
Dave Sherwin

"You alone, Lord!" was the cry of the 100 student leaders who gathered from the eight Lake Union academies during the first weekend of October. Under a backdrop of vibrant and breathtaking autumn colors, student leaders heard inspirational messages from Paw Paw Church pastor, Michael Taylor, who prodded the students to rise up and be the change in their schools. You can see read more on the leadership conference at lakeunionherald.com and view more photos via social media: bit.ly/luc_secondarytraining.

The Lamb

by Shirley Holmes

*Betrayed with friendship's kiss
For gain unseemly, small
Scourge, thorns, nails, spear
What mean these torturous
instruments of death?
Hell's fierce assault on Love
Personified
Back, head, hands, feet, heart
His vital parts
Crushed, torn and pierced
Demonic hammer blows of hate and
fury
Innocence must die
The Lamb be slain
To pay the price
FOR ME!
So, too, when I'm betrayed, pierced,
crushed and broken
Crucified with Him
May it be for fruit eternal
FOR HIM!*



The Lake Union is now closed on Fridays. Please call or visit our office during regular business hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., M–Th

Don't miss out on the latest news and information from around the Lake Union and beyond. Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, sent each Thursday directly to your inbox.





I only had been at the *Herald* a few weeks and needed a cover to illustrate the Indianapolis urban outreach in the May 2003 issue when I was introduced to Harry Ahn. His early experience as a Korean War refugee has given him empathy for the homeless and inspires him to paint their portraits. His art communicates the value God places on each individual, no matter how lowly his or her position in society. “I derive pleasure from making a nobody into a somebody, a nothing into something,” Ahn says.

Through the years, we’ve used a variety of fine art, graphic illustrations and creative photography to help communicate our message. We are all indebted to the many gifted artists who convey message through form and design.

This issue of the *Herald* is a tribute to the creative “voices” among us, whose iconic statements, imaginative perspectives and inspiring lyrics are a force for positive change. ■


Gary Burns
Editor



Marc Ullom



Dave Sherwin

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That the World May Know

The first time I attended a General Conference session was 1970 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. I was a teenager, baptized just two years earlier at Spanish Prospect Church, which was known as the first Spanish church established in New York City.



▲ Carmelo Mercado

When we were invited to attend by the couple who had mentored us into the Adventist faith, I did not know what to expect. Keep in mind, I was relatively new in the faith and the largest gathering of Adventists I remember attending was a conference-wide Spanish camp meeting which consisted of several hundred people.

When we arrived at the session, you can imagine the surprised look on my face when I began to see thousands (35,000 to be exact) of Seventh-day Adventists from around the world, many dressed in the clothes unique to their culture. My brother and I would try to guess from which countries they came. It seemed as if other people were doing something similar because, at one point, two men came up to my brother and me and asked what country we were from. In all innocence, I said, “The Bronx.”

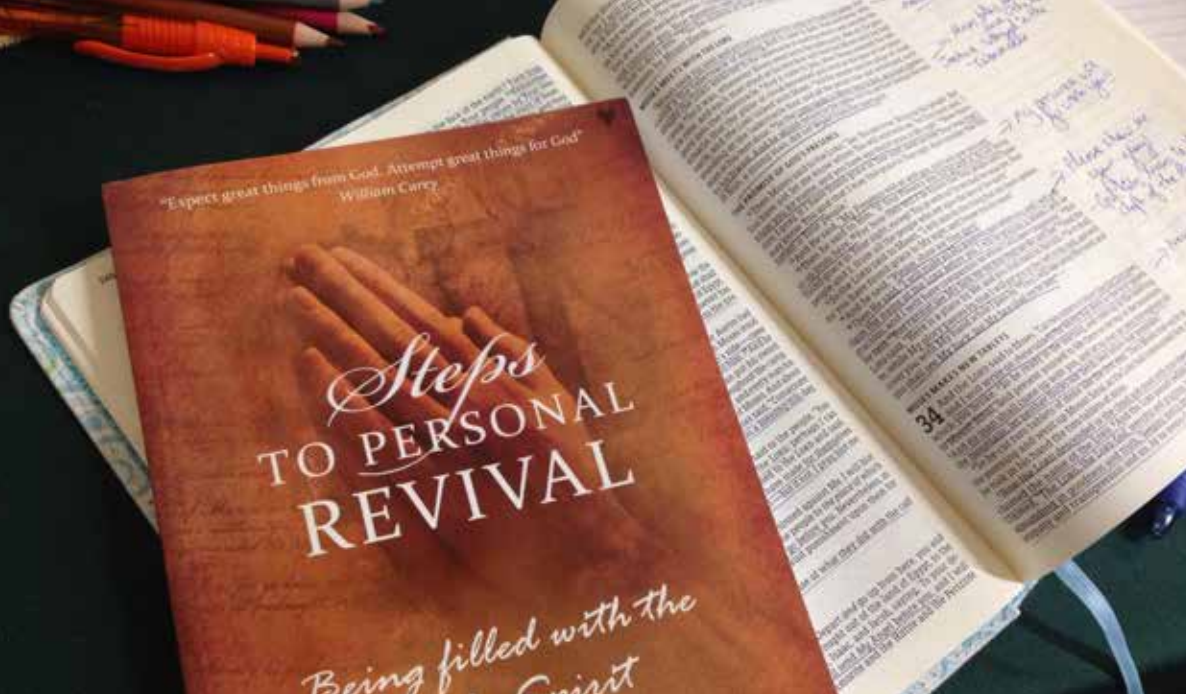
Despite the many years that have passed, I still remember three things that deeply impressed teenaged-Carmelo that Sabbath. The first thing was the huge banner above the platform with the words, “That the World May Know.” The second was singing “We’re Marching to Zion” with 35,000 other sojourners. Singing that song gave me a burning desire to see Jesus come soon and look forward to singing that song again on the glorious day we literally make our way to Heavenly Zion.

My third vivid memory was of president Robert Pierson who began his sermon with the prayer of Christ for his future believers,*that they may be one, even as we are one* (John 17:22 NRSV). I can now

see why he spoke about the need for unity in that session. At that time, the U.S. was in a deep political and cultural divide with talk of racism, injustice and deep suspicion towards those who were leading our government, and with good reason.

We are in the midst of such deep political divides today, not only in our country and our world, but our worldwide church also is facing serious tensions and divisions. More than ever we need to see the relevancy of our Savior’s words: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another* (John 13 :34-35 NKJV).

Love one another? Nice words! But how do you really do that? Our former union president, Don Livesay, led an event known as “Journey to Healing and Understanding” at the Berrien Springs Village Church in the fall of 2016. The audience looked like an accurate representation of the diversity in the Berrien Springs community. They came together to learn about the pain that African-Americans have faced, and still face in our society today. I came away from that meeting seeing a need for dialogue and compassion for one another. Since that meeting, the Lake Union has committed to continuing a dialogue, beginning in 2017 and through 2020, in Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago and Detroit. The vision is for pastors and laypeople of all different cultures to come together, all with the goal of fostering understanding and compassion, healing and networking.



Courtesy www.revivalandreformation.org

Our strategy of learning how to really love and trust each other will be put into practice when the next General Conference session comes to Indianapolis in 2020. The Lake Union is partnering with both the Indiana and Lake Region conferences to conduct evangelism in their various cultural contexts. Discipleship training, the organizing of small groups and compassion ministries, such as the Adventist Community Health initiative, will be active in 2019 and 2020. Evangelistic plans will involve media ministries such as It Is Written, Breath of Life and Esta Escrito in 2020. Our ultimate hope is that scores of people will be won for Jesus and rejoice in having discovered the grace of God through the preaching of the Word and experiencing the loving fellowship found in the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

As we enter 2019, I would like to urge you to pray for God to speak to your heart and surrender your whole life to Him. We all, myself included, need to follow the examples of the disciples in the upper room who fasted, prayed and confessed their sins to God and their offenses to one another. This is not easy to do, so let me suggest that you first pray to God, asking Him to give you a hunger for His presence. I also highly recommend getting a copy of the book, *Steps to Personal Revival*, by Pastor Helmut Haubell. I suggest you read it, not once, but at least six times. And find someone who will read it with you (download it for free at <https://steps-to-personal-revival.info>).

As you start this new year, consider beginning a 40-day prayer experience and, if possible, do it with someone else. Encourage your whole church to do it. I also encourage you to study closely the remainder of this quarter's Sabbath school lesson on the theme, "Oneness in Christ."

Christ longs to see His prayer fulfilled, that we may be one so that the world may marvel and be attracted to our church when they see a people who, despite the variety of differences in culture and our understandings, keep in daily practice the two great commandments: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself* (Matthew 22:37-39 NIV). ■

Carmelo Mercado is general vice president for Multicultural Ministries and Strategy for the Lake Union Conference.

As we enter 2019, I would like to urge you to pray for God to speak to your heart and surrender your whole life to Him.

Counting Every Blessing

Isn't this the best time of year, when we gather to give thanks as we focus on our blessings?



▲ Ingrid Weiss Slikkers

Intentionally doing activities with my children, such as gratitude lists to help them experience learning while we “count our blessings one by one,” has yearly reenergized me in parenting my sons with intentionality with continued attempts to guide them in a relationship with Jesus.

I want to be the type of parent who yearns to bring honor and glory to God for the wondrous ways He has intervened in our family's lives, desiring to be a witness and never take things for granted. Therefore, I have a license plate that says “Blessed” and a frame around my Facebook profile picture that scrolls in beautiful letters, “thankful, grateful, blessed.” And the answer to people's questions frequently is, of course, “We are blessed.” These are ways to bring the focus to gratitude.

However, as of late, I've been wrestling with the concept of using the words, “we are blessed,” after stumbling over an article where the summary implied that Christians should never say these words, because saying “we are blessed” indicates God played favorites, especially with those of us in first world countries. I found other authors that allude and argue that this statement instead should be replaced with “we are grateful” and, at times, go as far to state that we should simply state, “we are lucky.” But isn't “we are blessed” the most Christian thing to say? Isn't this what I need to teach to my sons?

Deciding to dig a little deeper after the unsettling I felt reading these articles, the first definition in my hurried internet search came up as “blessed,” meaning “made holy or consecrated.” That gave me something to ponder over. God offers this through the sacrifice of Jesus. What a fitting thing that we should be asking for “showers of blessings” throughout our day!

The search then led me to the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Mathew. According to Jesus Himself, those that are blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. Again, I had to pause and take inventory. Around our special celebrations during this time of year and exchanges of “blessings,” am I, as our family, pausing to think about what Jesus said concerning those that are “blessed”? Do I need to be pausing and leading my family to spend time in the Beatitudes instead of counting all the things we have in comparison to others?

Neither my desire, nor the importance of being grateful with continuous praise on our lips for our Savior, has diminished. I continued to read. Turning more pages, I again came to Jesus' words — this time in the Gospel of Luke, *to whom is given much, much is required* (Luke 12:48). I took a breath and held it, hesitating as I realized how Jesus had held my hand and carried me full circle back to His command that I love my neighbor. It is not about the analysis of the words; it is about my heart, and the best gratitude I can give is in service to others and teaching this to my children. He has given us much, so let us go forth and fulfill His requirements with joy! ■

Ingrid Weiss Slikkers is assistant professor of Social Work at Andrews University, a Child and Family therapist, and is constantly learning more about God because of her sons.



Healthy Holidays

Every year, many of us look fearfully towards the holidays, experiencing anxiety just thinking about it.

We know how challenging it will be to face the mountains of delicious seasonal food, the crazy party and event schedule, not to mention the sedentary nature of winter time compromising our regular fitness routines. The bad news is: many of us have no idea how to enjoy the holiday season and stay healthy, active and fit at the same time. The good news is: It is possible!

First, I would like to challenge you to adopt a new mindset and make a couple of key choices right now. Tell yourself: 1) I want to engage in total wellness transformation to live my life to the fullest for the rest of my life — not just for some six-week diet or fitness program or holiday survival plan that won't last. 2) I believe that once I adopt a transformative lifestyle perspective and mindset, I will be able to adopt healthier behaviors by making regular positive choices. This will, in turn, empower me to be able to make it through any festivities or any other life circumstances, because these healthy behaviors have become my default for any situation.

Second, there are five key foundational behaviors and principles that will assist you in getting started with your transformational life journey to a healthier and happier you and will assist you in creating a default foundation. This new mindset and behavioral pattern will help you to go through this holiday season (and any other season of life) in spectacular, healthy fashion.

PRINCIPLE 1: Move more, sit less.

If you have the option of standing versus sitting, stand. If you have the option of walking versus driving, walk. If you have the option of moving

about versus standing, move about. Regular daily physical activity and structured exercise should become a part of your foundational identity and daily routine. Include cardio, strength and flexibility and make a non-negotiable date in your calendar, just like any other appointment.

PRINCIPLE 2: Be mindful and intentional.

Focus. Reflect. Choose wisely. Follow-through. (A practical example of this is: when you stand starving in front of the buffet, pause and ask yourself: Is it time to eat now? What have I already eaten today? What is available here that categorizes as healthy? etc.)

PRINCIPLE 3: Half is enough. Ideally serve yourself only half of what you think you want to eat.

(A practical example of this is: You see a delicious brownie on the buffet table. Rather than serving yourself one piece, you use the serving utensil to cut it in half and only serve yourself half.)

PRINCIPLE 4: Drink water. Always choose drinking water over anything else: at home, at a party and in restaurants. Cold or hot herbal teas are a good option, too. Infuse your water with lemon, lime or mint. Drink a glass of water when you first feel hungry.

PRINCIPLE 5: Something positive is better than nothing. Get away from the all-or-nothing concept. If you can't get an hour workout in, then do 10 minutes and you will still reap positive benefits. If you forgot to eat fruits or vegetables during the day, add a tomato for dinner. ■



▲ Dominique Gummelt

Dominique Gummelt is director for Andrews University Wellness.

The Law and the Gospel

A man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, . . . by works of the law shall no one be justified (Galatians 2:16 RSV).



▲ George R. Knight

As we have seen [in the last few editions], Mrs. White was a bit upset with the Adventism of the 1888 era. And with good reason. In their focus on correct doctrine, Adventist tradition and being good Adventists, they had too often forgotten what the gospel was all about in both theory and practice. Emulating the Pharisees of old, they could be un-Christlike to each other, even as they debated the law of God and other good Adventist teachings.

Crying from her heart, on October 24 she told the delegates again that “we want the truth as it is in Jesus. But when anything shall come in to shut down the gate that the waves of truth [about Jesus] shall not come in, you will hear my voice wherever it is, if it is in California or in Europe, or wherever I am, because God has given me light and I mean to let it shine.

“And I have seen that precious souls who would have embraced the truth [of Adventism] have been turned away from it because of the manner in which the truth has been handled, because Jesus was not in it. *And this is what I have been pleading with you for all the time—we want Jesus*” (Manuscript 9, 1888; italics supplied).

Eighteen months later she was still struggling with the Adventist ministry to “open their hearts and let the Savior in.” She told those assembled for the General Conference Bible school for ministers that when they left the meetings they should “be so full of the message” of the gospel that it would be like fire shut up in their bones until they would not be able to hold their peace. If they did express their feelings, however, she told them that “men will say, ‘You are too excited; you are making too much of this matter, and you do not think enough of the law; now, you must think more of the law; don’t be all the time reaching for this righteousness of Christ, but build up the law.’”

To such “good” Adventist sentiments, she replied, “Let the law take care of itself. We have been at work on the law until we get as dry as the hills of Gilboa, without dew or rain. Let us trust in the merits of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. May God help us that our eyes may be anointed with eyesalve, that we may see” (Manuscript 10, 1889).

There are some things good to get excited about — if we can do it in the right spirit. ■

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 279, printed by permission.



Vision Leaks

Virtually everything, over time, tends to run down.
Trees sprout, grow, produce fruit, then begin to decay.

Projects, begun with enthusiasm, can move to passion, but if not stoked, can gradually lose their fascination. Even a dramatic news story runs a predictable “news cycle.” No matter how scintillating, after a couple of days, it moves to the back page, then slips out of sight altogether. There’s even a name for the process, although we don’t use it often — “entropy.” Everything runs down.

Vision leaks, too. In church. First love, Scripture calls it. That new member comes bounding up the church steps on Sabbath morning, radiating energy. “Don’t worry,” we observe, “he (or she) will get over it.” And it’s generally true.

But, is it inevitable? Is there another alternative? Is there a cure? Can strong leadership help Laodicea-proof a church? Let’s talk about that.

Question: How many non-believing friends do you have? Jesus hung out with the very people we often try

to avoid. Sociologists call it the principle of the homogeneous unit — we tend to feel the most comfortable with the people who are most like us.

During the Christmas season a couple of years back, we invited a group of friends to our house to fill shoeboxes with toys for the Samaritan’s Purse project. Fifteen or more showed up, about half from our church and half from our neighborhood.

As we began filling the shoeboxes, we noticed an interesting phenomenon — the church members were working on one project, the non-members on another. With a wonderful opportunity to expand our friendship circle to include folks we might be able to bless, instead, we clumped. Ugh.

I heard about a Shepherd once who slipped away from a group of sheep He knew and went to look for one that had wandered off. Hmm. Maybe I need to pray for a Shepherd’s heart. Maybe I need to make sure my church is committed to an aggressive mission strategy, then celebrate the victories God gives, the wins. That’s one of the ways a church learns what’s important. Would it help keep us on task if we had a couple of new believers on the church board? You know, to kind of jog us about our priorities as a church?

And that new, high-energy member . . . why not interview him/her so some of that fresh joy can rub off on the rest of us? Passionate, mission-committed leaders in a church can help make sure the vision doesn’t leak. We often announce at our fellowship dinners that if you don’t sit at a table with someone you don’t know, there’s no dessert for you! They laugh, but it makes the point. ■



▲ Don Jacobsen



Don Jacobsen writes a regular column, for Houses Of Prayer Everywhere, “Hope Heals,” an online prayer ministry organ of the North American Division. Visit hope-heals.org

The Open Door

By Cheri Lewis



Steve Davis for the Galesburg Register-Mail

▲ Top: Gerrie Wright, left, and Linda Tuthill pose for a photo at The Open Door, which gives free clothes and other items to people in need. Bottom: The Open Door volunteer Joyce Redlich folds clothes at the ministry, which is at the Park View Church.

WHEN GOD OPENS A DOOR, NO ONE IS ABLE TO CLOSE IT.

That's what Linda Tuthill of the Park View Church in Galesburg, Illinois, quickly discovered, especially when it came to serving her community. It was 2014 and she'd been giving some advice to a neighboring church on outreach. Soon God would impress her heart to look a little closer to home and do a specific effort right there in her own church town.

Linda is a big believer in prayer, so it seemed natural to bring the strong impression to her prayer partner and longtime sister in Christ, Elder Gerrie Wright. When she told Gerrie about her/God's idea of a clothing giveaway, there was no hesitation of support. Both were well aware of the growing needs in the area.

On a hot July morning, just weeks later, they started the free clothing giveaway, using a picnic table, a ping pong board, and a couple of sawhorses and rope. That first Thursday, they served 50 local families and gave away more than 700 items of clothing. From then on, they would appropriately call the service, "The Open Door."

Despite the fact they weren't sure how often they'd get donations or how they'd find the time or space

to sort, display and house everything, they faithfully opened their doors every third Thursday of the month. They eventually added household items, children's toys, non-perishable food items and paper goods. Another church elder offered to build shelving. The then-pastor secured commercial clothing racks from a nearby department store that was closing. More tables and shelves were donated from a well-known regional company, and the city's inspector signed off on the building they were using on church property (even though a full occupancy permit had not been obtained yet). One open door after another.

Prayer was always key. Early on, Linda and Gerrie offered to lift up the burdens of almost anyone who came in for items. Now, they say the people have come to expect it!

"One Thursday, I noticed a woman hanging back after she had 'shopped' for a while and we had already bagged things up for her," said Gerrie. "She finally blurted out, 'Aren't you going to pray with me?!' It was like the Holy Spirit was reminding us to get off our duffs and go about our Father's business," she chuckled.

Long-lasting friendships with donors and their families also have been formed. After a couple of years, Linda and Gerrie received word that a woman had passed away who had provided some of the first clothes to the giveaway. Now her daughter now regularly gives. And the open doors continue.

Recently The Open Door celebrated its fourth year, and there's no sign of closing. More than 2,600 local families have been served and nearly 37,000 items given away. Gerrie says, "It's amazing how this has grown — beyond anything I could've imagined!" Linda adds, "As the prophet Isaiah says, we're called to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. We're just answering God's call." One open door at a time. ■

Cheri Lewis, Park View Church, Communication director

Nuevo coordinador para la Asociación de Indiana

En el mes de mayo recibí una noticia que me tomó de sorpresa.

El pastor Antonio Rosario, coordinador de la obra hispana en el estado de Indiana, comunicó a los dirigentes de la Unión del Lago que había tomado la decisión de jubilarse, efectivo el 10 de agosto de este año. Esta decisión nos tomó por sorpresa; parecía imposible que ya hubieran pasado once años desde que se había hecho cargo de la obra hispana. Con los hermanos de Indiana, especialmente aquellos que se unieron a la iglesia bajo su liderazgo, lo echaremos mucho de menos. Y la pregunta fue: ¿Quién podrá tomar el lugar de este siervo de Dios?

Con los administradores de la Asociación de Indiana oramos para pedir al Señor que nos guiara en la búsqueda de un nuevo coordinador. Consultamos con los pastores hispanos de la Asociación para saber qué era lo que esperaban de un coordinador. Y sabiendo que el nuevo coordinador sería también el pastor de la Iglesia Central Hispana de la ciudad de Indianapolis consultamos también con la junta de dicha iglesia. Luego se hizo una lista de posibles candidatos tomando en cuenta su experiencia en la obra y los dones que Dios les había dado. La administración entrevistó a cinco candidatos, y comprendimos finalmente que Dios nos estaba dirigiendo para escoger a alguien que ya estaba sirviendo como pastor de una iglesia de habla inglesa en la Asociación. Me es un placer informar a nuestros lectores de Conexiones que el nuevo coordinador de la obra hispana en la Asociación de Indiana es el Dr. Víctor Jaeger.

El pastor Jaeger nació y creció en la ciudad de Trujillo, Perú. Estudió ingeniería y trabajó catorce años como ingeniero para una corporación japonesa en Texas. Sin embargo, como había siempre tenido en el corazón el deseo de ganar almas para Cristo, lo hacía

aun estando empleado en el mundo secular sirviendo como instructor bíblico y pastor laico. Trabajó algún tiempo en México; fue allí que se enfermó gravemente y le fue necesario regresar a los Estados Unidos. Los médicos no pudieron darle un diagnóstico preciso y estuvo al borde la muerte. Pero Dios intervino y lo restauró completamente.

Fue entonces que el pastor Jaeger aceptó el llamado de trabajar tiempo completo como pastor. Plantó, con la bendición de Dios, diez iglesias en Texas. Asimismo en la iglesia de habla inglesa en la ciudad de Fort Wayne, Indiana bautizó a más de cincuenta almas y aumentó los diezmos en un 183%. Además, en el mes de mayo de este año obtuvo un Doctorado en Misiología, con énfasis en crecimiento de iglesia y evangelismo.

El Señor ha bendecido al pastor Jaeger en su vida personal también. Está casado ya por veintiséis años con Celia Bamberger-Jaeger y tienen dos hijos --Johan de diecisiete años y Hans de trece. Pido sus oraciones por esta hermosa familia para que Dios la use en gran manera para avanzar la obra del Señor. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vice presidente general, ministerio multicultural y planificación estratégica de la Unión del Lago.



▲ Carmelo Mercado



Courtesy Víctor Jaeger

◀ El pastor Víctor Jaeger, su esposa Celia, y sus hijos Hans y Jo

Back from the Brink: How God's Grace Restored Our Broken Marriage

By Don and Lisa Sawvel



▲ Don and Lisa Sawvel

DON: I WAS RAISED A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST AND MY DAD WAS A PASTOR.

Growing up I experienced a lot of rejection in my life. It was no surprise that, when I was introduced to pornography in my teen years, I became addicted to self-medicate my low self-esteem. I walked away from God in my mid-twenties.

Then, after 12 years of a marriage that produced three children, I found myself going through a divorce. Hoping to ease the pain, I took up drinking.

LISA: I, too, was raised in a Seventh-day Adventist home. At the age of 20, I was fearful I would never marry because my past relationships with guys didn't seem to work out. My dad reassured me, "Lisa, don't worry. Someday, the man you are going to marry will come through the doors of our church."

Don, 13 years older and going through a divorce, came through the doors of the Jackson Church one Sabbath in 1985, and it was love at first sight!

Not wanting to lose Don, I chose to give up the morals and standards I had upheld over the years. But, after making that decision, I found myself a few months later in the doctor's office, receiving the news that I was pregnant. Feeling ashamed and not wanting to face our families, or my church family, Don and I decided to have an abortion.

DON: After we were married, when Lisa didn't have to work at the nursing home on the weekends, she would go to church and I would go with her to keep her company. After one year of this, the Holy Spirit got through to me and I was re-baptized. But I held onto my secret sexual sin.

LISA: The first year of our marriage was very difficult for me. I was still suffering from the emotional pain of the abortion and blaming Don for it all. But something else was wrong. My husband no longer wanted sexual intimacy with me.

Nevertheless, two years after we were married, we had a son, Justin Michael. As they laid this precious child on my chest, I thought, "Why, God? Why would you give me another child after what I did to our first child?" You know, I was raised an Adventist Christian all my

Photos provided by Don & Lisa Sawvel



He can renew you, no matter how far you have wandered off the path He has chosen for you. He is a God of restoration!

life and I've always heard of "grace," but never really understood it until this moment. God showed me that His grace is sufficient and that nothing can separate us from the love of the Father!

After 14 years of marriage, I felt I could no longer live with the rejection from my husband. I was led to a trusted Christian woman, who surmised that my husband was probably addicted to pornography. She suggested we separate and heal for a time, but I took that as a key to freedom. I went home and announced to Don, "I want a divorce!" He did not act the way I thought he would. Instead, he begged, "Don't leave me; help me!"

DON: When Lisa told me that she wanted a divorce, I had never felt such hopelessness before in my life. Even though I was continually hurting her, deep down, I loved her.

That night, as I walked aimlessly through the neighborhood, I found myself on the freeway bridge, contemplating suicide. If she didn't love me, no one did.

Then I was reminded, Someone else loved me. Jesus reached out to me in His still small voice and said, "Don, trust me. I love you. I will carry you through this tough time." As I argued that I couldn't go on without Lisa, He told me He would help me and love me.

As I turned away from the bridge that night, a whole new feeling came over me, that I could trust Him at His word and that He would get me through this. That night began a whole new walk with Christ in my life, at a deeper level than I had ever let Him in before. I began to plead with Him to transform me.

LISA: I still didn't have a clear conscience that it was okay to divorce Don, so I talked with a pastor and told him our story. He said, "Lisa, I want you to go home and pray for God to change Don's heart and pray that God would change your heart."

All summer long, I prayed God would change Don's heart, but I couldn't ask Him to change my heart. I had a plan, and I intended to stick with it.

One Sunday afternoon, these words surprisingly tumbled out of my mouth: "Do you want to take a walk?" Don agreed. As we walked around our neighborhood, he began apologizing for the way he treated me and cried for putting me through the abortion. But the thing he said which really caught my attention was, "Lisa, you brought me back to God, and I see you going away from God. Even if we don't get back together, don't lose your walk with God."

That night, I got down on my knees and prayed, "God, please change Don's heart." (I could see He had been doing that.) Then I prayed, "God, please change my heart, too."

Within 24 hours of that prayer, I asked Don to come back home (we had been living separately) and told him that I was willing, with God's help, to make our marriage work.

It wasn't perfect right away, but we are thankful for the journey. Walking with God day by day has given us so much joy. I am so grateful that friends and family were praying for us through that very difficult trial, and I am so thankful for choosing to allow God to change my heart.

God is working hard to lift our hearts and minds from the base elements of the world and place them on what is pure and holy. Jeremiah 17:8 says that if we are planted in Christ, drink deeply of Him, draw from His Word, seek Him daily and gain strength from prayer, we can remain fruitful and obedient, whether in drought or under pressure.

God's amazing grace, reconciliation and transformation in our lives can be only accomplished by Him! He can renew you, no matter how far you have wandered off the path He has chosen for you. He is a God of restoration! ■

Don and Lisa Sawvel are the facilitators of Michigan Conference's UNcompromised ministry, which educates youth and adults on the choices of purity in mind, body and spirit, that we all may live a life like Christ. To learn more, please visit www.alifelikeChrist.org.



By Shannon Kelly

Something was missing. Although graphic designer and lifelong Seventh-day Adventist Mark Cook had established a successful graphic design business, serving major clients such as furniture manufacturer Herman Miller and working with talented employees and friends, over time, he felt a need for something more.

“From a design perspective, it was kind of everything that I hoped to have in a studio,” Cook says, “but it never went beyond just being design. And that was kind of okay to start with but, after a few years, I realized that I really wanted to have a studio that was doing more than just making beautiful things, and I wanted it in service of something bigger than that.”

In 2015, Cook, along with fellow Adventist designer, Ivan Ruiz-Knott, decided to establish a new studio where they could utilize their creative talents for their church.

“We started the studio simply with the goal of wanting to make really great Adventist experiences,” Cook says in explaining the genesis of Types & Symbols. “[Ivan and I] both came to a similar perspective of realizing that the message is great but, oftentimes, the packaging of that message could be a little bit better, a little bit more compelling. So, we had a strong desire to use design to help further the message of Adventism and hopefully present it in a little bit more of a compelling way.”

Once the new studio got up and running, Cook and his team were able to focus on a major project that had been laid on their hearts: a special redesign of Ellen White’s Conflict of the Ages series. The idea initially came to Cook when he and his wife were searching for a collection of these books for their home. “We just didn’t see anything out there that we really wanted to own,” he reflects. The couple finally found a nice enough vintage

set, but the experience made Cook aware of a need.

“Why isn’t there just a beautifully designed, super, well-crafted edition of these books that are referenced and read on such a regular basis?” he asked himself. Thus, the idea for “The Conflict Beautiful” was born. Cook and his team began working on their design.

“We recognized pretty early on that the acronyms for the books — PP, PK, DA, AA, GC — were used quite a bit,” Cook says. The team decided to incorporate this into their cover design and looked to the Bible itself for the rest. “[We] went through a lot of different design variations around the monograms and ultimately ended up with an underlying grid for each monogram that’s based on the dimensions of the Sanctuary,” he explains enthusiastically. “Each letter fits within a 2-to-1 rectangle, which are the dimensions of the Outer Courtyard. And within the actual 2-to-1 rectangle, there’s a perfect square, 2 perfect squares, and also circles that fit in there, and those were pulled from the altar, which is a perfect square, the Most Holy Place perfect square, and the laver, which is that perfect circle.”

The goal for the book interior is optimum readability. The team chose to use book cloth and embossing on the cover, a binding where pages will never fall out, paper that is smooth with a heavier weight, and margins to accommodate comfortable reading, whether the book is held on the sides or underneath. “There’s also



a really subtle reference again to the Sanctuary in the text block, which is based on the 2-to-1 rectangle on the interior,” Cook adds.

“We want this project to reach people that either haven’t read Ellen White’s work or have been maybe a little dismissive of Ellen White’s work, and maybe even hold a perception of her that’s inaccurate,” Cook says. He himself once felt that way. “I had no interest in Ellen White for a long time,” he admits. “I thought of her as kind of a really negative and critical person. When I actually started reading her books, I realized, man, I was super off on all of that!”

With accolades from prominent pastors and lay leaders about the books’ new look, the designers are hoping the Conflict of Ages series will encourage readers to see the beauty in Ellen White’s writings and her passionate love for Christ.

For more on the project, please visit: <https://www.theconflictbeautiful.com/>. ■

Shannon Kelly is a freelance writer.

► Ivan Ruiz-Knott (left) and Mark Cook redesigned Ellen White’s “Conflict of the Ages” series.



Photography by Marc Ullom

A detailed oil painting of a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a dark blue dress with a white lace collar. She is seated at a dark wooden desk, writing with a quill pen on a piece of paper. A small inkwell is on the desk to her left. The background is dark and moody. The text 'Portrait by an Artist' is overlaid in white serif font. The artist's signature 'Harry Allin' is in the bottom right corner.

Portrait by an Artist

By Shannon Kelly

Harry Allin

At 79 years old, renowned painter Harry Ahn is showing no signs of slowing down. “I don’t count my age,” he says. “I count my paintings. I count my brushes. It makes me a whole man to have a goal to be able to paint like the old masters. That’s why I am always working. That’s my life.”

Harry recently completed a painting commissioned by Andrews University of the former president Neils-Erik Andreasen, and is in the midst of establishing a painting studio in downtown Berrien Springs.

Artist Harry Ahn has garnered numerous prestigious awards for his exquisite work, which consists mostly of portraits. His portraits of Adventist church pioneers Ellen and James White hang proudly in Andrews University’s James White Library; another painting was featured in the General Conference office. “That’s how I have been helping the [Adventist] Church.” Yet he is humble and gives the credit to God.

As you look at Harry’s paintings, his skillful attention to details and the personality of the subject comes through time and time again. So, how does he capture the humanity in his subjects? The process is not that complicated, he explains. He uses models for his portraits. “I have to make them come probably four or five times, which is hard for them,” he says in his thick Korean accent, “So I just took a picture. You have to see an actual person that is combined with the picture [and] from your memory.” Each portrait takes Harry approximately one month to finish. “You have to set it aside for a while,” he explains. “When you work for so many hours, just looking and looking, you don’t see any mistakes or anything that you have to correct. Then if you set it aside for a while, you will see it with clear eyes.”

Before he became an artist, Harry survived the Korean War, escaping to South Korea as a refugee. He studied nursing, received the English name of “Harry,” and then immigrated to Canada where he began a new life and career before settling in the United States in 1967. “I was brought up in North Korea during the Korean War,” he recalls solemnly. “All this bombing and shooting, you just watch people dying. So many people got sick.”

Although the Korean War ended July 27, 1953, danger still lurked in the form of Korean soldiers searching for survivors to take back to North Korea. Harry and his

family knew that they must try to escape that fate. They also had to seek shelter from the chance stray bullets or bombs. Hiding under blankets in a burned, war-torn house, hardly daring to breathe, he explains, “Always you would cover once you get to room. You would cover all with a blanket, all our families, which kept quiet. I just tell them, ‘Don’t say anything; keep quiet.’”

One night, as Harry and his family hid, North Korean soldiers stopped to examine the remains of their house. “After they thought maybe there was no one there, they left,” he says. A few days later, U.S. soldiers came and took him and his family to South Korea as refugees. “The government wasn’t really established to be able to help all of us refugees,” he explains, “So, in order to survive, we had to beg for food house to house. And then, we didn’t have a place to stay. Our family stayed under bridge to cover.”

Being homeless was a traumatic experience for Harry, but the hardship would later turn to beauty by influencing some of his most treasured paintings, a series of homeless portraits. “Those are my most dear paintings.”

He was initially inspired by the work of Harry Anderson, after becoming a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. In particular, he admired Anderson’s Bible-inspired works. Struck that this artist shared his name, Harry met Anderson twice before his passing. “I had just become a Christian, and I was so thrilled,” he said. “I was excited. I wanted to pay back to God, because of all this kind of gratitude!” ■

Shannon Kelly is a freelance writer.



▲ Harry Ahn (right), at the unveiling of his portrait of former Andrews University president, Niels-Erik Andreasen



▲ Mark Hunt

Jean-Irès Michel

Artist Illustrates Children's Book About Overcoming Fears

By Malissa Martin

Sometimes God plants the seed of an idea in our head, and lets it grow for years until all the pieces are aligned and it's time to harvest. Illustrator Mark Hunt had a seed planted about writing a children's book years ago, and God finally decided it was time to bring it to fruition. "I started out as an illustrator and painter, and a number of people always wanted me to get into writing children's books," said Mark.

Although he never considered writing, he still followed God's lead into uncharted territories. Like the character in his book, Mark, too, had to overcome fear and write the story God placed in his heart.

He recently released his first self-published book, *The Buffalo Frog: My B.F.F.*, on Amazon and Kindle. The book, which Mark plans to turn into a series, is about a little girl that has a fear of bugs. "What happens is she creates

a friend out of an imaginary frog that helps her through her fear. She becomes friends with the frog and that's just the first series of how she's able to cope with that particular fear."

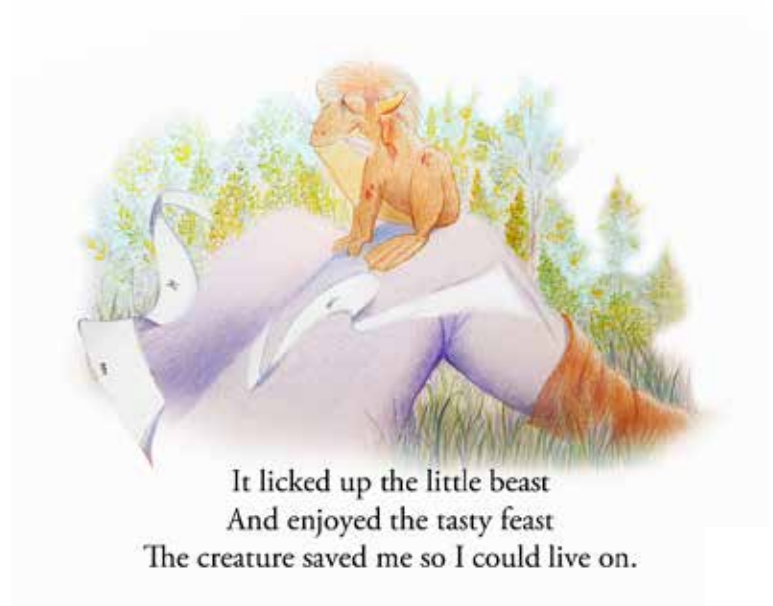
When Mark decided to step out in faith, he wanted to make sure he got it right. So he brought into the project his wife, Carole Woolford-Hunt, a psychologist, and his sister-in-law, Susan Woolford-White, a pediatrician, to ensure his story made sense from an educational and psychological standpoint. Woolford-White turned the story into a rhyming book, and Woolford-Hunt wrote some of the questions in the back of the book for parents to discuss fears with their kids. "Most fear books that are written now, they really don't have a conversational piece for the child as far as remembering the story and dealing with their own problems that may arise within the book itself," said Mark. "We focused on that particular fear and that those fears can be not just bugs, but it could be several things the child is going through."

Writing the book was something totally new to Mark because he has built his career as an illustrator, using etching and granite as his medium. He has created murals across the United States, including Florida and Washington, D.C., and even had a walk-through gallery in Trinidad at the University of Southern Caribbean showing the University's history. "The murals that I do, I actually etch pictures into the granite. Basically, it's black granite that's polished and I have a diamond tip tool that I use to etch in the granite itself. It's extremely time-consuming and you can't make any mistakes," he said.

Nevertheless, Mark stepped outside of his comfort zone of illustration and into the writing arena. This just proves that God will use what's already familiar to you to stretch your abilities.

It took the Berrien Springs resident about a year to complete the book. Now that the ball is rolling on the children's book, he's currently working on a devotional book for adults. "It would be a series of the granite work that I've done that would be depicted in the book itself," he said. ■

Malissa Martin is a Detroit-based freelance writer.





Singing Lessons

By Malissa Martin

There are several tools God uses to speak to us. For example, the Sabbath school lesson, Bible study, songs of worship, and more. Devotion is another tool God uses, and it's been Michelle Odinma's favorite since her sophomore year at Michigan State University. Her early morning devotions have led her to transition from being a teacher to a preacher. It also inspires Michelle to write songs and sing about her Christian journey.

It all began around the halfway mark of her teaching career. "I came up to about year three of teaching and asked myself, 'Is this it?'" She always knew she wouldn't teach forever because her real desire was to preach, which she'd been doing since 2007. "I knew I really had a heart for ministry, so I was going to transition into that in some type of form after teaching. I just didn't know when or how, or what exactly that was going to look like," Michelle said. She kept studying her devotions to keep an open line of communication with God for direction. Soon after, she moved to Kalamazoo to work at the Kalamazoo Seventh-day Adventist School.

While visiting her dad in Baltimore one weekend, Michelle said she was awakened in the middle of the night and impressed that she should preach. "I feel that I'm called to preach, but I don't know what I should do with that. Then the thought came in my head, 'Maybe the seminary.' So I looked it up online, but I wasn't sure," said Michelle. She also was apprehensive about being a woman preacher in this day and age. "You know, you have the whole debate about women in ministry, and I wasn't sure if that was some type of controversy I wanted to be a part of." She put the idea in the back of her mind.

However, about a year later, she kept thinking about the seminary, so she prayed about it more and God gave her a sign. "About three months prior to me submitting my application to the seminary, every time a pastor would get up to speak, my heart would get heavy —

like physically heavy — and I kept having the thought of 'You need to go preach,'" said Michelle. The same thing happened to her for the next couple of months every time a speaker stood up to preach. Eventually Michelle obeyed God's call and enrolled in Andrews University. She's currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in chaplaincy and expects to graduate May 2020. She credits Andrews' Public Campus Ministries for helping her find her footing in her new experience with God.

Writing music is another blessing that blooms from Michelle's devotions. "When I study the Bible in the morning and different thoughts impress me or hit me hard, a way to receive that message is to write a song." Her new album, "Stories To Tell," focuses on different Bible characters' experiences and the Christian path we must walk to meet Jesus. She describes her third album, which releases winter 2019, as real and authentic. "So it's not going to be something that you'll hear every day." Michelle also is in Andrews' musical group, Hymeno; she's writing songs for their first album.

Heeding God's call can be an undertaking but, when you let Him lead and keep a line of communication open with Him, there is no need to worry. He will bring you to the other side and place you right where you need to be, according to His Word. ■

Malissa Martin is a Detroit-based freelance writer.

High Art

By Debbie Michel
and Gillian Panigot

Artist Greg Constantine

Fresh off his exhibition at the much-publicized Grand Rapids ArtPrize, artist Greg Constantine is sitting in his art-filled studio at Andrews University, polishing up a series of comic strips slated to run in the International Camporee newspaper next August.

These comic sketches, loosely based on the story of David and Goliath, revolve around two central characters, Davey and Big G, where Davey meets a visiting team from Philly (hint to Philistines) for a pickup game of basketball. Davey is not the greatest basketball player; in fact, he can't shoot or rebound. But he has one special skill — the slingshot hook (get the hint?).

So why, after retiring a dozen years ago from teaching art for 43 years at Andrews University, is the Canadian-born artist still faithfully showing up at the office each day and immersing himself into new projects? "I think like a kid," he quips. "I'm not saying I didn't grow up — although my wife would disagree." In all seriousness, he says, he has a strong desire to make a crucial contribution to help young people in their teens and twenties relate more closely to biblical teachings.

Drawings and words always have seemed to flow naturally for the 80-year-old; to date, he has illustrated and written seven books — his last, *Jesus of New York*, which imagines Jesus as a 19-year-old Jewish lad in New York City.

Another creative outlet he enjoys is producing license plates with some famous and perhaps not-so famous quotes. His ArtPrize exhibition in October featured "Saint Liberty," an 85" x 48" painting of the Statue of Liberty, which he created using a ready-made "machine" (the mouths of paint tubes) to apply the colors in gestures directly onto the canvas, referencing July 4th fireworks celebrations.

Written out in a collection of license plates at the base of the painting is the statement, "Give me your tired,

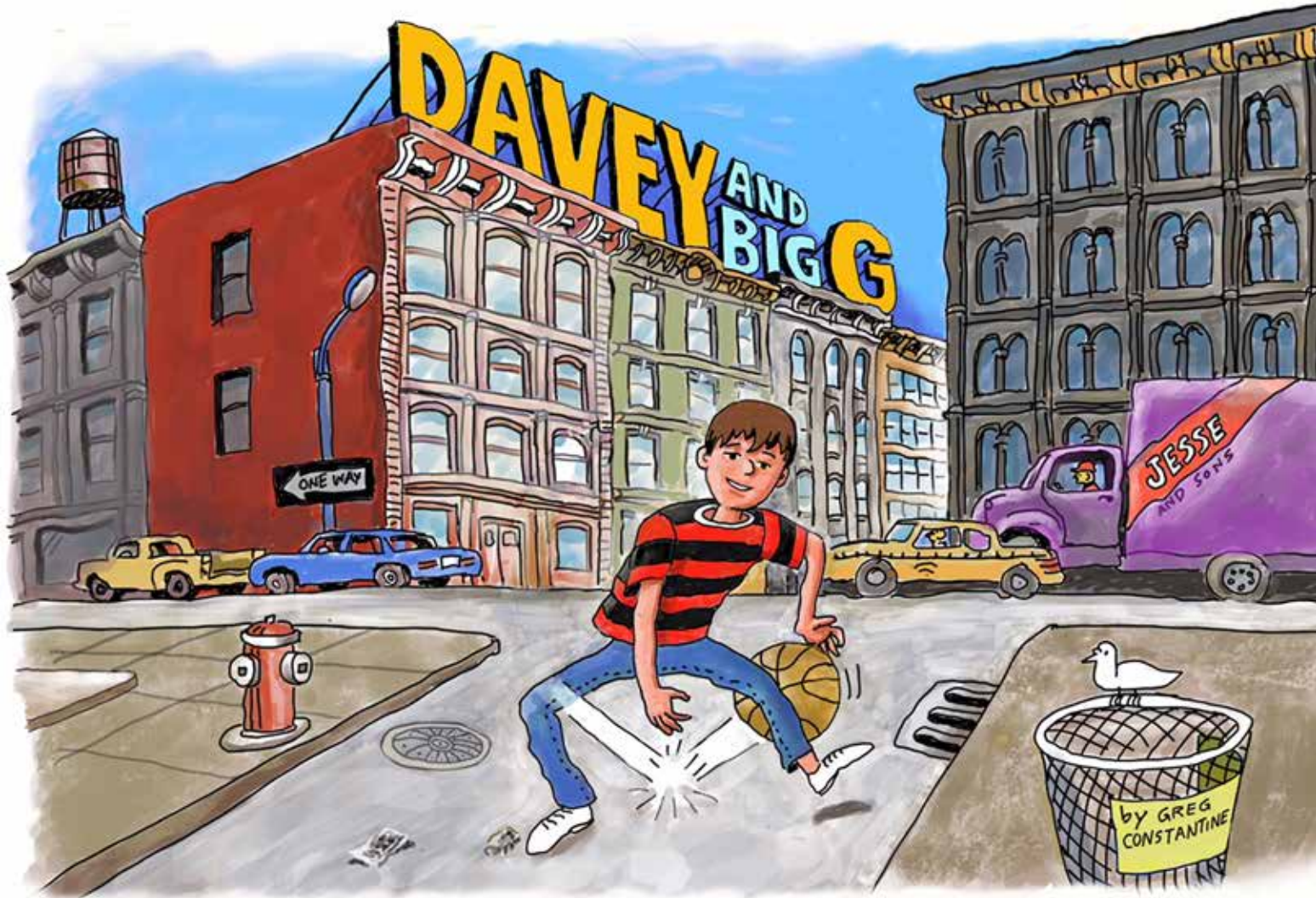
your poor huddled masses yearning 2 breathe free. I was a stranger and u took me in." Constantine hand-crafted the license plates from vacuum-formed plastic, then meticulously painted and distressed the plates, applying actual rust.

"The 'Statue of Liberty' in New York harbor is as much a logo for America as the 'Stars and Stripes' flag and the 'Star Spangled Banner' national anthem are," Constantine says. "She is the only one of the three that pleads for the relief of the suffering and downtrodden. She personifies freedom and liberty, therefore worthy to be called a saint."

In the late 1970s, Constantine worked on a series of paintings on the subject of American landmarks, including the St. Louis Gateway Arch, the White House and Niagara Falls. "Saint Liberty" was created in 1978 as part of this collection and was selected to be exhibited in the American Ambassador's residence in Athens, Greece, during the 2004 Olympics. It also was selected for a New York exhibit celebrating the centennial of the Statue of Liberty in 1986.

Constantine says, "This is my seventh year in ArtPrize, and most years I have utilized my unique license plate format for my entries. This year, I realized I should combine this painting with a partial quote from the plaque on the base of the statue. Then I added the Matthew [25:35] quote which I considered to be very appropriate today. I hope that the quotes respond to people's feelings about caring for others." ■

Debbie Michel, Lake Union Conference associate Communication director, and Gillian Panigot, Andrews University Media Communication manager.



Jean-Irès Michel

DIFFERENT ROLES, SAME GOAL FOR 40 YEARS



▲ Sonja Lindburg believes that her 40-plus years of varied experience were designed by God to prepare her for the work she's now doing.

These days, it's rare to find an individual who desires to stay at the same workplace for their entire career. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in 2016 the average tenure for an American worker is just over four years. Whether due to economic conditions or worker dissatisfaction, we are likely to have about a dozen employers in our lifetime.

Not so for Sonja Lindburg, who works for the AMITA Health Marketing and Physician Referral Call Center. In 1976, Lindburg began working at Hinsdale Hospital and said, after 42 years, she

has never imagined working anywhere else. Despite the many changes in health care in that time, Lindburg has remained committed to the place she believes God called her to serve. "I became an Adventist at age 15 and have been blessed to work for an Adventist institution for my entire career," said Lindburg. "I truly believe it has made all of the difference in my life."

Trained initially as a nurse's aide, Lindburg started in the hospital's psychiatric unit, and later transferred to the nursery to care for the hospital's

youngest patients. After returning to school for computer training, she became a unit secretary for the telemetry services. In the decades to follow, she would act as department secretary for cardiovascular services, a nurse call operator, an executive assistant and, finally, a physician referral associate working in the call center. Lindburg said she remained adaptable and willing to take new roles to remain in a workplace where "we didn't have to be close-mouthed about Jesus, regardless of the denomination of the people around us."

Lindburg believes that her 40-plus years of varied experience were designed by God to uniquely prepare her for the work she is currently doing. "One of my roles is to help people find a doctor who accepts their insurance," said Lindburg. "Because of many years of working in numerous departments, I know the lingo and how to best refer people."

Laila Khan, a former boss, believes Lindburg is a great example of the mission in action. "Sonja is so empathetic," said Khan, "and because of her experience and her passion for helping others, she has such a wealth of knowledge to offer people."

Despite no longer working in direct patient care, Lindburg is confident she is still helping to carry out the health system's mission to *extend the healing ministry of Jesus*—especially when it comes to serving those who have difficulty accessing care. "I believe our organization exists to help people that other hospitals won't," said Lindburg. "I'm so very thankful that God led me here to do fulfilling work for a company that cares for people in need." ■

Written by Julie Busch, associate vice president, Communications

Growth through travel

In 1961, Andrews University was one of the leading Adventist institutions involved in the process of creating the Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA) program. At that point in time, there was a huge need to prepare missionaries to work in places where English was not spoken. Consequently, the study abroad opportunity was made available to all majors, both then and now, who want to interact with people from other countries and cultures or go abroad as missionaries.

This past school year, Jessica Newkirk, a sophomore nursing major, studied Spanish at the Universidad Adventista del Plata in Entre Rios, Argentina. For her, the time with ACA opened doors.

While she was learning Spanish in this immersive environment, she had the opportunity to visit Peru, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Patagonia. "Being able to visit so many places over the course of eight months was amazing," Jessica says. "I really loved watching the famous ballet in the Buenos Aires Theatre Colon. I also enjoyed going to Machu Picchu. It was so much bigger than pictures can capture. The beaches in Brazil were incredible, filled with surfers and so many coconuts and acai bowls. And, of course, seeing the glaciers in Patagonia continuing on for miles made me realize how small I am and how awesome of a creator God is."

While Jessica admits that being away from everything familiar was difficult, she was grateful to experience new things and, above all, learn more about her own heritage. "My mother was born in Chile and lived there until she was six. I wanted to be a part of and experience my heritage," she says. "I think the way God blessed me the most was letting me meet my cousin. I had known who she was, but



Photo courtesy Jessica Newkirk

▲ Jessica during her ACA travels

we had never met. She was so loving to me, and we spent quite a bit of time together. She, her mother and her husband made me feel at home away from home."

Prior to her year of studying abroad, Jessica had only been on mission trips to Guatemala and Thailand. Both of those trips awakened her desire to travel, and it was ACA that helped her desire become a reality.

"I think I needed that year abroad to experience life differently," she reflects. "Being in a place and doing things that push you out of the familiar forces you to grow. You can either fight that growth or you can let that growth change you. No matter how big or small that growth is, it is important. I would say that the experience was a positive one for me, and would recommend it to anyone."

Jessica's attitude is reflected by many students who participate in the ACA program. Pedro Navia, chair of the Department of International Languages

and Global Studies, and Sonia Badenas, assistant professor of French, say their students often refer to their study abroad experiences as the best time of their lives. Navia explains, "In such a globalized world [as] we are living in, it is highly important to develop cultural competencies, and ACA provides an excellent venue to achieve them."

To learn more about the ACA program, visit andrews.edu/inls. ■

Hannah Gallant, University Communication student writer, Andrews University



Photo courtesy Jessica Newkirk

▲ Jessica enjoyed going to Machu Picchu

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

150th anniversary of first general Adventist camp meeting teaches relevant lessons for today

MICHIGAN—On the 150th anniversary of the first general Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting, the Wright Church held a special celebration, Sept. 7–8, to commemorate this historic event.

Steeped in a rich history, the Wright Church is one of the oldest continuous Adventist congregations (since 1858) and a church in which Ellen White and other pioneers preached, lived and worked. It was behind this church building that the first general Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting took place 150 years ago in September of 1868.

The commemorative weekend and its preparations were led by God's guiding hand. He blessed despite unfortunate circumstances. The Friday night presenter, Jim Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate, flew in from abroad and, due to an aircraft problem, got there literally just in time for his presentation. With his "Songs of Zion" program, he took the congregation on a journey with stories of the life of Ellen White and the singing of her favorite hymns. The evening ended with the hopeful thought that one day God's faithful will be in the presence of Jesus, singing with the angels to His glory.

Another challenge was the Sabbath program. The original presenter had to cancel due to sickness just three days before the event. After surrendering this situation before God in prayer as a united church family, God stepped in and provided just the right speaker for three presentations on the Sabbath. Kevin Burton, Andrews Theological Seminary graduate, PhD student of Florida State



Melissa Brower

▲Jim Nix sharing songs and stories from the time of the pioneers.

University and expert on the detailed stories of the pioneers, agreed, despite the short notice, to heed the "Macedonian call" and fly up to Michigan to present for the weekend celebrations.

In his first session, Burton took the audience on a fascinating and somewhat unknown journey of Adventist history. He shared the challenges Ellen and James White went through as many members distrusted their judgment and integrity in the mid- to late 1860s. He showed how gossip, slander, pride, abuse of authority, worldliness, lack of respect and love amongst leaders and members led to the need of holding this first general camp meeting in Wright. At that meeting, revival, confession and reconciliation took place, resulting in 60 baptisms and 300 recommitments to Christ.

Burton also shared the unbelievable story of the "Battle Creek purge" of 1870 in which J.N. Andrews and J.H. Waggoner were given the authority to disfellowship 98 percent of the 300-member Battle Creek Church, including Uriah Smith and other prominent leaders, based on a mixture of gut feeling, wrong understanding of perfection and N. Richmond's false accusations.

Finally, in the last session, Burton spoke on the leadership crisis of the 1870s in

which G.I. Butler proposed to give the GC president a Moses-like authority. His stance, even though theologically incorrect, caused a certain unity after the turmoil of the previous years and led to a brief refocus on mission in 1874. This resulted in the opening of Battle Creek College, J.N. Andrews leaving as the young denomination's first missionary to Europe, and the founding of Pacific Press. Yet Butler's leadership proposal was opposed by James and Ellen White and was adjusted at the 1877 GC session by giving the church body, not just one man, a God-given authority. This GC session brought reconciliation and true unity in Christ to the Church.

The weekend's celebration, which included beautiful music by Testify, Dr. Eric Umali and Tim Rasmussen, and Sisters 4 the Savior, as well as a wonderful potluck, ended with a shared solemn yet joyful understanding of our need to learn from history, to embrace Christ and His leadership style of humility and love as we move forward in God's mission.

All presentations were recorded and are available in audio and video format on www.wrightsda.com ■

Jonathan Walter, pastor of the Wright and Grand Haven churches



TV ministry miraculously expands reach in Indiana and Michigan

Comcast customers in Indiana and Michigan can now watch the Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN).

According to Fort Wayne laypastor, Ray Alexander, the expanded coverage gives them potential to reach 1.2 million residents, including the large metro cities of Detroit and Indianapolis.

Miracle in the making

In 2003, Alexander and Ken Marsh, a local elder and professional engineer, decided to start a low-powered radio station

that would broadcast the gospel message throughout their community. After researching the process, they discovered it would cost \$100,000.

While meeting with the owner of a full-powered radio station, Alexander was moved to switch gears and focus on full-powered stations. Once again, the steep price was a huge deterrent, so he and the seller decided to pray. Alexander was stunned when the seller of the full-powered station signed it over to them at no cost. From there, they received donations of many items and services to renovate their new station.

With the new station up and running, Alexander conducted the broadcasting while Marsh worked behind the scenes

as the station's engineer. As time passed, the station's footprint grew, and they moved from broadcasting over the radio airwaves to broadcasting on television stations.

In September, the Comcast network announced to Alexander that they would provide space on their network to air 3ABN. "This rarely happens," said Alexander. "These are miracles only God can do. We are just giving God the glory, honor, and praise.

"This is an era in which cable companies are shrinking their content in order to make room for things like video on demand and programming that is more data-driven. So, to be put on another channel with high-def capabilities is really unheard of."

Below is a list of new cities where 3ABN is available on channel 1677 of the Comcast cable system. ■

Felicia Tonga, Media specialist, Lake Union Conference

Michigan

Ann Arbor
Battle Creek
Belleville/Romulus
Birmingham
Brighton
Brooklyn-Lansing
Brooklyn-Toledo
Chesterfield
Clinton
Dearborn
Dearborn Heights
Detroit
Dundee
East Lansing
Flint
Grand Rapids
Hamtramck
Hazel Park
Holland
Huron County
Jackson
Lake Orion

Lansing

Monroe
North Oakland
Oak Park
Oakland County
Plymouth/Canton
Pontiac
Richland
Roseville
Royal Oak
Saline/Milan
Se Michigan
Southfield
Summit Leon
Taylor
Three Rivers-Grand Rapids
Three Rivers-South Bend
Vandalia
Walled Lake
Wayne
West Bloomfield
Westland

Indiana

Anderson
Attica
Bedford
Bloomington
Brownstown
Columbus
Connersville
Crawfordsville
Fort Recovery
Fort Wayne
Frankfort
Greencastle
Greensburg
Greenwood
Hartford City
Indianapolis
Kokomo
Lafayette
Lafayette-Indianapolis
Lawrenceburg
Lebanon
Linton

Logansport

Lynn-Winchester
Martinsville
Monticello-Chicago
Monticello-Indianapolis
Muncie
Noblesville
Peru
Portland
Redkey/Dunkirk
Richmond
Rushville
Seymour
Shelbyville
Spencer
Sullivan
Wabash





▲ Goodlow (right), with mentor of Toson Antwan Knight, who was featured in the Jan. 2018 Herald.

Lake Region president issues statement following Oakwood student shooting

Carvell Goodlow was a Detroit Center Church member

If I've heard it once, I've heard it several times. African American males are less likely than their counterparts from other racial and ethnic groups to live beyond their 30th birthday. More disturbing still, it is alleged that an appreciable number of those who succeed to live past 30 do so because they are incarcerated. To say that the outlook is not bright for young African American males in this country is not to

be pessimistic or pathological, or to be hyperbolic or overreactive.

Sad to say, gun violence and black-on-black crime are two of the causes for the brevity of the lives of young African American males. Wanton gun violence continues to plague our inner cities. Innocent lives continue to be indiscriminately snuffed out, leaving in their trail unbearable pain and unspeakable sorrow. Black-on-black crime continues to stalk our communities, accounting for a disproportionate number of the black lives that are prematurely cut short. The statistics are stark and sobering. Jolting may be a more apt term.

Carvell Goodlow became a statistic of gun violence and black-on-black crime on Sunday, Sept. 16, when he was gunned down in a senseless act of violence. Yet, from what little we know about the events

in Huntsville, Ala., during that weekend, he was not gunned down during the commitment of a robbery or a drug deal gone awry. Oh, no. He was felled by an act of violence that has become disturbingly pervasive in our community.

Goodlow had fled the crime-ridden streets of his native Detroit for the safety and sanity of the streets of Huntsville. He was a young African American male, bent on disproving the stereotype that young black men are trigger-happy gangsters, woefully lacking an appreciation for life. Isn't it ironic that Goodlow would succumb to the very type of violence from which he was fleeing back home in Detroit?

A sophomore at Oakwood University, Carvell was a promising student in the prime of his life. He leaves to mourn his untimely passing, a loving family and an affirming community. Both groups are in tatters. Spiritually and emotionally, his family and schoolmates are groping about in the supernatural darkness, desperately seeking for that which can make sense of the incredibly senseless. They are asking, "How long, O Lord, how long?" (See Rev. 6:10)

It is high time we stop the violence that is decimating communities across our nation. It is high time we act in ways that demonstrate we value human life. *Am I my brother's keeper?* Cain asked after the senseless slaughter of his brother Abel (Gen. 4:9). It is high time we answer in the affirmative with convincing words and compelling action.

Young African American males do value human life. They are moral beings who yearn to belong and fit in. They want to know they make a difference. Like all humankind, they cherish acceptance and affirmation. ■

R. Clifford Jones is president of the Lake Region Conference.



▲ Left to right: Josina Machel; Ramon Ulangca, Glendale Church pastor; Gail Masondo, artist manager and counselor; Cynthia Prime, CEO of Saving Orphans Through Healthcare and Outreach; and John Melefe, CEO of the Kuhluka Movement, an organization founded by Machel.

Glendale Church hosts Nelson Mandela's stepdaughter to spotlight domestic violence

INDIANA—With the goal of encouraging awareness and advocacy of victims of gender abuse, the Glendale Church hosted a two-day event on domestic violence featuring Nelson Mandela's stepdaughter.

At the invitation of Cynthia Prime, Glendale Church member and Saving Orphans through Healthcare and Outreach ministry leader, Mandela's stepdaughter, Josina Machel, welcomed the opportunity to spotlight the issue of domestic abuse against women. As the victim of an abusive relationship that left her blind in one eye, Machel knows firsthand that physical abuse knows no boundaries of class, race or economic status. "Love that is violent is a lie," she told the attentive audience.

October was National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the statistics are sobering. Glendale Church pastor Ramon Ulangca shared that between 2001 and 2012, the United States lost 6,488 soldiers during the Afghanistan

and Iraq wars. However, in that same period, almost twice that number, 11,766 women, were murdered in the U.S. by their male partners or ex-partners. He said: "Over the course of this weekend, we may hear many other statistics, but the reality is that they all will be inadequate because there has been a culture of silence and fear surrounding this issue of abuse that has kept countless women, and even men, from coming forward with their experiences."

Machel was the main speaker Friday evening, and on Sabbath, she, along with Gail Masondo, author and chaplain, shed light on the sobering reality of domestic violence, as well as on the role of the faith community in influencing change and as a sanctuary for those who are hurting.

The panel discussion on Sabbath afternoon involved nine young adult participants, each giving their own perspective and experience. An EMT told of observing the physical damage done to women. A young mother experienced the horror of discovering that her 4-year-old daughter was a victim. A young man witnessed his mother beaten. A young mother who had experienced abuse asked for prayer for forgiveness for taking out her revenge on her young sons. Still others shared how

they were victims themselves. Insightful discussion and requests for forgiveness resulted. Getting to the other side of abuse — the healing, was the goal.

Ulangca reminded the audience that despite sinful pasts there was reason for hope. "Hope is found in the God who created us and redeemed us from our sins through His Son, Jesus Christ... And so, regardless of our faith traditions, we have gathered here as a community to encourage one another and reaffirm what the Word of God says, that when all is said and done, *only three things remain: faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.*"

Both the local ABC affiliate, RTV6, and the local PBS station, WFYI, conducted interviews with Machel. Those stories can be viewed at:

youtube.com/watch?v=QSgaHOdfAH-k&feature=youtu.be

wfyi.org/programs/no-limits/radio/Gender-Violence ■

Colleen Kelly, Communication and Marketing specialist, Indiana Conference



▲ The panel discussion on Sabbath afternoon involved young adults giving their perspective on domestic abuse.

When calls become baptisms

Adventist Information Ministry directs seekers to Bible study, local churches; helps lead to changed lives

The role of media ministries in the North American Division (NAD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to create a flood of interest through their programming, station placement and weekly offers. The main role of Adventist Information Ministry (AIM), headquartered on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., is to collect those interests and “upgrade” as many as they can to pass on to the local church, often for personal connection and Bible study. As a 24/7 ministry, AIM assists the church’s evangelistic outreach by taking orders, processing requests for literature, upgrading interested persons for further studies, and by referring these interests to local churches.

AIM sometimes learns what happens with those whom it connects to local churches. Here are a few of those stories, shared during ministry meetings in August.

DEBBIE

On May 5, 2018, “Debbie” called to request the Amazing Facts’ offer, *“Mark of the Beast.”* She called again June 24 and requested *“Did God Create the Devil?”* as well as the *“Bible Correspondence Course,”* an Amazing Facts Bible study course. Customer service representative (CSR) “Nichelle” recognized a deeper spiritual interest and asked if Debbie would like to speak with one of the AIM chaplains for spiritual encouragement. When Phillip, the referral chaplain, contacted Debbie, she requested studies with a local pastor. He got in touch with Desmond Haye, pastor at the Wakefield Church in New York City and a former chaplain at AIM (2007–2009), who, in turn, connected with



Photo provided by Adventist Information Ministry

▲ An Adventist Information Ministry customer service representative prays with a caller.

Debbie. After Bible studies, Debbie was baptized on July 28.

EUGENE

On May 22, 2016, CSR “Mack” received a request from “Eugene” for personal Bible studies. The call was an upgrade that originated with a call from *It Is Written*. After confirming Eugene’s interest, Brian, an AIM chaplain, began looking for someone to study with Eugene. He reached Steve Hanson, a laypastor from the Cypress Church in Texas, who connected with Eugene.

Eugene was amazed with what he was learning, and invited his sister to come and listen to what Hanson was saying. Both siblings were impressed how clearly the Bible spoke. Every time a Bible study guide was finished, the two would send it to their older brother in California. He, too, was amazed and started reaching out to his local Adventist church. During this time, “Ruby,” a friend of Eugene, came to Eugene’s study group.

Multiple church members visited the gathering, which became much like a small support group. After faithfully

studying the Bible and making relationships with church members, Eugene eventually decided on baptism.

On April 29, 2017, Eugene celebrated his new “birthday.” His sister, older brother and friend, Ruby, also were baptized around the same time.

DEBRA

On Dec. 17, 2016, “Debra” called Amazing Facts. The CSR noticed that Debra was seriously interested in Bible studies and renewing her faith. The CSR upgraded the call for visitation and, on Jan. 22, 2017, “Joel,” an AIM chaplain, connected Debra with “Pastor Snyder.” After the pastor began meeting with Debra and her husband, the Bible studies started to occur on a regular basis.

While participating in Bible studies, Debra discovered she had a lump in her breast. The stress of the situation caused Debra to pause her diligent studies. But once the studies started up again, Pastor Snyder saw that Debra and her husband were ready for baptism.

About one year later, Debra and “Marvin” were baptized on June 2, 2018, at the Altoona Church in Pennsylvania. Through the power of the Word of God, the couple experienced transformation, renewal, and a fresh start in life. ■

Edited by Kimberly Luste Maran, NAD Communication



Photo provided by Adventist Information Ministry

▲ Adventist Information Ministry (AIM) customer service representatives answer calls at the ministry’s headquarters in Berrien Springs, Mich.

How You Can Stop Sexual Abuse in Your Ministry

Every 10 seconds a child abuse incident is reported in North America, as stated by Childhelp, a nonprofit dedicated to helping victims of child abuse and neglect. As a parent of a two-year-old daughter, I am troubled when I look at the sinful world we live in. Although our churches and schools continue to be proactive in protecting children, we must remember the things we all can do to continue to provide a safe environment for children.

WHAT IS SEXUAL MISCONDUCT?

Sexual misconduct perpetrators can be a person of any gender and can occur between people of the same or different gender. By definition, sexual misconduct is any unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature that is committed without consent or by force, intimidation, coercion or manipulation.

5 WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL ABUSE IN CHURCH OR SCHOOL

#1 Intervene on Behalf of Others

A bystander is a person who is present when an event takes place but is not directly involved. Most crimes are committed by someone the victim knows, and a bystander intervening may be the only way out of the situation. Your actions matter! If you suspect that someone you know has been sexually assaulted, take action.

#2 Screen Your Volunteers

To provide an added layer of protection around those who attend our churches and schools, the North American Division (NAD) Working Policy states that all volunteers in an Adventist school or church are required to participate in a screening procedure that includes personal references and a criminal background check before s/he begins to serve. Background

checks for each person must be updated every three years.

#3 Always Have Visibility

Secluded rooms and areas with low visibility can be danger zones, creating the potential for abuse or bullying to take place. Minimize these danger zones by making sure to have visibility windows on all doors in your facility and be sure the visibility panes are not blocked or covered.

#4 Follow the "Two-Adult Rule"

To ensure there is always proper adult supervision, establish a "Two-Adult Rule" for all child and youth ministry activities and interactions. Two or more adult ministry leaders should be with children at all times. Children should never be left without adult supervision.

#5 Always Provide Sufficient, Quality Supervision

It is essential to not only provide sufficient supervision but also to provide quality supervision. This means that the on-duty volunteer is engaged and paying attention to the children in his/her care. If you know you will be working with a large number of children, make sure the staff/leader-to-children ratio is sufficient to supervise the entire group.

REPORTING INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

If there is an emergency child abuse situation, call 911. If it is not an emergency situation, report the abuse allegation immediately to the proper authorities. If the allegation is against one of your employees or staff members, notify your conference, so they are aware of the situation.

For more information on church safety and child protection, visit ARM's Church Safety page. ■

Leander Tomazeli, Adventist Risk Management account executive

Your actions matter!
If you suspect that
someone you know has
been sexually assaulted,
take action.



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

GENERAL EVENTS

Nov. 2: Celebration of Research & Creative Scholarship, Buller Hall

Nov. 4-5: Junior Preview

Nov. 10, 11:45 a.m.: Honors Church, Howard Performing Arts Center

Nov. 12: Health Professions, Transfer and Graduate Student Preview

Nov. 15, 4-6 p.m.: Fall Honors Thesis Symposium, Buller Hall

Dec. 14: Andrews Academy Feast of Lights, Pioneer Memorial Church

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER EVENTS

For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, call 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or visit howard.andrews.edu.

Nov. 3, 8 p.m.: Andrews Academy Concerto Night

Nov. 11, 4 p.m.: Sunday Music Series: Carla Trynchuk & Chi Yong Yun

Nov. 16, 7 p.m.: Andrews University Voice Studio Vespers

Nov. 17, 8 p.m.: Andrews Wind Symphony Christmas Concert

Nov. 18, 7 p.m.: Howard Series Presents... Presidio Brass

Dec. 1, 8 p.m.: Andrews Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concert

Dec. 7, 7 p.m.: Andrews University Welcome Christmas Concert

Dec. 9, 4 p.m.: Sunday Music Series: Christmas Sing-A-Long

ILLINOIS

Nov. 2-4: Women's Ministry Retreat, Sheraton Hotel, Lisle

Nov. 2-4: Young Adult Summit, Camp Akita

Dec. 1: Hispanic Small Groups Festival (location TBA)

INDIANA

Nov. 2-4: Pathfinder/Adventurers Leadership Training, Timber Ridge Camp

Nov. 17-18: Pathfinder Council Retreat, Timber Ridge Camp

Nov. 30-Dec. 2: Journey to Bethlehem, Cicero Church

LAKE REGION

Nov. 9-10: Iliana Youth Federation, Tabernacle of Hope Church, Indianapolis

Nov. 10: Iliana Youth Federation, Emmanuel Church, Indianapolis

MICHIGAN

Nov. 2-4: Public high school/college retreat (Public Hi-C), Camp Au Sable

Nov. 9-11: Marriage Retreat, Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville (Sold Out)

WISCONSIN

Nov. 2-3: Wisconsin Academy Senior Dedication weekend

Nov. 16-18: Sabbath School training, Milwaukee Central Church

Nov. 18: Hispanic Women's Evangelism Banquet, Milwaukee

Nov. 18: Lay Seminary Training, Wisconsin Conference

Dec. 1: JAHWI Youth Rally, Milwaukee Church

Dec. 1: Wisconsin Academy Christmas Concert

LAKE UNION

Nov. 2 and 4: Health Fair, Wexford County Community Center, Cadillac, Mich.

Nov. 11: Health Fair, Community Center, Midland, Mich.

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

OBITUARIES

ACKEN, Janice E. (Wery), age 76; born Feb. 26, 1942, in Green Bay, Wis.; died July 4, 2018, in Green Bay. She was a member of the Green Bay Church in Green Bay.

Survivors include her husband, Gerald Acken; sons, Carl and Brent Acken; brother, Tom Wery; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Paul Demuth.

CHAMBERLAIN, Barbara M. (Bassham), age 70; born Jan. 13, 1948, in Lincoln, Neb.; died July 21, 2018, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her husband, Larry Chamberlain; son, Jonathan; daughter, Mindy Wade; brother, Don Bassham; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor John Glass; interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs, Mich.

CURTIS, Clair W., age 78; born May 31, 1940, in Bellevue, Mich.; died July 16, 2018, in Byron Center, Mich. He was a member of the Wyoming Church in Wyoming, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Linda (Dykstra) Curtis; daughters, Karen Caswell and Kathe Kok; sister, Joyce Monroe; and six grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Mark Caswell and Pastor Dan Rachor in Byron Center, Mich.; interment in Byron Center, Mich.

DENLER, Virginia H., age 95; born March 23, 1923, in Duluth, Minn.; died June 25, 2018, in Spring Lake, Mich. She was a member of the Clearwater Lake Church in Eagle River, Wis.

Survivors include brothers, Julian, Arnold, Loren, Leland and Veryl Denler; and sisters, Darlene Brooks and Angeline Froemming.

Graveside services were conducted by Ray Cress at the Clearwater Lake Cemetery; interment was in Eagle River.

DREW, Howard W., age 87; born March 3, 1931, in Bloomville, Wis.; died June 20, 2018, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs. Survivors include his wife, Lorraine (Schenk) Drew; son, Kevin; daughter, Karen Pierson; and ten grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Dwight K. Nelson; private interment.

JORGENSEN, Cecil R., age 80; born March 22, 1938, in Waushara County, Wis.; died July 4, 2018, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include sons, Cecil R. II, Roger Lee and Peter Jorgensen; stepsons, Dewey and James Carlson; daughter, Cecilia Gregory; brother, Eugene; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

LEDESMA, Enrique ("Rick"), age 55; born Dec. 14, 1962, in New York, N.Y.; died June 15, 2018, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Janet (Ortiz) Ledesma; son, Christian E.; daughter, Ariana C.; mother, Natividad (Velasquez).

Memorial services were conducted by Dr. Carl Bannister, Dwight K. Nelson, Pastor José Bourget; private interment.

MATACIO, Lauren R., age 68; born Oct. 29, 1949, in Waupaca, Wis.; died July 30, 2018, in Ypsilanti, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include stepdaughter, Jamie Berlin; brothers, Doug and Tim Matacio.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor José Bourget; private interment.

WILKENS, Robert A. ("Bob") Jr., age 79; born July 19, 1938, in Wauseon, Ohio; died July 2, 2018, in Battle Creek, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Fran ("Becky") Watkinson; stepdaughter, Jackie Hilderbrandt; and sister, Jean Bermingham.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Skip MacCarty; interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs, Mich.

WILLIAMS, Martha M. (Budd), age 84; born Dec. 2, 1933, in Crawfordsville, Ind.; died Sept. 25, 2018, in Ooltewah, Tenn. She was a member of the Cedar Lake Church in Cedar Lake, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Ralph Williams; sons, Steven, Randall and Dale; daughters, Janean Mason and Arlene Leavitt; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted at Collegedale Memorial Park; interment in Collegedale, Tenn. ■

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 28	Jan 4	Jan 11
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:39	5:31	5:24	5:19	5:16	5:14	5:14	5:17	5:21	5:27	5:33
Chicago, Ill.	5:45	4:36	4:30	4:24	4:21	4:19	4:20	4:22	4:26	4:32	4:39
Detroit, Mich.	6:26	5:17	5:10	5:05	5:01	5:00	5:00	5:02	5:06	5:12	5:19
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:42	5:35	5:29	5:24	5:21	5:20	5:20	5:23	5:27	5:32	5:39
La Crosse, Wis.	5:55	4:46	4:39	4:33	4:29	4:28	4:28	4:30	4:34	4:40	4:47
Lansing, Mich.	6:31	5:22	5:15	5:10	5:06	5:04	5:05	5:07	5:11	5:17	5:24
Madison, Wis.	5:49	4:41	4:34	4:28	4:24	4:23	4:23	4:25	4:29	4:35	4:42
Springfield, Ill.	5:56	4:49	4:43	4:38	4:35	4:34	4:34	4:37	4:41	4:46	4:53

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MISCELLANEOUS

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2019 ADVENTIST TOURS: Bethlehem to Rome (including Revelation's 7 Churches), June 2-19; Israel in Jesus' Steps, June 2-10; New Testament Alive (Revelation's 7 Churches/Patmos/Greece/Rome option), June 6-19; African Safari and Service, July 18-26. Tours led by Drs. Andy Nash and Greg King. \$1990+/person. For full info, contact tabghatours@gmail.com or [Facebook.com/TabghaTours](https://www.facebook.com/TabghaTours).

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HEALTH MINISTRIES



United in Mission

By Zachary Payne

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF TALK ABOUT UNITY IN OUR CHURCH RECENTLY on the local church level, and no less in the unions and divisions. When it comes to unity, one question is: Are we united in our mission? This is a big question for me as a district pastor. A little over a year ago, I was placed in the Racine District, which encompasses the southeastern corner of the state of Wisconsin, right between the urban giants of Milwaukee and Chicago.

Three of our churches are located in the cities of Racine and Kenosha, sizable and diverse urban centers in their own rights. The Raymond Church, about twelve miles west of Racine, has its own notable ethnic history and the church board minutes in Danish to prove it. Historically, these are very different and diverse churches, yet we are all called to unity in mission, and that is something we've been striving for.

A few weeks back, we had the opportunity to bring everyone together under one roof for a district-wide communion service at the Racine Church. For the occasion, we brought in special musical guests, the Nabong Family, to lead spirited hymn-singing throughout the service. During the ordinance of humility, kids were treated to a children's story and activity in the Cradle Roll room. After the service, there was an outdoor potluck picnic, followed by an animated Bible team challenge. It wasn't until 4:30 p.m. that the last of the remnant left the church that day: a successful Sabbath fellowship, indeed.

We've also recently come together in our district to serve meals to the homeless, deliver free dental care and health screenings to those who cannot afford them, and we even have a weekly Friday evening district-wide vespers where we all worship together on a more regular basis.

While we worship separately most Sabbaths, through activities like the ones mentioned above, we have been able to foster a sense of unity. These are still very different churches that are serving very different



Joshua Pedroza

▲ District-wide communion service and potluck at the Racine Church.

communities, but their mission is the same. Unity has a lot less to do with everyone looking the same and conforming to the exact same ideas and more to do with uniting for the purpose of the same mission and under the banner of the same Jesus. May He come soon and unite us with Himself and each other for good. ■

Zachary Payne, pastor of the Emmanuel, Kenosha, Racine and Raymond churches in the Wisconsin Conference



Joshua Pedroza

Creating with Christ

By Raquel Mentor



Joshua Pedroza

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth (Genesis 1:1)

GOD IS AN ARTIST — THAT ISN'T DIFFICULT TO SEE.

The Psalmist constantly is marveled by nature, how God formed it, and how it speaks of His love. Being formed in God's image, I think we also have received some of His attributes, so I decided I would spend my devotions creating art with Him.

For as long as I can remember, I have had a passion for drawing, coloring, writing — all things creative, but I never thought to use these as a medium for devotions. One day, while scrolling through my Instagram page, I noticed that a friend posted a picture of her Bible. It was oddly square-shaped and had large open margins on the sides of the pages. At the time, I thought this was perfect for annotating, which I already did on smaller Bibles.

I began using my new Journaling Bible for notes and devotional thoughts, but slowly gravitated towards writing verses that stood out to me within those margins. In time, I also added images that reminded me of what I read. As I continued journaling, the pages were no longer minute doodles and annotations but page-wide representations of what God was trying to communicate to me.

I spent more time on the pieces than I normally did in my devotions altogether. As a result, I dedicated more time to God, and my spirituality grew. With every stroke on the paper, I remembered the verse, ringing in my head. I prayed to God about the parts in my life where this verse applied. I made the verse mine and God's — our special conversation that only we, as artists and friends, understood.

What surprised me most, however, was the blessing that came to others as well. I began posting devotional thoughts on Instagram along with the picture of the Bible page I did for the day. Followers of my page with whom I didn't regularly talk were messaging me, relating their struggles through their own spiritual journeys, and discussing the verse I had posted for the day. No longer were my pages just personal treasures of truth. Others were being blessed as well.

From the beginning, just like it is written in Genesis, God created mankind to be relational, so that He could have a connection with His people. It has taken me time to realize that there is no "right way" to relate to Him. One of the amazing aspects about God is that He has multiple qualities — some of them being Friend, Protector, Savior, Companion and, in this case, Creator. As much as I stand in awe of my Redeemer King, I also can talk to Him, draw with Him, and remember the words He has spoken when I am journaling.

Art may not be the characteristic that is the most relatable for some, but there certainly may be another. Just like with a friend, find common pastimes and share them with God. From that overflowing love and joy found in communion with Him, you will certainly be a blessing to others, too! ■

Raquel Mentor, until recently a teacher at Chicago's South Suburban School, is passionate about Christ and Youth Ministries.

Match Made in Heaven

By Malissa Martin



Jean-Trés Michel

▲ Mugisha Menani

MICHIGAN NATIVE MUGISHA MENANI, 22, HAS TO TAKE MEDICATION EVERY DAY to keep his kidney functioning. This is a lifestyle familiar to him since he was born with posterior urethral valves (PUV) which is an abnormality of the urethra that can block the drain of urine from the body. The disease affects 1 in 8,000 boys and is known at birth.

Growing up with the PUV was difficult for Menani. The homeschooler would spend eight hours in the hospital once a month for procedures on his kidney and, as he aged, his condition worsened. He started out with kidneys working at 75 percent capacity; by age 11, they were functioning at only 30 percent.

While Menani was placed on a waiting list for kidney donors, his mother, Julia, immediately began searching for donors amongst family and friends. To their surprise, his mother was a perfect match! Julia, 38 at the time, gave one of her kidneys to Mugisha

during an eight-hour surgery in 2008. "I'm actually pretty lucky to have gotten it in a span of like six months. There are people still on the waiting list that were on the list the day I was put on the wait list," Menani said.

The stress on the family had its effects and Menani saw a new side of his father, Enoch. "Dads aren't really emotional people but, for the first time, I actually saw him stressed and distraught [when] thinking how can this work out," Menani explained. Although he was the oldest of his three brothers, Menani's physique made him look much younger because of his disease. Nevertheless, his brothers lovingly and playfully adapted to him.

In spite of the successful transplant, Menani continues to have uphill battles with his health. In 2014, he had an aortic root replacement; two years later, he was hospitalized for over a month with acute kidney rejection. "Thank goodness that the good Lord kept me together," he said. "It's not back to being 100 percent, but it's working enough where I can hopefully have the kidney for another 10-plus years."

Menani reflects on the past and realizes he didn't fully understand the gravity of the situation. However, today, as an Oakwood University pre-law and music composition student, he's grateful that the voyage has strengthened his Christian walk and credits God the Almighty for giving him another lease on life. ■

Malissa Martin is a Detroit-based freelance writer.

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