

# Lake Union HERALD

APRIL 2019



**ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
A PARTNERSHIP FOR ETERNITY

ILLINOIS MEMBERS  
ILLINOIS FOCUS  
INSIDE



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**TED WILSON AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY**

On Sabbath, March 2, the president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Ted Wilson, answered questions from the Pioneer Memorial Church and Andrews University communities. Full video available at: [bit.ly/2Hcnn6C](http://bit.ly/2Hcnn6C).



**INDIANA READIES FOR GC2020**

A special rally was held Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Glendale Church in Indianapolis featuring Robert Costa, an evangelist and speaker for the *It Is Written* television program. The rally is in preparation for the General Conference Session in Indianapolis next summer.



**RECORD NUMBER OF TEAMS ADVANCE TO UNION PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE**

The largest number of teams in the history of the Lake Union Pathfinder Bible Experience advanced to the Union level, with 34 teams participating this year compared to 22 teams last year.



**MEMBERSHIP GROWTH SLOWING, NEW EVANGELISM INITIATIVES SET**

Highlights of the March 6 Lake Union Conference executive committee meeting included reports from the office of the president, executive secretary, treasurer and multicultural ministries.

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Since entering pastoral ministry as a second career in 1985, I have had the additional privilege of assisting as Bible teacher/chaplain in two academies and three elementary schools connected with the churches in which I've served. As we prepared this issue of the *Herald*, highlighting some of the great things happening in our schools, I was reminded of my own spiritual growth as I was engaged in teaching and practical ministry opportunities with students in each of the schools. I was reminded how much I miss that!

I trust that, as you read some of the stories and experiences shared in our Lake Union education world, you, too, will be inspired to become engaged by supporting and assisting your local school in new and creative ways. ■

  
 Gary Burns  
 Editor

COVER PHOTO: KELLY LORENZ

ON THE COVER: Eboni Regis and Helyn May are paired together in a mentoring program.



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# Why Do We Need the Lake Union?

The year 1844 lives in infamy for Seventh-day Adventists — we call it “The Great Disappointment.” Yet it was a bittersweet year as from the ashes of that experience there arose new life, a beautiful plant called the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



It was in that same year, May 24th to be exact, that Samuel Morse, inventor of the telegraph, tapped out the first telegram using words from the Bible which capture the sentiments of today's editorial. It simply stated, “What hath God wrought?” A question quite apropos as it launched the beginning of the information age in which we now have cell phones and satellites, email and text messaging, social media and e-commerce, and an “internet of things,” ranging from smart lights to thermostats, internet-connected refrigerators and oven ranges, just to name a few. All of these, to some degree, the outgrowth of Sam's invention, some of which were and are technologies needed to aid the fledgling movement called Adventism in heralding the Three Angels' messages around the globe.

Mr. Morse, in his choice of words for the first wired communication, may have been looking back as well as forward. His telegraph message was borrowed from Numbers 23:23 KJV, the words spoken by the covetous and backslidden prophet, Balaam, as he attempted to curse Israel. But each of the three times he attempted to curse Israel, only blessings flowed forth from his mouth. His words also were a result of stark amazement as he looked over the Israelite camp, simply blown away by their order.

While certainly not perfect, as recent and even not so recent times attest, the Adventist Church is a biblical model of excellence that surpasses any corporate model of governance because our structure and

processes are rooted in God's Holy Word. Therefore, as ancient Israel enjoyed God's wisdom exceeding that of all the leadership gurus of their day and ours, so does the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“As Balaam looked upon the encampment of Israel, he beheld with astonishment the evidence of their prosperity. They had been represented to him as a rude, disorganized multitude, infesting the country in roving bands that were a pest and terror to the surrounding nations; but their appearance was the reverse of all this. He saw the vast extent and perfect arrangement of their camp, everything bearing the marks of thorough discipline and order. He was shown the favor with which God regarded Israel, and their distinctive character as His chosen people” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 447.2).

The union conference is an integral though small part of the today's “ordered” church, yet its role is critical to the success of God's work regionally, and worldwide. In short, the union conference connects missional ministries to church structure like tendons connect muscles to bones. And though the union conference's role is crucial, it is probably the most enigmatic of all levels of church governance. So, what do union conferences do? In short, unions unite!

Union conferences unite regions for service, combining the strength of all institutions to spread the Good News of Jesus' return. As the local conference helps the local church stay focused on mission, the

# Union conferences unite regions for service, combining the strength of all institutions for the spread of the Good News and the finishing of the work.

Union conference plays a critical role in helping local conferences, hospitals, publishing houses, media ministries, and educational entities stay connected, and, maintain their missional spark. It also is the connecting point of the aforementioned to the division and world church. No other level of the church connects to all the other parts of the church as directly as the union, nor does any other part have the time to do what the union does. But before I speak further of the large picture, let's start with one of my favorite areas in which the union conference plays a critical "connective" role — Christian education.

Dedicated Adventist teachers are making a difference in the lives of our children and teenagers. The Lake Union Conference Office of Education works hard to support our conference superintendents, principals, and teachers.

Throughout the year, the Union provides multiple professional growth opportunities for our superintendents, principals, Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) directors/teachers, and for Pre-K-12 grade teachers. The Union also assists the NAD with developing, in-servicing and purchasing new curriculum.

The Union tracks teacher certification and issues Denominational Teaching Certificates. The cost of tuition for our teachers taking classes to renew their denominational and/or state certification is covered by the Union. Teachers and principals also can request tuition assistance for working towards obtaining a master's degree in areas such as Curriculum and Instruction, Special Education, and Educational Leadership.

ECEC centers, Pre-K classrooms, elementary schools and academies participate in a North American Division (NAD) accreditation process that begins with a self-study done at the local school level. A visiting team will review the self-study during an on-site visit and make needed recommendations, as appropriate.

The LUC Office of Education offers training for superintendents, principals and school boards in advance of accreditation visits. They chair all LUC ECEC and junior academy accreditation visits, set up academy accreditation visiting teams, and assist at all academy accreditation visits.

Union education directors serve on a variety of NAD committees. Our Union currently serves on the Multigrade Classroom Committee that has developed a multi-grade website and is in the middle of revising *Lifeline: A Handbook for Small School Success* (<http://www.multigradeclassroom.com>).

Each fall, the Office of Education invites the student leaders (i.e. yearbook editors, Student Association officers, class presidents) from each LUC academy to attend a Secondary Leadership Conference at Camp Au Sable. This three-day conference includes spiritual, educational, recreational and social experiences giving student attendees the opportunity to better understand their role as a spiritual leader on their academy campus.

The mission of the Office of Education for the Lake Union Conference is to provide leadership by strengthening:

- Mission-driven Teachers...who understand the sacredness of their call.



- Mission-driven Students...who see themselves as champions for Christ.
- Mission-driven Pastors...who view education as a God-ordained piece of the plan of salvation.

At the collegiate level, the union is possibly one of the greatest reasons why we as Seventh-day Adventists have enjoyed having many schools of higher learning located in each region and, ultimately, have enjoyed nationwide financial, societal and denominational success. Adventists enjoy working in places of great responsibility the world over because the fit and finish that has been accomplished by parents, nurtured by churches, and honed to a high luster by our schools, grabs the employer's eye.

One information technology firm hired an Adventist graduate after his internship, having stated, "Send us as many students as you can. He's not only exceptionally knowledgeable of the field, but also has a demeanor that we love!"

In the Lake Union Conference, we have the privilege of having the flagship Adventist school for advanced degrees, Andrews University. Not only does the Union contribute financial support via the local conferences

to Andrews University, but its officers provide counsel and guidance to its Board of Trustees, many subcommittees and its leadership team when dealing with tough issues in today's difficult educational atmosphere. Market disruptors abound, but Andrews has not been left behind in the rapidly changing academic landscape, having secured the admission of many students both here and abroad through distance learning and new degree offerings that fit the changing job landscape.

Andrews University provides a Christian education which in the broadest sense far surpasses any ivy league-level school the world over. You may wonder if I jest in stating this, but do know the work at Andrews is very rigorous. The professors are selfless servants chosen from the cremè-de-la-cremè of Adventist schools from across our nation and globe. They are of the A-team and of the highest caliber in academia. They strive for excellence while keeping Christ first and foremost in the classroom. Their broad-based, Christ-centered curriculum turns out students who excel, not just academically, but professionally and socially, and have a greater capacity for leadership in any discipline

than any school I can imagine. Their worldview is much broader as they can see from eternity past to the end of time, the handiwork of God in the arts and sciences. Most importantly, because our professors believe caring about our students is paramount to their success, students leave our school fitted with something few schools can give — emotional, intellectual and, above all, spiritual intelligence.

Caring and concern, and moral and ethical behavior are hard to transmit in a room where 500-750 students or more come to hear lectures. From a Bible-inspired and informed curriculum and worldview rooted in the Great Controversy theme, our students are able to see the end from the beginning in all matters of business from agriculture to zoology. Hence, they are able to reason from cause to effect and excel at critical thinking and problem solving in just about any environment. Meet a Seventh-day Adventist, meet a leader.

Our schools not only produce academic success, but people who are ethical in the behavior and friendly to their fellow man. We shouldn't be surprised that companies across the country seek Adventist students with degrees from Andrews or any of our sister schools.

Certainly, this article is not meant to be exhaustive as there are many other things the Lake Union Conference and other unions do that are well beyond the space limitations of the president's editorial, such as maintaining lines of accountability with our healthcare institutions, which I will review in a future editorial as well as I will cover more in depth the roles of our departments in shepherding the work at home and abroad.

The publication of this organ of the church, the oldest union paper, established in 1908, is one of our greatest responsibilities. It heralds the soon return of Christ! It has the esteemed privilege of having authors all the way back to Ellen White herself. It also helps Seventh-day Adventists know, whether they are in a small or large church in our region, they are not alone. There are thousands more who serve the Lord in Spirit and in Truth.

Through this magazine, we witness each other's missional endeavors and celebrate what God is doing through each local church, conference, hospital or school that places content within these pages. Certainly, these pages enhance regional identity and help people who proclaim a message that is anything but a populist message, as it is the Elijah message. Even as judgment fell on Mt. Carmel, judgment also will come to this old world. Thank God for the new beginning that awaits all who trust in Him! Remember, *eye hath not seen, nor ear heard the blessings that await the righteous.*

In Sam Morse-like fashion, we have added new electronic opportunities for you to interface with us through wires and electronic signals that are rooted in his technology, based on digits.

Thank God for our very well-designed church, rooted in the best of each of the Protestant faith communities from which our founders came following the Great Disappointment. I believe God chose them especially from these varied churches so they could bring us the best of sound biblical principles to put into practice.

Balaam pronounced blessings rather than curses, his words in response to his awe and possible disbelief as he looked over the Israelite camp.

You, too, might feel somewhat incredulous that this church has so much going for it, but I submit that it does, and so much more. Providentially, we were birthed in the information age to communicate the gospel next door and to the hungry and thirsty world around us. Share your love for Jesus with your neighbor as you thank God for the well-ordered missional structure we have. More importantly, thank God for the people that serve. Both are given to us by God Himself; because they are of Divine origin, I maintain, without equivocation, flawed though we may be in a myriad of ways, our people and our institutions are unequivocally, through God's Holy Spirit, the absolute best!

Balaam's words and Sam Morse's still ring true today: "What hath God wrought?" ■

# Who Are You Following?

“You left me!” His eyes filled with fear, then betrayal. It was our weekly trip to the grocery store. I had placed my infant son in the child seat of the grocery cart; the oldest, who now looked at me with such distress, usually walked alongside me as we chose items and he placed them in the cart.



▲ Ingrid Weiss Slikkers

We had paused at the freezer while I read the ingredients on a box of waffles. Satisfied with the nutritional information, I placed it in the cart and continued to the next glass door of the frozen foods aisle to pick out fruit for smoothies. After selecting a few bags, I turned to take my son’s hand to proceed to the next aisle. The sinking feeling came before my mind registered what my eyes saw. There was no one next to me; no one down the aisle either way. My son had completely vanished in what had seemed like seconds. I replayed in my mind the last few minutes as I started frantically calling his name. I recalled that he had been following me down this aisle as he played with the Thomas the Train electrical toothbrush we had chosen. I pushed the grocery cart quickly to the main aisle where I could see further.

A feeble voice arose that I located two aisles further down. “Mama!” I hurried to hold him in the center of the aisle as I noticed another woman with an infant in the seat, leaving that section and circling on to another. My subconscious recalled that she had passed me while I looked at the waffles. After numerous hugs and the wiping of tears, I said, “Buddy, I never left you; I actually didn’t really move from where I was. I think you left me. I think you followed the wrong mommy because you didn’t look up to confirm it was me, you were so busy looking at Thomas!”

He argued with sobs, “No, mama. I was following you the whole time. YOU LEFT ME!” I could only hug

him again, hold his hand and complete our mission as reasoning was futile due to his panic.

Later, I recalled a different time when I felt a little hand take mine. I saw it was a child that I didn’t recognize. She had reached up to take her mommy’s hand in a crowd; when she looked up and saw I was not her mommy, she was terrified.

How many times have I done the same with God? How many times have I accused Him of leaving me when I was the one following the wrong person?

And how many times have I have followed the wrong person in this culture of comparisons — “perfect FB families,” parenting books, ways to discipline, activities to do, etc., and endless new research I am always trying to read and implement? Who am I following? I pray it is my Heavenly Parent. I simply need to look up to verify it’s Him and take His hand. ■

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



# The Keto Diet

There are so many diet books available and new ones keep appearing. We have the *Eat Fat, Get Thin Diet*, *The Plant Paradox*, *Master Cleanse Diet*, the *Flat Belly Diet*, *The 20/20 Diet*, the *Metabolism Reset Diet*, the *Setpoint Diet*, and many others.

People get tired of diets that leave them feeling and looking no better than they were before the diet. The low-carb craze started in the 1970s with the Atkins diet. Then came the South Beach diet, and now the Keto (or Ketogenic) diet. Typically, in these low-carb diets, fat comprises 70–80 percent, proteins 10–20 percent, and carbs only 5–10 percent of the calories. When the body is starved of carbs, the liver produces ketones as an alternate fuel from stored fat. Hence, the name keto diet.

Is a low-carb diet the most effective for losing weight? Persons following low-carb diets experience a greater weight loss over a six-month period but, after 12 months, there is no significant difference from conventional low-fat, low-calorie diets.

Why does a low-carb diet work more effectively in the short term? Low-carb diets are high in protein and fat which have a stronger satiating effect than carbohydrate. When you eliminate most carbs (rice, bread, cereals, pasta, potatoes), it gives a monotonous diet. Restricting food choices limits the intake of calories considerably.

The success of the ketogenic diet to promote weight loss also may be due to the hunger-reducing effect of ketone bodies; a decreased level of insulin, an appetite-stimulating hormone; or the increased calorie expenditure due to the metabolic effects of converting fat and protein to glucose. Carbohydrate restriction causes glycogen depletion, so that the early weight loss may be due to loss of water rather than fat. A main

criticism of this diet is that many people tend to eat too much protein and poor-quality fats, with very few fruits and vegetables.

Typically, low-carb diets provide favorable changes in blood triglycerides and HDL levels, while LDL levels increase in the long-term. A multi-vitamin supplement may be necessary to prevent nutrient deficiencies. Low-carb diets tend to be low in potassium, magnesium, folic acid, and other B vitamins, as well as fiber. Those who consume low-carb diets often complain of bad breath, constipation, headaches, muscle cramps, irritability, lack of concentration, and fatigue. The possibility of unpleasant symptoms may make compliance difficult. Staying satisfied with a limited variety of foods also may be challenging.

Research on the ketogenic diet is quite limited with studies being short-term. All the long-term risks of using a low-carb diet are largely unknown at this time. There is an increased risk of kidney stones and gout. Eating too much saturated fat will have an adverse effect on LDL cholesterol levels.

Studies show that people who lose weight and have successfully kept it off long-term typically eat a diet rich in fiber and complex carbohydrates, and less fat than the average American. Bulky fiber-rich meals increase feelings of fullness, and delay hunger. More fruit and vegetables in the diet will help one manage their weight long-term more effectively. ■



▲ Winston Craig

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

# Righteousness by Faith and the Third Angel's Message — 4

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith*  
(Romans 1:16, RSV).



▲ George R. Knight

A.T. Jones may have hinted at a new understanding of the “faith of Jesus” in 1887, but Ellen White would be even more specific.

“The Message,” she wrote, “that was given to the people” in the Minneapolis “meetings presented in clear lines not alone the commandments of God — a part of the third angel’s message — but the faith of Jesus, which comprehends more than is generally supposed. And it will be well for the third angel’s message to be proclaimed in all its parts, for the people need every jot and tittle of it. If we proclaim the commandments of God and leave the other half scarcely touched the message is marred in our hands. . . .

“The present message that God has made it the duty of His servants to give to the people is no new or novel thing. It is an old truth that has been lost sight of, just as Satan made his masterly efforts that it should be.

“The Lord has a work for every one of His loyal people to do to bring the faith of Jesus into the right place where it belongs — in the third angel’s message. The law has its important position but it is powerless unless the righteousness of Christ is placed beside the law to give its glory to the whole royal standard of righteousness. . . .

“A thorough and complete trust in Jesus will give the right quality to religious experience. Aside from this the experience is nothing. The service is like the offering of Cain — Christless. God is glorified by living faith in a personal, all sufficient Saviour. Faith views Christ as he is — the sinner’s only hope. Faith takes hold of Christ, trusts Him. It says, ‘He loves me; He died for me. I accept the sacrifice and Christ shall not have died for me in vain.’

“We have not only lost much to our souls, but as ministers have neglected the most solemn part of our work in not dwelling upon the blood of Jesus Christ as the sinner’s only hope for eternal life. Tell the story of Christ. . . . Tell the sinners, ‘look and live’” (MS 30, 1889).

Faith in Christ as Savior is the core of the gospel. And it is also the core of the third angel’s message, the heart of the 1888 message.

*Help us, Father, to grasp the relationship of law and gospel in fuller richness as we contemplate the implications of Revelation 14:12. ■*

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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 28.



# “But, Lord, I don’t see how!”

Have you ever said that when struggling over a concern with your Heavenly Father in prayer? You just can’t see a way around or through your mountain of problems.

Or maybe you’re praying for a loved one to return to, or simply begin to embrace Christ. *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight* (Proverbs 3:5–6, NIV).

Truly, it is not for us to see every detail on this Christian journey. We are to learn to trust God. It could very well be that the Lord will show us the way as we get closer to our mountain.

Real success lies in keeping our hand in His, as we trust Him. It requires a degree of confidence in God’s skill set. Remember, He is Creator of everything and He knows exactly when and how to reach aching souls, longing for the touch of the Master’s hand and the solution to the problem. While waiting, we must not forget that each of us is special to Him. We can pray David’s prayer: *Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings* (Psalm 17:8 NIV). As we continue to seek our Heavenly Father in prayer, we will gain new insights, according to His will.

I recently had a test-of-faith situation requiring much prayer and real patience. The response I received was: “Wait, my child.” I accepted God’s response and had to wait. The situation could have gone a different way. I could have become impatient with God and, like a wayward child, done what I thought was best from my limited perspective. But that would have demonstrated a lack of faith and confidence in my Father. It wouldn’t have shown God I truly love Him — and trust Him.

I was encouraged by the words of Paul, *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer* (Romans 12:12 NIV). I trusted God to take care of it — and He did!

Amazingly, phenomenally, He gave me a joyful heart. My loving Father answered my prayer in His way — the best way, and the best time. Praise God!

As we get closer to Jesus’ return, the road ahead may be filled with debris, pitfalls and mountains we have never encountered before. But we have hope that one day, “Soon, and very soon, we are going to see the King.” Think about that and remember what He has brought you through — illnesses, difficult situations, family issues, that job that only He could have made possible, financial resources, trying circumstances... And here you are, no longer afraid, but hopeful, faithful, thankful — halleluiah!

Let’s stop being so ready to look around but, rather, look up, being *joyful in hope*. . . . Continue praying, fervently, honestly, with trust in our God who can protect us under the shadow of His wings!

May your paths be sure, my brothers and sisters. And may your commitment by faith to the most loving, merciful, “rest-in-my-arms-I’ve-got-you” Father continue until we see Him face to face. ■

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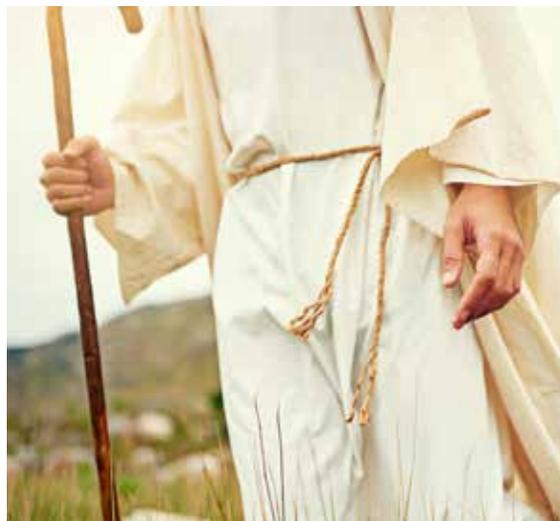
*Paulette Taylor is the Prayer coordinator for the Indiana Conference.*

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1 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music/ASCAP; ©1976



▲ Paulette Taylor



# Capturing the Beauty of God's Second Book

By Debbie Michel



▲ Molly Pate

Allen Smith

**THE TEMPERATURE IS BELOW ZERO**, but award-winning photographer Molly Pate is undeterred. Before leaving her Berrien Springs home, she checks the St. Joseph webcam and, if the horizon is clear, hops in her car for the 20-minute drive to the St. Joseph pier. Once there, she quickly pulls on her rain gear and ice cleats, then grabs her short tripod and Nikon and Olympus cameras.

Molly, who almost never misses an opportunity to shoot, was at the St. Joseph pier during this past February's cold snap, snapping her favorite sceneries — sunsets and lighthouses. "It's just fun," she says in a chipper, nonchalant manner. "The thrill is trying to get a better picture than the last."

Her picturesque shots garner hundreds of Likes on her social media pages, eliciting rave reviews from "Beautifully gothic!" to warnings of "Be careful out there." Molly says that she's aware of the risks in capturing her picture-perfect shots and only goes where there's "something solid under me." Besides, she says, "I have three kids, so I don't want anything to happen."

Molly, an occupational therapist for Berrien County's Regional Education Service Agency, fell into photography by sheer coincidence. An avid runner and hiker, she ventured summer 2015 to hike the 200-mile John Muir trail in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. For three weeks, she photographed the sunsets and became "addicted."

A year later, she made the investment in a professional camera and learned to use it by watching YouTube videos. As she posted her photos to Instagram and Facebook, the response was overwhelming. The photos were shared widely and eventually caught the attention of folks at "Pure Michigan" and "Only in Michigan," who posted them to their social media pages.

Additional exposure came when her landscape photos were selected for inclusion in the Michigan Power Company Cook Nuclear Plant's annual preparedness calendar. This year is her third time featured; her photo is displayed for the month of January. Last year, she won a photo contest organized by Michigan House of Representative senator, John Proos, who placed her winning entry of a sailboat framed by a majestic sunset in his Lansing office.

Molly realizes that people are reacting in a very personal way to her photos, with one person commenting, "I know it's a hobby, but also a cool ministry." Strangers go as far as to remark that her photographs give them hope beyond the picturesque skies.

So, as the One Place Church member continues to shoot photos with no plans beyond keeping it as a hobby, she acknowledges that, "God is the Author of these masterpieces. He's the One that paints these great pieces." ■

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

Photography by Molly Pate



# Anuncios importantes sobre dos eventos muy especiales

*“La formación de pequeños grupos como base del esfuerzo cristiano me ha sido presentada por Uno que no puede errar”*  
(Servicio Cristiano, p. 92).

“En la Palabra de Dios hallamos esta hermosa descripción de un hogar feliz y de la mujer que lo preside: ‘Levantáronse sus hijos, y llamáronla bienaventurada; y su marido también la alabó’. ¿Qué mayor elogio podría desear una ama de casa que el así expresado?” (*El Hogar Cristiano*, p. 484).

Es para mí un placer informarles con respecto a eventos que se llevarán a cabo en los próximos dos meses. El primero se trata de una iniciativa organizada por la División Norteamericana llamada VIDAgps. VIDAgps tiene como meta lograr la formación de miles de grupos pequeños saludables para que ganen almas para Cristo. Para cumplir con nuestra meta se ha provisto una gran cantidad de paquetes de material con recursos para ser usados en los grupos pequeños de cada iglesia.

Para que haya un mayor provecho de este material se ha dado entrenamiento a pastores y líderes de cómo usarlo. Además, cada grupo debe estar inscrito en el sitio web [www.vidagps.org](http://www.vidagps.org). Hay actualmente cientos de grupos que se reúnen cada semana y usan este material. Una de las bendiciones de pertenecer a un grupo pequeño es que se puede también invitar a amigos y participar juntos en la campaña del pastor Alejandro Bullón. Esta campaña se transmitirá durante Semana Santa, del 13 al 20 de abril, en el sitio web de VIDAgps. Si no lo ha hecho todavía, animo a cada lector a unirse a uno de estos grupos VIDAgps e invitar a amigos para que se unan al grupo.

El segundo evento es el Retiro de Damas de la Unión del Lago que se llevará a cabo en la Universidad Andrews del 31 de mayo al 2 de junio de este año. El lema del retiro es “Viva sana y feliz”, y tendrá como énfasis la vida familiar. Los invitados especiales son

Arnaldo R. Cruz y su esposa Menchy Ovalles.

El pastor Cruz nació en la ciudad de Santiago, República Dominicana. Es hijo de fundadores de iglesia en el norte del país y es adventista de cuarta generación. Fue pastor de distrito y director de las seis emisoras de radio de la red Radio Amanecer Internacional que cubre toda la República Dominicana. Fue también evangelista de la Asociación Puertorriqueña del Oeste, departamental de evangelismo y maestro.

En la actualidad es coordinador de evangelismo de la *Southeastern Conference*, y pastor de la Iglesia Los Peregrinos en Hialeah, Florida. Es, además, director y orador del ministerio Jesús es la Victoria que se transmite a través de 42 emisoras de radio y llega a 8 millones de personas diariamente a través de las redes sociales. Por último, llega también a 31 millones de personas por medio de su programa “Sí Podemos” en *3 ABN Latino*.

El pastor Cruz y su esposa poseen un lindo ministerio familiar llevando seminarios para parejas a distintas partes del mundo. La familia Cruz Ovalles agradece a Dios por tener el privilegio de compartir juntos el evangelio.

Invitamos a las damas a que aprovechen y se inscriban a través del sitio web <https://multiculturalministries.lakeunion.org/announcements/455> de la Unión donde podrán obtener los mejores precios.

Sin duda alguna estos dos eventos serán de gran bendición para quienes asistan. ■

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



▲ Carmelo Mercado



▲ Esposos Cruz Ovalles. Oradores invitados para el Retiro de Damas “Viva Sana y Feliz.”

# Extreme Makeover

*With the help of a key volunteer, Hinsdale Adventist Academy's library undergoes a big renovation.*

By Mabel Noverola

**IT'S AMAZING THE PLANS THAT GOD HAD** to bless the students and staff at Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) the summer of 2018. While they enjoyed their summer break, little did they know that God would completely transform their library into a gorgeous, soothing, interactive place by the next time they walked on campus. All He needed for this was one person who said "Yes." That person was Melissa Murrill.

Melissa and her family have a long history with Hinsdale Adventist Academy. Her husband attended first grade there, and now her two boys, Mason and Max, are elementary students. It was when Melissa was working as a volunteer at HAA that she said God called her on journey to this amazing labor of love.

When Melissa walked into HAA's old library to conduct her student interviews as an HR resource for the Junior Achievement program, she felt overwhelmed by the environment. While many in the past had given love and time to the school's library, unfortunately, it more recently had not gotten the care it needed. She didn't know where to sit or even place things. There were stacks of books, broken furniture, toys, carts of books to reshelve, piles of things with stuff draped over it, and the room itself was very dark. "If I could capture all of it," she said, "it was just sad."

Most people who see a need in a school would like to help, but often can't. Or they have a love for the project and want to help, but they sometimes are not able to finish it. When Melissa offered to help, her original intention had been to just work a couple of hours every week on the library. Instead, it turned into a complete summer overhaul of researching libraries, researching design, sorting books, painting, decorating and renovating. It became a family project with her husband, sons and mother helping with the work. Along the way, those passing the project became inspired by what was

going on and wanted to help, too. The summer saw the school's administration rolling up their sleeves and helping with painting while others stepped up with donations.

Through this process, Melissa also got to see the hand of God. At one point, she was chatting casually with someone about the need for a new carpet. She was able to witness a donor stepping forward and offering to provide thousands of dollars for it. With Home and School's help with the installation, the library was able to purchase brand new carpet. Melissa says, "God spoke to someone's heart who believed in what we were doing and saw the difference it would make. It was like God said, 'You have this idea and you're willing to do the work?' If I said 'Yes,' God would provide the means." She felt like this experience was God telling her, "*What you're doing is what I want you to be doing. Keep going; move forward; keep doing what you're doing.*"

The students walking into Hinsdale Adventist Academy this year discovered a completely brand new, gorgeous library. Gone was the dark room, the cramped bookcases and the unused space. In their place, they found large, airy spaces; cool, soothing colors; a variety of comfy seating options; and many decorative touches to please the eyes. In fact, the library changes looked like the work of a professional interior designer.

Now the library is filled with life. Students lounge on the sofas, chatting. Students huddle together, studying on the tables. Students sprawl on the comfy pillows and futons to relax and read; and committees meet at the tables, enjoying the beauty of the new space.

God has been truly gracious to Hinsdale Adventist Academy to give us something so beautiful and so necessary. All He needed was for one person to say, "Yes!" ■

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*Mabel Noverola is a teacher at Hinsdale Adventist Academy.*

After



Photography by Melissa Murrill



Before



# A MODEL FOR INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING

By Michelle Odinma



When Indiana Academy student Jesse Ncube showed up last fall to visit her assigned mentor, she didn't know what to expect. What Jesse remembers from those visits is her mentor, Shannon, suffering from congestive heart failure and bemoaning her spiritual condition.



▲ Sean Seigal with Dolores Haug

Kelly Lorenz

“She didn’t know if she’d go to Heaven,” said Jesse. As Jesse and her other classmates joined in a group Bible lesson with several of the residents, they noticed Shannon’s hunger to know more about Jesus. Jesse was more than happy to share how God saved her from a fatal car accident that killed her twin brother and father. As she listened, the patient’s faith grew. As if waiting to be at peace with her Creator, the patient died a week after deciding to follow Christ.

Jesse is one of several students at Indiana Academy participating in a program called Assist, which provides opportunities for students at Adventist academies across the U.S. to work in the community and earn money for their tuition. During scheduled times in the week, students visit with an elderly mentor, collaborating on activities they choose together. From raking leaves to baking bread, de-thorning rose bushes, and learning new languages, each mentor/mentee relationship is unique

and suited for the pair. The activities not only help the older adults with daily living and improved quality of life, but present an opportunity for students to appreciate the value of service and foster positive relationships with the elderly.

See how the students prepare to understand quality of life challenges as an elderly person. <https://vimeo.com/322906741>



Since its beginning in 2006, Southern Adventist University's program Assist for high school students and PFE (Partnering for Eternity) for elementary students has infused approximately seven million dollars into K-12 Adventist education across North America. Currently, the Assist program is active in 42 academies, and PFE is active in 152 elementary schools.

Students are benefiting in a myriad of ways from the program. Great Lakes Adventist Academy's program director, Lorelee Mendez, says, "It's great to see the different generations connect while being able to financially help students who hang out with their mentors." She added that high schoolers have repeatedly mentioned that, even if they were not being helped with tuition costs, they would still participate because of how much they were enjoying the program.

According to Mendez, one GLAA student who struggled with his faith and spirituality found that the love of a mentor made a big difference. He discovered that God's love was more than theory — it was action. Mendez explains that the cross-generational companionship between the youth and the elderly is benefiting everyone involved. She says, "This program is a blessing to our campus."

At Indiana Academy, the program was implemented in 2012, headed by Linda Reeves. Reeves could not stop

raving about the program as she described the benefits that the boarding school students were receiving from their visits to a local nursing home. "The mentors at the nursing home get the opportunity to establish close bonds with the students, and the students can't wait to see their mentors. The mentors really miss their student companions when they aren't there. This program is teaching our kids that service is also a ministry of love and compassion, which is a very vital need."

Another bonus for the students, says Reeves, is the great preparatory experience for students who plan to work in the medical field. It is an opportunity for exposure to real-life situations students could encounter working in the fields of medicine or mental health.

Reeves went on to explain that there were other opportunities to share more love and compassion at the nursing home. For instance, opportunities for Bible study sometimes come along and, when they do, students gladly sit alongside their elderly mentors, guiding them in the study of the Scriptures. After the passing of one mentor, a student mentee came to her sobbing, saying, "I hope with all my heart that he saw Jesus in me while we visited."

At Andrews Academy, Joelle Ashley is the Assist Program coordinator where 23 students are currently involved in helping seniors citizens in the Berrien Springs community. She finds mentors through references, as well as through personal connections, and often witnesses pairings that could only have happened through the Holy Spirit.

One of those matches is 84-year-old Merna Witzel who was paired with Hannah Crownover, a freshman at the academy. "When Hannah's mother was 15," Witzel explained, "she worked with my husband at Wisconsin Academy on the dairy farm." After both families moved to Michigan, Mrs. Witzel visited Hannah's family every week.

Hannah shared how kind Mrs. Witzel was while her younger sibling was in the hospital battling a heart condition. "While my parents were in the hospital with my brother, Mrs. Witzel would bring us fresh-baked bread since everything was so busy." When Mrs. Witzel signed up with the Assist program for another year, she was assigned to Hannah, whom she did not initially realize was from the Crownover family. When she found out who



▲ Student Ayana LeBlanc is paired with mentor Lenier Henley

Jean-Irès Michel

she was, she was ecstatic. “I had no idea,” she gushed, concluding “it was Divine.”

Freshman Elena Weiss, who is paired with mentor Eva Vissani, likewise discovered that her pairing was also not by chance. Eva has family roots connected to Elena’s father. Ivonne Segui-Weiss, Elena’s mother, shared her peace about the match. “[Eva knew] her father when he was young. She knew her grandfather when he was young so, as a mom, I felt comfortable knowing that she was with someone that could teach her so much about her family and her culture. It’s really a godsend because she has another person who she can go to for good advice.”

Elena affectionately calls her mentor “Nona” and finds that the experience of spending time with Eva is teaching her each day that, “It’s the little things that matter.” Mrs. Vissani, who has a wealth of life experience and skills to share, was more than happy to tell about her time with Elena, saying, “she is like a sunbeam in my house.”

Students are learning crucial life lessons they may not experience in a classroom setting. Take, for example, Andrews Academy freshman Mitchell Meekma who discovered the value of personal relationships. He says, “Sometimes people want to have company — not to have work done for them. Sometimes they just want somebody to talk to.” Similarly, senior Abiah Newton

says the most enjoyable aspect for him was the “building of relationships that take place.”

Southern Adventist University credits the idea for this unique program to one of its donors. In the 1970s, after transitioning his elderly mother to a new home, her health began to decline as a result of a loss of companionship with friends and family. She stopped leaving the house, missing out on walks and attending church service. The story changed when an elementary-aged girl asked if she could visit with the donor’s mother for Pathfinder community service hours. Her weekly visits became one of the highlights in his mother’s week, and soon changed her experience in her new home. They talked together, went to church together, and formed a relationship that rejuvenated his mother’s spirit.

Schools are responsible for raising 30 percent of the funding, but the coordinators are in agreement that the program a win-win for everyone. Reeves says, “You find out that the older people have a lot to give to the young people and the young people have a lot to give to their elders. I just think it’s a blessing on both ends.”

For more information on the program, please visit: <https://www.southern.edu/administration/assistpfe/AboutUs.html>.

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*Michelle Odinna is a student at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.*

**Armando Mercado** (student)

It's a unique experience. Being with old people is cool. It has taught me to be thankful. There are many residents who grew up not having what they needed and I realize I have things that will benefit me.

Indiana Academy students in the Assist program work with nursing home residents

DAY  
IN THE  
LIFE

**Mildred Love** (mentor)

I'm close to 100. I like being with her. We talk about anything we want. I play piano, marimba, tin drums.

**Grace Irakoze** (student)

I like it when she tells me stories about music because she used to play music, and I like music and we can relate.





**Gary Sanders** (mentor)

It's nice having someone to talk to on a daily basis because I miss home.



**Linda Reeves**

(IA Assist program coordinator)

When he (mentor, Rocky) sees him, he just lights up. He knows he's there for him. It's a great relationship between the two of them. He wants Caleb to come every day and visit with him; even though his mind goes far away, he loves Caleb. In the summertime when the weather is nice and Caleb takes him out, they sit in the garden and he's his happiest, just knowing Caleb is there with him.



**Alissa Sampson** (student)

I like coming to the nursing home to talk to and socialize with the residents and make their day better. They look forward to us coming.

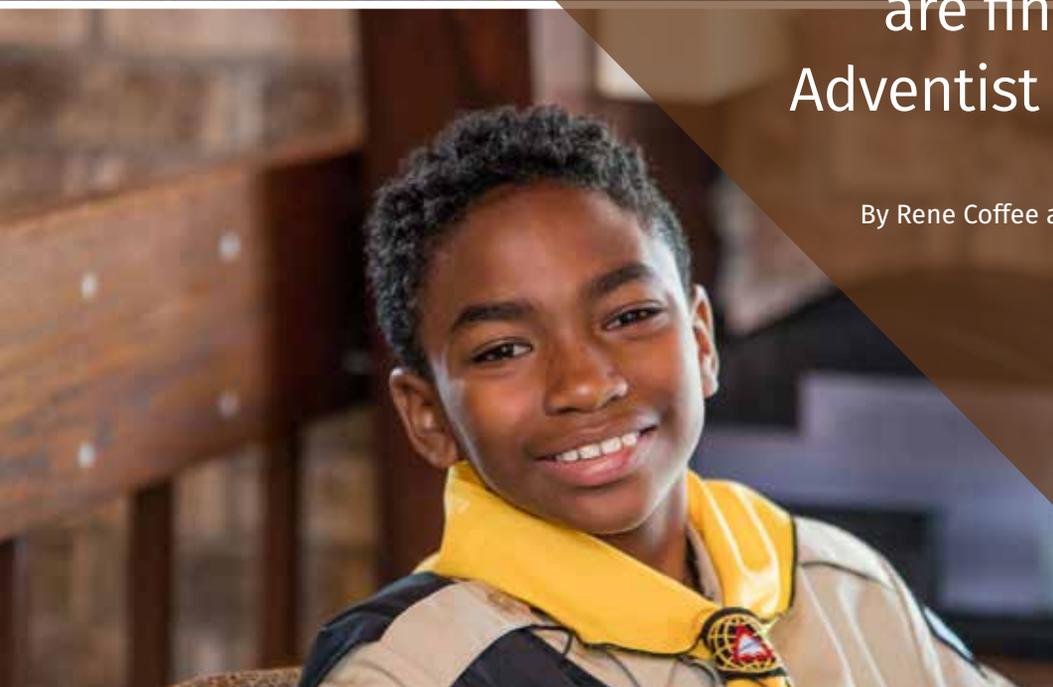
It showed me that older people are so wise. They're nice to talk to and just have health issues and are getting older.



# *Prized* Possessions

Creative ways  
two Michigan churches  
are financing  
Adventist education

By Rene Coffee and Kelli Miller





Photos by Aaron Berger and Andreea Taylor

Financial advisor, Dave Ramsey, warns parents to avoid going into debt to pay for a college education. He offers a number of suggestions on how to do just that:

- 1) Encourage your child to get good grades in high school and do everything they can to increase their score on placement tests such as the ACT and SAT.
- 2) Start a college fund, hunt down additional scholarships and government funding.
- 3) Take advantage of the local junior college, and make sure your student has a part-time job while attending college.

All great ideas for making college affordable.

But what if the need to finance a child's education starts when he is still in elementary or secondary school — before scholarships, government grants and part-time jobs are available?

Our Seventh-day Adventist church schools offer many advantages over public education. Most important is the focused attention on Bible study, prayer, character-building and service. But even beyond the spiritual aspects, there's proof that Adventist schools produce academically advanced students.

The ground-breaking CognitiveGenesis study, completed ten years ago on more than 50,000 elementary and secondary students enrolled in Adventist schools, showed that our students out-perform those in public education.

“In each subject category, students attending Adventist schools scored higher than the national average. They also scored higher than their expected achievement based on assessment of individual ability — a factor few other schools measure. . . . The more years a student attended an Adventist school, the more his or her performance improved” (*Christian Science Monitor*, November 15, 2010, article by Elissa Kido).

So what are parents to do when they can't afford to send their children to an Adventist elementary or secondary school? And what responsibility do churches have in making a Seventh-day Adventist education available to the young people in their congregations?

Two churches in the Michigan Conference have come up with ways to answer these questions and provide a Christian education for the younger generation.

The Paw Paw Church is very focused on their young people, involving them in Pathfinders, and providing opportunities for them to help out with vacation Bible school, dramas and musical presentations, special music, song service, and running the public address system.

Some years ago, the church members raised enough money to start their own church school. However, rather than compete with

"I greatly appreciate having a church that has supported me through my toughest time. Having the church-supported school has helped lead me to the decision of baptism."

—Solomon Boerschinger, student, Wilson School

the other church schools in the area, they voted to create a fund that would pay up to 90 percent of the tuition costs of their students in grades 1–12. At the present time, this represents over two dozen young people who are attending five different church schools. Forty percent of Paw Paw's church budget is earmarked for Christian education. Ten years ago, an endowment fund was created to help offset the financial obligation the church has made. It is hoped that, eventually, the fund will earn enough interest to cover the educational commitment the church has made.

Four hundred forty miles northwest of Paw Paw is a small, Adventist community located in the upper peninsula town of Wilson. Wilson Jr. Academy is located on one side of County Road 561. The site of the former church building and its quaint little cemetery are across the street. (The Wilson church was destroyed by fire in 2017, but the church members are hoping to break ground in May.)

Like the Paw Paw church, the members at Wilson have a long history of supporting Christian education. Their school, which opened in 1966, was financed through individual church members taking out loans at a local bank. With a membership of nearly 250, the Wilson Church has something special which endears it to those who have once been part of the congregation. Church elder Aaron Berger explains: "It is not uncommon for the younger members of the church to go away for college, but then return when they have a family. They want their own children to experience the warmth of this small community." And that's exactly what happened with Tom Hubbard, who as a child went to Wilson Jr. Academy in third grade, but recently returned with his family to take over the church's leadership as pastor.

The Wilson Church has found a way to provide tuition funds for the 33 students in grades 1–10. Parents pay a registration fee for each child but, after that, there is no additional charge for students in grades 1–8. (There is a nominal fee for grades 9 and 10.)

Through the combined effort of all the church members (those with children and those without), the church has been able to keep their school up and running by asking everyone to contribute 8 percent of their income to the combined budget. Church members have been willing to sacrifice in this way, whether they are directly benefitted or not.

Although this is the plan on paper, the church never turns anyone away. They always work with families and ask only that they pay what they can afford.

A few years ago, there was a discussion about eliminating the 9th and 10th grades because of low enrollment. The church members gathered together and prayerfully made a commitment to step out in faith and continue their full program. Their faith was rewarded — they were blessed with the needed additional students.

Two different churches. Two different ways of providing a Christian education for the children in their congregation.

If young people are to help finish the work of preparing the world for Jesus' soon return, nothing is more important than supporting them and making sure that they have the opportunity to learn more about Jesus and the plans He has for their lives. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to provide church schools with the best environment for students to grow as Christians. ■

*Rene Coffee, Gobles Junior Academy 9th and 10th grade teacher, and Kelli Miller, Andrews University sophomore.*

"The Paw Paw Church's model of education assistance for their families is phenomenal. It makes attending a local Adventist school not only financially possible, but also a 'no-brainer'."

— Chad Higgins, principal at Gobles Jr. Academy, one of the schools which benefits from the financial support provided by the Paw Paw Church.



Amireia Taylor



Amireia Taylor



Aaron Berger

“After having a massive heart attack in 2016, I am very appreciative that the Paw Paw Church has a tuition assistance program that allowed my wife and me to send our son to an Adventist school just as he was starting the 9th grade. With the tremendous financial expenses we incurred during my treatment and recovery, we wouldn’t have been able to afford the tuition without the church’s support.”

— Dan Bledsaw, Paw Paw church member.



Photos provided by Christina Loblaco

# Team uses 'encouragement stones' to spread joy, hope

*You are loved. You can do anything. Be brave.*

Encouraging phrases and messages of kindness are being shared with staff and patients at AMITA Health's medical facilities. The phrases are printed on small polished stones and shared with staff by members of the Clinical Mission Integration team.

This team provides spiritual support and promotes whole-person care to AMITA Health's outpatient associates and physicians. Christina Loblaco, Clinical Mission Integration specialist, created the initial concept of distributing encouragement stones to associates in need of a few words of support on the National Day of Encouragement, which occurs every year on Sept. 12. Since then, team members have been sharing the stones during site visits.

"The response to the encouragement stones has been heartwarming," said Janet Kennedy, Clinical Mission Integration specialist. "One associate selected 'You are loved' to present to her friend's teenage

daughter who was struggling. Associates are now coming together to create and offer stones to patients."

While visiting AMITA Health Medical Group Oncology & Hematology Bolingbrook, Loblaco was able to see first-hand the positive effect the stones had on patients. "One patient who looked familiar stopped me and said that I had given him a stone a while back and he now keeps it on his dresser," said Loblaco. "He said shortly after he received the stone, he got the great news from his doctor his cancer had decreased by 50 percent in three months and his outlook for full recovery was great. Talking to him about it was such a spiritual experience for us both.

"Another patient chose a stone with the message 'I got this,' and showed it to his wife and exclaimed, 'You just said that!' I loved seeing his smile and the tears it brought to his wife's eyes," Loblaco said.

Physicians and staff are welcoming having a spiritual resource at their sites,

said Heather Hoffman, regional director, Clinical Mission Integration. "Because these are offices located off-campus, outpatient staff didn't have access to the spiritual care support that is available at the hospitals," she said. "Now we come to them, and the response has been overwhelming.

"We recently visited a physician for the first time, and we gave him an inspirational Scripture card and asked if there was anything we could pray for," Hoffman said. "He said there was nothing at the time, and we went on to talk with other staff.

"But minutes later, he came looking for us, and asked if we could pray for a staff member whose husband had died the week before. We were able to provide grief resources and prayer for her and the office. Our staff and physicians want to take care of each other. All it took is a little awareness that the support is now available to them."

*Julie Busch, associate vice president, Internal Communications, AMITA Health*

# When God Changes Your “Never”

When Nancy Kardos-Moldovan was growing up, she used to tell people that she would “NEVER be a teacher.” Now, as she is completing her student teaching semester at Andrews University, she realizes that God really does have a sense of humor.

“He took that statement and redirected my career toward the very occupation I vowed I would never undertake,” she says. “Looking back, I can see that He was chiseling away at my ‘NEVER’ through teachers, professors, chaplains and support teams that I have had around me the whole time.”

Just as those people made a difference in Nancy’s life, she now has the opportunity to be a role model and mentor in her own students’ lives. The process of going through the Education program at Andrews University has helped Nancy spend time reflecting on the importance and purpose of Adventist education.

Nancy admits that Adventist education has been a major shaping factor in her view of how teaching should take place. One way this happened was through a school assignment to read through the book, *Education*, by Ellen G. White.

“Seeing students as fashioned in the image of God, with greater potential than teachers may often believe/notice has helped me rethink how I approach differentiation strategies and teaching in general,” Nancy reflects. “One of my favorite quotes from her book states, ‘It [education] has to do with the whole being and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers. It prepares the student

for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come” (page 5).

Nancy continues, “Granted, there are days when classroom management may take a toll on me, but having this belief to fall back on and reroute my thinking has helped me see the point and beauty of being a teacher. It is all about the students having the wholistic opportunity to foster a relationship with their Creator and Redeemer. That is what Adventist education is all about.”

Right now, Nancy is enjoying applying these principles as a student teacher at Andrews Academy. She currently teaches a 9th-grade Bible class from the new Encounter curriculum; she also is shadowing one of the biology courses with hopes of eventually teaching it.

“I am grateful for this experience. Not only is it a wonderful time to put all the learned strategies, methods and differentiation perspectives to the test, but it is a wonderful time to learn who I am as a teacher,” she says.

As a Secondary Education major with an emphasis in Religion and a minor in Biology, Nancy knows she will most likely go on to work in private schools. However, she acknowledges that she may be able to teach Biology in the public school system at a later point.

She states, “I do not know what the Lord has in store for me after this semester, but I will hold to His promise, *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye*” (Psalm 32:8, NKJV). ■

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Hannah Gallant, University Communication student writer, Andrews University



Heaven Shin

▲ Nancy Kardos-Moldovan



Photos courtesy of Tim Krawczyk

## A mansion prepared *Milwaukee Central celebrates 75 years*

WISCONSIN—The year was 1943 and members of the Milwaukee English Church were gearing up for a big move. After years of renting, the group, numbering 70 to 80, had purchased land and building supplies, in preparation for construction of their own facility.

It was during this time that then-16-year-old fresh convert, Paul Freeman, joined the congregation and recalls hearing the disappointing news. Since supplies were needed for the Second World War raging in Europe, the government would not allow new building construction.

As church members investigated a way forward, they learned that remodeling existing buildings was permissible. It wasn't long before they located a structure for sale.

But this wasn't any ordinary building. Just yards away from Lake Michigan, in an affluent Milwaukee neighborhood,

a luxurious 25,000-square-foot mansion was on the market. Designed by renowned architect Alexander Eschweiler, the four-story edifice had been a gift from commodity trader, Jesse Hoyt Smith, to his bride, Ida. Built at a cost of \$300,000, the mansion featured unique amenities such as a ballroom and a 1,500-square-foot, 14-car garage. There were even quarters for servants, complete with an in-house telephone system used, presumably, said Paul, "to keep the staff hopping."

The Smith heirs were asking \$30,000 for the fabulous but aged 1912 property; however, once they learned a church was interested, the price dropped to \$20,000. Paul, now a 90-year-old retired chemist, recalls that, when the sale was complete, it was clear the newfound church home "was an answer to prayer."

Hiring the same firm that designed the building, the congregation embarked on converting the mansion at 2229 N. Terrace Avenue into their church. During the remodeling of the second and third floors consisting of bedrooms, baths and ballroom



▲ *"It's not about the elephant skin in the library covering the walls. It's not about the Italian marble in the Fireside Chapel. It's not about the Russian black oak in the Junior Sabbath School room," said Milwaukee Central Church elder Tim Krawczyk. "It's what God has done with the people."*

were removed to provide the high, peaked ceiling in the sanctuary and allow room for a worship space.

However, several rooms were left intact with just their function altered. For instance, a trophy room was converted into the Fireside Chapel and is currently used for an adult Sabbath School class. A dining room is now the Junior Sabbath School room. A game room with a concealed bar used for cards and billiards now houses the Primary Sabbath School class. A photographic dark room, wine cellar, fireproof projection room and laundry are

now home to the Kindergarten and Cradle Roll classrooms. The original large garage, complete with white glazed brick, is now the Fellowship Hall.

Tim Krawczyk, a lifelong member of Milwaukee Central serving now as its first elder, is a facility management consultant. With his background, he's entrusted with the care of the church, and is quick to point out that Milwaukee Central's showpiece is not its building.

"It's not about the elephant skin in the library covering the walls. It's not about the Italian marble in the Fireside Chapel. It's not about the Russian black oak in the Junior Sabbath School room," said

Tim. "It's what God has done with the people."

What God has done is remarkable. Through generously sharing their building with other groups, God has allowed the birthing of several new immigrant churches. Milwaukee Hispanic Church and a Hmong congregation all began there, and the first Karen group in Wisconsin is now based there. The Milwaukee School also was launched by the congregation.

"God gave us this building for His purpose," said Tim. "We use it while we can because when it's time [for the end], we've got to go. Everything will be burned up anyway."

So, as the Milwaukee Central congregation reflects on its past, Sheldon Bryan,

who serves as the current pastor, says they're preparing to celebrate what God has done. "As a family, we've mourned over our brokenness, our heartaches, our trials, while relishing whatever measure of healing, redemption and triumph we've witnessed God do through us in this Tabernacle by the Lakeside," he said.

A huge celebration filled with preaching, praise and prayer is planned for April 5 and 6. For more information, please visit Milwaukee Central Church's website at [mcentralsda.com](http://mcentralsda.com). ■

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

## New Michigan Youth director appointed

MICHIGAN—The Michigan Conference leadership has been assessing the needs and direction of the conference and continues to place special emphasis upon Youth Ministry. It is no secret that young people are under attack and many are leaving the Adventist faith prior to entering college. This is an enormous challenge across the North American Division.

One specific need in Michigan was having the Youth director in close proximity to the conference office in Lansing. Ken Micheff, who has served as Youth director from 2007, had moved to Camp Au Sable after the hiring of Chad Bernard several years ago. He located there to oversee and manage the daily operations of Camp Au Sable, which had been added to his list of responsibilities. Due to the growing needs of the Youth Department and his own health challenges, he had decided to step down at the end of February and put his ministry focus on Camp Au Sable.

On February 19, Chad Bernard, associate Youth director since June 2017, was appointed to serve as the new Youth director by vote of the executive committee. Chad is no stranger to Michigan. He previously



▲ Chad and Melinda Bernard with their daughter, Adelaide, and dog, Gus

taught at Oakwood Junior Academy from 1996 to 2002 and at Greater Lansing Adventist School as principal and teacher from 2003 to 2010. In 2010, he accepted a call to be the principal for Weimar Academy in northern California, where he served until returning to Michigan to minister in the Youth Department.

Jim Micheff, conference president, acknowledged that the arms of any one person were simply not wide enough to embrace all the responsibilities of the Youth Department. Therefore, the decision

was made to create a separate department for Camp Au Sable (previously under the auspices of the Youth Department) with Ken Micheff leading the charge as the appointed camp director.

Jim Micheff has confidence that these changes will make the Youth Department more efficient and better serve the needs of our young people. "We need to focus on our youth. Thirty percent or less are attending our schools," he said. "We understand the need to incorporate our youth into the church. Chad will be able to focus

on ministering to all our youth across the conference.”

The Youth Department leadership, which includes Chad Bernard, Ken Micheff and Craig Harris, share a close friendship and camaraderie. They will continue to work together and support each other in finding

ways to better reach and minister to the youth in Michigan.

“My wife and I both feel God had prepared Chad to be in the position he’s in,” said Ken Micheff. “The Youth Department needs someone younger to advance the work. I’m just so thrilled he’s the Youth

director. I’m excited that the focus will be on the youth in the local church setting. With the demands of camp, that hasn’t been accomplished, but now it’s possible!” ■

*Andy Im, Michigan Conference Director of Communication*

## EDUCATION NEWS

### Delegation visits adopted Lake Union Island

Each of the nine North American Division (NAD) unions has been asked to adopt one of the islands in the Guam-Micronesia Mission territory. The Lake Union Conference has been invited to partner with the Kosrae Church (established in 1973) and the Kosrae School (established in 1979).

On January 6, a Lake Union Conference fact-finding team of five flew many miles to meet our brothers and sisters on beautiful Kosrae, an undeveloped island with steep mountains, dense vegetation, a land area of 42 square miles, and a population of 6,600. The church members and school faculty welcomed us with open arms and grateful hearts. They love the Lord and share with us the passion to *go ye into all the world and preach the gospel* (Mark 16:15, KJV).

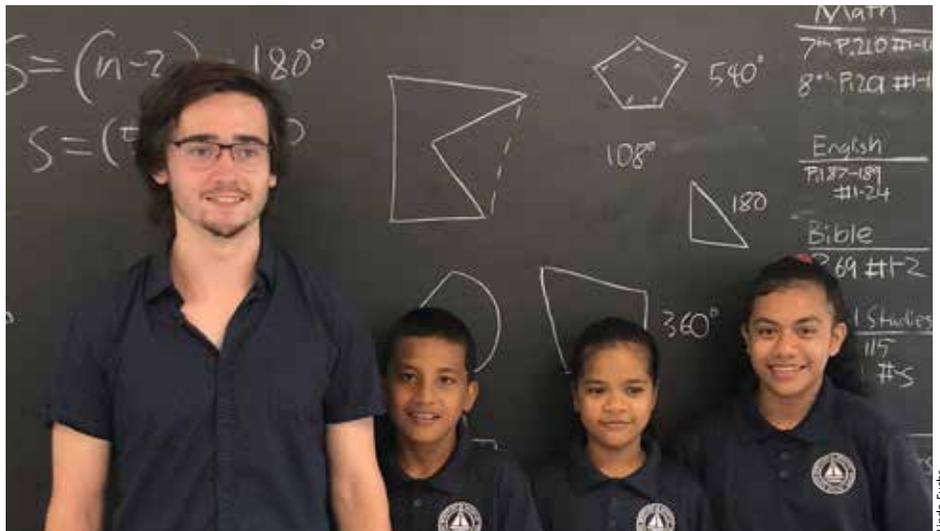
It was a privilege to worship with the believers at prayer meeting, to start the Sabbath with them on Friday night, to join them for Sabbath School, church and potluck, and then to close the Sabbath together. The church is the center of their lives, meeting spiritual and social needs.

The Kosrae School (Pre-K-8) is making a difference in the lives of 50 children, eight are children of church members and 36 are from non-Adventist homes. It was a joy to see the students engaged in learning math and reading, and to hear them singing hymns and reciting memory verses.



▲ After a farewell supper with the Kosrae Church family

Linda Fuchs



▲ Student missionary, Carstan Gage, with some of his 7th and 8th grade students

Linda Fuchs

The government of Kosrae is offering 15 student scholarships and is encouraging the school to add a 9th grade classroom next year. The school and church are excited about this opportunity and hope that they will be able to add a 10th grade program for the 2020-2021 school year.

### What can LUC members do to advance God's work in Kosrae?

After seeing first hand the needs of the people on Kosrae, and after meeting with and listening to the church and school leaders share their vision, our team invites you to help with one or more of the following:

- **Donate a hymnal.** The Kosrae church has only a few hymnals. The Lake Union Conference office would like to ship 24 hymnbooks to Kosrae. If you would like to donate one of our burgundy SDA hymnbooks, please contact us via email at: linda.fuchs@lakeunion.org.
- **Consider sponsoring youth.** We are encouraging children, teenagers (and

adults) to participate in raising funds for Kosrae. The money raised will go towards building a gym that will not only benefit the school and church, but open doors to witness to other young people on the island. *Hope for Humanity* plans to partner with us to make this possible.

- **Pray for the church and school on Kosrae.** It will be such an

encouragement to them to know that many people in the Illinois, Indiana, Lake Region, Michigan and Wisconsin conferences are daily praying for them!

Let's all work together to be a blessing to our new brothers and sisters on this small island in the western Pacific. ■

*Linda Fuchs, Lake Union Conference Education director*



▲ Dwight Rosen and Sandy Berg arrange boxes of textbooks for bulk shipment to Samoa

## Hundreds of Bible textbooks find new home in Samoa

WISCONSIN—When the North American Division (NAD) introduced a new Bible curriculum for students in grades 1–12, Wisconsin Conference Education superintendent, Linda Rosen, while excited with the new program, hated to see the old textbooks with all their supporting materials be thrown away. But God had a plan for those Bible materials and already had made connections for their continued use.

Several years earlier, Jody Marsh, who at the time was principal and teacher of Hillside Christian School, posted on circle.adventist.org, a site for Adventist educators to share resources, worksheets and keys he had created to go along with the eighth-grade Bible textbook, *Becoming Like Him*.

In American Samoa, the Iakina Adventist Academy voted to adopt the NAD Bible

curriculum, *Becoming Like Him*. So teacher Ana Veitaukula, of Iakina Adventist Academy, got on circle.adventist.org, saw Jody's Bible worksheet materials, emailed him and asked if he could share a textbook with her. She wanted to photocopy it to use with the worksheets in her classroom, as she had been teaching 7th grade Bible with no student textbooks at all.

Jody emailed Ana back that the Wisconsin Conference had recently adopted the newer *Encounter Bible* curriculum and that the conference had about 10 teacher editions and 50 student editions for each of grades 5 through 9 that might be available to them. Ana was stunned that we had books we were not using. Yes, she was very interested! As the books are 200-300 pages each, Jody figured it would be cheaper to ship the books than to copy them.

Jody shared the information with the Education Department, and things began to happen. Education administrative assistant, Sandy Berg, contacted the Samoan school and confirmed their need. The school wanted to purchase the materials for *Becoming Like Him* but lacked the financial resources. Then Sandy, along with Andrew Easley, intern and associate superintendent, collected all the unused elementary Bible supplies in storage, and found these resources encompassed much more than just the *Becoming Like Him* materials. By the time Sandy and Andrew finished, they had labeled 43 boxes of Bible teaching materials, including everything needed to teach Bible for all eight grades.

At this point, Linda invited her husband, Dwight, to look over the shipping arrangements. He was able to bring his experience in national and international bulk shipping of large equipment into the project. He helped to shrinkwrap the boxes placed on a plastic pallet, and do the proper measuring for the shipping paperwork. Having connections from his work experience, Dwight linked the Education Department with an export shipping management company to deliver the books to Samoa in a consolidation container, and provided guidance for the paperwork and legal aspect of moving the books from one country to another.

When Jody Marsh received word of the large book shipment being sent to the Samoan school, he said, "I'm so happy my worksheets were able to connect people with books they really needed."

"What a blessing to donate our unused Bible curriculum materials to a school in another country without textbooks," said Linda. "We can hardly wait to hear from the teachers at Iakina Adventist Academy when they receive the shipment. It never ceases to amaze me how God does His work. He knows what is needed before we do and, if we pay attention, God allows us to participate in His service to others." ■

*Juanita Edge, Communication director, Wisconsin Conference*

## Cuba mission trip offers valuable lessons to Andrews Academy group

If you think back a few decades, this scenario would be unfathomable: a religious group from the U.S. traveling on a mission trip to a formerly-closed Communist country.

But that is exactly what happened last December when 63 Andrews Academy students and sponsors embarked on the trip of a lifetime.

The group arrived in Cuba on Christmas Day and spent the next two weeks working at three different sites on the Caribbean island. One group helped build a kitchen and cafeteria facility at the conference office in the city center, another constructed several structures for the first Adventist youth camp, while another assisted in the construction of a home church.

The students also conducted an evangelistic series for the adults and a VBS program for the children. Students summoned up the courage to tell Bible stories and preach, some for the very first time.

Despite any misgivings, the students and sponsors were grateful for the experience and said it is a trip they won't soon forget — most notably because of the people.

Brook Scott, a sophomore at Andrews Academy, fondly said that the Cubans she met were absolutely amazing. "I made friendships there that I will never forget. You realize how hard they work and how they worship God and thank Him for each and every thing that comes their way."

Also impressed with the warmth of the people was AA sophomore, Sebastian Wade. "The most fascinating thing was how the locals interacted with me and others. I can say they were more outgoing and excited than we were. They had so much enthusiasm even though they had so little."

Ivonne Segui-Weiss, one of the trip sponsors who is from Cuba, said the dedication of the Cuban people moved her to tears on



▲ Entire group at the top of the Loma de la Cruz, a landmark in Holguin 261 meters (458 steps) above sea level

Photos courtesy Rich Aguilera



▲ Students at the work site in the conference



▲ Zoe Drew helping the children with the crafts during a VBS program

more than one occasion. "It is so true, the Adventist people in Cuba are so passionate about their faith. They sing with their hearts; they listen to every word that is preached from the Bible. The Cubans may have little, but they radiate love, compassion and happiness. As I sat there soaking it all in, I couldn't help but think: I was once that passionate, too. Could it be that I was fortunate to leave that system and come to a country where I would be free, but then forgot who the true Giver is, who my Maker is, and who my true Deliverer is?"

SOW Safari, Andrews Academy's biennial two-week mission trip, has been an important part of Andrews Academy's mission since 1986. The name, SOW Safari, speaks to the reason for these trips: **S**ervice through construction of a church or school building, **O**utreach through vacation Bible school, and **W**itness through evangelistic efforts. To date, several hundred people have been baptized through



▲ Sonjun Kim with one of his new little friends in Cuba

the evangelistic component of these trips, including some of the students themselves. ■

*Steve Atkins is the Biology and Earth Science teacher at Andrews Academy.*



▲ The Grand Rapids Adventist Academy Maranatha volunteers with the Getare, Kenya classroom they constructed

Koteshwar Rao

## Dentist brings welcome relief during school mission trip

MICHIGAN—At the end of March 2018, the Grand Rapids Adventist Academy students left for Kisii, Kenya, where they were going to help build a much-needed classroom for the Getare Adventist school.

Each volunteer was asked to find someone to connect with on their trip. It might be one of the students at Getare, or a helper, or even a fellow classmate.

During their two weeks building the walls for a new classroom, the Grand Rapids students also led the Week of Prayer for the 600 Getare students, helped run the medical and dental clinics, and helped with the vacation Bible school with the local Masai tribes where more than 1000 children attended the VBS program.

After they returned from Africa, the volunteers were asked, "Did you find the one-person God wanted you to meet on this trip?" Andy Knowlton, the dentist on the mission trip, is sure he found that one person.

Each day, the medical team traveled three hours, round trip, to the medical and dental clinics. Prone to motion sickness, Knowlton sat in the front of the bus. During the travels, he became acquainted with Ezekiel, their bus driver.

During the week, Ezekiel began to talk with Knowlton. Ezekiel had recently

married, and they talked about raising children in the world today. Then Knowlton noticed that Ezekiel was holding his cheek in discomfort. He checked in his new friend's mouth and discovered an erupting wisdom tooth that needed to be extracted. Knowlton offered to do the job, but a terrified Ezekiel refused.

On the last day of the clinic, Ezekiel had worked up the courage to have his constant throbbing toothache removed. Knowlton did not share his own fear with Ezekiel. During the week the dentist had had a difficult time extracting molars on thin-boned elderly patients. Would he be able to remove this wisdom tooth on a healthy young man?

Before the procedure, Knowlton, his wife, Pam, and Ezekiel held hands and prayed that God would help with this extraction and asked that there would be no pain. Much to Knowlton's surprise, the wisdom tooth rolled out of the socket with minimal force. An excited "Hallelujah!" was the only exclamation. Knowlton knows God showed He was in control of this procedure.

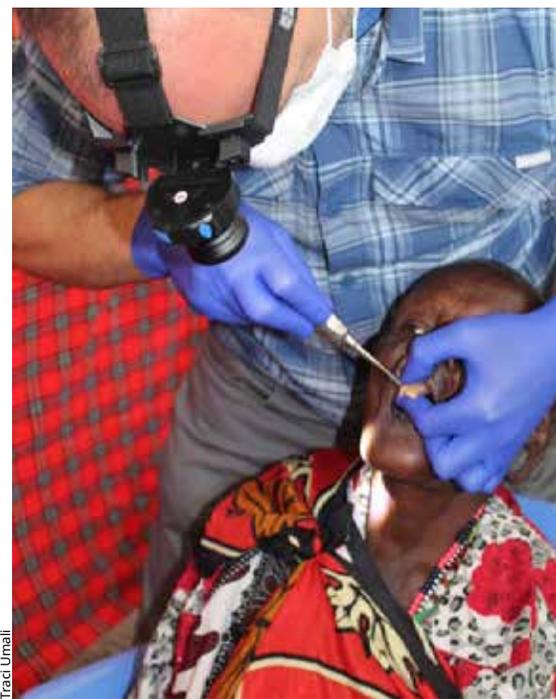
Each day we can connect with someone about our Forever Friend, Jesus, if we follow God's leading. ■

*Judy Shull, Communication director for the Grand Rapids Michigan Central Church*



Traci Umali

▲ Grand Rapids Adventist Academy students at the vacation Bible school Sabbath with the Maasai people in Poroko, Kenya



Traci Umali

▲ Dentist Andy Knowlton and unnamed patient



▲ Pioneer Memorial Church construction began with the groundbreaking ceremony in 1957. This photo was taken in 1958.

## Pioneer Memorial Church celebrates 60-year anniversary

MICHIGAN—What began as a vision of the Emmanuel Missionary College students of 1953, has now become an influential church that impacts the community and beyond through its media ministry, outreach programs, small groups, and more.

On Valentine's Day, 60 years ago, Elder J.L. Tucker dedicated the new sanctuary saying, "It is to be *a house of prayer for all people*." Keeping true to its mission, Pioneer Memorial Church has pushed its members to become a church without walls.

"We are not only looking back but we are also looking forward," said Claudia Sowler, executive secretary to Dwight Nelson, Pioneer Church's senior pastor. "We believe God has a work ahead of us and we want to stay focused, understanding where we came from and where we are headed."

To understand the humble beginnings of this 60-year old church plant,



Images courtesy of Center for Adventist Research

▲ C. Warren Becker plays the organ at a dedication service at Pioneer Memorial Church.

one must go back to 1901 at the Berrien Springs Courthouse where the Emmanuel Missionary College Church was organized. A year later, a church school was opened, moving its services to a basement auditorium used for worship and recreation. Desiring a place that was only dedicated to Divine service, a group of students spearheaded a fundraising campaign to build a church on campus.

Fred Stephan, president of Student Association for the 1952-1953 school year, remembers when the Student Council met to begin laying out plans for the school year. To build the church, they would need more than \$400,000; but who had that kind of money?

In a recording played at Pioneer's 60th celebration Sabbath, Stephan, 90, said the students came up with creative ways to raise the funds. "I recall one dorm student who donated a very valuable coin collection," he said. "Another program was to encourage students to give up their dessert for a month — or any period of time — and contribute money toward the building of the church."

Students also began selling baked goods along Highway 31, and donations began pouring in. University staff also sacrificed with men from plant services dedicating two full weeks of efforts in preparing the church for its grand opening.

On February 14, 1959, the newly built church opened its doors to its community. The Feb. 23, 1959, *Student Movement* article headlined, "Jesus Central Theme Rings in the New Church," quoted Pastor J. L. Tucker, saying, "It shall ring from the nave, the balcony, the classrooms of this church. With David of old, we say, *I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord*. With gladness we welcome our visitors and members to this first service in our new church home. It is to be *a house of prayer for all people*."

Now, 60 years later, as Nelson said in his blog, the history of Pioneer Memorial has "God's fingerprints all over it." ■

*Felicia Tonga, Media specialist of Communication for the Lake Union Conference*



At Great Lakes Adventist Academy, we strive to provide a nurturing environment that allows students to develop academically, socially, and spiritually where our students and faculty become family. Our no cell phone policy, high-quality Adventist curriculum, and loving, family atmosphere, allow them to learn, grow, and connect - with others and with their friend and savior, Jesus.

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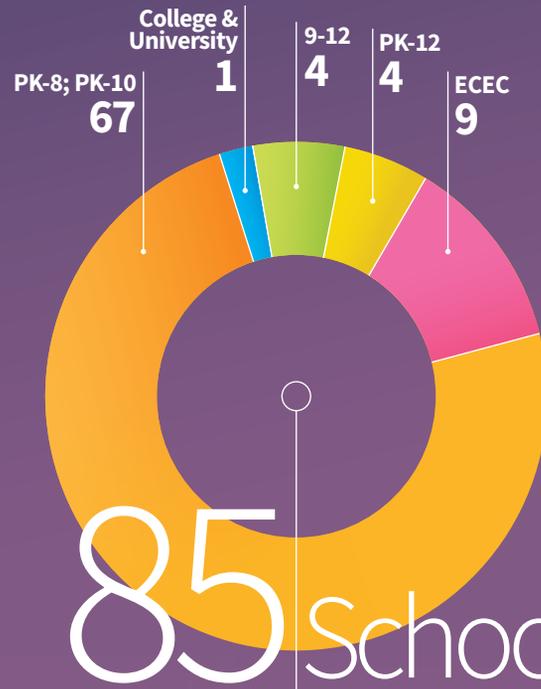
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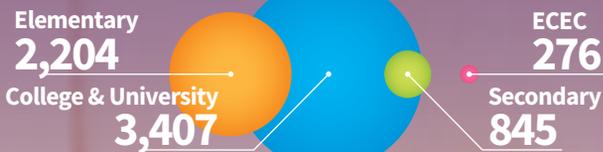
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**PK-12 SCHOOLS**

by size

by conference



**6,732** Students



**560** Teachers



# April

## ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

### GENERAL EVENTS

**April 4–6:** *Worship, Word & Music Conference*

**April 7–8:** *April Preview*

**April 11–13:** *Social Consciousness Summit*

**April 12, 1:30–5:30 p.m.:** *Honors Thesis Symposium, Buller Hall*

**April 13, 9 and 11:45 a.m.:** *International Sabbath, Pioneer Memorial Church*

**April 13, 9 p.m.:** *Gymnics Homeshow, Johnson Gym*

**April 14, 7 p.m.:** *Gymnics Homeshow, Johnson Gym*

**April 23, 11:30 a.m.:** *Undergraduate Awards Celebration, Howard Performing Arts Center*

**April 27, 8 p.m.:** *Deliverance Mass Choir End-of-Year Concert*

### 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).

**April 13, 8 p.m.:** *Andrews Wind Symphony Spring Concert*

**April 14, 4 p.m.:** *Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra: Belshazzar's Feast*

**April 19, 8 p.m.:** *Andrews University Singers Easter Concert*

**April 20, 8 p.m.:** *Andrews Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert*

**April 21, 4 p.m.:** *Sunday Music Series: Brian Lewis*

## ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

**April 5–8:** *Adventist Christian Fellowship Campus Catalyst, Camp Akita*

**April 28–May 1:** *Pastor/Teacher Spiritual Retreat, Camp Akita*

## INDIANA CONFERENCE

**April 12–14:** *Shepherdess Retreat, Adventist Frontier Mission, Berrien Springs*

**April 13–14:** *Evangelism: VIDA GPS Small Groups Reaping Series (various locations in Indiana)*

## LAKE REGION CONFERENCE

**April 5–6:** *Motor City Youth Federation, Burns Church, Detroit*

**April 5:** *Community Service/Men's Ministry/Prison Ministry Collaboration, Shiloh Church, Chicago*

**April 27:** *LRC Congreso de Vida Familiar, Milwaukee, Wis.*

## MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

**April 5–7:** *Women's Ministries Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

**April 12–14:** *Jesus on Prophecy UP Rally/Training, Camp Sagola*

**April 19–21:** *Women's Ministries Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

## WISCONSIN CONFERENCE

**April 4–6:** *Music Festival, Wisconsin Academy*

**April 19–21:** *Alumni Weekend, Wisconsin Academy*

**April 26–28:** *Hispanic Men's Conference, Camp Wakonda*

## LAKE UNION CONFERENCE

**April 7:** *Adventist Community Health Initiative, Hinsdale Fil-Am Church*

**April 14:** *Adventist Community Health Initiative, New Albany Church, New Albany, Ind.*

**April 19–20:** *ASI Spring Fellowship, St. Joseph, Mich.*

**April 26–28:** *NAD Pathfinder Bible Experience, Rockford, Ill.*

**April 28:** *Adventist Community Health Initiative, Bethel Church, Lansing*

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.lakeunionherald.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 Nicole Gluck of Dallas, Texas, and the late Thomas Gluck who died in 1992, and two grandchildren.



**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 Majja Hahn; and five 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.



**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

**ADAMS, Ila F.**, age 102; born Oct. 3, 1915, in Mich.; died Oct. 2, 2018, in Anderson, Ind. She was a member of the Anderson Church in Anderson. Survivors include her son, Fred Adams; daughters, Sally Catt and Susan Mundy; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and 4 great-great-grandchildren. No services held.

**ALLEN, Charles**, age 83; born Oct. 26, 1934, in Whitstown, Ind.; died Jan. 22, 2018, in Yorktown, Ind. He was a member of the Anderson Church in Anderson, Ind. Survivors include his wife, Karen (Rost) Allen; son, Matthew Allen; daughters, Cynthia Solis, Linda Batts, Kimberly Gordon; brothers, Kenneth Allen, Wayne Allen, John Allen; 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; Funeral services were conducted in Charlotte, Mich.

**BAUERMEISTER, Lois (Ashley)**, age 96; born Aug. 7, 1922, in Purdy Mesa, Colo.; died Jan. 20, 2019, in Murray, Ken. She was a member of the Metropolis Church in Metropolis, Ill. Survivors include her son, Gary Bauermeister and Jerry Joe Bauermeister; daughter, Ronna Loy Barker; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; three step-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Tom Ferguson; interment was in Fooks Cemetery, Possum Trot, Ken.

**BLUE, Linda J.**, age 69; born Oct. 6, 1949, in Niles, Mich.; died Oct. 30, 2018, in Alexandria, Ind. She was a member of the Anderson Church in Anderson, Ind. Survivors include her husband, David L. Blue; her sons, Chris Thomas and Derek Blue; her mother, Juanity (Dubuque) Fuller; and brother, Ed Fuller; Funeral services were conducted by Lee Whitman; interment was at Owens Funeral Home in Marion, Ind.

**BOISMIER, Fern (Craner)**, age 94; born June 18, 1924, in Omer, Mich.; died Feb. 13, 2018, in Houston, Tex. She was a member of the University Seventh-day Adventist Church in East Lansing, Mich. Survivors include her husband, Oscar Boismier; sons, James and Gary Boismier; brother, James R. Craner; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and five step-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Jose Rojas and Angel Rodriguez, in Pat H. Foley and Company (Dignity Memorial) Houston, Tex. with private inurnment.

**CORKE, Dale W.**, age 67; born Feb. 23, 1951, in Edmore, Mich.; died, Sept. 9, 2018, in Battle Creek, Mich. He was a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle in Battle Creek. Survivors include his wife, Rita A. (Wilke) Corke; son, Levi R. Corke; mother, Mary "JoAnn" (Stephens) Corke Berean; brother, Stephen P. Corke; sisters, Doreen K. Corke, Cynthia A. Wolfer; and Sharon L. Gradziel; five grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Rob Bernardo, Dr. Randy Haugen and Levi Corke; interment was in East Hickory Corners Cemetery in Barry Township, Mich

**DEWIND, Ruth Ann (Hopper)**, age 80; born Mar. 14, 1938, in Gobles, Mich.; died Sept. 18, 2018, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Stevensville Church, Stevensville, Mich. Survivors include her husband, Frank G. DeWind; daughters, Annette DeWind, Natalie (Joe) Marocco, Amy (Randy) Hubble, Lynell DeWind, Jennifer (Leroy) Ward, Rebecca (Sean) Mattingly, and Leah (Trent) Brown; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial services were conducted by Dave Gotshall; interment was in Georgetown Cemetery, Hudsonville, Mich.

**DEWIND, Thomas J.**, age 57; born Nov. 8, 1960, in Zeeland, Mich.; died Sept. 8, 2018,

in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Stevensville Church, Stevensville, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Sally Hammond; daughters, Janna (Atneil) Quetz and Katie DeWind; father, Frank G. DeWind; sisters, Annette DeWind, Natalie (Joe) Marocco, Amy (Randy) Hubble, Lynell DeWind, Jennifer (Leroy) Ward, Rebecca (Sean) Mattingly, and Leah (Trent) Brown; Memorial services were conducted by Dave Gotshall and Dwight Nelson; interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs, Mich.

**GILBERT, William R.**, age 75; born Nov. 25, 1942, in Morrice, Mich.; died Oct. 9, 2018, in Owosso, Mich. He was a member of the Lansing Church, Lansing, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Flossie Fitzpatrick; sons, William (Priscilla) and Daniel (Renee); stepson, Cecil Bowers; daughter, Danel (Lance) Monroe; 18 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by William A. Gilbert; private inurnment.

**KNECHT, William E.**, age 81; born Oct. 28, 1936, in Los Angeles, Calif.; died Aug. 28, 2018, in Shawnee, Kan. He was a member of the Owosso Church, Owosso, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Sutton; sons, Allen and Michael;

and eight grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Elder Larry Puruford; interment was in West Haven Cemetery, Owosso.

**LINK, Lavern E.**, age 90; born Feb. 20, 1927, in Shelby, Mich.; died Jan. 22, 2018, in Grand Ledge, Mich. He was a member of the Grand Ledge Church, Grand Ledge. Survivors include his son, Wendell Link; daughters, Linda Dickerson, Debra Oliver, Pennie Clements, Marcia Cierlik, Joy Burger and Hope Link; sister, Lynn McCalley; 20 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Charles Hanlon; interment was in Oaklawn Cemetery, Grand Ledge.

**MEDINA, Ernesto Y.**, age 79; born April 6, 1939, in Ozamis, Philippines; died Sept. 4, 2018, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Michiana Filipino-American Church, Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Loida Sarno; sons, Ernesto Paul and Christopher Alvin; daughters, Kimberly Jo Knowlton and Lesley Jean Taylor; brother, Benjaminita Onq; sister, Echiquita Fiel; and eight grandchildren. Private inurnment.

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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.lakeunionherald.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.lakeunionherald.org>.

**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. Keynote speaker Taurus Montgomery, pastor of the Harbor of Hope Church, Benton Harbor, Mich., and author of *Set On Fire: How Life's Devastations Can Lead You to Your Destiny*. To register, go to [www.asilakeunion.org](http://www.asilakeunion.org) or call 269-473-8200.

**GREAT LAKES ADVENTIST ACADEMY** is looking for all students in grades 8-11 to come for an awesome experience at **Academy Days, APRIL 21-22**. Visit classes, make new friends, enjoy current students, and experience boarding academy life. Registration

is from 1:00-2:30 p.m. on Sunday. To register, call 989-427-4444, or online at [glaa.net](http://glaa.net). Contact GLAA today!

**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).

**THE GRAND RAPIDS ADVENTIST ACADEMY** staff and students would like you to join them in the retirement celebration of Debra Barr, teacher and former GRAA principal, on

**Sunday, May 5**, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. in the Grand Rapids Adventist Academy Commons. 1151 Oakleigh Rd. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-3716. For questions, please call 616-791-9797.

**BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, April 26-April 27.** Mark your calendars, call your classmates and start planning for this weekend now! Honor classes: 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1994 and 1999. To be held at N. Aurora Church, N. Aurora, Ill. Friday night vespers, Sabbath School, church, lunch and afternoon music program. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, we need your email addresses. Send questions or information to Natanja and Kerry Hensley, [bva.alumni.cte@gmail.com](mailto:bva.alumni.cte@gmail.com), or call Dale Rollins at: 224-407-0233. For more information, visit: [www.broadviewacademy.org](http://www.broadviewacademy.org).

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**CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS**

- April 6** Local Church Budget
- April 13** World Budget (Emphasis: NAD Christian Record)
- April 20** Local Church Budget
- April 27** Local Conference Advance

**CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS**  
**Focus for the Month - Stewardship**

- April 6** Missionary Magazines (*Signs, Message, El Centinela*)
- April 13** Stewardship Sabbath
- April 20** Literature Evangelism Sabbath
- April 27** Education Sabbath
- April 29**
- May 5** Screen-free Week

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.lakeunionherald.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.lakeunionherald.org>.

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**THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) OF SDA'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, emphasis is on religious liberty and First Amendment work. Must be SDA church member. Interview and/or relocation expenses will be applicant's responsibility. Send résumé, writing sample, and transcript to Karnik Doukmetzian at [karnikd@gc.adventist.org](mailto:karnikd@gc.adventist.org).

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**"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION** will take place **June 7-8** for alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969. For further information, contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit [glaa.net](http://glaa.net).

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

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**ISRAEL TOUR WITH PASTOR JIM GILLEY AND FRIENDS.** November 17-25, \$3,295. Includes air, breakfast and dinner buffets daily, all tips, taxes. From New York, Chicago or Los Angeles; other departure cities available. Call Maranatha Tours at 602-788-8864.

# A Life of Drama

By Brenna Taitano



Joshua Pedroza

▲ Brenna Taitano

**FRIDAY NIGHTS I ALWAYS SAT TOWARD THE BACK,** in the shadows. I watched campers make their way to the front, tears in their eyes, as the Holy Spirit prodded them to step forward and make their decisions for Christ. Then, out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a fellow staff member get off the bench and make his way forward. His action started a ripple effect, and several more staff headed to the front. I was surprised. I guess I had just assumed everything at camp

was for the kids — including the Friday night calls, that the staff was just the helpers making sure everyone had a good time.

If I'm being honest here, I guess that's what I tried to make myself think. My goal was to get through the summer as fast as possible. What had happened? Certainly, there are better ways to spend a summer than to slave away in a kitchen and reek of body odor! Why had I come to Timber Ridge in the first place? My staff photo was captioned with my own words: "I'm at TRC because this is where I fell in love with Jesus for the first time, and I want to help other kids fall in love with Him, too." But now, my love for camp and the gospel ministry was gone. Somewhere between the insecurities and the lack of sleep, the blazing fire had been reduced to a pile of ashes. "God, help," I whispered, both in the literal and mental darkness.

The weeks wore on. Every day I felt awful. I knew something was wrong with me, which added to the belief that camp insecurities had given me already. Then, promises I read from Scripture and staff worship

messages floated through my head. "*This isn't about you; you are here to serve. I called you here; now persevere, my child.*"

I had the privilege of being cast in the camp play, which was loosely based on Josephine Cunningham Edwards' *Swift Arrow*. My character was in the play every night. People would shake their heads and say, "Ugh. That's gonna be a lot of lines, my dude." But I would smile and shrug. I love acting, and this was like a dream come true. Acting gave me a sense of purpose, like I could do *something* right, and God used these vain attempts of approval for His purpose.

The campers loved the play. Each night they wanted more and, by the end of the week, without really thinking about it, they had grasped the themes of God's love and forgiveness. Storytelling is a powerful ministry, and it was lessons from the play the Holy Spirit brought to the minds of campers and staff when Pastor Charlie made the calls, "Will you come forward?"

Gradually, I understood. It all made sense. Although I had become distracted, God took my mistakes and turned them for good. He had used me — sinful, pitiful me — to reach kids and bring them to the feet of His Son. And, yes, God worked on me, too. He knew camp needed me and that I needed camp. Through my working at Timber Ridge Camp, God gave me confidence and blessed me with laughter and friends. I honestly wouldn't trade the summer of 2018 for anything. Summer camp isn't just for the kids — it's for every single person who comes, including the staff and the parents. ■

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*Brenna Taitano is a freshman at Indiana University.*

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*Brenna received a \$100 scholarship for her story. If you're a youth or young adult interested in submitting a story for consideration, please email: [herald@lakeunion.org](mailto:herald@lakeunion.org)*

## Pathfinders Strong!

By Malissa Martin



Jason Cloutdon

▲ Jeremy and Fredrica Grant

**NEWLYWEDS JEREMY GRANT, 27, AND HIS WIFE FREDRICA, 26,** recently moved to Detroit for Jeremy to complete the Wayne State University doctoral program in Clinical Psychology. Although the Grants knew they would only be in Detroit for five years, God impressed upon them to always share their talents. The first step was making sure they found the right church to call home, and the decision wasn't made lightly. "After we got married, we church-hopped for about a year," said Jeremy. In June 2018, they visited City Temple Church and the pastor, Dwayne Duncombe Sr., delivered a sermon that influenced them to make that church their home.

After learning of the Pathfinder Club's inactive status, the Grants soon decided

to accept the role of Pathfinder leaders for two reasons. First, knowing how much Pathfinders had positively influenced their lives, they wanted the youth to have an opportunity to experience the benefits. Massachusetts-native Fredrica is a Master Guide, while Jeremy, born in Zimbabwe and raised in Watford, England, and Ottawa, Canada, grew up in a family of Pathfinders. "My whole family was involved in Pathfinders before I was old enough to be in Pathfinders," he said.

Second, they noticed a generational gap between the youth and adults with no stable bridge connecting the two. "The one thing we're aspiring to do is that we just don't identify as a group; we do want those who are not part of Pathfinders to feel like they're integrated in the church," said Fredrica, who went on to say that she wants the older members to serve as mentors to the younger members.

Despite Jeremy attending school full-time and Fredrica working full-time with autistic children, they still took on the task of reorganizing the club. It's an especially rare case because the young couple is childless, for now, yet they're still investing their time in the youth. Jeremy and Fredrica believe that a Pathfinder Club can be used to mentor kids and reach the surrounding community. "Almost all of our Pathfinders only have one parent at home," said Jeremy, "and I realized that the kids that we're surrounded by are the exact kids that need Pathfinders." ■

*Detroit-based writer, Malissa Martin, is a member of City Temple Church.*

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