

FOR ILLINOIS MEMBERS *ILLINOIS FOCUS* INSIDE

# Lake Union HERALD

FEBRUARY 2019

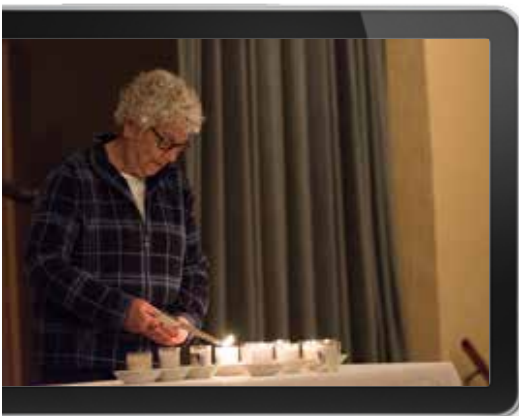


**STEWARDSHIP**

RESPONSIBLY MANAGING GOD'S POSSESSIONS







#### **AFTER PITTSBURG MASSACRE, MICHIGAN FAITH LEADERS AND OFFICIALS URGE UNITY AT PRAYER SERVICE**

Congregants from various faiths gathered in Benton Harbor, Mich., on Nov. 5, to pray for unity in the wake of the Pittsburgh massacre which left 11 Jewish worshippers dead.

Before a standing-room-only crowd of 150, faith leaders resolved to support Jews and other victims of religious hatred in the hopes of sending a clear message that love will triumph over hate.



#### **ASAP MINISTRIES FOUNDER, JUDY AITKEN, 75, DIES**

Judy Aitken, a compassionate nurse who founded ASAP Ministries, a mission organization using Christ's method to bring hope to the poor, suffering and oppressed. ASAP Ministries supports over 600 church planters, medical missionaries and Bible/literacy teachers in the countries of Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar.

Although she struggled with cancer, Judy was able to live a full life communicating with her Savior until she fell asleep peacefully Dec. 10, in her home in Berrien Springs, Mich.



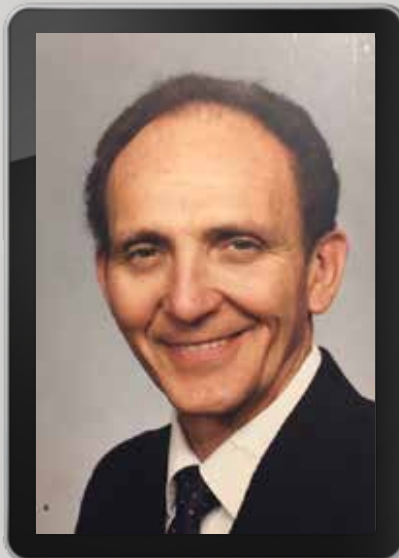
#### **NEW AMITA HEALTH FACILITY OPENED**

AMITA Health celebrated the opening of a new Immediate Care and Outpatient Center in Woodridge, Ill. Officially opened on December 3, the new facility will offer services in one location, including walk-in Immediate Care, AMITA Health Medical Group primary care doctors and specialists, lab testing, imaging and more.

#### **COUNTRY LIFE NATURAL FOODS FOUNDER, RON CRARY, 83, DIES**

Ronald Franklin Crary, innovative evangelist and businessman who founded Country Life Natural Foods which are sold in Adventist food stores across the Midwest, died Sept. 13, in Grants Pass, Ore. He was 83.

His son, Tim Crary, said cause of death was due to complications of Parkinson's disease.



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This issue of the *Herald* isn't about marriage, although I would like to go there as a way to illustrate a key principle of stewardship. I take the principle from Creation, where Adam and Eve were created as one flesh (see Genesis 2:24). Those of us who have been married to the same person for most of our lives understand what it means to be united. Our thoughts are transparent; we even anticipate what the other is going to say or how they will react to a situation; and, in love, we anticipate needs and do what we can to provide — to serve, to make whole. Now let's apply this principle to stewardship. *But whoever is united with the Lord is one with Him in spirit* (1 Corinthians 6:17 NIV). If I am one with Christ in spirit, how will that influence my stewardship? Will my heart anticipate needs and do what I can to provide — to serve — to make whole? ■

  
Gary Burns  
Editor



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COVER PHOTO: BRIANNA KITTLESON

ON THE COVER: SHELLI AND PAUL MEULEMAN WITH THEIR DAUGHTER, BRIA, ON THEIR FARM IN BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN.

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# Jesus Marveled

As we begin this new year, there is an internal joy and peace knowing the reality that each new year brings us closer to the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. What a wonderful hope we have while living in a world that offers no meaningful assurances for the future.



▲ Glynn Scott

Additionally, as we launch into this new year, I am inspired and challenged by the story recorded in Matthew 8:5–13. As Jesus enters Capernaum, a centurion comes to Him, beseeching on behalf of his servant lying at home paralyzed and sorely tormented, even to the point of death. This request was unique in that a Roman servant was, in reality, a slave. Nonetheless, the relationship between the centurion and his servant was such that he desired full recovery for his servant. “He believed that Jesus could heal him. He had not seen the Savior, but he had heard reports that inspired him with faith” (Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p.291).

Jesus replied, *I will come and heal him* (Matthew 8:7 NKJV). What better response could someone receive from Jesus? In our petitions to the loving God that we serve, there are three possible responses: “Yes,” “No,” or “Wait.” Who among us does not get excited and feel affirmed when God answers our petitions with a firm and unconditional “Yes!”

The centurion responds, *Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed* (Matthew 8:8 NKJV). The centurion compares the Lord’s position and authority with his own. Christ has authority over any disease. The centurion also was in authority over soldiers. As the centurion had only to command a soldier to go and he went, Christ had only to say to any disease go, and it left.

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, *Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!* (Matthew 8:10 NKJV).

Ellen G. White comments on the faith of the centurion: “The Jews had been instructed from childhood concerning the work of the Messiah. The inspired utterances of patriarchs and prophets and the symbolic teaching of the sacrificial service had been theirs. But they had disregarded the light, and now they saw in Jesus nothing to be desired. But the centurion, born in heathenism, educated in the idolatry of imperial Rome, trained as a soldier, seemingly cut off from spiritual life by his education and surroundings, and still further shut out by the bigotry of the Jews, and by the contempt of his own countrymen for the people of Israel — this man perceived the truth to which the children of Abraham were blinded” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 294).

Jesus concluded this story with the words, *Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you. And his servant was healed that same hour* (Matthew 8:13 NKJV).

As treasurer for the Lake Union Conference, we prepare an annual budget of \$10M for mission and ministry for the five conferences within our Union territory: Illinois, Indiana, Lake Region, Michigan and Wisconsin. Each year, our budgets are based on faith and trust in God. Our faith is based on each member returning a faithful tithe and freewill offerings, according to God’s instructions and promised blessings. “*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,*” says the Lord of hosts, “*if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it*” (Malachi 3:10 NKJV).





In our Seventh-day Adventist church structure, the storehouse is the local conference treasury. Consequently, all tithe returned by our members to the local church is forwarded to the local conference treasury for the work of ministry, Bible instruction, and the support of conference administration in the care of the churches and outreach ministries.

Please allow me, on behalf of the Lake Union and your local conference administration, to express our sincere appreciation for your financial stewardship during 2018. At the time of this writing, we are waiting at the local conference treasury to receive December 2018 tithe from the local churches. Year-to-date through November 2018 our total tithe received in the Lake Union was \$63 million, which represents a 0.86 percent increase over the prior year. As you compare our tithe received through November with our other eight sister Unions, our percentage increase is the

lowest. This reality causes us as administrators to pause because mission and ministry across our Union depends on tithe growth year over year. Consequently, I would like to affirm your continued financial stewardship during 2019 as we pledge to do all we can to build up God's Kingdom in preparation for the soon return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we go through this new year, what will Jesus marvel about us? Will He marvel about our life of faithful stewardship and full trust in Him? or our lack of faithful stewardship driven by self-interest and dependence upon our own abilities? May we be empowered this new year to give heaven multiple opportunities to marvel at our **BOLD** faithfulness and full commitment to Jesus Christ. ■

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*Glynn Scott is the Lake Union Conference treasurer*



# Parenting Doesn't Stop at 18

I was one of those parents who was anxious for my children to turn 18. There is a relief when you are no longer legally responsible for a child.



▲ Alina M. Baltazar

There are societal expectations that put a lot of pressure on parents to properly raise a child. That doesn't mean your 18-year-old is ready to function as a fully independent adult, although some can be and may have to be. Even if you have a mature 18-year-old, that doesn't mean he won't benefit from parental guidance and wisdom. Parenting gets trickier at this point because of the reduced legal power of parents, and young adult children are often resistant to what they perceive as parental pressure or disapproval.

The age of 18 to 25 is considered a new developmental period called emerging adulthood. Emerging adulthood is characterized by identity exploration, instability, self-focus, and not quite feeling like a teen or an adult.<sup>1</sup> Due to the increased requirement of college education and graduate school, delayed marriage and delayed parenting, higher housing expenses and difficulties entering the job market, young adults are delaying many responsibilities considered to be a part of adulthood. Parents are having to financially support their young adult children for more extended periods than previous generations.

This situation leaves parents of young adults in a predicament. Today's young adult children want to be treated like adults, but they often can't or won't function as traditional adults until closer to or beyond the age of 30. Here are some tips on how best to relate to your young adult children:

- Treat her with respect. She may not treat you with respect if she thinks you don't respect her.

- Love unconditionally. You may not approve of your son's lifestyle choices, but you can always love him.
- Avoid unsolicited advice. It makes him feel you don't think he is capable.
- Be ready to provide emotional support. Your daughter will let you know when she needs you.
- Provide financial assistance, if needed. College is expensive and early career jobs can be low-paying and unstable. You will need to decide ahead of time what type and how much financial assistance you are willing and able to provide. Avoid enabling your child to continue his economic dependence on you, if he can support himself.
- Set house rules if they still live with you. You also should negotiate a move-out date as soon as possible.
- Continue to pray. You have less control over your children's daily lives, but you have a connection to the Ultimate Power through prayer.

This is an exciting time for you and your child. The daily grind of parenting comes to an end when your child is ready to launch out into the world after years of preparation, but may have some struggles doing so, which is perfectly reasonable. Pray that you navigate this transition in a way that will be good for you and will benefit child. ■

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*Alina M. Baltazar, Ph.D., LMSW, CFLE, is the Masters in Social Work program director, Department of Social Work, Andrews University; director of Prevention Education at the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions; a psychotherapist at Life Coach Psychology; and a certified family life educator. She also is the parent of two young adults and one teenager.*

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<sup>1</sup> Arnett, J.J. (2000). "Emerging adulthood: A theory of development from the late teens through the twenties." *American Psychologist*, 55(5), 469-480. doi: 10.1037//0003-066X.55.5.469





# Communicating God's Way

It has been said that communication is the golden cord that bonds us together within our marriages, families and communities.

Yet, there are three basic and almost universal ways many families employ which tend to have a dysfunctional impact on our effectiveness to communicate with each other: don't talk, don't trust, and don't feel.

In my nearly 26 years of working in the field of clinical therapy, behavioral and mental counseling, I have found that one of the greatest needs individuals, couples and families exhibit is learning how to communicate effectively. The struggle is real. A simple misunderstood or seemingly insignificant issue can lead to feelings of misunderstanding, rejection, emotional pain and, in some cases, physical violence.

In her book, *It Will Never Happen to Me*, Claudia Black points out that, under the guise of the rules of dysfunctional communication, we employ the dysfunctional self-preservation behaviors of don't talk, don't trust, and don't feel. I'm sure if you take a close look at these three behaviors, you will find your family's communication style.<sup>1</sup> Examples can be seen in the families of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The dysfunctional communication principle of "don't talk" has its basis in a learned family history of experiences that have been deemed as embarrassing, painful or shameful. This way of communicating plays a role in decreasing the ability to be transparent and open within one's own family, and goes beyond the home, impacting other relationships.

When parents fail to follow through with promises, or communicate an inability to be consistent, children grow up learning the dysfunctional trait of "don't trust" anyone inside or outside of the family. Trusting can be seen as painful and can lead to not being able to trust God.

Individuals from homes where feelings are ignored, minimized or invalidated learn that to "not feel" is better than attempting to confront or deal with particular hurtful experiences at the risk of experiencing emotional or physical pain.

Whatever family principle of dysfunction we may have experienced, there is refreshing help and support when we look to God. He invites the home "to be an object lesson, illustrating the excellence of true principles of life (communication). Such an illustration will be power for good to the world."<sup>2</sup> With His invitation, God provides transforming power for change.

In Psalms 40:1, Proverbs 3:5 and Hebrews 4:15–16, our loving Savior calls us to His gentle side and invites us to talk to, trust in, and feel His presence. When we learn to communicate with God, we'll learn, through His strength, how to change our unhealthy and dysfunctional family patterns of communication, and "be a bright and shining light of [communicating His] love everywhere!"<sup>3</sup> ■

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*Julián Anderson-Martín is a clinical therapist, specializing in marriage and family, domestic violence, anger management, sexual abuse/trauma, and substance abuse/dependency.*

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<sup>1</sup> Black, Claudia. *It Will Never Happen to Me*. Denver: M.A.C. Printing, 1982

<sup>2</sup> White, Ellen G. (*Manuscript 140*, 1897)

<sup>3</sup> White, Ellen G. (*Signs of the Times*, Sept. 1, 1898)



▲ Julián Anderson-Martín



# Righteousness by Faith and the Third Angel's Message — 2

Early Adventists were great doers of the commandments — sometimes for good reasons and sometimes for not so good.



▲ George R. Knight

The doing aspect of the Adventist belief system would play heavily into pre-1888 understandings of Revelation 14:12. *Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

The Adventist interpretation of that verse had been quite consistent before 1888. James White provided a model for that understanding in April 1850. He indicated that the verse had three major points of identification.

It indicated (1) a people who were to be patient, despite the disappointment of the 1840s, in waiting for the coming of Jesus; (2) a people who had gotten *the victory over the beast, and his image, and over his mark* and are sealed with the seal of the living God by keeping *the commandments of God*; and (3) a people

who “kept the ‘faith’” as a body of beliefs in such doings as “repentance, faith, baptism, Lord’s supper, washing the saints’ feet,” and so on. A part of keeping the faith, he emphasized, was *keeping the commandments of God*. Note that White managed to squeeze obedience to God’s law into two of the three parts of the verse.

Two years later he was even more precise: “The faith of Jesus is to be kept, as well as the commandments of God. . . . This not only shows the distinction between the commandments of the Father and the faith of the Son, but also shows that the faith of Jesus to be kept necessarily embraces the sayings of Christ and the apostles. It embraces all the requirements and doctrines of the New Testament.”

J.N. Andrews was of the same mind, claiming that “the faith of Jesus. . . is spoken of as being kept in the same manner that the commandments of God are kept.”

And R.F. Cottrell wrote that the faith of Jesus “is something that can be obeyed or kept. Therefore we conclude that all that we are required to do in order to be saved from sin belongs to the faith of Jesus.”

As we noted earlier, doing is important. But, is it true that “all that we are required to do in order to be saved from sin belongs to the faith of Jesus”?

Think about it. Discuss it. Pray about it. ■

*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 265, printed by permission.*





# What If Every Church Became a House of Prayer?

*“And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to Him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be His servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant — these I will bring to My holy mountain and give them joy in My house of prayer . . . for My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations”* (Isaiah 56:6,7 NIV).

A while ago I was on a prayer call with several of the prayer leaders in one of our conferences. As is often the case, the president was on the call with us. It was an intense time of intercession but, when the president began to pray, it caused an instant lump in all of our throats. With a passion I don't think I'd ever heard from him, he cried out, “Oh, God, please show us how to make every church in our field a house of prayer!”

According to Jesus' words (see Matthew 21:12), it is His will that this should be our name, our identity. As important as preaching is, He never called His church a house of preaching. As essential as music is, He never called His church a house of music. But Jesus Himself said, *My house shall be called a house of prayer.*

The president's words hung in the air as we prayed. We could sense a rise in the intensity of our prayer time. We perceived God wanted to say something of importance, that a dream was birthing, a vision was coming to light . . . Every Church a House of Prayer. What if . . .

What if, as people drove by our church building on a Wednesday evening, they had the distinct sense that something of eternal significance was happening inside?

What if, when a neighbor was facing a crisis, one of us knocked on their door and asked if we could come in and pray?

What if, when a new school term was beginning, we invited parents from our community — and their teachers — to a special Sabbath (or Sunday?) morning time of prayer for our public schools?

What if, when the church board met, they decided they would spend as much time praying as they did in discussion of the business agenda?

What if the mid-week service became prayer meeting night again, and there was such a strong awareness of God's presence you had trouble finding a place to sit?

What if there were victories and healings and marriages repaired and kids reclaimed and sinners turned heavenward? What if . . .

We believe God would be honored. That's why, as we move forward, you will see much about HOPE Heals. HOPE is an acronym for Houses Of Prayer Everywhere. We urge you to ask God to show you what that would look like where you worship. ■



▲ Don Jacobsen

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*Don Jacobsen is a retired pastor, seminary professor, conference president and former president of Adventist World Radio who writes for HOPE: Houses of Prayer Everywhere, a Prayer ministry service of the North American Division.*

# His Royal Highness

NURSING HOME PATIENT CORRESPONDS WITH BRITISH ROYAL COUPLE

By Debbie Michel

## FOLLOWING THE BIRTH OF PRINCE WILLIAM AND KATE MIDDLETON'S THIRD CHILD LAST SPRING, a Michigan man had an unusual idea.

Confined to a wheelchair in a nursing home, Robert Butts had always treasured the book, *100 Favorite Bible Verses*, routinely reading it daily for words of encouragement and inspiration.

He began to think, "Wouldn't it be nice for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and Kate Middleton, to also have a copy of the book that has meant so much to me?"

So, he asked a friend at Royalton Manor to help prepare a meticulous, typewritten note.

It began:

*Your Royal Highnesses,*

*My name is Robert Butts and I am 86 years old. Since I was a child, I've been devoted to the Royal family as though I was a British subject. In November, 1947, I listened to Elizabeth and Philip exchange their vows via transatlantic radio broadcast, and in April, 2011, I watched you exchange yours on television. Both events brought me great joy and excitement.*

*I am elated with your marriage, and wish for you and your children long lives and great happiness. I have enclosed a copy of one of my most cherished books, and hope you find its guidance useful.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Robert Butts*

The letter — with a return address of Royalton Manor, Peace Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. — traveled nearly 4,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean and arrived at Kensington Palace.

A few months later, an envelope affixed with the palace seal, arrived in Bob's mail. Excitedly, he opened it and read the contents of the letter:

*Dear Mr. Butts,*

*I should, first, like to apologize for the length of time it has taken us to reply to your letter; the last several months have been extremely busy for this office and we have, consequently, been unable to reply as quickly as we should have like to.*

*The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have asked me to thank you for your kind letter and gift.*

*Their Royal Highness are most grateful to you for taking the trouble to send them the book, 100 Favorite Bible Verses. It really was most thoughtful of you, and The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have asked me to send you their warmest thanks and best wishes.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Claudia Spens*

Since the letter's arrival, Bob hasn't stopped telling people about his brush with royalty.

"He forgets he has told the story before," said Bob's friend, Derrick Proctor, an Andrews University retired professor who is helping with his care.

Derrick said that Bob has mailed out a dozen more of the books to various of his friends and acquaintances and has gone to great lengths to share it with nursing staff at the assisted living facility.

As to why he keeps doing this, Bob simply says, "People need to know the truth." ■

Debbie Michel, associate director of Communication, Lake Union Conference



▲ Robert Butts



# La estrategia de Dios para evangelizar el mundo

*“Predicad menos, y educad más, dirigiendo estudios bíblicos y orando con las familias y los grupos pequeños. A todos los que trabajan con Cristo quiero decir: Cuandoquiera que podáis obtener acceso a la gente en su hogar, aprovechad la oportunidad.... Siendo sociables y acercándoos a la gente, podréis atraer la corriente de sus pensamientos más fácilmente que por el discurso más capaz.*

La presentación de Cristo en la familia, en el hogar, o en pequeñas reuniones en casas particulares, gana a menudo más almas para Jesús que los sermones predicados al aire libre, a la muchedumbre agitada o aun en salones o capillas” (Obreros Evangélicos, p. 201).

Uno de los milagros que más me ha impresionado es el de la multiplicación de los panes y los peces. El capítulo seis del libro de Marcos nos cuenta que Cristo viajó en un barco junto con los discípulos para apartarse a un lugar tranquilo para poder descansar. Pero al desembarcar se encontraron con una gran multitud. Cristo tuvo compasión de ella y le enseñó “muchas cosas”. Al hacerse ya tarde los discípulos pidieron a Jesús que despidiera a esta muchedumbre para que consiguiese alimentos. Cristo, sin embargo, desafió a los apóstoles a que ellos mismos se encargaran de alimentar a toda esa gente. Aunque para ellos esta idea representaba una imposibilidad, gracias a Dios, la necesidad de más de cinco mil personas fue suplida.

En ocasiones anteriores al meditar en este milagro me concentraba en el amor y el poder de Dios en multiplicar los panes y los peces. Pero recuerden que para alimentar a tantas personas Jesús pidió que se dividiera a la multitud en grupos de cincuenta y de cien. El relato bíblico nos dice que los apóstoles recibieron

los panes y los peces de manos de Jesús y que a su vez ellos tenían la responsabilidad de distribuirlos.

Una lección que yo puedo obtener de este milagro es la de compartir el evangelio por medio de grupos pequeños. Cristo necesita que la iglesia haga su parte en saciar el hambre espiritual que existe en este mundo. Dios nos desafía a “conquistar corazones” haciéndonos amigos de aquellos con quienes nos encontramos e invitarlos a un grupo pequeño donde podrán saciarse del hambre espiritual que tengan.

En este año 2019 se está desafiando a nuestras iglesias hispanas en la División Norteamericana a que se organicen 10,000 grupos pequeños por medio de la estrategia llamada VIDAGPS. Se invita a todos estos grupos a unirse la gran campaña con la predicación del pastor Alejandro Bullón que se llevará a cabo por medio del Internet del 12 al 22 de abril. Invito a nuestros lectores a que se unan a esta iniciativa y acepten el llamado a participar en un grupo pequeño para así compartir el Pan de Vida. ■

*Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.*



▲ Carmelo Mercado



◀ Lema de la Iniciativa de la División Norteamericana llamado VIDAGPS.



Jean-irés Michel

▲ John and Ashley Press, with their children Gia, Luci and Micah

# The Happiest Place on Earth

By John Press

## **"DADDY, I'M PRAYING FOR YOU TO GET A NEW JOB."**

As we drove home from a family dinner, my daughter's voice broke the silence in the car and halted my brooding over another long day at work.

"Do you think things would get better if Daddy had a different job?" I asked.

"Well, it couldn't get worse." It was a startling assessment from a 3-year-old, but she was right.

Life had fallen apart since I'd accepted a promotion at work. My wife, Ashley, and I had prayed about the offer. The department I would be leading was facing major challenges, but the job promised financial security and an open door to even brighter future prospects. Ultimately, God had convicted us that I should decline the promotion. Yet, instead of accepting His answer, I accepted the job. When would I ever have another opportunity like this?



It didn't take long to recognize my mistake. There were more problems in my new department than I had realized. I began working harder and harder until I was spending nearly every waking hour at the office, even on weekends and holidays. I rarely saw my family. I resigned as an elder and youth leader at church and often stayed home on Sabbaths. Exhausted and discouraged, the last thing I wanted to do was go to church and pretend that everything was okay.

My daughter was right. It couldn't get worse.

Finally, Ashley and I decided to attend a weekend prayer retreat. It was the first significant time we'd spent praying together in the year since my promotion. But God had been waiting for us. On Sabbath afternoon, as we poured out our hearts to Him, we experienced the overwhelming conviction that He was calling us to full-time ministry.

It sounded crazy at first. I would need to go back to school, and Ashley was pregnant with our second daughter. How would we pay for school? How could we uproot, let alone support our family? For a time, I refused to even entertain the idea unless God provided the answers in advance. But, as we continued to pray, our faith grew.

The moment we surrendered to God's will, life began to improve. It took time to recruit and train my replacement at work but, once accomplished, we put our house on the market. It sold in two days. A few weeks later, we were on our way to Andrews University, where I enrolled in the seminary.

My first year back in school was challenging. While I enjoyed the classes, I was uncomfortable with the nature of my calling. I'd dreamed of serving God in other ways, perhaps as a missionary or a writer, but never as a pastor. Had we made another mistake?

That summer, I worked extra hours instead of taking classes. I also started volunteering at Advocates for Southeast Asians and the Persecuted (ASAP) Ministries, a nonprofit organization working among the poor, persecuted, unreached, and refugees from the 10/40 window. Before my ill-fated promotion, Ashley and I had been active in local and foreign missions. Now this passion was reignited, and God began opening doors.

I transferred from the seminary to the Community and International Development program at Andrews

University. Shortly thereafter, ASAP offered me a part-time position. It is such a blessing to be involved in missions again, and I am excited to transition to a full-time role with ASAP when I finish my coursework this spring.

Among the *great cloud of witnesses* mentioned in Hebrews 11, Abraham is commended because when God called him, . . . *he went out, not knowing where he was going* (Hebrews 11:8b, NKJV). Of his unquestioning faith, Ellen White says, “. . . the happiest place on earth for him was the place where God would have him to be” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 126).

She continues, “Many are still tested as was Abraham. . . They may be required to abandon a career that promises wealth and honor, to leave congenial and profitable associations and separate from kindred, to enter upon what appears to be only a path of self-denial, hardship, and sacrifice. . . [God] calls them away from human influences and aid, and leads them to feel the need of His help, and to depend upon Him alone, that He may reveal Himself to them” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 126, 127).

I don't profess to have the faith of Abraham, but my family and I can testify to his experience of God's faithfulness. Abandoning a career that promised financial prosperity was a struggle. And balancing graduate school, work and family life isn't always easy. But knowing that we are where God wants us to be, using the time and talents He's given us to fulfill His purpose and our passion, is a blessing beyond words. In fact, it's the happiest place on earth! ■

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*John Press is the Communications director for ASAP Ministries.*

THE MOMENT WE  
SURRENDERED TO  
GOD'S WILL, LIFE  
BEGAN TO IMPROVE.



# Invested WITH GOD



I am convinced that God is interested in — and engaged in — all aspects of human life. From the grandest issues to the minutest superficial details, He truly leaves no stone unturned. God is an investor. His greatest investment is in us, and He seeks a return on His investment.

This is evidenced in His dealings with humanity throughout history. We find such statements as these: *But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows* (Luke 12:7 NKJV). . . . *Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine* (Isaiah 43:1b NKJV).

I recall how I felt after reading these texts, and others like them, when I began my journey with Jesus. I was just a teenager, a sort of ragamuffin teenager, at that. I didn't have the upbringing that "church kids" enjoy. I didn't know all the songs one learns from Cradle Roll onward. I was just your typical, secular, suburbanite kid. But when





I read those words in Scripture and they began to sink in, it became evident that God places value on His creation, with a special emphasis on His greatest treasure — humanity. I realized I was one of those people the Scriptures talk about and, as such, there was much more to life than the mere surface vantage point with which I had grown up.

As the Lord continued to move on my heart, changing my life one small step at a time, I, too, started to become “invested.” Life, for me, was starting to take shape rather than continue to be a cycle of nebulous existence, having



My prayer is that, as we realize how deeply God has invested in us, we return to Him the highest dividend — unwavering faithfulness and trust in every aspect of our lives.



no real purpose. I began to understand that every choice, every decision I made, had an impact on me for eternity. And, whether directly or indirectly, my decisions had an impact on others as well. As I grew in my faith, it became my desire, more and more, to make choices that would bring honor to Jesus.

From the examples in many friends and family members I saw during my youth, it was clear that making flippant decisions seemed to be the easier road to travel, although that road often leads to destructive destinations. I saw many of my extended family members struggle to make ends meet, keep food on the table, or live within reasonable means. Through the transformation of

becoming a follower of Jesus, it became clear to me that this was not the kind of life God desired for His people. I determined to take a different course.

I praise God that I came to know Jesus at an early age! Not only did I come to know Him, but He became the center of my life. I was deeply moved when I studied these words, . . . *I have come that they [His sheep — us] may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly . . . I am the good shepherd*” (John 10:10b–11a NKJV).

A shepherd is one who guards, protects and provides for the sheep under his care. And Jesus is saying that He isn’t just a hired watchman — He is the Good Shepherd. This is the same Shepherd that David wrote about in Psalm 23 that fills our cups to overflowing, carries us through dark valleys, and provides us the way to life everlasting. The Good Shepherd wants a “good” life for His sheep *now*, not just for eternity!

Now, I don’t want to be mistaken for a “Prosperity Gospel” preacher. I do not buy into the school of thought that the only way to be blessed is to obtain endless worldly riches and success. Sure, God can provide us with that if He so desires, but to say that prosperity is the only evidence of His blessing is much too superficial. Our God is dealing with us on a much deeper level.

In the greatest sermon ever preached (Sermon on the Mount, see Matthew 6:25–34), Jesus declared that we should not worry and fret over things which are superficial — like what we will wear or what we will eat. Instead, we are to focus on the most valuable aspect of our existence — that is, our relationship with God. When we do this, we develop trust in the only One who can truly provide for us. This leads us then to make wiser decisions, which then leads to that more abundant life that Jesus promised. It is abundant because we open ourselves up to having our needs met by the One who provides *light* and *life* and *all good gifts* . . .

As I grew in my understanding of this reality, those things upon which I placed value began to reorder themselves in my list of priorities. I noticed that as my priorities became more in harmony with God’s will, my joy increased, my worry decreased and my life found balance.

In God’s master plan of life, He has laid out principles that, when followed properly, lead to success, not only from a spiritual perspective, but from a material one as

well. A major part of this plan is how we are to treat the resources that God entrusts to us. We must remember that everything to which we lay claim is available to us only by God's providence. It is tempting to boast when we receive that promotion we've hoped for, or when we get to enjoy the fruit of abundance in any area of our lives. However, thanks be to God for enabling us to enjoy such blessings.

After studying Theology at Southern Adventist University, I did not have an immediate opportunity for full-time ministry. Instead, I had the privilege of ministering in the private sector as a bank manager for five-and-a-half years. In this position, I was challenged with guiding my clients to make sound decisions which would lead to stronger financial stability. One of my responsibilities was to encourage my clients to consider the future in terms of what legacy they wanted to establish.

I was amazed at how often I was able to work my faith into my job and, in an indirect, non-threatening way, encourage many clients to establish a plan to support the Lord's work through faithful stewardship of the means God had entrusted to them. I saw many of my clients, from varied backgrounds, establish plans of systematic benevolence for the cause of Christ. In many ways, I was able to "pay it forward" and invest in my clients as God had invested in me earlier in my life. Even though I felt called to be a pastor, this banking "opportunity" prepared me for pastoral ministry much like Moses' years in the wilderness.

Ever since God called me out of banking and into full-time pastoral ministry, that part of my life has continued to enrich and help develop my skills as I now invest in my church members. I have had the privilege of counseling many members (as well as current colleagues) in the area of sound financial stewardship and faithful investing with God in His work. My prayer is that, as we realize how deeply God has invested in us, we return to Him the highest dividend — unwavering faithfulness and trust in every aspect of our lives. ■



*Cory Herthel has been serving as a pastor in the Michigan Conference since 2012. Prior to his tenure there, he served as branch manager and licensed banker for Regions Bank in Chattanooga, Tenn. He is currently pursuing an MA degree in Pastoral Ministry at the Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University.*



BY JESSICA STOTZ

# A Farm Takes Root

WHAT ONE COUPLE LEARNED ABOUT THE EARTH AND STEWARDSHIP

In the rolling landscape of Michigan's St. Joseph River valley, Paul and Shelli Meulemans are carving out a healthy lifestyle, one vegetable at a time.

It all started with planting more raspberries than they could eat. "The rest is history," says Paul, recalling his father's ambitious Wisconsin backyard growing operation — a source of inspiration for Paul's dream of someday having his own farm. The proverbial seed of this dream was further nurtured by watching his grandparents run a small-scale market vegetable operation, which grew from a simple hobby into a source of supplemental retirement income. Paul muses: "The idea that one could simply grow things in the earth, then sell what grows, was a cool idea."

Shelli Nash Meulemans didn't grow up with an overabundance of raspberries but was exposed early to growing food in a large family garden, preserving the harvest for healthy meal options throughout



Design:  
Heather Lanphear  
Photography:  
Brianna Kittleson









the year. This influenced Shelli in her pursuit of education and licensure as a dietitian, studying at Andrews University, where she met Paul. Married in 2011, their family has grown from two to more. First, the additions of four furry friends – Nacho, Kona, Zyla and Maple; more recently, little Bria joined as the newest farmhand.

Although the Meulemans have had a family garden for multiple years, the dream of a farm didn't move into actionable stages until 2017. They worked hard to conduct market research and determine crop profitability, plotting potential planting carefully and intentionally, finally moving into full-time farming this summer: growing a variety of fruits, vegetables and greens, all as a certified naturally grown farm, avoiding the use of synthetic herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

A specific niche is the production of leafy greens. Paul states that the vast majority of greens are grown in California and southwestern United States, negatively impacting the cost and quality of greens reaching consumers in the Midwest. "[By] growing these crops locally for people in the area, we deliver a superior product due to the short supply chain," says Paul.

Transitioning to a full-scale farm hasn't been all roses and raspberries. The Meulemans cite extensive damage by four-legged, green-chomping, cotton-tailed pests, and poor experiences with weed control. They struggled with doubt and discouragement after substantial crop failures, poor market returns, and seemingly impenetrable failures. Their motivation to keep going and growing comes from customers who share a deep appreciation for the farm's produce and ethos. Paul draws advice from one of the harder lessons in the school of farm life: "Don't be afraid to start over. In our line of work, it can be very disheartening to destroy a crop and replace it, but if you see that failure is inevitable, it is better to destroy it than wait and have it taking space and cluttering your life."

Paul and Shelli's passion for responsible farming practices extends beyond their home. They have a passion for good nutrition, and a burden to share it with the community through food stands, farmers markets, community-supported agriculture (CSA), and wholesale product supply to local grocers. As largely self-taught organic farmers, they have taken the responsibility to share their knowledge of sustainably caring for God's Creation. They also find that caring for themselves includes observing a weekly day of rest from the frenetic farm life — a treasured Sabbath to recover physically and mentally, to step back and reflect on the past week.





## Q & A WITH THE MEULEMANS

**Is buying organic produce really worth it? What difference does it make?**

There are three basic arguments that can be made in favor of choosing organically grown products. The reduced environmental impact; the quality, flavor and nutritive value; and the reduced toxin load in our bodies. Conventional agriculture relies on chemicals – fumigants, herbicides, fungicides and pesticides. Sustainable agriculture relies on farm management techniques such as fertilization techniques, crop rotations, animal feeding and waste management. It's good to remember that by choosing organic produce, you are reducing the toxin load for you and your family.

**I'm on a tight budget and can't afford to make the switch to an entirely organic pantry. Is it true that some produce is "safer" than others to buy non-organic?**

Chemicals are compounding in our body. While we cannot totally eliminate them, by reducing the toxin load we can bring them down to a level manageable by our body's systems. The Environmental Working Group (EWG) puts out lists of the "Dirty Dozen." (<https://www.ewg.org/foodnews/dirty-dozen.php>) and the "Clean Fifteen" (<https://www.ewg.org/foodnews/clean-fifteen.php>). You should avoid non-organic produce from the Dirty Dozen list, and the Clean Fifteen are examples of produce that can be conventionally purchased when organic is prohibitively priced or unavailable. Bear in mind that this response is purely based on your personal health, not the health of the planet.

**Any tips on how to make my garden grow?**

Get a soil test. It takes time and effort to make soil that will truly meet the needs of your crops, so be patient and test yearly. Providing soil microbes with a level



of organic matter will be critical to success. Aim for 5 to 7 percent. Focus on weed prevention. At the farm, we make a clean and 'stale' bed by leaving it covered with plastic until the weeds germinate, then die. Then, don't till! Tilling disrupts the soil microbes and causes soil compaction, ultimately bringing up more weed seeds.

**Veggie recommendations for the young sprouts in my household?**

Kids will find Hokkaido turnips absolutely delicious. They are sweet and crisp.

## What is your passion? What niche are you cultivating as you take your place among God's stewards?

**What oft-overlooked produce do you recommend adding to my grocery list?**

Kohlrabi. Get it fresh at a farm; I have never had good-tasting kohlrabi from a grocery store. Peel it, cut it into chunks, and eat fresh on a salad, in a stir fry, baked with potatoes, or creamed on toast — enjoy it!

Truly, the Meulemans have responded to the commission God has given each of us — to care for the earth He created and everything in it. What is your passion? What niche are you cultivating as you take your place among God's stewards? ■

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*Wisconsin native and Andrews University graduate, Jessica Stotz, is a physical therapist. She also loves to serve. After a year abroad as a student missionary, she continues to seek ways to serve humanity.*

# THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN ARE OPEN

**Max Torkelsen**

My first recollection related to stewardship comes from long before I was in school. I got a birthday card in the mail from my grandparents. Tucked into the card were two one-dollar bills which seemed an almost unbelievable sum to my young mind.

Mom said, “Now, Maxie Carle, the first thing you are going to do is take out the tithe that belongs to Jesus and take it to church next Sabbath.” So, I did, and I felt mighty proud that I had something of my own to give at church as the plate was passed to me. It felt good to give!

I started first grade at a one-room church school in the basement of the Jamestown, North Dakota, church. We had 18 kids in that one room taught by Mrs. Rau. I remember an arithmetic assignment where we were to figure the tithe on different amounts of money. Some of the problems asked the percentage (10 percent), others asked it as a decimal problem (.10). Our very wise teacher was teaching us about mathematics, but she also was teaching us about systematic benevolence. I could hardly wait to get some more money of my own, so I could figure out my own tithe! It was fun to feel so grown up.

When I qualified for a California State Scholarship of \$4,000 per year to help with my college tuition, I had to sort out in my own thinking, the definition of “increase” as discussed in *Acts of the Apostles* on page 336. Even though this scholarship went directly to my school account, was it an increase to me and should I return tithe on this amount? I decided the answer was “Yes.” That meant I needed to generate tithe from my otherwise very limited resources to keep my heavenly accounts up to date. I liked feeling responsible, and I liked the creativity it required of me to figure out how to keep my promise to God!

While at college, I met the beautiful woman (who later would become my wife). Fortunately, Linnea was a dedicated spiritual person, and during our engagement we read the book, *Adventist Home*, out loud to each other. Doing this activity brought up a whole spectrum of topics that led us to discuss ideas which might not have come up in our normal day-to-day conversations. One of those conversations related to finances in general, and stewardship in particular. Happily, we found ourselves in agreement and committed to making it part of our lifestyle as a married couple. We were excited to see how God would keep His promises to provide for

our needs if we kept our promise to be generous givers of both tithe and offerings.

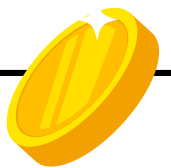
I began my ministry in an era when men almost always wore suits and ties to church. It was kind of an unspoken dress code that the pastor should certainly wear a suit, not only for meetings at the church but also when visiting members at home or in the hospital. College students didn’t wear suits that much, so the one I owned was getting serious wear and tear during my first few years of ministry. One communion Sabbath, I knelt down in front of the brother whose feet I was going to wash and, as I bent forward, I felt my suit pants give way. Fortunately, they ripped in the seam and, if I was careful, my coat covered the gaping hole. I was able to complete the communion service with no one the wiser. When I got home and held the pants up to the light, I was amazed at how much I could see through the worn-out fabric.

Sunday, we went to a men’s store and discovered an amazing coincidence! (Was it really?) They were having a “two for the price of one” sale! Linnea carefully helped me choose two suits. We were so happy! On our way home, my wife pointed out that, in this instance, God stretched the nine-tenths we had to work with — making it go farther than if we’d had ten-tenths — by leading us to a store that gave us one suit free. We need to keep our eyes open, looking for what God is doing for us!

The story didn’t end there! A few weeks later, we were visiting in the home church of Linnea’s



MY CLOSET AT HOME WAS ALMOST TOO SMALL FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS THAT LANDED IN MY LAP WHEN GOD OPENED THOSE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN.







"WE HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY OUR TITHE OR THE ELECTRIC BILL. WHICH ONE DO WE PAY?"

parents. One of the members was a mortician who had recently lost a lot of weight, but quickly gained it all back again. While he was slimmer, he bought four suits, because, well, a mortician wears a suit every day. He saw me after church and asked what size suit I wore. I said, "42 Long." He grinned and said, "Do I have a deal for you! I have four practically brand-new suits that I can't wear anymore, and they're all 42 Long. Could you use them?" I was dumbfounded! My closet at home was almost too small for all the blessings that landed in my lap when God opened those windows of Heaven. What a thrill to experience His promise of faithfulness at work — for me!

One of my favorite stories from my years as a church pastor happened on a bitterly cold winter evening. I had been out visiting some of the church members and was headed home. It occurred to me I wasn't far from Kurt and Glenda's house and was impressed to stop. I drove down the long gravel drive and pulled up in front of their bungalow. A blast of cold air hit me in the face

as I opened the car door and I pulled my overcoat tightly around me. I picked my way around toys and frozen puddles and knocked on the door. I waited. I knocked again, and waited some more. Rather suddenly, the door flew open and Glenda reached out and grabbed me by the arm. "Get in here, pastor! I want to show you something." The kitchen table was covered with bills and a checkbook. "It's a good thing you came by because you need to tell us what to do," she said. Kurt ambled in from the other room and said, "Yeah, pastor. What do we do? We have enough money to pay our tithe OR the electric bill. Which one do we pay?" Interestingly, they were the same amount. I'd never been in their situation, so the Scripture I was about to read took on new meaning for me, too.

"I can't tell you what to do, but I can remind you of what God says about the decision you need to make." I turned to Malachi 3:10 and read, *Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down a blessing until there is no more need.* The room was silent, so I prayed for them and left them to their thoughts.

The following Sabbath as I sat on the platform, I scanned the congregation. Kurt and Glenda weren't there. As the offering was being collected, the back door of the church flew open and Glenda rushed up the aisle to where the deacon was

standing with the velvet offering bag. She thrust her hand into it, then turned around and ran out, as though to protect from a change of heart.

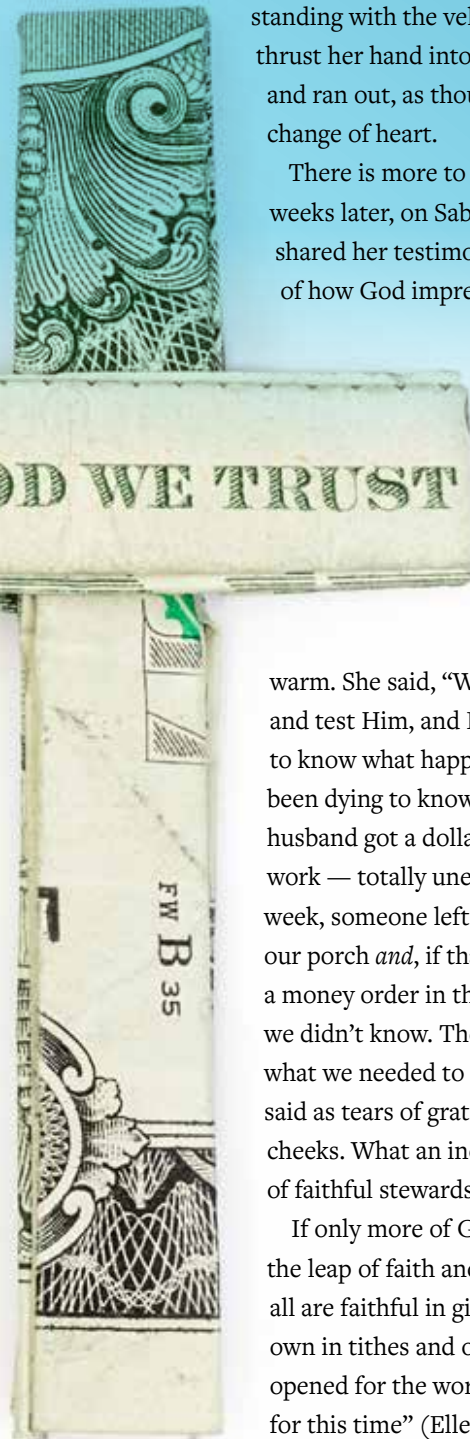
There is more to this story as well. A few weeks later, on Sabbath morning, Glenda shared her testimony. She told the story of how God impressed me to visit, right

at the time when their faith was wavering. She told how they struggled with whether to give God His 10 percent, or pay the electric bill so their little kids would be

warm. She said, "We decided to trust God and test Him, and I thought you would like to know what happened." I had, of course, been dying to know! "Well, that week my husband got a dollar an hour raise at his work — totally unexpected. In the same week, someone left two boxes of food on our porch *and*, if that wasn't enough, we got a money order in the mail from someone we didn't know. The amount was exactly what we needed to pay the electric bill," she said as tears of gratitude crept down her cheeks. What an incredible lesson in the joy of faithful stewardship!

If only more of God's people would take the leap of faith and "prove" Him! "When all are faithful in giving back to God His own in tithes and offerings, the way will be opened for the world to hear the message for this time" (Ellen G. White, *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, pg. 450). Even so, come, Lord Jesus! ■

WE DECIDED  
TO TRUST  
GOD AND  
TEST HIM...



Max Torkelsen is the immediate past president of the North Pacific Union Conference. He and his wife, Linnea, spent 46 years in pastoral and administrative ministry, and are now retired near their children and grandchildren.

# Well-being Conference helps physicians rejuvenate



Jim Syehla

▲ Dr. Ted Hamilton, AdventHealth senior vice president and chief mission integration officer, spoke about integrating mission into medicine at the conference.

Bringing Seventh-day Adventist medical professionals together in October to "Reconnect, Renew and Rejuvenate" was the goal of the first Lake Union Provider Well-being Conference in Oak Brook, Ill.

About 25 health care providers and their families from the Lake Union Conference came together professionally, spiritually and for camaraderie during the two-day program. The weekend conference was open to physicians, dentists, optometrists and chiropractors from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin. In total, about 50 people attended the event.

It was a full weekend that combined continuing medical education (CME) programs for physicians blended with a spiritual component featuring prayer, praise and reflection, a blessing of health care providers and special music. Physicians had the opportunity to meet other health care professionals, and families had the chance to get acquainted and form new friendships.

"The goal of the conference was to focus on our calling," said Jason Goliath, M.D., general

surgeon and trauma director at AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center Bolingbrook. "The program gave us an opportunity to renew our love for medicine and reconnect with what we love about being a doctor."

Goliath was among eight medical professionals who served on the planning committee, which began its work in 2017. Thor Thordarson, executive vice president and chief operating officer at AMITA Health, had the vision for this type of well-being program that focused on the importance of physicians caring for themselves and their families. AMITA Health sponsored the conference.

"We do so much work on the business side of medicine — we need to take a step back and return to serving people," Goliath said. "We need to do things that draw patients to Christ. The message was to 'go forth, you have a great responsibility and you can affect people in powerful ways.'"

The keynote address by Ted Hamilton, M.D., focused on the healing ministry of Christ and how medical professionals can integrate mission into their practice. Hamilton

is chief mission integration officer and senior vice president mission and ministry for Adventist Health System.

Other topics and speakers included: (1) mental health first aid (William Puga, M.D., chief of Psychiatry, Illinois Department of Corrections); (2) mission clinics and service opportunities (Randy Griffin, D.D.S, Health Ministries); and (3) healthy vegan diet (Mark Anthony, internationally renowned chef and author).

"The program combined clinical expertise and healthy living with Christianity — helping medical professionals connect on another level," said Heather Hoffman, regional director, Clinical Mission Integration, AMITA Health, and conference project manager. "We've had overwhelmingly positive results from a survey of the program's participants and we have started planning the next conference for October."

"Physicians who are spiritually healthy are better physicians," said Meechai Tessalee, M.D., interventional cardiologist, AMITA Health Medical Group Heart and Vascular, and a planning committee member. "Part of this involves reconnecting with the Bible, our religious foundation."

Tessalee said physicians do their work day in and day out, and it becomes routine. "We forget who we really are as individuals when taking care of patients," he said. "The conference reminded us of our identity — one that shares a common goal and belief system of which sharing Christ's love through healing is a cornerstone."

For questions about the conference, contact Heather.Hoffman2@amitahealth.org. ■

Julie Busch, associate vice president, Communications, AMITA Health



# Persistence in prayer

Nayeli Moretta, senior Elementary Education major at Andrews University, is a firm believer in the power of prayer. Hired during her junior year as prayer director for Campus Ministries (CM), she hoped to lead other students to prioritize prayer. "I wanted to have a team to attend events and pray for people — a team to consistently pray as individuals and collectively," she says. "I really believe that, when we come together in prayer, it unites us with each other as well as with God."

When Nayeli accepted the leadership of the CM Prayer Warriors, she formed a team of 15 members, representing both undergraduate and graduate student populations. The team receives information about and prays for different ministries and events each month. They often serve as a prayer team at the conclusion of vespers services or other programs, and have arranged for an additional 30 prayer partners — students who commit to pray at certain times. The Prayer Warriors also host a monthly "Popcorn, Prayer and Praise" event at Campus Ministries that attracts anywhere from 20 to 60 attendees.

"The Prayer Warriors are fervent and persistent in prayer," says June Price, University chaplain. "They are willing to go beyond prayers for themselves and be interceders for this campus." It was natural, then, that when June was approached with the idea of First Tuesday, she thought of the Prayer Warriors.

First Tuesday is an initiative proposed by president Andrea Luxton to campus chaplains, the pastoral team and administrators. On the first Tuesday of each month, members of the Andrews community are invited to personally set aside thoughtful times of prayer and fasting.



Darren Heslop

▲ Faculty, staff and students join together in prayer.

June thought it also could be beneficial to offer an opportunity for corporate prayer and asked the Prayer Warriors to host.

For the inaugural First Tuesday, a Prayer Warriors team member collaborated with Chaplain Price to facilitate a season of prayer focused on the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Prayers moved from praise and adoration to expressions of need and confession, then concluded with a time of supplication and surrender.

"I am really pleased that 12 people participated. In the past, when times of corporate prayer have been called on days of prayer and fasting, only about five people have attended. I hope that in doing this consistently and prayerfully, participation will continue to grow," says June.

Nayeli is grateful to see there are people invested in prayer, and hopes the Prayer Warriors team will continue to deepen their understanding of prayer as they lead others through the prayer process. "I think

a lot of us have lost what it means to pray together. I do envision the Prayer Warriors as a team that understands how important prayer is and how powerful it is; how much things can change, not only in what we see, but what we don't see," she says. "To have people committed to making our campus a more spiritual place ... to see that there is a team dedicated to prayer — it's really beautiful." ■

Gillian Panigot, Media Communications manager, Andrews University.

**I THINK A LOT OF US  
HAVE LOST WHAT  
IT MEANS TO PRAY  
TOGETHER.**



▲ Jen and Brad with their children: Eileen, 12; Leilani, 6; Jakob, 6 months.



Courtesy/Jen Bolejack

## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

### "God Won't Love You Less"

#### WIFE OF PASTOR WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE WANTS TO RAISE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

INDIANA—Jen Bolejack wanted her Indianapolis family to meet her six-month-old son and made plans to visit them for a few days the week before Thanksgiving. Bradley, her husband of 13 years, drove the family, including their two young girls, to the Florida airport and kissed them goodbye.

Bradley, a new pastor, had been battling anxiety and depression for a long time, and recently had decided to seek help. "It

was getting to where he couldn't control his anxiety attacks and was struggling to minister to others," Jen said. Her husband had initially resisted treatment, thinking that taking medication would mean "he didn't have enough faith or was not praying hard enough or not reading his Bible enough."

A few hours after arriving in Indianapolis, Jen was shopping with her sister for a wedding dress when she received a troubling message. Brad had sent his friend a weird text message and the friend wanted to know if Brad was okay. Calls to their home went unanswered. Not long after, a friend gained entry to the home and discovered Brad unresponsive.

What had happened in those four hours between Brad dropping her off at the airport and receiving the strange message

from his friend? Jen has since learned it is recommended that new patients be closely monitored for at least four weeks. He had begun treatment just two weeks before.

On Nov. 25, 2018, days after Brad's funeral at Indiana's Chapel West Church, Jen, a former principal of Capitol City School, is powering her grief into action. She wants everyone to know that talking about mental health issues "doesn't make you less of a Christian. God won't love you less. You shouldn't be made to be ashamed."

For more information on suicide prevention, call 800-273-8255 or visit <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org> ■

*Debbie Michel, Lake Union Conference associate director of Communication*



Photography by Juanita Edge



▲ Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division, gave a presentation to Wisconsin Conference pastors on leadership lessons learned from 47 years in ministry



## LOCAL CONFERENCE NEWS

### NAD president guest at Wisconsin pastors' meeting

WISCONSIN—Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division, was guest speaker for the Wisconsin Conference Pastors meetings held Nov. 27, 2018. Jackson gave a presentation on leadership lessons learned from 47 years in ministry. Ministerial director Adam Case said, "I was blessed as he shared observations from his own ministry. These lessons illustrated the importance of keeping God first and that we need to focus on being who God called us to be."

Following his presentation, Jackson spent a couple hours holding a Q&A session with the pastors. "We asked some fair and tough questions," said Portage District pastor Justin Spady, who came away from the meeting appreciating the fact that although some of us may hold differences of opinion on issues, we can still have the love of Jesus in our hearts for each other and have a focused desire

to save souls. "That in itself is a testament to the power of Jesus," said Spady.

"I feel encouraged that our church continues to be dedicated to the Great Commission," said Titus Naftanaila, pastor of the Madison East District.

"Two things stuck with me from Jackson's presentation," said pastor Carlos Ancheta of the Fox Valley District, "God doesn't quit! And God never gives up!"

"Having our North American Division president share from his heart in an open and transparent way was a unique privilege for our pastoral team," said Mike Edge, Wisconsin Conference president. "We heard and felt his love for this Church, his passion to keep the Church focused on the 28 fundamental beliefs, and keep prominent the mission of reaching souls for Jesus Christ."

After his meeting with the pastors, Jackson visited Wisconsin Academy Bible classes where he shared a bit about himself and his background before taking questions from the class. Students asked a variety of questions, such as: "Do you like your job?" "How did you become NAD president?" "What is the most disappointing thing your kids

do?" "Is there a balance between liberal and conservative?" "What do you think about worship styles?" "What happens if a church or conference wants to believe something different than the rest of the church?" "Were you ever in Pathfinders?"

Several students expressed how much they appreciated Jackson's openness, humor and straight answers that didn't beat around the bush. ■

Juanita Edge, Wisconsin Communication director, and Greg Edge, Wisconsin Academy marketing director.



Greg Edge

▲ Jackson also spoke to students at Wisconsin Academy





▲ Senior pastor Gordon Fraser and associate pastor Casey Adams prayed over the mothers and children.

## Mothers receive support and education at Chicago community baby shower

ILLINOIS—The Goshen Church fellowship hall was transformed into a space adorned with pink and blue balloons, as mothers-to-be visited various stations, greeted by medical and other professionals providing helpful information.

The free community baby shower, put on by the Goshen Church on Nov. 18, gave families living in and near the impoverished South Chicago community a chance to access maternal and health services, support and education they may have otherwise lacked.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, Chicago has one of the highest rates of infant mortality in the U.S., and there are significant racial and

ethnic disparities. Non-Hispanic Black infants have an infant mortality rate that is three times higher than non-Hispanic white infants.

Organizers and church elders, Lorian Willis and Tonnie Young-Hayes, said that, while it was important to give the expectant mothers the tools to have a healthy pregnancy and delivery, they also wanted the event to be fun. Stations included a professional photographer; blood pressure check; information on prenatal, doula and dental care; along with games and rewards.

With support from Hinsdale Church and individual donations, Goshen distributed over 1,000 diapers, lotions, soaps, baby wipes, clothes, diaper bags, formula and other courtesy gifts to 100 attendees. Anelle Willis, one of the attendees who was due in December, said she was grateful because she needed the help.

During the event, senior pastor Gordon Fraser and associate pastor Casey Adams held some of the babies and offered a prayer of blessing over each of the expectant mothers. “Not only do we want to serve the physical needs of the community but also the spiritual needs,” Fraser said afterwards. ■

*Kristine Walker-Fraser teaches Communication at Andrews University, Indiana University and Southwestern Michigan College.*



## Regional conference presidents meet with General Conference president

LAKE REGION—History was made on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018, when North

American regional conference presidents met with Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, in his office at the church's World Headquarters. Convened to address and clarify statements made by Wilson in his sermon at Annual Council in October, the meeting covered an array

of other critical issues related to ministry in the African-American community in the North American Division, as well as in the broader community. The conversation was open and frank, characterized by civility and courtesy, and lasted almost four hours. It ended with prayer for the General Conference president,



▲ North American regional conference presidents met with General Conference president Ted Wilson to address and clarify statements made by Wilson in his sermon at the October 2018 Annual Council.

who seemed genuinely concerned and engaged throughout the afternoon.

What was accomplished at the historic gathering? Wilson promised to attend the

next meeting of the Black Caucus, stated that the elimination of regional conferences was not on his agenda, stressed that what he said about social justice and

worship in his Battle Creek sermon were not intended to disparage the African-American community, and admitted that much of what he said had been “lost in translation.” He promised to examine and explore how the number of African-Americans at the General Conference may be increased, expressed appreciation for African-American mission and ministry, solicited help and partnership for outreach efforts in Indianapolis leading up to and during the General Conference Session in 2020, and promised to keep the conversation with African-American leadership going.

For a full synopsis of the meeting, please consult the website of the *Office for Regional Conference Ministry*. ■

*R. Clifford Jones, president, Lake Region Conference*

## Healing through music: Wisconsin physician to join King's Heralds

WISCONSIN—The King's Heralds has captured the hearts of Christians all over the world. With a music history spanning more than 90 years, this journey has just begun for Mark Ringwelski, who recently decided to leave his medical practice to follow God's call into full-time music ministry.

Formed in 1927, the King's Heralds began its humble journey as a small college quartet, eventually becoming a part of the Voice of Prophecy radio ministry where their unique a cappella sound added a special touch to H.M.S. Richards' radio ministry. Over the prior nine-decade-plus run, The King's Heralds has had 32 members.

Last September, Mark received a call from The King's Heralds. “I was shocked



▲ Mark Ringwelski

when they called me for an audition,” he said. Over the next month, Mark prepared several songs before he and Susan drove to Tennessee for his audition. Everything went well and, a few days later, he was

invited to become a member of the group, singing lead vocal.

He spent a few more days in prayer before responding, convicted that the call to join the quartet was from God. “It wasn't something I went looking for,” he said. “I got a call out of the blue which was a sign that God was calling me into a different direction.”

Mark is now the 33rd person to join the group.

With his extensive experience in occupational medicine with an impressive résumé, one would wonder why Mark is changing careers at this point in his life. He said his decision to leave his practice may be a mystery to some, but it was the right move for him and his wife, Susan Slikkers. “I've already done the Dr. thing,” he says. “Now I'm ready to go full-time into what I am passionate about.”

Since childhood, music has played a significant role in Mark's life. During his many years in medical practice, he



has used his talent to bless others in his workplace as well as various religious venues. During his time at Bellin Health, Mark and Susan helped to organize a benefit concert which takes place each year called "Doctors In Recital." Every January, musically-gifted physicians from across the medical systems in Green Bay share their talents to raise money for nonprofit

organizations in the Brown County area. Over the past 12 years, nearly half a million dollars has been raised.

Mark and Susan are now preparing to move this spring to Nashville, Tenn.

Don Scroggs, the group's leader and first tenor, remarked, "We all have a calling, and a calling for a singer is from birth. It's not something that you learn.

When you hear a great singer, you know that God has touched him." He then posed the question for each of us: "Will you follow that call?"

For Mark, he has made up *his* mind to follow the call. ■

*Felicia Tonga, Media specialist, Lake Union Conference*

## Stewardship resources available

The North American Division ([www.nadstewardship.org](http://www.nadstewardship.org)) and AdventSource ([www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org)) have available a number of wonderful stewardship resources for use at the local church level. As you make plans and budget for the new year, you are invited to see if any might help accomplish the goals you have established for your church. Just to peak your interest, three are highlighted below.



  
My Personal Giving Plan

### My Personal Giving Plan

This resource is designed "to renew our commitment to the principles of Christian stewardship." It covers five facets of

giving, describes each, and shows how they are used to sustain and advance church work. It ties directly with the giving classifications on the tithe envelope and is made appealing with beautiful pictures and easy-to-read print. A useful resource for every member.



### He Came To My House

Written by Tracy B. John, this booklet covers practical presentations for Christian money management. It includes narratives and follows with questions for you to answer and reflect on. This would be a helpful resource for those wishing to improve in the area of managing and improving personal finances.



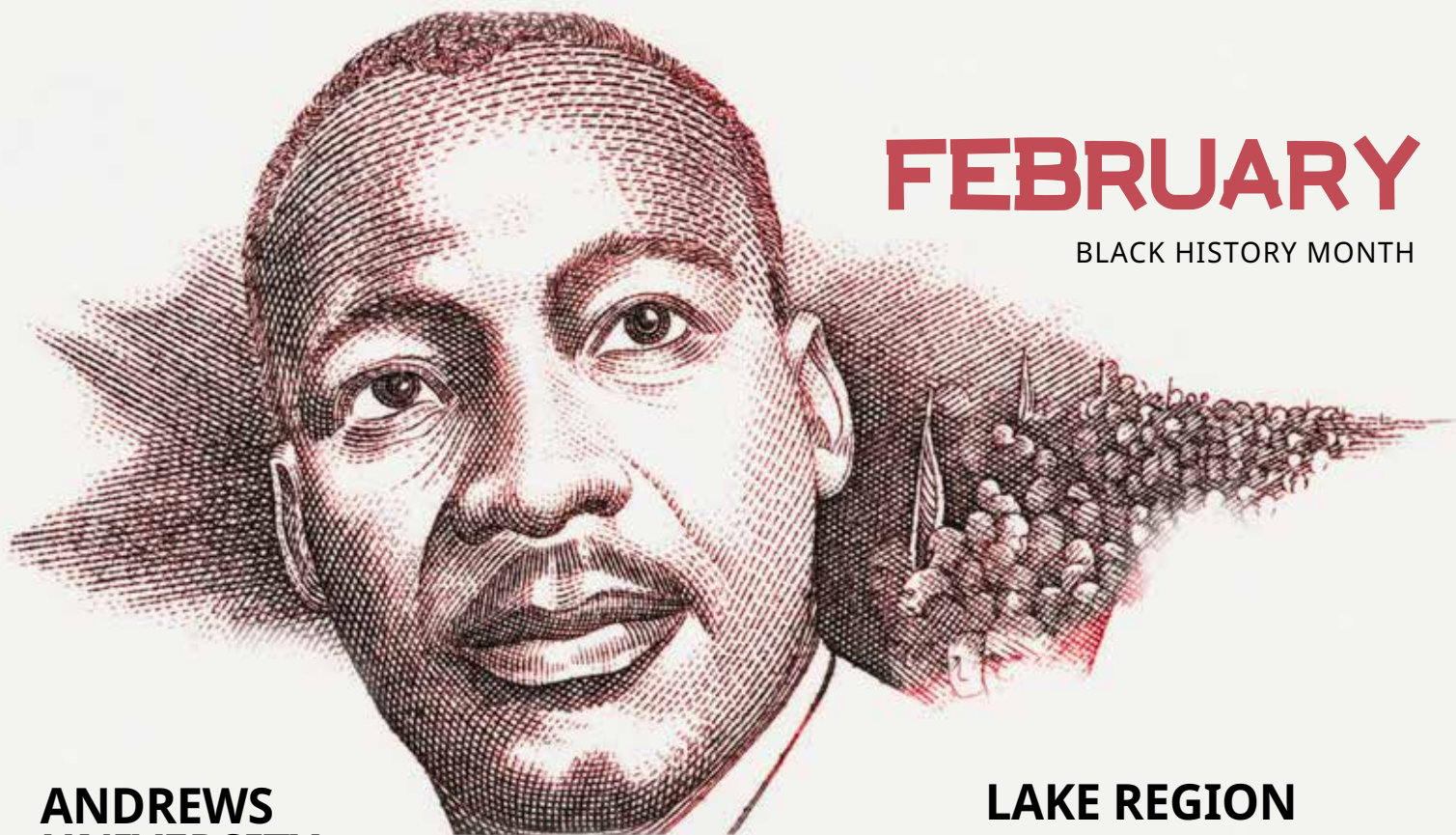
### In\$ufficient

"The In\$ufficient project consists of 15 unique presentations on the topic of stewardship." The website, [TheInsufficientProject.com](http://TheInsufficientProject.com), provides access to study sheets, text, and slide presentations for each sermon. This would be the perfect resource if your church shares a pastor and you need to fill the pulpit or would just like a new or different perspective on stewardship.

May God bless as you endeavor to raise awareness on how we can better perform our "stewardship responsibility" that God has assigned to us — or should I say, our "stewardship partnership" with which we are so abundantly blessed. ■

*Jon Corder, Stewardship director, Lake Union Conference*





# FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

### GENERAL EVENTS

**Jan. 31-Feb. 2:** *Newmyer Classic*, Johnson Gymnasium

**Feb. 1-28:** *Black History Month Celebration*

**Feb. 11:** *School of Health Professions Career Job Fair*, Howard Performing Arts Center

**Feb. 12-16:** *2019 Seminary Scholarship Symposium: Science — Theology Dialogue about Creation*, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

**Feb. 22, 7 p.m.:** *Music/English Vespers*, Howard Performing Arts Center

**Feb. 27-March 2:** *Andrews Music Festival: Band & Keyboard*, Howard Performing Arts Center

### 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](http://howard.andrews.edu).

**Feb. 2, 8 p.m.:** *Andrews Wind Symphony Winter Concert*

**Feb. 10, 4 p.m.:** *Sunday Music Series: Fairy Tales and Nine-Pins*

**Feb. 23, 8 p.m.:** *Andrews University Singers Winter Concert*

**Feb. 24, 7 p.m.:** *Howard Series Presents... David Phelps*

**Feb. 27, 7 p.m.:** *Andrews University Music Festival Showcase Concert*

## ILLINOIS

**Feb. 1-3:** *Pathfinder Southern Area Mega Weekend*, various locations

**Feb. 16:** *Pathfinder Northern Area Synergy*, MA Center (BVA)

## INDIANA

**Feb. 2:** *Area Pathfinder Bible Experience*, various locations

**Feb. 16:** *Ignite Indiana Hispanic conference-wide rally*, Indianapolis Junior Academy

**Feb. 16:** *Ignite Indiana English conference-wide rally*, Glendale Church, Indianapolis

## LAKE REGION

**Feb. 2:** *Pathfinder Bible Experience Area Testing*, various locations

**Feb. 9:** *Motor City Public Affairs and Religious Liberty*, Community Fellowship Church, Lathrop Village, Mich.

**Feb. 16:** *Illiana Public Affairs and Religious Liberty*, Haughville Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

**Feb. 15-17:** *Illiana Basic Staff Training*, Camp Timber Ridge

## MICHIGAN

**Feb. 15-17:** *CAMPUS Retreat*, Camp Au Sable

**Feb. 21-24:** *Teen Bible Camp*, Camp Au Sable

## WISCONSIN

**Feb. 8-10:** *Public Campus Ministry Retreat*, Camp Wakonda

## LAKE UNION

**Feb. 17:** *Free Health Clinic*, Muskegon Seventh-day Adventist Church, Muskegon, Mich.

**Feb. 24:** *Free Health Clinic*, Belleville Elementary School gymnasium, Belleville, 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.

## ANNIVERSARIES



**CHRIS AND KAREN GLUCK** recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The Glucks have been members of the Traverse City Church for 42 years.

Christopher Gluck and Karen Penn were married on Nov. 24, 1968, in Broadview, Ill., by Pastor Robert Chapman. Chris was a master electrician and Karen a musician. They have two children, Michael and Nicole Gluck of Dallas, Texas, and the late Thomas Gluck who died in 1992, and two grandchildren.



**FRED AND DELORES LEFLER** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 25, 2018, in Elk Rapids, Mich. They have been

members of the Traverse City Church for 18 years.

Fred Lefler and Delores Friedle were married in 1968 in Midland, Mich., by Pastor Delmar Burke. Fred did construction and Delores had a career in healthcare. They have two children, Lucy and Eric Huber, of Zephyrhills, Fla., and Walter and Susan Lefler of Beaverton, Mich.; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.



**GLENN AND CAROL HAHN** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 25, 2018, with a family vacation and motorcycling around Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Hahns have been members of the Hastings Church for 45 years.

Glenn Hahn and Carol Otto were married in 1968 in Farmington, Mich., by Pastor Valentine. Glenn was a dentist and Carol a homemaker. They have two children, Lori and Bradley Randall, and Kevin and Maija Hahn; and five grandchildren.

**RICHARD AND EVELYN SPENCER** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 25, 2018, with a reunion of family and friends in Traverse City, Mich. They have been members of the Traverse City Church for 50 years.

Richard Spencer and Evelyn Siems were married in 1968 in Edmore, Mich., by Pastor Elwin Drake. Richard was a licensed contractor and Evelyn a homemaker. They have two children, Julie and Roland Fargo of Sierra



Madre, Calif., and Jaime and Ryan LaFaive, in Traverse City, Mich.; and four grandchildren.

## OBITUARIES

**BYLSMA, Harold W.**, age 89; born July 7, 1929, in Flint, Mich.; died Oct. 7, 2018, in Grand Rapids, Mich. He was a member of the Holly Church in Holly, Mich. Survivors include his sons, Wayne H. and Wesley B. Bylsma. Funeral services were conducted by Wayne Bylsma and Pastor Daniel Ferraz; interment was in Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

**CHRISTENSEN, Bruce V.**, age 90; born May 18, 1928, in Detroit Lakes, Minn.; died Dec. 9, 2018, in Bridgman, Mich. He was a member of the Buchanan Church in Buchanan, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Marilyn R. (Kidder) Christensen; sons, James S., Michael B., and Robert G.; daughter, Judi Doty; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Inurnment was in Rosehill Cemetery in Berrien Springs, Mich.

**DeYOUNG, Beverly (Moyle)**, age 83; born Aug. 6, 1935, in Pontiac, Mich.; died Dec. 1, 2018, in Wyoming, Mich. She was a member of the Grand Rapids Central Church in Grand Rapids, Mich. Survivors include her son, Jack; daughters, Denise Scott, Jamie Patchin, Janet Renton, and Dyan Max; sister, Barbara Hall; 14 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Elder Michael Mattzela; interment followed at the Rosedale Memorial Park in Grand Rapids.

**KUHL, Marilyn J. (Hill)**, age 90; born Jan. 25, 1928, in Arpin, Wis.; died Nov. 30, 2018, in Green Bay, Wis. She was a member of the Green Bay Church in Green Bay. Survivors include her daughters, Sandra Sloan, and Barbara Koch; sister, Corinne Heredia, and Judith Pratt; four



grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Elder Shirley Carey; interment was at Milton Junction Cemetery in Milton, Wis.

**MANNING, Ivan C. ("Bob")**, age 89; born April 28, 1929, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; died May 31, 2018, in Grand Rapids. He was a member of the Muskegon Church. Survivors include his sons, Carl and George Manning; daughter, Janita Manning-Walsh; brothers, Daniel and Douglas Manning; 10 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Funeral services were conducted by Kameron DeVasher; interment was in Pinehill Cemetery in Fruitport, Mich.

**POHLE, Myrtle B. (Ford)**, age 92; born Feb. 7, 1926, in Belleville, Ill.; died Nov. 3, 2018, in Edmore, Mich. She was a member of the Cedar Lake Church in Cedar Lake, Mich. Survivors include her daughters, Beverly R. Amlaner, Barbara F. Quaile, and Cheryl L. Williams; sister, Kathleen Miracle; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Daniel Jean Francois; interment was in Luray, Vir.

**SCHWERSINSKE, Walter C.**, age 87; born Oct. 8, 1929, in Fond du Lac, Wis.; died March 8, 2017, in Mount Dora, Fla. He was a member of the Mount Dora Church in Mount Dora. Survivors include his wife Betty (Keys); son, W. Douglas; daughters, Dawn Pokorney, and Vickie Marsh; and seven grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Tom Baker; interment was at Lakeside Memorial Gardens in Eustis, Fla.

**SWANSON, Arnold R.**, age 90; born Feb. 4, 1928, in Jamestown, N.Y.; died Nov. 26, 2018, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include his daughter, Linda Fuchs; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Gary Thurber with private interment.

**WENNER, Kathleen (O'Haver)**, age 90; born April 24, 1928, in Rockport, Ind.; died Nov. 28, 2018, in Rockport. She was a member of the Tell City Church in Tell City, Ind. Survivors include her son, Kyle Wenner; sister, Ruth Mitchell. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Melvin Matthews; interment was in Newtonville, Ind.

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

#### THE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST LIBRARIANS INVITES ALL SDA LIBRARIANS AND FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES TO ATTEND THE 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SILVER SPRING, MD., JUNE 24-27.

The conference will explore "Librarians Outside Libraries," with a special emphasis on what Adventist librarians are doing professionally outside their offices, such as collaboration, teaching, research, mentorship, and more. Papers, posters and presentation proposals accepted at [kvanarsdale@puc.edu](mailto:kvanarsdale@puc.edu) by Feb. 15. For more information about the conference, visit <https://www.asdal.org/conferences/>.

#### THE ASI LAKE UNION CHAPTER WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL SPRING FELLOWSHIP THEMED, "THEY THAT WAIT..."

APRIL 19-20 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Benton Harbor, Mich. The keynote speaker will be Pastor Ivor Myers, founder/president of Power of the Lamb Ministries and ARME Bible Camp. He will share his personal testimony from rapper to a worker for Christ. Pastor Myers is known for the fresh perspective he brings to a practical application of scripture. To register, go to [www.asilakeunion.org](http://www.asilakeunion.org) or call 269-473-8200.

#### ANNOUNCING ACADEMY DAYS AT OKLAHOMA ACADEMY!!

If you are a student who is serious about your walk with the Lord and His mission for your life, Oklahoma Academy may be just the place for you. Come April 12-14 for our Academy Days weekend and find out. Call 405-454-6211 to make your reservations today! Also visit [www.oklahomaacademy.org](http://www.oklahomaacademy.org).



#### CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

##### February

Feb. 2	Local Church Budget
Feb. 9	World Budget (Emphasis: Adventist Television Ministries)
Feb. 16	Local Church Budget
Feb. 23	Local Conference Advance

##### Special Days

##### Focus for the Month — Family Life

Feb. 2-23	Black History Month
Feb. 9	Christian Marriage Sabbath
Feb. 9	Health Ministries Sabbath
Feb. 9-16	Christian Home and Marriage Week
Feb. 16	Christian Home Sabbath

## Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Feb. 1	Feb. 8	Feb. 15	Feb. 22	Mar. 1	Mar. 8
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:59	6:08	6:17	6:26	6:34	6:42
Chicago, Ill.	5:04	5:13	4:47	4:55	5:04	5:13
Detroit, Mich.	5:45	5:54	5:27	5:36	5:45	5:54
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:32	5:39	5:47	5:55	6:03	6:11
La Crosse, Wis.	4:40	4:47	4:56	5:05	5:14	5:24
Lansing, Mich.	5:17	5:24	5:32	5:41	5:50	5:59
Madison, Wis.	4:23	4:23	4:25	4:29	4:35	4:36
Springfield, Ill.	4:46	4:53	5:00	5:09	5:17	5:25



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

## MISCELLANEOUS

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE** offers a \$5,000 Scholarship! Feed the world with a degree in Agribusiness. Change the world with a degree in International Agriculture Development. Beautify the world with a degree in Landscape Design. For more information: [andrews.edu/agriculture](mailto:andrews.edu/agriculture), [agriculture@andrews.edu](mailto:agriculture@andrews.edu), 269-471-6006.

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

**SYCAMORE ACADEMY** — Enroll your student in a collaborative, interactive learning environment with online courses taught by certified, live, SDA instructors. Convenient and accredited homeschooling for grades 3–12. Classes Monday through Thursday. Self-paced. Project-based curriculum. Open enrollment. Call 817-645-0895 or email [info@sycamoreacademy.com](mailto:info@sycamoreacademy.com). Enroll at [sycamoreacademy.com](http://sycamoreacademy.com).

**SAVE THE DATE** — Uchee Pines Institute's 50th anniversary, June 23–29. Speakers include Mark Finley and John Bradshaw. Visit [www.uchee-pines.org](http://www.uchee-pines.org) or 877-UCHEEPINES.

### PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER CLUB

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

**AUTHORS** — Call TEACH Services at 800-367-1844 for your free manuscript evaluation. Let us help you make your book a reality. We publish all book formats, including eBooks,

and provide worldwide distribution. Find our new titles at <http://www.TEACHServices.com> or ask your local ABC. Look for Used SDA Books at <http://www.LNFbooks.com>.

## TRAVEL

**EGYPT BIBLE TOUR: DECEMBER 12–22** with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Discover the land of the Pyramids, the pharaohs, Moses, the Exodus, including a Nile cruise and more. Wonderful weather, meals and accommodations for only \$2,425 plus airfare. For more information, contact Sharon Searson at [Sharons@uccsda.org](mailto:Sharons@uccsda.org).

## EMPLOYMENT

**UNION COLLEGE SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF SWIMMING POOL, CUSTODIAL, AND FACILITY MANAGER.** This is a full-time, exempt position. This individual is responsible for all the functions of the pool during business hours each day of the week. Please see the full job description at <http://www.ucollege.edu/staff-openings>; submit requested materials to Ric Spaulding at [ric.spaulding@ucollege.edu](mailto:ric.spaulding@ucollege.edu).

**UNION COLLEGE SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR DIRECTOR OF RECORDS/REGISTRAR.** The Director will ensure the integrity, accuracy and security of academic and educational records of students and ensure compliance with regulatory agencies. Contact Dr. Frankie Rose at [frankie.rose@ucollege.edu](mailto:frankie.rose@ucollege.edu) or call 402-486-2501 for more information.

**THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST'S OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL IS SEEKING A LAW STUDENT FOR AN 8–10 WEEK PAID SUMMER CLERKSHIP.** This position is not a full-time, hire-track position and is best suited for

1Ls. Duties include legal research and other projects, the emphasis is on religious liberty and First Amendment work. Must be SDA church member. Interview and/or relocation expenses will be the applicant's responsibility. Send résumé, writing sample, and transcript to Karnik Doukmetzian at [karnikd@gc.adventist.org](mailto:karnikd@gc.adventist.org).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM DIRECTOR.** Founding Program Director of the new doctoral program in occupational therapy (OTD). The Director will lead efforts in developing and supervising the program including leading the accreditation process. Primary responsibility includes developing an innovative program, including crafting the program's mission, vision, goals and strategic planning, administration, budget, faculty and staff recruitment, and assessment. The Director will provide professional leadership and support for teaching faculty, serve as a mentor and facilitator for faculty, and enable an environment that fosters creativity. [https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_9](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_9)

### ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT MDIV.

The Administrative Assistant manages the functions of the Master of Divinity office. Provide both academic and policy advice to students enrolled in the program. Writes, develops, and maintain effective web, electronic, written and verbal communication with students, prospective students, faculty and university departments. [https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff\\_hourly#job\\_7](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_hourly#job_7)

### ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS LIBRARY

**DEAN.** The Dean of Libraries reports to the provost and shall consult with the provost regularly. The dean is responsible for the James White Library, the Architecture Resource Center, the Music Materials Center, and the Center for Adventist Research as well as all personnel and activities within those facilities. With the assistance of the directors, the professional librarians and the staff, the dean shall perform the essential functions. [https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff\\_salary#job\\_3](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_3)

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# It's Time for the Church to Do Something

By Kayla Matlock



Courtesy Kayla Marie Matlock

▲ Kayla Marie Matlock

**"LET'S JUST SAY, I HAVE MY DOUBTS.** God might look out for you and everyone else, but when it comes to my life, He either doesn't love me or is too busy to care." This is a real conversation a young man had with me. It wasn't that he doubted God's goodness. It was that he doubted God's goodness to *him*.

His questions were the kind we Christians like to avoid. Questions like, "Why does God allow suffering?" and "If God is all-loving and all-powerful, why does He feel so distant?" Instead of taking these head-on, we settle for a short, simple answer: "God has a plan. You just have to trust Him."

How would we react if we knew what our short, simple answers were actually doing. Many of us believe we're saying the right thing. After all, God does have a plan and He does tell us to trust Him. However, we have to face the facts. Young adults are leaving the church more and more each year. Teens who have been

in the church their entire lives are giving up on their faith because, frankly, they're not getting answers to their hard questions.

Don't get me wrong. There are many, many amazing churches out there, but there also are countless young people, and adults alike, who are struggling with uncertainty.

To be honest, I'm tired of watching the people I care about feel bad for asking questions.

I've grown up in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I'm involved in Pathfinders and ministry. I love our message and I love that we get to share the hope of Christ with the world. What I wish is that we, as a church, would come together and help each other through our struggles instead of turning away (see Galatians 6:2).

We often buy into the lie that, because we're followers of Christ, it's wrong to struggle with doubt and we always have to be okay and content with our circumstances. If we ask for help, it's often taken as a sign that we don't truly believe. When are we going to fight these lies with truth?

Jesus didn't come to the world to condemn it, but to save it (see John 3:17). We're all broken. We all have struggles. We all need Jesus. What would happen if we started relying on God's strength to help one another instead of turning the other way?

My challenge to every single one of us is to open our eyes and see what God can do. His Word has answers to the hard questions, but we have to be willing to get our hands dirty. Not one of us is alone in this journey, so let's start working together to accept and share the hope of Christ. It's time for the church to take a stand and do something! Will you join me? ■

---

*Kayla Marie Matlock is passionate about helping others and sharing the hope of Christ. She attends the Owosso Church and is the founder of Rescued with Purpose Ministries ([rescuedwithpurpose.com](http://rescuedwithpurpose.com)).*



## New Path Revealed

By Cheri Lewis



Courtesy Nathanael Valez

▲ Nathanael Valez

**NATHANAEL VALEZ WAS JUST SIX YEARS OLD** when he was first exposed to online pornography. It certainly doesn't define the Illinois native, but Valez admits it is noteworthy in that it started him on a dark, dangerous path that would stay rocky for another eight years. He was raised as an Adventist and describes himself as active in the faith.

"I want to be clear," insists Nathaniel. "This is not a bad reflection on my family, church, or school. . . The bottom line," he says, "[is that] Satan attacks all of us."

He admits he got addicted to porn and has struggled with mental health issues. "I wasn't quite suicidal and don't believe I was clinically depressed, but I was heavily saddened." And that was unusual, even unnerving for the self-defined extrovert. "I was worried for the person I was becoming," he says.

The 19-year-old is open and passionate about his journey — not because it's unusual, but because it's more common in the church than some may realize. He urges, "We, as Adventists, need to be honest and open about these things."

Today, he is a sophomore at the University of Chicago, majoring in Philosophy, and continues to be active in campus ministry (as he was in his public high school), currently as a chapter leader with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Nathanael says his involvement and vision in ministry, along with his healing, was only possible when he finally let God in. He describes how Christ used a caring, committed youth pastor, his own academic interests, and especially the Word to reveal a new path of surrender and responsibility. To this day, Psalm 31 and Proverbs 10 hold a special place in his heart.

He admits he still has his struggles, but his former addiction and sadness are not paths he's trapped on anymore. "It's present, but I can walk through," he says. "It's not keeping me from God — it's pushing me to Him."

Nathanael hopes his story inspires others, not only to turn to God and step out of one's comfort zone, but also to make long-term, intentional efforts to mentor a young person. He's convinced it's what got him over some of his toughest trials. ■

*Cheri Lewis is Communication director for the Galesburg (Illinois) Church.*

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