

Lake Union HERALD

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020



UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP

ILLINOIS MEMBERS
ILLINOIS FOCUS
INSIDE

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The Lansing Community Services Center was recognized with the Community Organization of the Year Award at the Delta Township Community Awards event, held Oct. 23, 2019, at the Crown Plaza Lansing West.



A team of 38 AMITA Health associates and doctors embarked on a mission trip to El Salvador in November to treat those in need. The team is from throughout the AMITA Health system, representing a wide range of specialties and positions. But one thing has drawn them together — a call in their hearts to serve others.



The Daniel 11 Symposium at the Berrien Springs Village Church brought a dynamic blend of scholars and laypeople. A beautiful spirit was sensed between participants with opposing viewpoints, all drawn together by a bond much deeper than their interpretation of Daniel 11.



The Lake Union Herald's digital reach exploded in 2019. Our website welcomed some 40,000 visits; Facebook and Instagram followers to our page jumped five-fold and the Vimeo channel saw a spike. As we continue to expand our digital efforts, we pause to say, "Thank you."

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Let's Stay in Touch!



Your Best Pathway to Health mega clinic comes to Indianapolis, April 8–10. When the event was held three years ago in Los Angeles, they served many people in need, but still fell short. What happened and how can we avoid a similar situation in Indy?

vimeo.com/lakeunionherald

New videos added on a regular basis



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As a member of the Denominational Prayer Leader's Network and America's National Prayer Committee, I have the privilege to pray with, and for, new and dear friends. As diverse as we are (denominationally and politically), the one thing that brings us together is our desire for Christ to lead each of us to be more in line with His perspective and His agenda. May I recommend that you expand your prayer circle to include Christ's *other sheep, not of this fold* (John 10:16 KJV)? You can be a blessing, and I predict you will receive a blessing.


Gary Burns
Editor



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A Modern Day Joseph

The Bible is replete with stories of divinely chosen examples of ordinary people who worked in modest positions in society whom God used for His glory, people who saw themselves too small to be used by God.



▲ Maurice Valentine

The Bible is replete with stories of divinely chosen examples of ordinary people who worked in modest positions in society whom God used for His glory, people who saw themselves as too small to be used by God.

Yet God also uses people in high places, too! For instance, Joseph, Esther, Daniel and Nehemiah, just to name a few, were people whom God strategically placed in high positions of responsibility to be a blessing to others. Recently I had the privilege to meet such a person. His name is Joe Simpson. But I'll share more about the exciting things God accomplished through Joe in just a bit.

The Lake Union Conference is working closely with the Indiana and Lake Region conferences to prepare to host the General Conference Session in Indianapolis this year. Therefore, last year we convened a meeting of as many key leaders in the Indianapolis area as our local conferences could suggest to receive their counsel as to whether having a "Your Best Pathway to Health" (Pathway) event in Indianapolis would be of value to their city. Moreover, if so, would they support by assisting with raising funds for the event? When the committee of roughly 15 people met in Indianapolis, they did indeed give great counsel and, at the close of the meeting, after viewing a video on Pathway and what it has done through the years to bless those who are less fortunate, the 15 expressed strong support for an effort to raise funds to support a Pathway initiative in Indianapolis.

If you are not familiar with Pathway, they conduct citywide medical and dental screenings and procedures

for underserved communities across the nation for upwards of 5,000 to 7,000 people over two or three days, typically held in a stadium. Dr. Randy Griffin, who hosts a smaller mobile dental clinic across the Lake Union, stated that the people served at our LUC dental clinics often ask, "What's the catch? Is this really free?" to which his team replies, "Yes, it's absolutely free!"

After the exploratory meeting concluded, City Councilman Joe Simpson sprang to his feet. I'll never forget his big smile and great enthusiasm for the Pathway project. He stated, "This is just what our city needs! I'm going to get you in to see the mayor!"

Councilman Simpson did not disappoint. Within months, a select group of the Pathway leadership team met with Joe Hogsett, mayor of Indianapolis, where the same video was shown. I'm told the mayor was moved and became a strong advocate for the Pathway endeavor. Subsequently, the mayor requested that the Lucas Oil Stadium (the same place where the Indianapolis Colts play and the General Conference Session will be held) be provided to Pathway free of charge. Do you have any idea as to how much a stadium of that size and importance would typically cost for three days? Suffice it to say, it's not a small figure.

After the request was made, several months passed with no answer. However, midyear, I was in a convention center for meetings when two representatives from Pathway darted toward me as they excitedly said, "Have you heard the news?!" They were elated because the request to use the stadium for free was granted. Needless to say, I was grateful for God's approbative smile on our meager effort to serve those who



▲ Joseph Simpson

can't afford the services that Pathway provides. I'm excited that God still places His people in high places to bless His people. Now, when I say bless "His people," I'm not just speaking of us. I am fortunate to have both medical and dental coverage. However, I'm speaking of the man who rides the bus every day to work because he can't afford a car on his multiple part-time salaries; or the woman who works three part-time jobs, yet still can't afford health coverage; or the retiree who has no dental coverage.

Today our young adults are focused on social justice. Thank God our beginnings as a church are deeply rooted in wholistic care, meeting the needs of the masses — much like Jesus who spent more time healing than preaching or teaching. We are treading in His footsteps whenever we champion the cause of the less fortunate and serve their needs socially, physically, educationally and, yes, spiritually, as the greatest need of all is to know Jesus

Our history solidly demonstrates that we have been there to meet the needs of the underserved communities of the world through our hospitals, dispensaries and clinics, or through wells dug in parched lands. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention the many schools and churches erected around the globe by people young, and young at heart, who have gone abroad as missionaries to places where the name of Jesus Christ had never been heard. Thank God for our healthcare systems around the globe that began right here in the Lake Union. Consider our medical missionaries who have gone overseas to serve people much less fortunate: to restore sight to the blind by removing cataracts, reconstructing cleft palates so children can smile

from ear to ear, and preaching the gospel of liberty to all who are bound by sin and shame.

And what about missions right here at home? There are people in our communities who can't read, don't speak our native tongue, don't know how to use a computer, don't have enough money to get a professional haircut, still need basic clothing or suits in which to go on job interviews, or just go to church! Maybe you can't go abroad, but what can you sacrifice for Jesus' cause right here at home? Can you volunteer to teach a computer class at one of our schools? Do you have a favorite sportcoat or purse you could part with for the sake of someone else's well-being? Can you advocate for others who don't know how to speak up for themselves?

Historically, we have been a very socially conscious people having taught former slaves how to read just after their emancipation. Still today, our church provides nationally recognized disaster relief services right here at home, not to mention abroad. Yet, maybe we're not as engaged with the disadvantaged or disenfranchised as we used to be. Does anyone remember Ingathering in the cold of winter, all for the less fortunate? These are the experiences I loved as a young person. Each time we left the four walls of our church, it was an adventure in faith that lessened my focus on self and helped me to be aware of others.

Three thousand volunteers are needed for Pathway, the majority of which are not healthcare professionals, although they are critical to its success. Remember, God uses ordinary people, too! Would you prayerfully consider joining me as a volunteer for the Pathway event at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on April 8 to 10? You can register by going to: pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org. At this website, former Pathway volunteers, both medical and non-medical, give testimonials, saying it is the best experience they have ever had in life! If you can't come, you can give to help one or more people who are less fortunate than you. Just contact us, and we'll tell you how you can contribute.

Finally, as we prepare to welcome the World Church to the Union where the Seventh-day Adventist Church was birthed, please join me in reading our book of the year for 2020 — *The Great Controversy*. ■

Maurice Valentine is president of the Lake Union Conference

Make Room for Prayer

Majestic cathedrals always have inspired me to think through the symbolism they often represent — from the stories that sculptures tell or stained glass windows show. However, the bells have been a fascination as of late.



▲ Ingrid Weiss Slikkers

Historically, some churches will ring their church bells three times a day, starting at 6 a.m., then at noon and again at 6 p.m. The bells ring to summon the Christian faithful to recite the Lord’s Prayer at these times. We know Daniel prayed three times a day. These hours might have been the hours that the Jews still continue to pray, starting at first hour (6 a.m.), mid-morning (9 a.m.), sixth hour (12 noon) and the ninth hour (3 p.m.). Psalm 55:17 says, *Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice* (NKJV).

In further reading, I found that in years past the church bells would ring right before prayer during a service so that those who were ill and unable to attend could join the prayer in spirit upon hearing the bells. Other sources describe the belief that church bells ringing could drive out demons and hence the need for consistent times to have the bell ringer climb the tower. Bells rang in times of celebration and, if needed, in times of attack so that people could seek safety.

I grew up as a “PK” (Preacher’s Kid). I could relate various stories of the stressors and reasons preachers’ kids struggle with the church and even their spirituality. I have people asked me, “How come you and your siblings never rebelled, but have stayed actively in the church?” The questions have caused me to ponder and surmise that there were probably various reasons why we stayed. However, one variable must be named — we were prayed for, and we knew it. While attending academy, I would walk by my parents’ room in the evening and see my dad kneeling by the bed. I just *knew* he was praying for something regarding me, and this was both

mortifying and strengthening. While my siblings and I were in college, my parents told us that they would pray for us at noon specifically. More often than not, when noon rolled around, I again *knew* they were praying and felt humbled, sometimes feeling shameful, yet also encouraged that they were bringing me before the throne of God. I could picture them kneeling in the living room, holding hands, with heads bowed.

I have at times struggled with the concept of assigning specific times to prayer during the day as I believe our day should be a constant conversation with our Father and more organic. However, I have come to realize that in my constant hurriedness, I must make prayer intentional. Even though I begin my day with prayer, over the last few months I have set “bells” on my phone that daily cause me to stop and pray at certain times. Some of those times are assigned to my kids and they know that. My father often refers me back to the illustration of Job and his prayers for all his children and the offering of sacrifices. That took quite a bit of intentionality. In this New Year, as I schedule this, that and the other, I must ask myself, “Do I make room for intentional prayer?” ■

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

Motion is Medicine

On average, each American spends about \$1,000 per year on pharmaceuticals. This puts the United States in first place in the world for usage of pharmaceuticals.

In fact, it is 40 percent more than what the next country (Canada) spends. America also ranks number one in usage of antipsychotics, drugs for dementia, respiratory problems and rheumatoid arthritis. [Source: <https://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/Health-at-a-Glance-2013.pdf>]

One of the reasons for this could be that rates of chronic disease, such as heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease and others, are greater than in other developed countries due to high levels of obesity, lack of physical activity and unhealthy nutrition.

It is amazing how willing we are to spend tremendous amounts of money on medication, and yet we are so unwilling to consider alternative ways to treat and prevent disease (where possible). One of the cheapest (in fact, free!) and most effective forms of medicine is physical activity!

Movement of the human body is extremely powerful and provides so many physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual benefits. Research proves that not only can physical activity prevent chronic disease and illness, it can actually assist with treatment of disease and improve quality of life. According to the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), regular physical activity can provide the following benefits in relation to chronic disease:

- Lower the risk of stroke by 27 percent
- Reduce the incidence of heart disease and high blood pressure by approximately 40 percent
- Reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease by approximately 40 percent
- Reduce mortality and the risk of recurrent breast cancer by approximately 50 percent
- Lower the risk of colon cancer by over 60 percent

- Lower the risk of developing Type II Diabetes by 58 percent
 - Active individuals in their 80s have a lower risk of death than inactive individuals in their 60s
- These are powerful statistics to showcase how physical activity can play a key role in preventing the development or recurrence of chronic diseases. Some benefits of physical activity include:

- Better control of body fat
- Improved sleep
- Increased energy levels
- Improved psychological and emotional well being
- Increased muscular strength and endurance

While working with severely obese patients and treating them with lifestyle medicine (physical activity, healthy nutrition, stress management, etc.), I witnessed many people who suffered from chronic disease, improve symptoms, reduce medication intake and improve their quality of life many times. Patients were able to get off blood pressure medication, anti-depressants, cholesterol medication, inhalers and many other drugs that, although they help the symptoms, can be detrimental to the person’s overall well being.

One key lesson to learn is that most medications treat the symptoms (which is sometimes necessary); however, they do not usually treat the cause of the ailment. Using physical activity as medicine can treat symptoms and it can treat the cause of the ailment. Movement of the human body is powerful — the body was designed to be in motion in order to function to the best of its ability. ■

To access more resources, please visit: dominiquegummelt.com.

Dominique Gummelt, PhD, CPT, CWP, is director of Health and Wellness at Andrews University.



▲ Dominique Gummelt

What About the Trinity? — 3

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...? You have not lied to man but to God” (Acts 5:3, 4, RSV).



▲ George R. Knight

In spite of the Bible’s clarity on the topic, early Adventism had failed to recognize the personhood and the full divinity of the Holy Spirit. That would have disastrous consequences for the denomination by the end of the nineteenth century.

But first we need to recognize that the 1890s saw more written about the Holy Spirit and Christ than perhaps any decade in Adventist history. That was only natural once they began to talk about righteousness by faith and the centrality of Christ in salvation. After all, if Christ does the saving, then it is important to have a Christ adequate for the task. And if the Holy Spirit is a key player in the process one should expect to speak of His function. It is no accident that discussion of the Godhead erupted in Adventism in the 1890s.

But Adventists weren’t the only people then talking about the Holy Spirit. The Wesleyan holiness denominations with their emphasis on faith healing and

victorious living emerged during those years, and the turn of the new century would see the rise of modern Pentecostalism. Both movements had a great deal to say about the work of the Spirit in people’s lives and in the church. At the other end of the theological spectrum, liberal Christians had begun developing a renewed interest in such spirit-related theories as the immanence of God and the ideas of such Eastern religions as Hinduism, with its pantheistic perspective that everything that exists is God.

Adventism, with its lack of a correct understanding on such topics, would be deeply affected by the movements in the larger religious world. On the one hand, at the turn of the century it would have its own Pentecostal outbreak in the Holy Flesh movement, which proclaimed that even your missing teeth would grow back before Christ returned so that you could have *perfect flesh*. On the other hand, Waggoner and J.H. Kellogg would get caught up in Pantheism, Waggoner claiming to the General Conference sessions of 1897 and 1899, for example, that Christ “appeared as a tree” and that “a man can get righteousness in bathing, when he knows where the water comes from.”

Talk about confusion.

It is into that context that God led Adventism into its next step in the progressive pathway of present truth.

God had a message for His people on the Godhead. But they needed to study their Bibles to discover it.

George R. Knight is a retired professor of Church History at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. This article is from his book, Lest We Forget, a daily devotional, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, page 289.

How Long Do You Pray?

Teenagers have a way of surprising you with their questions. John’s penetrating question certainly surprised me. “Pastor, how long do you pray?” he asked. “I mean, how many hours each day do you spend with God?”

As I pondered my answer, a number of thoughts flooded into my mind. Would John judge my spirituality by the amount of time I prayed each day? If I prayed three hours a day, was I somehow more righteous in his mind than if I prayed 15 minutes a day? With that logic, if I really wanted to be super-righteous, should I retreat from society altogether and spend all of my waking moments in prayer? Another real possibility was that John would judge his own relationship with God by my response. Would he feel guilty because he might not spend the same time with God that I did?

My young friend was really asking a much deeper question: “How can I know God? How can I experience His presence and power in my life? How can I have a meaningful relationship with Him?”

Ellen White put it this way: “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 93).

There are two things especially significant about this statement. First, prayer is not necessarily about time — it’s about a relationship with a friend: friends spend time together. Consistency in our prayer lives is critically important. It is difficult to maintain a close relationship with a friend you rarely spend time with. Jesus’ life was bathed in prayer (see Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16). He spent time with His Father. Through prayer we enter the very presence of God. Through prayer He gives us glimpses of His love, concern, grace, wisdom and power.

Second, one of the big challenges in prayer is that our minds tend to wander. It is difficult to maintain a conversation with someone whom we cannot see and who does not verbally respond. But conversations with friends go both ways. They speak, we listen; we speak, they listen.

Here is a meaningful way I have attempted to overcome this “communication gap” in prayer. Some of my most significant times with God have been in the quietness of my study, when I’ve knelt with my Bible open and poured out my heart to Him. The psalms have been a particular inspiration. After praying for a few moments, I’ll read a psalm and let God speak to me through His Word. The Bible becomes the subject matter of my prayers. Praying aloud with my Bible open has focused my mind on God during my times of devotion. Reading a passage of Scripture, meditating on it, and praying over it has transformed my devotional life from a passive obligation to an active adventure with God.

Pastor, how long do you pray? My prayer life is not measured in minutes or hours; it is determined by my relationship with God. The goal of my devotional life is to enter the presence of God daily. Each day I want to know that I have fellowship with Jesus. On some days I spend a longer time with God than others. The critical question is not *How long have you spent praying today?* It is *Have you met God today?* ■

Mark A. Finley was editor-at-large of the Adventist Review when this article was first published December 9, 2010.



▲ Carol Beal is working on a miniature version of Joseph Bates' house.

Building a Miniature House Ministry

Carol Beal, a former missionary to Rwanda and long-time Berrien Springs resident, has embarked upon a unique means of using her artistic skills to inspire others and further God's cause. She has manifested her proficiency in arts and crafts in different ways for much of her life. Around the turn of the millennium, Carol directed her attention to the design and construction of scale-model dollhouses. More recently, her hobby evolved into ministry as she carried her efforts to the development of replicas of architectural structures pertinent to Seventh-day Adventist history.

As Carol welcomed me into her home, she introduced me to her current project — Joseph Bates' house in Fairhaven, Massachusetts — which is progressing nicely. Merlin Burt, director of the Center for Adventist Research, requested this particular piece. Bates introduced the early Adventists to the biblical veracity of the

seventh-day Sabbath. The room closest to completion in Carol's model is the parlor, which is quite exquisite and indicates the family's affluence stemming from Joseph's father's involvement in politics. She showed me the source book from which she retrieved photographic and written perspectives that shaped her vision.

Carol's first project was James and Ellen White's house in Battle Creek. An amusing example of her meticulous attention to historical context was the little mouse she planted in the corner of the meal room, reflecting how advanced pest control is now, compared to the 1800s. Overall, she wants to highlight authenticity — the reality of the more primitive environment, the humanness of our forerunners, including Ellen and others.

The house has been on display at the Ellen G. White Visitor Center at the General Conference Headquarters since 2015, soon after its initial, mass-public presentation at the GC Session in San Antonio. As much organic gusto as Carol has for this work, what has buoyed her even further are the reports she receives of the admiring feedback voiced by scores of patrons of the Center. According to staff, the volume of this feedback has been equitable to that of the "Christ of the Narrow Way" mural (depicting the prophet's first vision).

Carol's other main project was the Washington (New Hampshire) Church, considered the first local church in denominational history. She credits Burt, the late Stan Hickerson, her former pastor in Stevensville, Michigan, and several others for assisting her in this endeavor. So far, her Stevensville Church family have been privileged with the first sneak peek at her finished products before the broader unveilings.

Besides the motivation to dig deeper into our church's history that these projects have provided, Carol's benchmark of fulfillment, in many ways, has been sharing this work with her husband, Orville. Her creative flair has combined with his expertise in carpentry in an impressive, synergistic manner. Since 2016, Orville has shared a particular commonality with our pioneers, as well as Pastor Stan: sleeping in peaceful anticipation of that glorious resurrection morning. Carol plans to invest as much time and energy as she can spare to continue this work, thus, with fresh, tangible vigor, pointing our attention, as well as her own, to the great advent hope. ■

John Simon, Michigan-based freelance writer

La oración y la reforma

“Del lugar secreto de oración fue de donde vino el poder que hizo estremecerse al mundo en los días de la gran Reforma. Allí, con santa calma, se mantenían firmes los siervos de Dios sobre la roca de sus promesas. Durante la agitación de Augsburgo, Lutero ‘no dejó de dedicar tres horas al día a la oración; y este tiempo lo tomaba de las horas del día más propicias al estudio’. En lo secreto de su vivienda se le oía derramar su alma ante Dios con palabras ‘de adoración, de temor y de esperanza, como si hablara con un amigo’” (*El conflicto de los siglos*, p. 222, 223).

Martín Lutero, uno de los más grandes líderes de la Reforma Protestante, es conocido mundialmente. Al leer sobre de la vida de este gran reformador en *El Conflicto de los Siglos* uno ve cómo lo usó el Señor para dar a conocer una de las grandes verdades de la Palabra de Dios - la justificación por la fe. Pero lo que muchos no saben es el énfasis que Lutero hacía en la oración. Él decía ser un hombre tan ocupado que sentía la necesidad de orar tres horas cada día para estar en comunión con Dios. ¡Qué ejemplo hermoso nos da Lutero de la importancia de la oración!

En la actualidad existe una gran necesidad de un nuevo movimiento de reforma enfocado en la oración. En vista de ello la Unión del Lago ha organizado un Congreso de Oración que se llevará a cabo los días 6 y 7 de marzo de 2020 en el Embassy Suites Hotel y Event Center en la ciudad de Plainfield, Indiana. En esa ocasión nos dedicaremos a orar por nuestras iglesias, los jóvenes, los líderes de iglesia, las varias iniciativas de evangelismo y por las sesiones de la Asociación General que se llevarán a cabo en el mes de junio en la ciudad de Indianapolis.

El costo de la inscripción temprana para el Congreso de Oración es \$65. Después del 28 de enero de 2020

será \$75. Para inscribirse pueden ir al sitio web www.ourunitedcry.org.

Deseo informarles también que hace ya algún tiempo los coordinadores hispanos y su servidor hemos pensado y orado acerca de la posibilidad de realizar un viaje a lugares que animarían a nuestro pueblo hispano a acercarse más a Dios. Después de varias reuniones hemos decidido organizar junto con Pan de Vida Travel un viaje a Europa para visitar lugares históricos donde nació la Reforma Protestante tales como Roma, Florencia, Ginebra, Zurich, Worms, Wittenburg y Berlín. Este viaje se realizará del 18 al 30 de octubre de 2020. El costo es \$2,999, lo que incluye pasaje, hospedaje y comidas. Creemos que este viaje será de gran bendición. Animamos a nuestros lectores a que reserven su espacio desde ahora. Para obtener más información pueden hablar con su pastor e ir al sitio web www.travel.ppvida.com.

Como ven, se trata de dos eventos muy especiales que se realizarán en este año 2020 enfatizando la necesidad de acercarse a Dios. Esperamos que nos puedan acompañar. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



▲ Carmelo Mercado



For more on Carol's story, visit: [Vimeo.com/lakeunionherald](https://vimeo.com/lakeunionherald)

A traffic stop. An unexpected request.

By Shannon Kelly

JERMAINE GAYLE WAS IN A HURRY.

It was Friday, the end of a long week, and he had overslept. Jermaine, program director for the Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students (CAMPUS), was scheduled for an 8 a.m. Bible study with his friend, Jason. By the time he hopped in his car, he was already running 20 minutes late to his office near Michigan State University. As he raced to his destination, Jermaine failed to notice a stop sign. Thankful there was no accident, he hoped no one else had seen him run the stop sign — but someone did. Without skipping a beat, a police car a few meters away turned on its flashing lights.

MY PRAYER IS THAT GOD WOULD CONTINUE TO ALLOW US TO SEE BEYOND OUR CURRENT SITUATIONS, AND TO ALLOW HIM TO WORK HIS PERFECT WILL IN OUR LIVES EACH DAY.

“I’m only four minutes away.

This is not good!” Jermaine thought miserably. He sat in his car and waited for the officer’s interrogation.

“Do you know why I pulled you over?”

“Yes,” Jermaine responded resignedly.

“Are you in a hurry?” the officer inquired. Jermaine explained his tumultuous morning and, with a smile, the officer re-

sponded, “Don’t worry, this won’t take too long.”

After waiting for what seemed like an eternity, the officer came back with more questions. Jermaine explained that he served as one of the pastors of the University Seventh-day Adventist Church, that he was involved in student ministry and was on his way to study the Bible with a friend. The officer seemed genuinely interested and, to Jermaine’s surprise, he handed back his driver’s license and insurance papers, saying, “Here is my business card. I am the coordinator for the Chaplaincy Department in the City of East Lansing. If

you are ever interested in doing a ride-along with the police department, let me know.”

Jermaine was amazed, and a little confused. “A ride-along?” This opportunity to ride with officers and understand the communities’ needs through their lens was a godsend.

“Me, a sinner?” This was one of the most awkward answers to prayer Jermaine ever experienced.

It was only months ago that Jermaine had made it a point to pray for the city he served and worshipped in. He always thought that serving people who are involved in shaping and leading his local city was important and had been praying that God would provide some opportunity to meet these individuals so as to foster a good relationship. That morning, God seemed to provide an opportunity in the midst of humiliation, a stark reminder that He is ultimately in charge of everything.

Later that day, Jermaine sent an email to the police officer, Steve Whelan. For several weeks, there was no response until one day, while helping a church member unload some things from her car, he saw a police car pull into the church’s driveway. It was Officer Whelan. The two talked for a while and, as Jermaine showed him around, the officer again indicated that he wanted to connect for the ride-along. An appointment was set.

When Jermaine walked into the police department, ready to ride side by side with Officer Whelan, he was a little surprised that Whelan took extra time to give a station tour and introduce him to the leaders. Over and over, Officer Whelan would jokingly tell the story of how Jermaine was pulled over after running a stop sign. “Each time the story was told, I felt more humbled but realized that God was doing something special that I could not possibly take credit for,” said Jermaine.

It wasn’t long after this that Jermaine would come to realize the remarkable opportunity God was

orchestrating. The East Lansing Police Department would later extend an offer for Jermaine to join the department as chaplain!

It has been a few months now. Each time Jermaine sits in a police car, he says he’s thankful for the opportunity to serve. “Having done a few ride-alongs, I am learning a new culture; my eyes are being open to new needs in my community. My prayers are being answered by a God who cares for and extends grace to me as a pastor and to those in uniform who strive to keep us safe.

“My prayer is that God would continue to allow us to see beyond our current situations, and to allow Him to work His perfect will in our lives each day. I am often reminded of this experience; each time, I ask the Lord to take me and use me in whatever ways He sees fit.”

For information on the work of CAMPUS, visit: <https://campushope.com/>. ■

Shannon Kelly is a freelance writer.



Courtesy of Jermaine Gayle

◀ Program director for the Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students (CAMPUS) Jermaine Gayle with East Lansing Police Officer, Steve Whelan.



Christian Citizenship Today

By Nicholas Miller

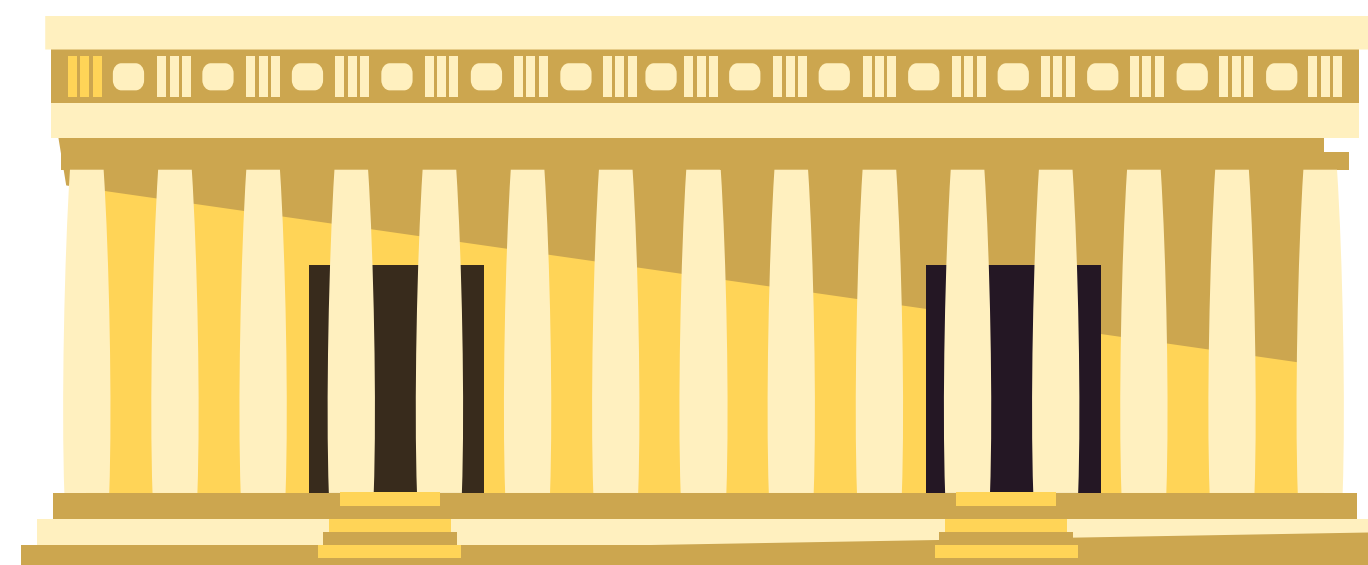
We all know that Jesus kept out of politics. Ellen White tells us that “the Savior attempted no civil reforms” and “kept aloof from earthly governments.” The cure for human woes, she said, “must regenerate the heart” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 510). So a generation or two of Adventists have sat outside of political activism, and focused on private efforts of evangelism, education and health reform.

But the picture on the cover of this month’s *Herald* reminds us of an image familiar to most. Ever since early Sabbath School, we have seen pictures of Jesus wielding a whip of cords, striding into the temple, overthrowing tables, and chasing out moneychangers and priests. But this, we have mentally argued, is Christ cleansing His temple — the church, if you will — not anything to do with earthly *politics*.

Yet, once one understands the combination of social, economic, spiritual and, yes, even political interests that coincided at the

temple in Jesus’ day, one can see that Jesus did enter into what we today would term politics. The Greeks understood politics as anything relating to the *polis*, to the city, to the public space. The temple, at least the outer courtyards, was certainly a public space in Christ’s day.

Christ’s entry and overthrow of the temple’s activity was a direct challenge to the political, economic and spiritual powers that had conspired to make this spiritual space one of great social and financial inequality. Christ, we are told, was provoked to His



Can we not allow the principles of our religion to guide our Christian citizenship?

task by the oppression of those “who were suffering,” “in want and distress,” “the blind, the lame, the deaf” (DA 157).

Just to be clear that His actions were not some kind of accident or isolated exception, Christ again cleansed the temple at the end of His ministry. Here, Ellen White highlights the failure of the priests to care for the poor and displaced. “Cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow” (DA 592).

Jesus’ second cleansing of the temple was one of the direct causes of His capture and crucifixion by the Jews and Romans just a few days later. Purely private piety rarely, if ever, threatens the civil and spiritual powers. It was Christ’s taking His teachings and actions into the polis, the public space of His community, that caused Him to be perceived as a threat to the spiritual and political leadership of the Jews.

Do we take the principles of our worship, our Bible study, our Sabbath-keeping, into the public spaces of our world? Are we ever considered a threat to those that oppress the poor, marginalized and suffering? Can we not allow the principles of our religion to guide our Christian citizenship? Or would doing this be attempting an improper “civil reform?”

Examined in context, White’s injunction against “civil reforms” and in favor of “staying aloof” from government should be understood as instructions to stay out of partisan, party politics, i.e., not lining up with or promoting one party or another. It is interesting that Ellen White herself worked on a number of civil moral reforms in her lifetime.

Prominent among them was her advocacy on behalf of laws prohibiting the sale and use of alcohol, as well as her speaking, writing and activism on behalf of slaves, and later of freed slaves. She was strongly in favor of us both speaking to and voting on moral issues (Ellen G. White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 387), and is reliably reported to instruct members to “vote on the Sabbath day for prohibition if you cannot at any other time” (*Women of Vision*, p. 203).

What would it look like if Adventists took the principles of Sabbath rest, peace, equality and justice out into the public square, making a difference in our world today? The articles in this issue aim to provide at least partial answers to that important question. ■

Nicholas Miller is the Lake Union Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director.

Christians, Liberty and Justice Today

By David Hamstra

The “Jesus and Politics: Christians, Liberty and Justice Today” conference convened the evening of Thursday, October 17, 2019, on the campus of Andrews University.

The keynote address was by Christian scholar and activist, Jim Wallis, of Sojourners. Conference-organizer, Nicholas Miller, introduced Wallis as a “cousin” to Adventists via his Plymouth Brethren roots. Miller, Lake Union counsel and director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, and professor of Church History at Andrews University, introduced the theme of the conference by pointing out that politics simply means those “matters of public concern” to members of the *polis*, the “community of citizens.” He noted that “our [Adventist] pioneers were actively involved in matters that today we would call ‘politics,’ but they viewed as moral issues,” pointing to the abolition and temperance movements.

In the spirit of recovering that Adventist tradition of moral political involvement, Wallis was invited to present the topic of his latest book, *Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*. He began his remarks by observing that our common ground in the ideas of the Radical Reformers means that he, like Adventists, believes in the separation of church and state. But he hastened to add that separation of

church and state does not imply “the segregation of moral values from public life.” And he believes that American politics is in a moral crisis because we have leaders appealing to our worst motives and a citizenry whose voting can be predicted based on what demographic categories into which they happen to fall.

For Wallis, that socio-political trap was laid around him during his early upbringing in post-war Detroit. He grew up in a White neighborhood, went to a White church, and lived in a White bubble where interactions with Blacks happened only for specific purposes. As a teenager, he started to ask questions about segregation at church but was told that questions like that would get him “in trouble.” “*They were right*” about that, he wryly observed.

So the young Wallis pursued the answers to those questions outside of that church. He went to Black churches, got jobs with Black men, and soon “realized that we were born in the same city but lived in different countries.” For example, he learned that Black mothers would tell their children that, if they were lost and saw a policeman, they were to

« Illustration by Sarah Duvivier »

hide until he went away and then find their way home. Because the police at that time, while they would help White children find their way home, were arresting Black children (in the same condition) for loitering.

Wallis raised these issues at his childhood church and was told that racism was a political issue, that Christianity only dealt with personal problems. So, he left the church behind for a life of a campus radical. Seeking to ground his views, he read Marx, Guevarra and Ho Chi Minh, but was unsatisfied. Then he picked up the New Testament to “give Jesus one more try,” and realized that he had never heard a sermon like the Sermon on the Mount in the church in which he grew up. When he got to Matthew 25 (the “it was me” chapter), “it brought me to Christ as an activist,” he confessed, because “I’d never read anything so radical” in the other social thinkers he studied.

In Wallis’ subsequent studies at an evangelical seminary in Chicago, he further developed the biblical basis for what he had already seen in the gospels: that while our relationship with God is irreducibly “personal,” it is never a purely “private” matter. It has public implications. For Wallis, “the privatizing of Christianity is the White American heresy.”

This raised the question of how to be Christian in public as it relates to politics. Wallis’ answer for Americans was, “Don’t go left; don’t go right. Go deeper.” And the example of Jesus can show us how that is done.

Wallis’ latest book is structured around questions Jesus was asked in the gospels which, upon careful study, turn out to have political connections. For example, when Jesus was asked whether He was going to pay the tax to Caesar, that raised the issue of separation of church and state. By asking whose image was on the coin, Jesus highlighted the distinction between our obligations to the government, and to God in Whose image we all are made.

Romans 13 teaches that the government has a limited function to “protect the good and punish the evil.” But it is to fulfill this function morally, not cruelly. “Kids in cages isn’t Romans 13,” protested Wallis. Sometimes, like Jesus overturning tables in the temple, we need to disrupt the symbols of power in order to stand up against wrongs.

Wallis concluded with the need for Christians to be salt and light in politics. He compared the preservative

properties of salt to the conservative impulse to preserve “values” that are good for society. He spoke of liberal calls to reform as a shining of light on dark deeds. For Wallis, Jesus’s twin challenge to His followers is to “preserve the things that need preserving” and at the same time to no longer tolerate that which is “no longer tolerable.”

The next morning, David Trim, director of General Conference Archives, Statistics and Research, presented on how certain Adventist missionaries, of which the Stahls in Peru are the best studied, empowered indigenous peoples to overcome intolerable political conditions. Trim showed that for Adventist missionaries in the early 20th century, the ministry of healing and education had a political dimension that equipped and even encouraged oppressed peoples to resist their post-colonial overlords. In the following address, Timothy Golden, professor of Philosophy at Walla Walla University, called our attention to the fact that Seventh-day Adventists did not follow through on this inspired agenda at home when the opportunity presented itself during the civil rights movement. He called on his church to renew the prophetic critique of America that, when presented from Revelation 13, first attracted him to Adventism as a young, African-American law student.

In the breakout sessions that followed, participants who attended a panel organized by conference-organizer Melissa Reid, North American Division associate director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, heard from a policy advisor with a gay rights organization and a board member of an advocacy group for private, non-profit, post-secondary institutions about how they are working together to advance “Fairness for All” legislation at the federal level. Many Christians do not realize that sexual minorities have no protection from discrimination under American federal law. Todd McFarland, General Conference Associate general counsel, explained how the Seventh-day Adventist view of the separation of church and state has led the General Conference to partner with those and other organizations to develop the proposed Fairness Act. Such legislation has the goal of protecting the religious liberty of those who uphold traditional sexual ethics while also protecting sexual minorities from discrimination in areas such as housing and employment. Other breakout sessions dealt with topics ranging from constitutional law to sexual abuse.

On Friday night, Ronald Sider, professor of Theology at Palmer Theological Seminary, provided a keynote address from the perspective of another of our Adventist cousins, the Mennonites. In a lecture that afternoon, he had argued for a thoroughgoing pacifism based on the example of Jesus and the failure of “just war” theory to prevent unjust wars among Christians. We learned that this was one implication of his consistent pro-life ethic, which also involved rejecting harmful substances, abortion and euthanasia. He sketched a method developed in his book, *Just Politics*, for arriving at such conclusions that account for philosophy, history, science, politics and the normative role of Scripture.

On Sabbath morning, Claudia Allen, PhD student and content manager of *Message Magazine*, preached a sermon that drew lessons for our political involvement from Jesus’ encounter with the collectors of the temple tax. She found that Jesus never offended for provocation’s sake, but also that the freedom we have in Jesus is a freedom to serve those who are offended when the church fails to minister to their practical needs as Jesus did.

The conference concluded on Sabbath afternoon with two addresses on politics and the prophetic identity of the Adventist movement by conference-organizers Michael Nixon, vice president for Diversity at Andrews University, and Miller. Miller applied the interpretation of the latter-day kings of the North and South in Daniel 11 as symbols of a contest between secularism (spiritual Egypt) vs. Catholicism (spiritual Rome) to the divide in contemporary American politics between secular progressivism and Christian-nationalist conservatism. Pointing out that neither is a satisfactory option for Adventists, he called for us to apply Revelation 13, not only to the past (nineteenth-century Sunday laws) and the future crises over the Sabbath, but to the present state of affairs in America. By developing, like our pioneers, a clear-eyed view of America’s perennial lamb-like and dragon-like qualities, we can fulfill the mission God has for His end-time people without compromising our identity to political false-alternatives. ■

David Hamstra is the senior pastor of the Edmonton Central Church (Alberta, Canada) and a ThD Student in Theological and Historical Studies at Andrews University.



Wallis concluded with the need for Christians to be salt and light in politics.

Jim Wallis' interview with David Hamstra

Jim Wallis is a theologian, activist and editor-in-chief of *Sojourners*. His responses have been edited for conciseness and clarity.

DH: *The example of Jesus is the subject of your book, Christ in Crisis, but we also have the Old Testament, the Bible of Jesus. Going to the Old Testament raises interpretive issues that different Christian communities handle differently, but it seems highly relevant for the question of how Christians should conduct themselves in public life. Can you give an example of how you've drawn on the Old Testament to shape your life's work?*

« Illustration by Sarah Duvivier »

JW: The Hebrew prophets are very clear on holding rulers, princes, government leaders if you will, accountable for how they treat the most vulnerable. The Hebrew word *ger* for refugee or immigrant occurs about ninety times in the Old Testament. And how we treat the refugee/immigrant is a test of our love for God all the way through the Old Testament. The prophets hold political rulers — not just rulers of Israel but other rulers, too — accountable for how they treat the poor. That's the Biblical test of politics, systems and rulers: how they treat the most vulnerable.

DH: *What is the place of the Second Coming of Christ in a Christian vision for public life? As Adventists we are all about the Second Coming. My church's founders took this as a reason to get involved in select political issues, but more recently Adventists have taken Jesus' soon return as an excuse to separate themselves from worldly affairs. How do you avoid the extremes of quietism, on the one hand, and over-realized eschatology, on the other, relative to the Second Coming?*

JW: Excuse is the right word — an excuse for not being responsible. The first verse I learned was John 3:16: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son*. So, in eschatology, the belief that the Kingdom is now and not-yet is critical. We live in the Kingdom now. We act, we live in light of the Kingdom right now in the *world*. But it is also not-yet. It has not come to fulfillment, but we know that the Kingdom will be fulfilled on earth as it is in Heaven. We don't withdraw from the world into quiet piety because of the future. We live in the world now in light of the values of Christ and His Kingdom.

DH: *Would you add a comment on over-realized eschatology in terms of our political expectations?*

JW: How is that interpreted in your tradition?

DH: *We would want to be careful to leave some level of perfection for after Jesus comes and have provisional expectations for the here and now. For example, Adventists might be uncomfortable with language about ending poverty, but doing something for the poor would certainly be within our tradition.*

“Doing something for the poor” — that sounds like charity. Overcoming poverty is central to what the biblical prophets are calling for. There is no perfection, to be sure. But we can accomplish much of this. Social Security really did wipe out a lot of poverty for

a lot of senior citizens. The Civil Rights law ended discrimination at hotels and restaurants for African Americans. We never reach perfection. But it's not a matter of letting systems of the world go on the way they are while we do a little charity on the side. “Charity” is not a biblical word. The biblical word is “establish justice.” We didn't end sin in South Africa, but it wouldn't have been acceptable to tolerate Apartheid and do charity on the side.

DH: *In your book, you try to stake out a position that is deeper than the left/right American political divide based on the normative example of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet it seems that the majority of your critique is focused on one side rather than the other. We always face a temptation to read the politics with which we identify into the Scriptures. Yet there also is a fallacy of both-side-ism, because one side may truly be worse than the other side from God's perspective. What would you say to those who worry your theology has been captured by a certain political position?*

JW: Those who say that are normally Republicans. If anything has captured Christian faith in America, it is political operatives from the Republican party trying to co-opt the evangelicals. That's not hyperbole; that's what the people who did it tell me: Richard Viguerie and the others. The Republicans claim to own religion in America at election time, and the Democrats often don't talk about it. So, I always say, “The right gets it wrong, and the left doesn't get it” [from the subtitle of his book, *God's Politics*].

I don't want a religious left to replace a religious right. I don't want to wrap ideology and politics around my faith. I want my faith to critique politics, parties and candidates. Wrapping politics around faith is what the religious right has done, but Democrats should be more open to listening to the faith community. I disagree with the Democrats focusing on the middle class instead of the poor. And I've been critical of abortion on both sides of the aisle. But the Democratic party has been more sympathetic to lower class people than the Republicans have. The Republicans are the ones who consistently take away programs for the poor while making the wealthy even wealthier. That's a clear distinction between the two parties, and one is more like Jesus than the other in that regard. ■

Jesus Among the Religious Liberty Advocates

By John Simon

On October 17 to 19, 2019, Andrews University hosted the Jesus and Politics Conference, which sought to prompt Christians, especially Seventh-day Adventist Christians, to be reasonably aware of and active in the various goings-on within political, social and economic realms, yet do so upon the bedrock of Christ's character, teachings, example and ultimate culmination of His kingdom.

This prompting is further enhanced by the reality that our church pioneers did not keep their mouths shut or hands under their bottoms as the movement took shape amid the tragic history of slavery and the U.S. Civil War.

The weekend was comprised of several intriguing and insightful plenary sessions, as well as nearly a dozen breakout tracks that covered a range of specific topics. Here's a synopsis of key elements of the religious liberty track, featuring four distinguished panelists: Laura Im (panel chairperson) — Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) director, Michigan Conference; Jonathan Petrick — pastor and PARL director, Wisconsin

Conference; Amireh Al-Haddad — PARL director, Southern Union; Ganoune Diop — PARL director, General Conference.

Some of the marquee themes of the discussion were as follows:

- Laura allocated about ten to twelve minutes to each of the guest representatives to highlight the significant components of their specific activities and overall outlooks related to religious liberty. Jonathan began by summarizing his role as a lobbyist (currently in Madison, Wisconsin's capital; previously in Olympia,

Washington) — one who interacts with government officials, informs them of the impact and ramifications of any given legislation on the public, and encourages them to support and pass laws that uphold basic human rights.

- Jonathan continued by disclosing some of his discovery of the underestimated ubiquity of religious liberty themes in Scripture. In Revelation specifically, the issue transcends chapter 13, the understandable yet myopic focal point of most Adventists. Church-state relations weave through the sequences of churches, seals and trumpets. Furthermore, God's pivotal, climactic call is for His people to come out of Babylon, a religiopolitical, oppressive coalition that is an affront to heavenly values.
- Amireh's aegis spans eight states and well over a quarter-million church members. Sabbath work accommodation cases constitute a sizeable portion of her responsibilities (she's at roughly 3,500 and counting in her 27-year career), and she specifically referenced Quest Diagnostics, a nationwide lab corporation that had changed scheduling protocol, which put many Adventist employees between a rock and a hard place.
- Amireh, with a team of partners, meticulously maintains a living database of elected officials within her region and ensures that they regularly receive *Liberty Magazine*, which has proven to be an effective outreach mechanism. *Waymarks* is an in-church equivalent that has substantial circulation throughout the Union.
- Ganoune commenced by sharing a sobering statistic: about five billion people worldwide do not get to experience religious liberty and its benefits. Additionally, in territories where church and state are unified, marginal and minority religions and their adherents tend to suffer.
- He then posed the question, "What is religious liberty?" He asserted that it is beyond being a constitutional principle, since the codification of appropriate policies is one thing (most nations have freedom-based laws in writing), but the execution thereof is another.
- Ganoune's overarching conviction is that religious liberty is rooted in God and His character. Freedom was God's first gift to humanity at Creation because His desire was to have relationships predicated on one's volitional reciprocity of love. Religious liberty

is a compound freedom that encompasses all other freedoms (civil, speech, thought, etc.).

- These concepts undergird Ganoune's efforts as an earth-trotting ambassador who communicates with foreign governments, develops awareness and sensitivity, promotes religious liberty for SDAs and non-SDAs alike, and helps dispense the clarion call to all humanity to exercise indiscriminate respect and dignity.
- As the format transitioned from opening-monologue to question-and-answer, Laura invited Ganoune to elaborate more on his global perspective and the extents to which religious liberty is either advancing or eroding in any given nation. He started with the premise that religious liberty is proportional to mutual respect. Unfortunately, a drastic increase in nationalism is crowding out the notion of human solidarity. An example he mentioned was Burundi and its puppeteering of a local Adventist church.
- Amireh expressed concern over a troubling trend in our church — too many Adventists are allowing their political and sociological slants to negatively affect their views of Bible prophecy and religious liberty. She cited the National Prayer Caucus and its Project Blitz campaign, which seeks to infuse a more explicit brand of Christianity into legislation.
- Although the officials in Madison are cognizant of Jonathan's affiliation with the Adventist Church, because they also know that he is a pastor, they will relate to him more as their chaplain than as a lobbyist. In both the Midwest and Pacific Northwest, he has noticed a counter-pattern to what Amireh faces in the South — a secular humanist paradigm that covets a form of autonomy and bristles at God or any outside source defining morality.

For more information on religious liberty, <http://www.adventistliberty.org/> is a good pad from which to launch. For more information on the conference, visit <https://www.jesusandpoliticstoday.org/>. Additionally, a hearty handful of video recordings are available at the *Lake Union Herald* Facebook page. ■

John Simon is a Michigan-based freelance writer.



To watch sessions from the Jesus and Politics conference, visit: vimeo.com/lakeunionherald

« Illustration by Sarah Duvivier »

By Nathaniel Gibbs

Jesus Among Theologians and Political Scientists

“Jesus among the Theologians and Political Scientists” was one of three breakout options in the afternoon time slot of the Jesus and Politics conference. The panel included Gary Wood (associate professor of Political Science, Andrews University), Marcella Myers (associate professor of Political Science, Andrews University) and Josh Faehner, (PhD student in Political Science, Wayne State University) and was chaired by John Reeve (assistant professor of Church History, director, PhD (Religion) and ThD programs, Andrews University Seminary).

Although it was advertised as a conversation consisting of theologians and political scientists, the moderator was the only theologian on the panel; however, Reeve noted that Section B was to include theologians on the panel discussion. Thus, this breakout session was really about Jesus among the political scientists. John Reeve started the session by setting the tone of the discussion regarding how we are to do politics as Christians. Using Ron Sider’s book, Reeve suggested that this conference was about “fostering thoughtful, biblical and

sophisticated political engagement.” Reeve left it to the panel to address the challenge of how to build a better approach to Christian politics, Adventist politics.

Gary Wood discussed the problems of politics on the philosophical level. Wood laments the fact that both the left and right have rejected the idea of Locke’s separation of church and state. Wood gives a quick history of why Locke is essential. Locke’s importance, demonstrated by Wood, is that we have rejected Lockean principles. Therefore, we have come to the place where both sides are rejecting not just separation of church and state but the natural law as well. This rejection leads both sides to end in relativism. On the conservative end of the spectrum, they declare that we have a specific right because we are humans or because it is in the Constitution. Therefore, reason can’t tell us anything about morality. On the liberal side of the spectrum, they are constantly changing, altering their stance, because it is progressive, and desire to be on the right side of history. There is no grounding of positions except faith in that the future is better than the past.

The problem, Wood states, is the fact that reason and revelation are combining in morality towards other human beings. But it can only go so far; one can’t give up every right. Even if there is unanimous consent, one can’t give up the right to conscience. If you have no ground for morality, what do you have? The only thing left is just human will. Wood ends his address with the thought that we have a “dogmatic skepticism that leads to tyranny.”

Marcella Myers builds on what Wood has said but wants to tackle politics more practically rather than philosophically. She wants to focus on humans rights and public policy. Justice of God, obligation to God, and temporal justice are not the same things. One needs to render to God and Ceasar, not just taxes but one’s political lives as well. She desires to teach students to think about their responsibilities: how they treat others, and what policies they should adopt. *Love thy neighbor* she described as loving the one who doesn’t look like us. Religion becomes too significant in politics when people try to attain their religious goals through public policy. Politics should not be for specific people. What does religious liberty mean? It means that rules should not be applied only for the benefit of Christians because

regulation could come back on us. It is essential to have underlying values as a Christian, but it also is necessary to articulate them in a secular way in the public sphere for other faiths to practice. Secular policy is not a specific denomination’s work; consequently, policy needs to be secular. Separation of church and state is the only way to maintain democracy and our faith.

Josh Faehner took the conversation a different direction by not focusing on the separation of church and state or natural law, but from where does one get their vision for the “good.” He says that the attempt to access the “good” is well beyond opinion and needs philosophy and theology to aid in solving it. Therefore, political theology helps us see the “good.” One needs to turn to Scripture to access what the “good” is. To claim not to be political is a political claim. You are supporting it if you are not fighting against it. The problem with gleaning from Scripture is that there is a historical chasm. Because of this, one needs to focus on principle, not the policy, and then apply it. Faehner then gives some examples of how this would work, including the *Imago Dei* as a foundation for equality, and the Sermon on the Mount as being full of principles to be applied in politics. His most fascinating example was using Leviticus’ jubilee cycle as a principle for public policy. The jubilee cycle addressed the fact that prosperity appears to stack, and that wealth accumulates. The jubilee is therefore a political solution. This natural tendency for inequality has a check placed on it with the jubilee cycle. For their agrarian society, the essential “good” was land. In our day, could it be argued that healthcare and education would be that necessary “good” that needs restoration?

The question-answer period clarified how one defines the separation of church and state, correcting the notion that one should not be allowed to be Christian in the public sphere, and explaining that framers of the Constitution were hypocrites, but had sound principles about equality. There also was a constant encouragement that we need to take our responsibility to vote seriously and go vote. This responsibility especially needs action on the local level where our voice has more impact. ■

Nathaniel Gibbs is a former pastor currently pursuing a PhD at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

« Illustration by Sarah Duvivier »

AdventHealth physician prescribes plant-based diet to help patients combat chronic disease, feel whole

When Dane* was diagnosed with diabetes, the idea of taking pills and getting insulin shots depressed him. He still considered himself a young man with a lot of life left to live, but junk food was his weakness. As a person of faith, it was the knowledge of a loving God that led Dane to push past his food addictions and, with the help of George Guthrie, MD, MPH, incorporate a plant-based diet into his lifestyle.

“Many people who embrace the plant-based lifestyle will need less medication, and more than a few eventually may not need medication at all,” said Dr. Guthrie.

Dane is a living testament of that transformation and has said so himself, “It is much better to be an evangelist than a diabetic.”

In the U.S., about half of deaths caused by Type 2 diabetes, stroke and heart disease are the result of poor dietary habits, according to a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Dr. Guthrie, an AdventHealth physician who specializes in lifestyle medicine, is determined to help reverse this trend.

Whole Food, Whole Health

Dr. Guthrie uses whole-food, plant-based diets as one of his most common lifestyle prescriptions, an approach he describes in his new health transformation book, *Eat*



▲ George Guthrie, MD, is a board-certified family medicine physician for AdventHealth and author of the book, *Eat Plants Feel Whole*.

Plants Feel Whole. In the book, he shares scientific evidence coupled with his years of expertise to help people understand what to eat more of and the reasons why.

“We now have enough evidence and science to understand the body’s miraculous ability to heal itself through whole-person health,” Dr. Guthrie said. “This includes proper nutrition emphasizing plants and whole foods, as well as movement and the social and emotional dimensions of life.”

Rather than prescribing only medications to manage certain health issues, Dr. Guthrie has found success in addressing the underlying cause of the disease and, in some cases, reversing certain chronic diseases. He uses an approach consistent with CREATION Life, which aims to find

balance in eight key areas of whole-person health: **C**hoice, **R**est, **E**nvironment, **A**ctivity, **T**rust in God, **I**nterpersonal Relationships, **O**utlook and **N**utrition.

Focusing on the Good

Dr. Guthrie’s prescription of a plant-based diet is less restrictive than some may expect. Plant-based does not always equate to strictly vegetarian or vegan but is instead guided by a focus on plants and whole, unprocessed foods as the majority of one’s diet.

Inspired by Romans 12:21, which tells us to *not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good*, Dr. Guthrie hopes to encourage people to move more toward the good rather than build guilt around the bad and list what is forbidden. The focus of his message is to help individuals make positive and healthy choices.

“Choosing a whole-food, plant-based diet means choosing foods that are lower in calories and higher in water, fiber and nutrient density,” Dr. Guthrie wrote. “With this diet and other healthy behaviors, we avoid lifestyle diseases. Importantly, we also age more slowly, and live longer and healthier.”

Eat Plants Feel Whole is available for purchase from Amazon.com, in Adventist Book Centers and at EatPlantsFeelWhole.com. ■

*Name was changed to preserve patient privacy

Ingrid Hernandez, AdventHealth Senior Communications Specialist, Eric Farlow, AdventHealth Communication Specialist

Andrews University awards credit for prior learning

As one of the most culturally diverse universities in the United States, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, Andrews University has the privilege and responsibility to understand international and regional education qualifications in order to make fair admission decisions and award equivalent credits for prior learning. With increasing access to knowledge outside of traditional education settings, the rising cost of higher education, and the mobility of students with more adults studying part-time and online than ever before, Andrews University is responding to 21st-century higher education needs with greater recognition for prior college-level learning. Personal or professional experiences outside of post-secondary education can be assessed for alignment with program and individual class outcomes and credit earned through examination, validation of certification and training, performance evaluation or portfolio assessment.

The number of students admitted to undergraduate programs for the first time who transfer college credit earned through dual enrollment or completing advanced standardized or national exams continues to rise each year. A recent Council on Adult and Experiential Learning study (at CAEL.org) found that students awarded credit for prior college-level learning were 2.5 times more likely to graduate, and these students completed an average of 9.9 more credits at the institution than those who were not awarded credit for prior college-level learning.

As Andrews University evaluated advanced high school studies and several Scandinavian university transcripts, and provided opportunities to earn credit by exam and portfolio assessments, Jonathan Karlsson was able to complete the B.A. in Religion fully online while working in Finland as a global mission pioneer and an evangelist and Bible worker in Sweden.

When Atlanta North School’s reaccreditation required kindergarten teacher, Debbie Bergherm, to upgrade her education, Andrews University’s individualized degree completion plan — developed with support from her principal, conference superintendent and union certification registrar — motivated her to stay focused and finish in record time. Time, money and an Adventist school’s accreditation were saved, thanks to recognizing achievement of program and class outcomes through multiple prior learning assessment methods.

Being a part of the global Adventist education system, Andrews University recognizes prior learning credits earned through all sister institutions accredited through the Adventist Accrediting Association. Emmanuel Nyalety appreciates how Andrews recognized his Valley View University transfer credits and provided a degree completion path that included all the prerequisites for the two master’s degrees, in Software Engineering and Information Technology, he recently finished. While working as a software engineer in Atlanta, he travels with a medical missionary group each summer to Ghana and is writing



Jonathan Karlsson



Emmanuel Nyalety

software to automate medical records for the facilities served in Ghana.

Andrews University’s growing expertise in international credential evaluation and recognition of prior college-level learning, along with the new unified framework of outcomes and aligned Andrews core experience (or general education), opens new doors to Adventist higher education. Jonathan, Debbie and Emmanuel have valued the flexibility and accessibility of an Andrews experience that has increased their ability to go where God leads as world changers. ■

Learn more online at andrews.edu/go/priorlearning, andrews.edu/go/UG-entrance and andrews.edu/go/GR-entrance, or contact Glynis Bradfield, Prior Learning director, at glynisb@andrews.edu or Kerry Ferris, Credential Evaluation specialist, at karenf@andrews.edu.

Glynis Bradfield, Distance Student Services and Prior Learning director, Andrews University

Elementary students learn door-to-door evangelism

Students from the Northview School in Cadillac, Mich., go door to door, asking for donations in exchange for a book throughout the greater Cadillac area.

The Magabook initiative (“books” formatted in large magazine style) is an outreach of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. “This fundraiser not only gives the youth a chance to share wonderful, family-friendly books, but also enables them to learn how to care for, pray with, and be a blessing to those they meet,” said Kamil Metz, director of Literature Evangelism at the Michigan Conference.

Door-to-door book sales has been an outreach program for almost 150 years. With the beginning of the subscription book sales program among Seventh-day Adventists in the 1870s, the need arose for capable people to recruit and train willing people for service.

The pioneer in this important endeavor was George Albert King, the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s first “colporteur” (which became known as literature evangelists in the 1980s). King had the idea — and demonstrated — that books could be sold successfully from house to house. An enthusiasm for book sales to the general public arose from King’s faithful work in this field, and the fire kindled by his effort more than a century ago has never gone out.

“The benefits of ‘Magabooking’ are for everyone,” says Brenda Mejeur, principal at Northview. “We’re getting books into homes that will help more people learn about Jesus; in addition, we are getting GLOW tracts and Strong Tower Radio cards into homes, too. It also helps the students that are doing it ... because it provides money for worthy students and other activities.”



Marcia Mohr

▲ Northview students go door to door in Cadillac, Mich.

Students at Northview were asked how it impacted them. “What I liked about Magabooking is that you get to interact with people outside your neighborhood,” said Daniel Bolduc (fifth-grade). Alex Brinzeiu (third-grade) said, “I like it because it’s sort of like an adventure ... and you’re also helping somebody who might be hurting inside.” Melania Brinzeiu (sixth grade) added, “It was a great experience because we get to talk to people ... and tell somebody about Jesus who is truly interested.” Georgia Schulze (eighth grade) said, “I like Magabooking because it’s fun to talk to people about God and to know that you might have made a difference in their life.” Evangeline Schwartz (first grade) added, “They love it when we give them GLOW tracts!”

When people answer the door, common responses are, “Wow, I really like this book. How much is it?” or “What are you fundraising for?” Most people are pleasantly surprised to hear that the books are given on a donation basis.

The Magabooks being distributed include *Simply Fresh*, a healthy cookbook, *Storytime*, a book with Christ-centered bedtime stories, and *The Great Controversy*.

If you would like more information, or would just like to know when the kids are coming to your neighborhood, contact the school by calling 231-775-3622 or send an email to bmejeur@misda.org. ■

Samuel Girven, Cadillac Church Communication Department assistant secretary, age 12, under the direction of Tom Mejeur, Communication Department secretary.

Spirit of collaboration propels successful health fair

For the first time, more dentists volunteered than there were chairs available.

The Seventh-day Adventist churches of central Wisconsin, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Conference and the Marshfield Clinic, held a very successful Adventist Community Health Initiative (ACHI) on Oct. 26, 2019, in the Marshfield High School gymnasium. Volunteers from across Wisconsin — many from outside the Adventist community — offered professional services to those with low income and/or no dental/vision insurance.

There are currently few to no Adventist dentists in Wisconsin. Therefore, a key element to holding an ACHI free dental clinic in the state is recruiting volunteer dentists. Dr. Arlene Gayle, an Adventist oncologist, was the director for the Marshfield ACHI Clinic and is the Health Ministries leader for the Marshfield Church. Through her initiative, she was able to meet with both the mayor of Marshfield and one of the Marshfield Clinic Health System executives to explain the Adventist Community Health Initiative mission in offering free dental care to community members in need of services. Dr. Gayle reported that both the mayor and executive member were quite excited about the proposed community contribution and said, “This is awesome! How can we help?” Dr. Gayle smiled and said, “We need all of your dentists to volunteer!”

The hospital board allowed both Dr. Gayle and Dr. Randy Griffin, Lake Union ACHI director, to meet with the Marshfield clinic dentists and promote the program by satellite to all the eight dental clinics in the Marshfield healthcare system.

From that providentially held meeting, seven dentists, 12 dental hygienists, as well as three dentists not affiliated with Marshfield Clinic, decided to donate their

time and expertise on October 26. It was a huge breakthrough.

This year was also the first time free vision care was provided, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Richard Patchett, member of the Shepherd’s House (Wausau) and an ophthalmologist in the Marshfield Clinic.

Two years ago, at the first ACHI held in Wisconsin, Dr. Patchett spoke with Dr. Griffin about adding a vision aspect to the ACHI. The addition of screening for vision needs, glaucoma, cataracts, etc. at this year’s event is a product of that conversation.

“There are quite a few people who do not have vision insurance,” said Dr. Patchett, “and we are happy to provide screening and help.”

Guests needing glasses choose a frame they like from hundreds of new donated frames. Then, through a program set up by the Lake Union, their prescriptions will be filled through the services of a generous optometrist in Texas who makes the lenses and sends the completed glasses back to a local optician for pick-up within about one week.

Dr. Patchett was able to work with eight volunteer opticians, technicians and several retired eye doctors throughout the day. “People have been quite appreciative,” said Dr. Patchett with a smile.

Dr. Griffin said, “While our primary goal is to take care of people’s physical needs and show that we care about them, we also have available the spiritual component at the clinic. I observed one volunteer doctor praying with many guests and encouraging them in their life! What a blessing to see others being excited and willing to share the love of Jesus to those with whom they come in contact! This doctor expressed gratitude to me that the Adventists are willing to provide such a needed service to communities.”

Another story Dr. Griffin related was of one person who had a mouth full of rotten teeth with no money or insurance to



Photography by Juanita Edge

get help. This person had 14 teeth taken out at the clinic and was so grateful for what was provided! Dr. Griffin observed during his evaluation of the patient, “I’m certain that this person would have had multiple abscesses arise very soon had they not been taken care of this weekend.”

While people waited in line to receive vision and dental services, they were introduced to the eight natural laws of health, tastefully presented through the Adventist Health Expo program. Under the organization of Wisconsin Conference Health Ministries coordinator Karen Flanagan, volunteers offered visitors literature, water, health-age screening, counseling, and even a relaxing massage.

Terry Howard, a musician and businessman, of the Marshfield Church, organized a variety of musicians and musical groups to sing and provide music for the waiting guests. Some people, even after receiving their desired services, stayed around to bask in the beautiful blend of banjo, guitar, fiddle, bass and autoharp.

Around 150 volunteer church members and healthcare professionals came together to help make this event happen. Eleven volunteers from the Madison East Church, including five young people from their Youth Department, traveled to Marshfield to share in the day’s mission. ■

Juanita Edge, Wisconsin Conference Communication director

International Center for Trauma Education & Care at Andrews University

The Andrews University School of Social Work is pleased to announce the development of a new International Center for Trauma Education & Care. Working in conjunction with several other departments on campus, the Center’s purpose is to provide education and tools to support healing from trauma in organizations, churches and communities around the world. “We are excited to expand our social work outreach to support long-term emotional healing and help restore people to God’s image,” says Curt VanderWaal, chair of the School of Social Work. “It’s clear that there is an immense need within the church for this type of ministry.”

Additionally, a more immediate interdisciplinary response team, the Post-Disaster Mental Health Team, also has been created. “Post-disaster” is defined as at least 72 hours after disaster when there is some stabilization to up to one year after the crisis event. This team will provide emotional support by trained individuals, psychoeducation on trauma, and connections to further local resources.

Trauma is at epidemic levels in many parts of society and the world. Although many think of trauma only in the context of war and Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, it also can be experienced through natural disasters, accidents, illness, divorce, forced immigration and violence of all kinds. When an individual endures something that he or she perceives as physically or emotionally threatening, the person often experiences overwhelming feelings of stress, fear and vulnerability which continue to plague them long after the end of the event. Individuals and even whole communities



▲ The Center’s main goal is to help facilitate long-term healing from trauma. For the last few years, faculty, students and alumni from the School of Social Work have been traveling both domestically and abroad to educate communities about trauma resiliency and restoration.

can be crippled by previous or ongoing traumatizing circumstances. Long-term effects of trauma can include mental and physical illness such as substance abuse, depression, strokes and heart disease. “The consequences of trauma are often devastating and long-lasting. Children are especially vulnerable to its life-altering effects and interventions are needed to help begin the healing process,” says Ingrid Weiss Slikkers, director of the newly created Center.

The Center’s main goal is to help facilitate long-term healing from trauma. For the last few years, faculty, students and alumni from the School of Social Work have been traveling both domestically and abroad to educate communities about trauma resiliency and restoration. These groups have worked with local, state and international educators, ministers, students, refugees, orphans, and children and adults of all ages. In addition to providing trainings in churches and schools in the U.S. including to the Navajo Nation, faculty and students have made trauma education trips to Thailand, Puerto Rico, Ethiopia and Cambodia.

“These trips have been life-changing for me,” says Katelyn Campbell, an MSW/MDiv student who recently returned from a trip to both Ethiopia and Cambodia. “People are so grateful to receive practical tools for emotional healing. You can see these amazing changes right in front of you!”

Alina Baltazar, director of the MSW program, adds, “I feel like God really has been able to use us to help begin the emotional healing process for people who have been so traumatized by violence and disasters.”

With the formation of the Center this August, even more opportunities for education and healing are emerging, including partnerships with other departments on campus. Local schools and churches have made requests for training, and students are becoming involved in hands-on educational experiences by assisting in the planning and delivery of these training sessions. “I’ve been amazed at how quickly people are able to use the trauma training tools to address really deep issues,” says Jasmin Wilson, a recent graduate who has participated in several of the international trips.

In addition to possible trips in the next few years and continued local endeavors, the Center is working to develop trauma training certificates. These culturally sensitive, research-based and spiritually-informed workshops will allow participants to receive the training needed to offer trauma healing activities in their own communities.

“We hope to begin offering workshops to church leaders or members who attend the General Conference Session in Indianapolis next summer,” says Weiss Slikkers. “Having a GC Session so close really allows us to reach out to church leaders from around the world.”



▲ An Andrews student interacts with a child on a trauma education trip to Ethiopia.

Other upcoming projects include the creation of a full range of training videos which can be streamed online for personal, congregational or corporate development. Plans also are underway to conduct trauma-based research in order to better understand the needs of the church.

God has been blessing the efforts of the Center even before its official creation. Looking forward, it is clear He already has more blessings in store.

For more information, please contact the School of Social Work by email at traumacare@andrews.edu or visit them on Facebook and Instagram. ■

Andrews University School of Social Work

Here is a review of the day by the numbers:

DENTAL

145 guests served
132 x-rays obtained
79 people had teeth cleaned
45 teeth were extracted
58 fillings placed

VISION

79 eye exams provided
55 people will receive Rx glasses in a few weeks

HEALTH EXPO

One cannot put a price on the information, education and literature provided to all who experienced this part of the event!

TOTAL VALUE of SERVICES
~\$85,150 for the 224 guests

Andrews students demonstrate love on the move during fall break

While some students decided to use the fall break to catch up on assignments, visit family members, and enjoy the freedom from classes, a group of young missionaries traveled to Kalamazoo to further the mission of spreading God's love. These young adults are volunteers of the Greater Youth Movement program (GYM), an outreach initiative launched from the Harbor of Hope Church in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Prior to traveling to Kalamazoo, the team engaged in mission training. All participants were informed on the protocols and logistics of the trip. They also were introduced to the theme of the trip, "Greater Leaders." This helped to unify the members with the goals of the mission.

Led by Business major, Malek McIntyre, 15 students from Andrews University opened the Sabbath on Oct. 11, 2019, by commuting the hour drive to the Trinity Temple Church in Kalamazoo, where they were welcomed by the church pastor, Denry White, and his family. The students settled themselves in the church with their sleeping bags in anticipation of a spiritually uplifting weekend.

On Sabbath morning, the team was divided into three groups to visit three churches to promote the mission of GYM.

Those who remained at Trinity Temple jumped into the spirit of worship and led the congregation in songs of praise. That was not the only surprise for the members. The entire service was transformed into a day of music and community engagement. Choirs, local and traveling musicians as well as the GYM group provided musical selections throughout the day. Pastor White interspersed baby dedications with the singing and celebration



Michelle Greene

▲ Students who traveled to Kalamazoo during fall break spent the weekend demonstrating love on the move. Among the activities they planned were: organizing worship services, praying with clients at a social services agency, and sorting donations at the Catholic Charities Center.

for family members in the surrounding community. This was one way the church could show their love to their neighbors.

The GYM team closed the Sabbath by spending the remaining hours of the day praying and singing with people from all walks of life who were seeking assistance from Kalamazoo Gospel Mission Center.

What surprised many of the students was how many clients at the Center had connections to Berrien Springs and, even more so, Andrews University. One lady, who requested prayers for a place to stay as the winter draws near, told some students how she had received an education from Ruth Murdoch to a Master's degree from Andrews University. For other students, they were blessed to hear interesting stories from the people they met. They were all more encouraged to continue sharing Christ to everyone they encountered.

On previous trips, GYM volunteers spent Sunday mornings fellowshiping with church members. This time, the group spent the day canvassing, as this is one of the main ways the movement is financially supported. Jeanelle Robinson, an Architecture graduate of Andrews University, shared that this was her first canvassing experience. "At first, it was

a bit daunting to think about going to people's private spaces, introducing ourselves and the ministry, and then asking for money," she said. "But then the experience turned out to be exhilarating because of the amazing encounters that only could be the Holy Spirit working through us as we interacted with the community."

The final day of the trip was spent at Kalamazoo Junior Academy, where the university students conducted an engaging worship service filled with songs, skits and discussion for the students and teachers.

Their final acts of kindness consisted of helping to renovate rooms and sort through donations at the Catholic Charities Center. They then canvassed one last time with Pastor White, once again praying with community members and inviting them to the Adventist churches in the area.

The volunteers of Greater Youth Movement have placed outreach at the forefront of their mission. They plan to undertake two more mission trips before the end of the year. ■

Michelle Greene is pursuing a Master's degree in Communication at Andrews University.

Lake Union votes new employment language Plus, several public evangelism campaigns bear fruit; tithe increase largest in NAD

On Nov. 13, 2019, Lake Union executive committee members voted new language on sexuality and gender language as it relates to employment.

Lake Union president Maurice Valentine explained that it's necessary for the Union to create guidelines in recognition of cultural changes impacting our churches and institutions. The voted statement reads:

"This institution is operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and all employees are expected to abide by and support the biblical teaching of sexuality and gender as understood by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. All volunteers and [participants, campers, students, etc.] are expected to abide by and support the above position while they are representing this institution or are involved in its activities. If you have questions about what these are, please contact [institution] leadership for further information."

A more in-depth policy statement is scheduled for release in spring 2020 but, in the meantime, this statement was necessary so job applicants could have full knowledge about the policy and inquire further if they have questions. The policy and other supporting documents are available at www.lakeunion.org under the "Policies" tab.

President Maurice Valentine's Report

The Union has \$1 million for GC2020. Funds came from the General Conference, North American Division, Lake Union and local conferences, and

are set aside for reaping events and harvesting activities.

The Lucas Oil Stadium was secured for the mega health clinic coming to Indianapolis April 8–10. Thanks to Indianapolis councilman and Capitol City Church member, Joe Simpson, the fee for using the facilities (estimated cost of \$400,000+) was waived.

Executive Secretary Steven Poenitz' Report

Baptism numbers Jan. 1, 2019 through Sept. 30, 2019 — Total 1,030

As of Sept. 30, Lake Union membership stands at 88,630

Membership gain of 0.11%

Illinois' Report on Use of Evangelism Funds:

Held a successful women's retreat, whereby 500 people showed up. Of that number, 130 were not members of the Adventist Church.

Michigan's Report on Use of Evangelism Funds:

Jesus on Prophecy evangelistic meetings held across the state, starting in September. They experimented with using internet advertising. In the end,

mail was the biggest way the people who attended heard of the event, social media second and personal invitation third.

3,000 attended, spread across 100 sites 40% of sites have so far reported and projections are for a total of 300–500 baptisms. Also, 200 people have made decision to keep the Sabbath and are still studying.

Treasurer Glynn Scott's Report

Tithe gain year-to-date, Sept. 30, 2019, 2.33% increase. This tithe percentage increase is the highest tithe performance across the North American Division.

Total income — \$7.6 million is higher than budget (\$7 million); total expenses of \$6.8 million is lower than budget (\$7 million). Positive financial performance at the Lake Union level allows us to financially support our local conference in mission and ministry.

For 2019, each conference received special funding of \$45,000 for the following initiatives: \$20,000 for church growth; \$15,000 for proclamation evangelism; and \$10,000 discipleship training. An additional \$200,000 was prorated and distributed to the five local conferences as miscellaneous tithe/non-tithe fund.



Felicia Tonga

▲ Lake Union president Maurice Valentine addresses executive committee members during the fall meeting.

Photos by Felicia Tonga



▲ The Lake Union executive committee is comprised of nearly 40 members, including Andrews University President Andrea Luxton (speaking at mic in first photo); Lake Union legal counsel and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director, Nicholas Miller (addressing the committee in second photo); and Lake Union administrators (listening to member representatives in last photo).



The Lake Union Revolving Fund interest rates will be decreased as of January 1, 2020. Deposit rates move from 2% to 1.5%; loan rates move from 4% to 3.5%.

“We praise God for His blessings upon our members and their faithful stewardship to God.”

Vice President/Multicultural Ministry Carmelo Mercado's Report

Largest women's retreat — 1,000 attended; five women were baptized

Karen Youth camp — 400 attended

Small groups campaign named Vida GPS, launched spring 2019 across the NAD. Organizers planned for 10,000 and had 20,000. Plans are underway for next year with a small group focus on young people.

“Journey to Healing and Understanding,” which started in 2015 with the Lake Union president's apology for racism in the church, continues with meetings in Indianapolis, Milwaukee and, recently, in Detroit. Michigan and Lake Region pastors met in Detroit, and it was “really encouraging to see. They're talking about heart issues. One millennial said, ‘What are you doing? This is trailblazing.’”

Youth Evangelism Congress — young adults talking to young adults about their lives — happens every two years. Next one is Feb. 14–16 in Shipshewana, Ind. “This generation doesn't want to be spectators; they want to be participants.”

This is a unique event that offers cash and inspiration. “We need to be innovators and offer them ideas to do evangelism in fresh ways.”

Also, offering One Year in Mission when, following GC Session, young people are invited to do missions.

Oshkosh Camporee: 55,000 gathered for Pathfinder Camporee and it became the largest reaping season in our Union with over 1,000 baptisms.

AMITAHealth Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Thor Thordarson's Report

All of full-time chaplains are now Adventists. All are either certified or advanced in their training.

Mobile Food Pantry truck launched with 234 people benefiting from the services. This video gives further highlights: www.Vimeo.com/presencehealth/review/369875372/9be0ecbacb

Piloting a project of focusing on physician mission orientation.

During each executive committee meeting, two conferences are usually selected to present from a rotating list. Indiana and Lake Region presidents each gave their reports:

Indiana Report by President Vic Van Schaik

A lot is taking place in advance of General Conference Session next

summer. Full schedule of Ignite Indiana campaign available at <https://indysda.org/ignite-indiana>

Indiana is one of the relatively smaller conferences:

- 8,800 members
- 70 churches
- 9 companies
- 7 groups
- 40 pastors
- Ignite teams formed to help with promotions, tracking interests and Bible study.
- 41 active Bible study teams statewide

Lake Region Report by President R. Clifford Jones

Shift in strategic plan for the 2018–2022 quadrennium

Last quadrennium the theme was: “Christ Alone”; now it is: “Be Like Christ”

Welcome was added to the core values (Word, Worship, Wholeness, Witness, Welcome)

Impact Indiana campaign featured a revival with evangelist Abraham Jules in Indianapolis July 27–Aug. 10, 2019. A group of students from Oakwood went door-to-door before to drum up support. Sixty people were baptized on Aug. 10. ■

Debbie Michel, Lake Union Conference associate director of Communication



Pathway to Health mega clinic planned in Indianapolis ahead of General Conference Session

3,000 volunteers needed to deliver free healthcare to thousands of local residents

An estimated 3,000 volunteers are needed to provide free healthcare services to the residents of Greater Indianapolis on April 8–10.

Your Best Pathway to Health, a Seventh-day Adventist nonprofit organization, has chosen to host its eighth mega clinic in Indianapolis with the goal of offering comprehensive medical, dental and other services to thousands of local residents.

“We are excited to bring Pathway to Health to Indianapolis,” says Lela Gilbert Ng, physician and Pathway to Health CEO. “As with the other cities where we have hosted mega clinics, we are anticipating that many in Indianapolis will receive desperately needed services that, in some cases, are life-saving.”

The three-day clinic is made possible through strong partnerships, chief among them with the Indiana, Lake Region and Lake Union conferences.

“We are thrilled about partnering with Your Best Pathway to Health to provide free medical and dental services to the city of Indianapolis,” says Vic Van Schaik, president of the Indiana Conference. “There are great needs, and the mega clinic is an opportunity for us to demonstrate that we

care for our community. Members are able to extend the healing ministry of Jesus in a very practical and personal way.”

“Pathway to Health exists to be a tangible demonstration of the unconditional love and service lived out and demonstrated by Jesus,” agrees Costin Jordache, the Pathway to Health director of Communication. “As such, the only requirement for getting help at a Pathway to Health mega clinic is being a human with a need.” Pathway to Health requires no insurance or identification for treatment.

As was planned in San Antonio, Tex., in 2015, the Pathway to Health mega clinic precedes the General Conference (GC) Session in Indianapolis by three months. The free services provided for the residents of Indianapolis are one way in which the Seventh-day Adventist Church can express gratitude to the city and its leaders ahead of time for hosting upwards of 70,000 Adventists from around the world during the Session.

“The City of Indianapolis has worked really well with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and with Pathway to Health,” says George Gilbert, COO of Pathway to Health. “Pathway volunteers are helping the Church say, ‘Thank you’, with every free service given to the city's residents.”

Volunteers are encouraged to register as soon as possible for the Indianapolis event at PathwayToHealthVolunteer.org. Those who cannot attend are invited to support the mega clinic in other ways.

“We encourage members to pray for the mega clinic as all the details come together,” says Benny Moore, Pathway to Health CFO. “We also invite as many as possible to donate financially to make the mega clinic as successful as possible.” Moore encourages members to give through their local church or to donate online at PathwayToHealthVolunteer.org to sponsor a patient for \$100 per patient.

“We believe God is blessing this effort and we are grateful for all the doors that

have opened to make this event happen,” concludes Van Schaik. ■

Pathway to Health Office of Communication.



Photos courtesy Pathway to Health

Leaders emphasize connecting with marginalized communities

Public Affairs and Religious Liberty representatives from regional conferences met September 25–29 in Atlanta for their annual conference to examine issues surrounding the theme, “Faith, Community and Community.”

Speakers sought to inspire the audience of 200 to take the church’s message of hope and wholeness, and make a meaningful difference in their communities. One of the sessions with a robust discussion asked the question: “Can religious freedom and LGBT rights coexist?”

Justin Giboney, “AND” campaign executive team member, explained that his organization is a Christian organization trying to get Christians to engage in politics more faithfully. “The emphasis for this organization was because we saw Christians allowing their political affiliations to influence their decisions on moral issues, even more so than Scripture. If we are about Christians, we should be both about justice AND moral order. Our political landscape today separates them. On one side is Democrats and progressives who are all about social justice, and (on the) other side you have Republicans and conservatives who are about moral order. But if we look at the gospel, how Jesus does things, Christians are supposed to be about both. We can’t choose between the two. We often talk about this in terms of compassion and conviction. When we look at an issue like LGBTQ, our conviction is what the Bible says, we’re not going to change our conviction — but have we shown compassion?”

Vice president and chief compliance officer of Advent HealthCare, Dwayne Leslie, told why it was important for Adventists to get involved in the



▲ Speakers such as Senate Chaplain Barry Black (pictured in top photo), House of Hope executive director Margie P. Gill (on next page) and Central Park Four accused, and Yusef Salaam (bottom photo) impressed upon the audience the need to help meet the needs of those who are most vulnerable.

legislative process. “As Seventh-day Adventists, religious liberty has been one of our core tenets, but we also have believed we shouldn’t use the legislative process to enforce or mandate our philosophy. We’re not trying to legislate morality. We want to protect ourselves according to our theology, as opposed to using our theology to deny or take away the rights from other people.”

Tim Schultz, president of 1st Amendment Partnership, told the audience that if we care about religious freedom, we have to care about social justice. “Any invocation of LGBT, some

say we shouldn’t care. But, in 28 states, you can be fired from your job if you’re a LGBTQ person.” He further said that it was important that this group have legal protection.

Melissa Reid, executive director of the North American Division Religious Liberty Association, mentioned that her department is working alongside other faith communities to pass a legislation known as “Fairness For All” which would protect the civil rights of the LGBTQ community, as well as religious liberty. “We’re now making visits to members of Congress and think we’ll have bi-partisan support.



Because of the diversity of our coalition group, it adds to the likelihood of bipartisan support, even though it may take a while to enact,” Reid said. “We recognize that this is an opportunity to restore the idea of religious freedom.”

“Blessed to be a blessing”

U.S. Chaplain Barry Black, in his Sabbath morning sermon, used the story of the Good Samaritan to illustrate that we must have compassion on those in need. “If you’re going to have social justice, stop blaming the victim. Help people, even when they’re responsible for the trouble they’re in. This traveler got himself in trouble. He knew about the dangerous Jericho Road, but he still took it.” “We’ve got to go across the spectrum of diversity. We’ve got to help people regardless of their sexual orientation. We’ve got to help people regardless of their ethnicity. We’ve got to help people regardless of their accent. We’ve got to help people regardless of their socio-economic level, or lack of a level.”

Human Trafficking

On Sabbath afternoon, the group journeyed on a sobering visit to Tabitha’s House, a human trafficking ministry of the House of Hope Church near downtown Atlanta. Margie P. Gill, executive director, explained that Atlanta is a major hub for sex trafficking and the youngest client they’ve helped was a five-year-old. “We want to give power back to the victims and restore lives, homes and communities,” said Gill.

Yusef speaks

On Saturday evening, Yusef Salaam, who was wrongly convicted of the 1989 assault and rape of a female jogger in



Central Park, spoke about serving years in prison for a crime he, along with four other youth, didn’t commit. The highly publicized case was the subject of a Netflix movie, “When They See Us,” directed by Ana DuVernay.

Salaam, now a father of ten living in Atlanta, spoke softly of how he has been able to move on with his life, “Knowing you were born with a purpose — you were born brave. God gave you the means to survive and thrive. It’s not about what happens to you, but your response to what’s happening to you. God is in control. The sun shines on the sinner and the person who is filthy at the same time. But the blessing definitely comes to one who is faithful.”

Carmelo Monk of *Message* magazine moderated a Q&A session, and asked Salaam if he had forgiven all of the people responsible for his imprisonment. “Forgiveness is a challenging concept. I’ve been able to forgive to a degree. I’m reminded, *Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do.*”

Lucille Byard Symposium

On Sunday, the inaugural Lucille Byard Symposium was launched with Sherine Fraser Brown, Oakwood University’s chair of the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics, and Public Health, as speaker. Brown discussed, “Health Disparities: The Impact of Food Deserts,” illustrating that churches can engage with their community through a variety of avenues, including a simple yet effective project such as community garden. She presented evidence to show that when we grow our own fruits and vegetables, we are more likely to eat more of these foods.

Ann Roda, Adventist Healthcare vice

president for Mission Integration and Spiritual Care, said they were proud to sponsor the symposium, in light of the fact that it was the Washington Adventist hospital which denied treatment to Byard, an African-American church member, back in 1943.

“Our team was shocked to hear the story and this was the catalyst for us asking, ‘What are we going to do with this info?’” she said. “We have to own our part, not shy away from it, and commit to not letting this happen again.”

Going forward, Roda said that the local church and the Adventist Health System can play a huge role in addressing societal ills. “We need a clear partnership between the health system and the church. If we partner, we can change the paradigm of what it means to change our community.”

Edward Woods, Lake Region PARL leader and president of the Conscience and Justice Council, said he hopes participants will take the information presented and put it into action. “It’s important to ensure there’s liberty of conscience and justice for all people, through a biblical and contemporary context that reflects the consciousness of Christ.”

The Conscience and Justice Council began in 2016 in Detroit; its next conference is scheduled for Los Angeles in September 2020. For more information, visit: cjcouncil.org. ■

Debbie Michel, Lake Union associate director of Communication



Speaker lineup announced for Lake Union Prayer Conference

The Lake Union is beginning this new year with a call to all of our members to be part of a very special journey of seeking God in prayer. This year marks the first time since 1990 that a General Conference session will take place in our Union, specifically Indianapolis, Indiana. The officers of the Lake Union and the presidents of the five conferences are inviting our members to join together to seek the Holy Spirit. In a question-and-answer format, here is some information we would like to share with you.

What is this event called and what is the purpose of the event? The event is called "Our United Cry," based on the following quote from Ellen White: "Could

there be a convocation of all the churches on earth, the object of their united cry should be for the Holy Spirit. When we have that, Christ our sufficiency is ever present, we shall have every want supplied. We shall have the mind of Christ" (Manuscript Release Vol. 2, p. 24).

In light of the times in which we are living, and especially in light of the upcoming General Conference Session that will take place in the Lake Union this year, the purpose of the event is to see a prayer movement begin in our Union by inviting you to come to this event and pray in a united way for the Holy Spirit.

Who is encouraged to come? Anyone passionate for the finishing of the work. This will be a multicultural, multilingual and multigenerational event so we are asking people, of any age and culture, to be part of this one-of-a-kind prayer conference.

Who will be speaking? We will have short messages on prayer presented by the following individuals:

Jerry and Janet Page, General Conference Ministerial Department; Melody Mason, author of the bestselling book, *Dare to Ask for More*; Mark Finley, renowned evangelist and assistant to the president of the General Conference; James Black, Prayer Ministries director for the North American Division; Gem Castor, Prayer coordinator for ASAP Ministries; and Tony Anobile, vice president for Multicultural Ministries for the North American Division.

Keep in mind that, like the early church, we are inviting the Holy Spirit to be our very special guest.

What will be the format? Our idea is to have people seated at round tables as we listen to the short messages, followed by sharing and praying together.

When and where will it be held? Join us March 6 and 7 at the Embassy Suites Event Center located in Plainfield, Indiana, which is next to Indianapolis, the city where the General Conference will be held.

How much does it cost? The regular cost is \$65 which is available through January 28, after which it will be \$75. This fee covers attendance at the meeting lunch, hor d'oeuvres served at the close of the meeting, and a 40-day prayer/devotional/journal book specifically designed for this event.

What about housing? We invite you to make your room reservation as soon as possible at the Embassy Suites or any number of hotels near the event location.

How can I register? Simply go to our website: www.ourunitedcry.org. We encourage you to register now and be a part of this very special journey together. ■

Carmelo Mercado is vice president of the Lake Union Conference.



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JANUARY/ FEBRUARY

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

GENERAL EVENTS

Jan. 27–31: Student Week of Prayer, Pioneer Memorial Church

Jan. 30–Feb. 1: Newmyer Classic Tournament

Feb. 1–28: Black History Month Celebration

Feb. 4–7: 2020 Seminary Scholarship Symposium, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

Feb. 10: College of Health and Human Services Career Fair, Howard Performing Arts Center

Feb. 13–15: Andrews University Music and Worship Conference

Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.: English and Music Vespers, Howard Performing Arts Center

Feb. 28, 2:30–4 p.m.: Honors Scholars and Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium, Buller Hall

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.

Jan. 12, 4 p.m.: Sunday Music Series: Wind Quintet

Jan. 25, 8 p.m.: Andrews University Young Artists Competition

Feb. 1, 8 p.m.: Andrews University Wind Symphony Winter Concert

Feb. 9, 4 p.m.: Sunday Music Series: Mallory McHenry

Feb. 22, 8 p.m.: Andrews University Symphony Orchestra Winter Concert

Feb. 28, 7 p.m.: Great Lakes Adventist Academy Vespers

Feb. 29, 8 p.m.: Chamber Music with Claudio Gonzalez and Friends

ILLINOIS

Jan. 17–20: Youth Winter Retreat, Cascade Mountain

Jan. 31–Feb. 2: Pathfinder Southern Area Mega Weekend

INDIANA

Jan. 24–26: Pathfinder Winter Campout, Timber Ridge Camp

Jan. 24–27: It Is Written (IIW) Training Weekend, Glendale Church, Indianapolis

Feb. 21: 2020 Youth Rally

Feb. 22: State-Wide Evangelism Rally John Bradshaw, It Is Written, Glendale Church, Indianapolis

Feb. 22: Robert Costa, It Is Written — Spanish Rally, Indy Central Hispanic Church

LAKE UNION

Jan. 12: Adventist Community Health Initiative; Richland Bridge Church, Chillicothe, Ill.

Feb. 2: Adventist Community Health Initiative, Belleville–Edgemont Elementary School, Belleville, Mich.

Feb. 14–17: Youth Evangelism Congress, Blue Gate Inn, Shipshewana, Ind.

Feb. 22, 23: Adventist Community Health Initiative, Bedford Church, Bedford, Ind.

LAKE REGION

Jan. 8–18: Ten Days of Prayer, “Seeking God’s Holy Spirit”

Feb. 1: PBE (local regions)

Feb. 1–Mar. 7: 40 Days of Prayer Emphasis

Feb. 8: Encuentro de Matrimonios (Marriage Encounter)

Feb. 15–22: Semana de Mayordomía (Stewardship Week)

MICHIGAN

Jan. 10–12: Teen Snow Outing, Camp Au Sable

Jan. 24–26: Father-Son Retreat, Camp Au Sable

Feb. 28–Mar. 1: Teen Bible Camp

WISCONSIN

Feb. 7–9: Pathfinder Winter Retreat, Camp Wakonda

Feb. 24: Science Expo, Wisconsin Academy

Feb. 28–Mar. 1: Women’s Empowerment Retreat, Camp Wakonda



AWR
ANNUAL OFFERING

MARCH 14, 2020

Write “AWR” on the offering line
of your tithe envelope so lives like
Wisam’s can be transformed!

“NO MAN DID THIS!”

**Wisam’s story bears evidence to
God’s miraculous intervention.**

Wisam belonged to a powerful Muslim family.

When he converted to Adventism, they tried to stone him to death. Years later, when he returned to his hometown as a pastor, a hostile mob of relatives confronted him. One of his cousins grabbed a butcher knife and lunged at Wisam in a murderous rage. Miraculously, the knife bent, tearing his shirt twice as the blade entered and exited the garment without touching him. The astonished mob fled in fear and the news of the miracle spread far and wide. But that’s not the end of the story! Watch our video to find out what happened next—and learn how through AWR360°, God is doing things far beyond our imagination! **See it here: awr.org/wisam**



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NO WALLS. NO BORDERS. NO LIMITS.

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.

OBITUARIES

ACKLES, Dorothy J.; age 60; born Jan. 23, 1959; died Feb. 24, 2019, in Tennessee. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Memorial services were conducted at Elgin (Ill.) Church.

BARNES, Lawrence M., age 69; born June 13, 1950, in Goodrich, Mich.; died Oct. 8, 2019, in Flint, Mich. He was a member of the First Flint Church in Flint. Survivors include his wife, Joanne (Brewer); sons, Cory Barnes and Bruce Bauman; daughter, Stacy Lynn Anderson; brother, Dennis Wiers; sister, Debbie Vincent; and four grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Jeff Akenberger and Pastor Tony Messer; inurnmet was in Sharp Funeral Home in Flint.

BAX, Pete L.; age 70; born Sept. 7, 1948, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; died Aug. 9, 2019, in Otsego, Mich. He was a member of the Otsego Church in Otsego. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy R. (Throop) Bax; daughters, Sara (Jeremy) Grimes, Brenda (Jerald) Thomas, Barbra (William) Hazlett, and Lesa (Scott) Branauh-Huffman; brothers, James and Timothy; sisters, Jeannie and Sue; 17 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by John Lanphear at Otsego Church; inurnment was at Winkel Funeral Home and Mausoleum in Otsego.

BEYER, Henry J., age 88; born June 19, 1931, in Welch, Minn.; died July 30, 3019, in Hammond, Wis. He was a member of the Durand Church in Durand, Wis. Survivors include his wife, Charlotte M.A. (Schmolke) Beyer; sons, Douglas (Patti) Beyer, Theodore Beyer, Reinhart (Faye) Beyer; Lonnie Keck, Larry (Dana) Keck,

and Leonard (Dory) Keck; daughter, Lynda (Rick) Jacobson; sister, Esther Wilson; and 12 grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor John Johansen private inurnment followed.

BRAUN, Mildred “Millie” Ruth; age 61, born Dec. 28, 1957, in Douglas, Mich.; died Sept. 18, 2019, in Holland, Mich. She was a member of the Holland Church in Holland. Survivors include sisters, Annelise E. Braun, Elaine E. (Randy) Slikkers, and Joan M. (Mitchell) Lacy. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Sean Reed; inurnment was in O’Fields Funeral Home in Douglas.

BUTTS, Robert C., age 87; born Nov. 2, 1931, in Streator, Ill.; died Jan. 7, 2019, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor John Glass; interment was in Fort Custer National in Augusta, Mich.

CROSBY, James; age 68, born June 29, 1950, in Terre Haute Ind.; died May 3, 2019, in Lewis, Ind. He was a member of the Lewis Church in Lewis. Survivors include his wife, Linda K. (McKee) Crosby; sons, James Tod Crosby and Toby M. Crosby; sisters, Sue Yakovich, Toni Colvin, Jerrie Herrison, Melody Crosby and Linda Crosby; and six grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Viaolo Weis; inurnment was in Sycamore Cremation Services in Lewis.

DEMAREST, Aaron M., age 65; born, Nov. 13, 1953, in Guayama, Puerto Rico; died Jan. 29, 2019, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Wendy (Cole) Demarest; son, John (Kelly) Demarest; daughters,

Sunshine (Francisco) Say, Sylvia (Ernest) Castillo, and Summer Demarest; brothers, Elizer (Ann) Marquez, Louis (Sharon) Marquez, and John (Kathy) Rodriguez; sister, Melanie (Daniel) Wells; and seven grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Skip MacCarty; private inurnment.

JOHNSON, Merle D., age 86; born June 13, 1933, in Mondovi, Wis.; died July 2, 2019, in Lincoln, Neb. He was a member of the Chippewa Valley Church, Altoona, Wis. Survivors include his wife, Janella (Stone) Johnson; son, Daniel Johnson; daughters, Chery (Bernie) Brunner and Tamara (Victor) Dahlman; sisters, Lille Shackley and Irene Isaacson; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor John Johansen; inurnment was in Oakgrove Cemetery in Eau Claire, Wis.

LEET, Richard “Rich” Othello; age 81, born May 13, 1938, in Gratiot County, Mich.; died Sept. 14, 2019, in Holland, Mich. He was a member of the Holland Church in Holland. Survivors include his wife, Carolee Ann (Smith) Leet; son, Theron (Cheri) Leet; daughters, Penny (Michael) Velthuis and Melissa (Clark) Neu; brothers, William (Ada) Leet and Leonard (Joyce) Leet; sister, Lois Rocha; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Sean Reed; inurnment was in Lakeshore Cemetery in Grand Haven, Mich.

MAURO, Charles W. “Knobby”; age 93; born Nov. 13, 1925, in Fayville, Mass.; died, Jan. 8, 2019, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs. Survivors include his wife, Patricia (Rodenberg) Mauro; son, Steve (Mary) Mauro; daughter, Nancy (Greg) Gerard; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Dwight K. Nelson; private inurnment.

RAZER, Michelle M. (McNamara), age 59; born March 17, 1959, in Chippewa Falls, Wis.; died Jan. 10, 2019, in Rochester, Minn. She was a member of the Chippewa Valley Church in Altoona, Wis. Survivors include her husband Thomas “Tom” Razer, Sr.; son, Thomas Razer, Jr.; Shannon (David) Burke; mother, Donna McNamara; brothers, Marly McNamara and Robert McNamara; sister, Katie (Frank) Kucera; and five grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor John Johansen in Anson Township, Wis.

ROBERTS, David; age 81, born Dec. 20, 1935, in Kokomo, Ind.; died Aug. 31, 2017, in Kokomo, Ind. He was a member of the Kokomo Church in Kokomo. Survivors include his wife, Edna (Jameson) Roberts; stepson, Mark (Denise) Harshman; daughters, Teresa (Carl) Peterson, Cindy (Brian) Smith, Paula (Ray) Newton, Shelly (Mark) Northam, and Linda (Ed) Rowell; brothers, Keith Roberts, and Glen (Glenda) Roberts; 22 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Funeral service was conducted by Pastor Keith Hannah and Pastor Blake Hall; interment was in Sunset Memory Gardens Cemetery in Kokomo.

SATONICA, Selma (Wutzke); age 88; born June 4, 1930; died July 1, 2018, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Chikaming Church in Sawyer, Mich. Survivors include son, Adrian (Rita); daughter, Rosie (David); and sister, Isolde Trimarco. Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Darrel le Roux and Bill Dudgeon; interment was at Graceland Cemetery in Bridgman, Mich.

SPENCER, Rhoda A. Flannery; age 91, born April 30, 1927, in Laona, Wis.; died Oct. 14, 2019, in Rhineland, Wis. She was a member of the Clearwater Lake Church in Eagle River, Wis. Survivors include her son, Paul E. Spencer. She requested that no funeral or memorial service be held. Interment was in Lakeside Cemetery in Crandon, Wis.

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>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING APRIL 2–5 — Honor classes are 1950, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2010. For more information, contact the alumni office at 401-486-2503; 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or alumni@ucollege.edu.

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS
JANUARY

- Jan. 4** Local Church Budget
- Jan. 11** Local Conference Advance
- Jan. 18** Local Church Budget
- Jan. 25** North American Division
(Emphasis: Religious Liberty)

- FEBRUARY**
- Feb. 1** Local Church Budget
 - Feb. 8** World Budget *(Emphasis: Adventist Television Ministries)*
 - Feb. 15** Local Church Budget
 - Feb. 22** Local Conference Advance
 - Feb. 29** NAD Evangelism

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS
JANUARY

- FOCUS FOR THE MONTH — FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM**
- Jan. 4** Day of Prayer
 - Jan. 19–24** Religious Liberty Week
 - Jan. 25** Religious Liberty Sabbath

FEBRUARY
FOCUS FOR THE MONTH — FAMILY LIFE

- Feb. 1–29** Black History Month
- Feb. 8** Christian Marriage Sabbath
- Feb. 8–15** Christian Home and Marriage Week
- Feb. 15** Christian Parenting Sabbath

	Jan. 3	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31	Feb. 7	Feb. 14	Feb. 21	Feb. 28
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:25	5:32	5:40	5:48	5:57	6:06	6:15	6:24	6:33
Chicago, Ill.	4:31	4:38	4:45	4:54	5:03	5:12	5:21	5:29	5:38
Detroit, Mich.	5:11	5:18	5:26	5:34	5:43	5:52	6:02	6:11	6:19
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:31	5:38	5:45	5:53	6:01	6:10	6:18	6:26	6:34
La Crosse, Wis.	4:39	4:46	4:54	5:03	5:12	5:22	5:32	5:41	5:50
Lansing, Mich.	:16	5:23	5:31	5:39	5:48	5:58	6:07	6:16	6:25
Madison, Wis.	4:34	4:41	4:49	4:58	5:07	5:16	5:26	5:35	5:44
Springfield, Ill.	4:45	4:52	4:59	5:07	5:15	5:24	5:32	5:40	5:48

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

TEACH Services — Helping **AUTHORS** make their book a reality. Call 800-367-1844 for your free manuscript evaluation. We publish all book formats and provide worldwide distribution. View **NEW BOOKS** at TEACHServices.com or ask your local ABC. **USED SDA BOOKS** at LNFbooks.com.

FOR SALE

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER CLUB NAME CREST — Order your Pathfinder and Adventurer club name crest at: pathfinder-clubnames.com. For more information, call 269-208-5853 or email us at pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com.

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DEGREES — Feed the world with Agribusiness. Beautify the world with Environmental Landscape Design. Care for the creatures that share our world with Animal Science. Change the world with International Agriculture Development. See our new Agriculture Education Center at www.andrews.edu/agriculture; email: agriculture@andrews.edu. Phone: 269-471-6006.

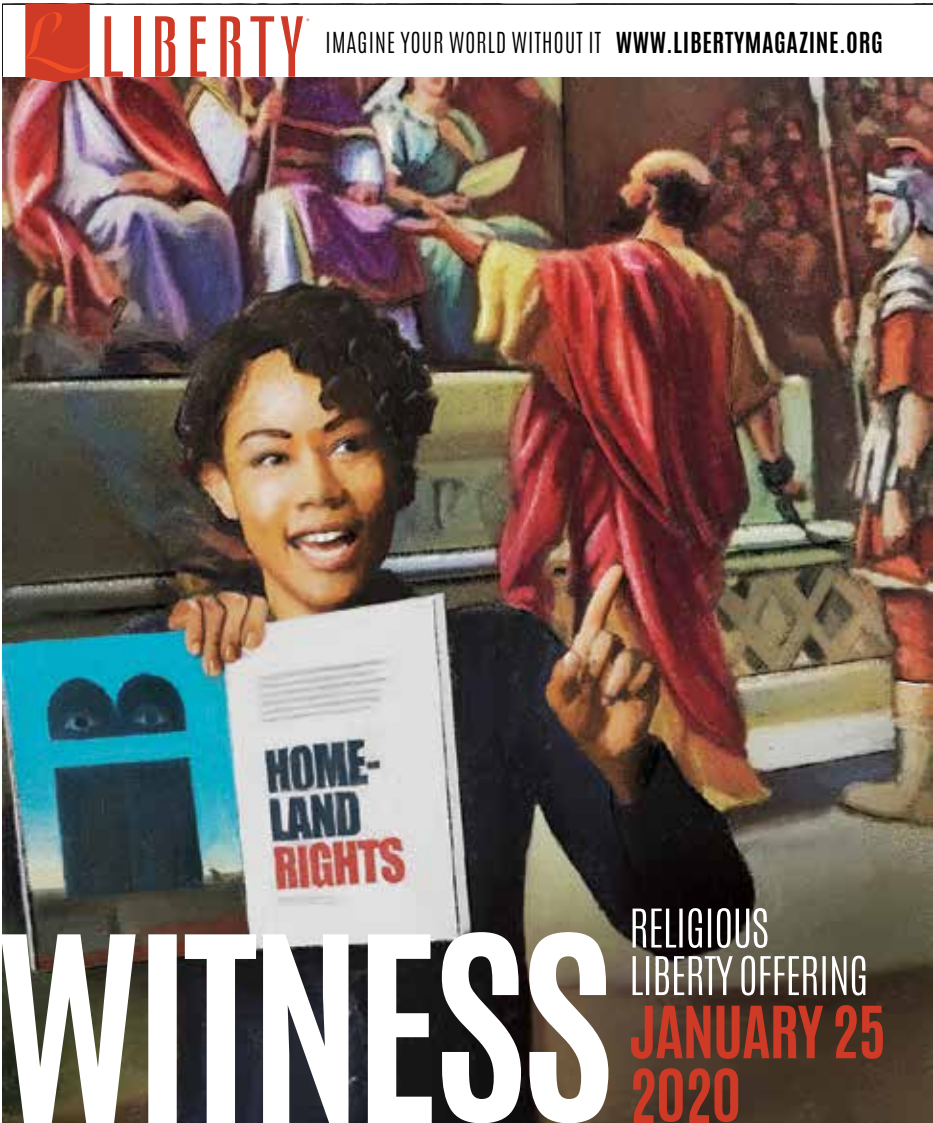
EMPLOYMENT

2020–2021 ADVENTIST TOURS — Israel in Jesus' Steps: May 25–June 2, 2020, and June 9-17, 2021 (optional Jordan/Egypt); Africa

contact tabghatours@gmail.com or facebook.com/TabghaTours or call 423-298-2169.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY–MUSIC — Full-time tenure track position requires 24 teaching credits per year, and entails teaching music classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels, being responsible for the orchestral studies area, and preparing and conducting the concerts of the AU Symphony Orchestra (AUSO). For more info, see andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_6.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY–SOCIAL WORK — Teaching areas are primarily in graduate-level clinical practice, with



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WITNESS RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OFFERING **JANUARY 25 2020**

A Life of Contentment

By Jon Corder

WHEN I BUY A CAR, I renew a couple of unwritten guidelines I have. The first is that it be a used vehicle and, secondly, that I commit to drive it for at least 100,000 miles. Well, I guess there is a third — to be prayerfully patient while I look for the right one when I’m in the purchasing mode.

God has been good! Not only have these guidelines been met, but the results have exceeded my expectations. My last car I was able to drive for 252,000 miles; another, that I purchased for \$500, had 141,000 miles on it when purchased and we drove until it had 265,000 miles. I say “we” because I drove it, passed it on to my son, my daughter had it next, and finally it was returned to me. When I was done with it for the second time, I sold it for a dollar to a young, single mother who needed a car. She was so proud to be able to pay for her own car without having to get a loan! When God provided another vehicle for her nearly a year later, she gave the one she had purchased from me

to another family that needed a car. Before we moved to another place of ministry, I remember driving through the small town where that car lived and was pleased to find that it was still being used and loved.

I only told you about two cars; there have been many others. Each has had its own story and, with each, God has blessed. I have been amazed at how well He has provided for our wheel needs. He has been faithful, as He promised, and opened the windows of heaven and provided blessings that could even be driven.

And, yes, there is a fourth guideline — a commitment to contentment. Not every car I’ve owned has had air conditioning, cruise control or power windows. But I can say with Paul, *I have learned how to be content with whatever I have (or whatever God has provided)* (Philippians 4:11 NLT). I think contentment is part of being a good steward, don’t you? ■

Jon Corder is the Lake Union Stewardship director.

CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUED

particular expertise in treatment of children and families, school social work, trauma-informed care, and treatment of adult mental disorders. Other responsibilities include coordination of the Dual Degree programs with the SDA Theological Seminary, coordination of the School Social Work certification, and academic advising and service to the department, University, and the surrounding community. For more info, see andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_12.

THE LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY PROVOST SEARCH COMMITTEE — Seeking a distinguished scholar and administrator to guide the University’s academic programs, services, and activities with vision and vigor. Additional details and application instructions available at lasierracareers.silkroad.com.

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE SEEKS TO FILL SEVERAL PART-TIME BIBLE INSTRUCTOR POSITIONS — One-year contract in local church district, includes some benefits and two weeks paid vacation; personalized training and mentoring will be provided. Some experience preferred but not mandatory. Go to paconference.org/evangelism for application and forms or email ltorres@paconference.org.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY — Seeking qualified candidates for the following positions: **Public Services Librarian–McKee Library; Teaching Faculty–English; Teaching Faculty–Physics**. For full description and qualifications, please visit: southern.edu/jobs.

STALLANT HEALTH — Accepting applications for a Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant for our Weimar, CA, and Crescent City, CA, rural health clinics. Please contact Marva at marva@stallanthealth.com for further information.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY — School of Visual Art and Design seeks full-time professor of film production to teach cinematography, light, sound design, documentary directing and producing. For full description and qualifications, please visit: southern.edu/jobs.

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His Matchless Love

By Katherine Garnica



Margarita Garnica

▲ Katherine Garnica

I USED TO WONDER, *Are life-changing mission experiences for everyday teens like me?* From June 2018-June 2019, my family and I went on a mission trip to Colombia, where I experienced God’s love. Within a year of my happy baptism at age 11, I got sidetracked with “fun.” Not having experienced Jesus’ love personally, I steered my frustrations into a passive rebellious spirit toward my parents. *Does God really love me?* I questioned. Eventually, I paused my *GLOW* tract ministry, idolizing fashion, phones and friends to try to fill the emptiness only God can satisfy. I was 13 years old, with no defined *purpose* in life. Perceiving my spiritual destitution, my sister jotted down encouraging Bible verses, which I read and treasured. My dad presented Jesus’ love to me when he demonstrated I was valuable to him, and my heart responded with willing obedience. In August 2017, God gave me my heart’s desire — visiting the Ark Encounter — where we witnessed the Great American Eclipse and distributed seventy-five *Noah: Another Storm is Coming* books. All of these made me realize that Jesus indeed *loves* making me happy! Soon after I started ninth grade, a miraculous desire to study my Bible sprung in my soul. As I also read *Steps to Christ* for the first time, I began to understand the depth of Jesus’ love for me and the privilege of surrendering my life to Him.

Meanwhile, God showed my family that He needed us in a twelve-month mission trip to care for my grandmother in Colombia. *Would I be willing to leave home, friends and school for one year?* I felt uneasy about taking this big step, but God certainly needed us! So I decided to trust Jesus and accept His call. Although gradually surrendering music, dress and relationships were especially challenging, I felt amazing peace and freedom when I yielded to Jesus *everything*. In June 2018, we flew to Mogotes, Colombia, a mission trip that changed my life forever. God proved immeasurably that He overflows my heart’s desires, from a special fifteenth birthday family celebration to numerous musical and teaching opportunities throughout the year. Involved with music at church, I met the most amazing friends. Even during challenging times, Jesus’ promises were my everyday strength. With Grandma, I daily learned lessons on love. Sadly, her persistent negative mindset affected her physical health, quickly worsening until she passed away a month after we returned to Michigan. Nevertheless, my family and I feel grateful to have spent the last year of her life beside her. This mission trip showed me the force of Jesus’ love, the strength of faith, and the peace that comes from doing what is right on time. Will you trust your life in Jesus’s hands? Jesus gave everything for you. Your seemingly “big sacrifices” are nothing compared to His marvelous plans for your life. Today, I have a purpose-driven life because Jesus’ love changed me. I believe He can fashion your life into something beautiful, too. Together, we can spread Jesus’ transforming love to the world! Then, Jesus will come! ■

Katherine Garnica is a 16-year-old homeschooled sophomore in Abeka Academy. The Michigan Fairplain Church member loves sharing Jesus’ love through singing, playing piano and ukulele, and spreading *GLOW* tracts everywhere she goes.

Katherine received \$100 scholarship for her essay. We’re delighted to accept submissions from youth and young adults for this column. Send your submission to herald@lakeunion.org.

The Call of Samuel

By Carmen Mora



Robert Mohr

▲ Samuel Girven

A TYPICAL WEEKDAY FOR SAMUEL GIRVEN is unlike that of your average 12-year-old: school, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; check Facebook analytics, 5-6 p.m.; dinner, 6-7 p.m.; work on press releases for the church, 7-7:30 p.m. “He’s more responsible than most adults I know,” says Tom Mejeur, Communication secretary at the Cadillac Church, who oversees Girven writing press releases, communicating with the local newspaper editor, and running the church’s social media. It all began a year ago when Girven, who attends the Northview Adventist School, wanted to help his school raise funds for their security system. School administrators had decided the best way to do this was through an auction from donated items. But a month before the auction date, the donations weren’t coming in as fast as expected and Girven decided he would try to help. “In late January, we had to close the school because of snow — back-to-back snow days for about a week-and-a-half,” Girven recalls. “I started Googling any

business I could find with a phone number. I made a list of every business within 100 miles with a phone number and started calling people. From what I remember, I called from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m., then from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.” The effort was a huge success. Girven raised \$11,000 in donated goods and services. During the time he was calling the businesses, his father took a photo and posted it to Facebook. This caught Mejeur’s attention. “Nominating Samuel [to assistant Communication secretary] was natural, even an obvious choice,” says Mejeur, while noting that Girven also had helped with the church’s audio-visual long before the nomination. “Our church is very supportive of youth; he has proven himself as knowledgeable and willing to serve.” Since then, Girven has volunteered to run the church’s Facebook page and usually writes one or two press releases a week. Three of his articles — one on the International Pathfinder Camporee, one on the church’s “Fieldwork” community outreach and another on his school’s door-to-door colporteur — were published in his local newspaper, *Cadillac News*. “Everyone who meets Sam is impressed, even the newspaper people,” says Mejeur. “He has a vision for where he’s going; he’s seeing what needs to be done . . . He’s a good writer and a go-getter; he’s done all the interviewing for all of the articles he’s written.” Girven is quick to give credit to God. “He has blessed me with a talent that I can use to help spread the gospel message to the area.” ■

Laura Fierce is a Communication major at Andrews University.

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