

Lake Union HERALD

MAY 2020



HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE



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On March 6, Versacare Foundation awarded \$90,000 to 15 Lake Union Adventist primary and secondary schools in support of STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).



Food banks around the nation are under tremendous pressure to keep up with the overwhelming demand for food. Local Adventist Community Service centers continue to serve families and individuals who are facing even more challenges due to this crisis.



Youth Ministry directors voted to add a Lake Union patch to Pathfinder dress uniforms, and have it required when the Lake Union Courageous Pathfinder Camporee rolls around in September 2021. The new patch is to be worn below the Conference patch.



Focused on the efforts of COVID-19, the Lake Union has begun airing a Facebook Live program on Sabbath afternoons aimed at being helpful and hopeful. Visit the *Lake Union Herald* Facebook page or www.lakeunionherald.org for more.

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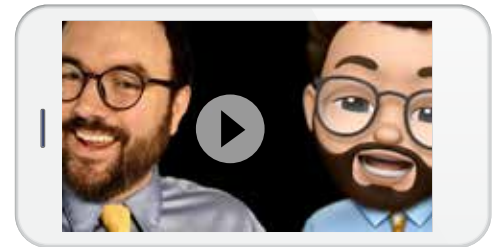
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Let's Stay in Touch!



While most pastors are still busy mastering the art of online preaching, one Wisconsin pastor decided to take his sermon to a new level. Zach Payne said the idea came to him when one of his members, a jaded millennial, remarked he could tune in anywhere to get a traditional live service, and asked, "Why not do things a little differently with our service?"

<https://bit.ly/34GEw1Y>

New videos added on a regular basis



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Well, our lives have changed! So this morning when a song started playing in my head (this happens often!), I was taken back to the little church in Germantown, Ohio, where I spent my teen years, and still return as often as I can. Walter Wright was leading us in singing, “We’ve come this far by faith . . . He’s never failed us yet.” That spiritual, by Albert Goodson, was a welcome reminder to reflect on how good God has been to me. How about you? “Count Your Blessings . . .!”

Gary Burns
Editor



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COVER PHOTOGRAPH: LAKE UNION HEALTH DIRECTOR RANDY GRIFFITH
PHOTOGRAPHED BY CHRISTA MCCONNELL

The *Lake Union Herald* (ISSN 0194-908X) is published monthly (except for January/February, June/July and November/December) by the Lake Union Conference, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs, Michigan, and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription price is \$12.50. Vol. 112, No. 4. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to: *Lake Union Herald*, P. O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.

Is There Any Word from the Lord?

Massive layoffs, skyrocketing unemployment and a rollercoaster stock market would be enough to upset the stomach of even the experienced thrill-seeker. But add a deadly virus to the mix and suddenly it seems as though someone hit the fast-forward button on the time that remains for this old world of ours.



▲ Maurice Valentine

Zedekiah asked Jeremiah when facing impending doom, *Is there any word from the Lord?* (Jer 37:17). Yes, there is. God is Love. Nothing has changed. You and I are still the apple of His eye and we can still put our confidence, hope and trust in Him. In short, God cares for you. That said, please allow me to suggest some practical steps for forging ahead in difficult times:

Watch the news outlets sparingly. One can take in too much of anything, especially the droning of 24-hour news channels with copious amounts of bad news to share. Eventually, you will become depressed and find it hard to trust and believe God's news when it comes.

Tune into the Good News. If your life has suddenly become homebound and you realize you haven't spent quality time with God for some time, now is a good time to feast on the Living Word: Jesus. I have faced difficult times before. In fact, most places where God has sent me have had a major crisis waiting for me, one considerably more severe than that which I currently face. If you think long and hard enough, this probably is not your first spiritual rodeo either. Let's remind our collective selves, "*God got me through every time in the past, so I know He can do it again!*" Remember, "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led

us, and His teaching in our past . . ." (Ellen G. White, *Christian Experience*, p. 204).

Surrender. Giving in isn't what most of us wish to do. Jeremiah told Zedekiah, *give in to the will of God*. Zedekiah chose to use political artifice while attempting to appease the power players of his day. He refused to just trust Jeremiah's counsel even though he knew it was of heavenly origin. It probably seemed too trite, too simple, and just didn't allow him to do anything other than trust God for the outcome. If we work for a company or are self-employed, now is the time to align yourself with God, rather than participate in the prognostications of the faithless and fainthearted. Now is the time to fall back into the hands of God and fully surrender to His providential will.

More time in prayer means more time to think about, "*Where do I stand with God?*" "*Are there unconfessed sins in my life that I need to put on the altar and leave them there?*" I read Jesus' beautiful prayer in John 17 as a part of my devotion time today. It reminded me of how much He loves me and wants to save me. If you don't have to commute to work for the immediate future, commit that time to having a closer walk with God. If you are off work for weeks or more, a new habit can be well on its way by the time you return to work.



Now is a great time to **share your faith in Jesus!** Pray and ask God, *"How can I share my faith today?"* and then move out in faith! He will supply the opportunity. Sharing our faith should always start in the home and then emanate outward. If you can't go next door, look at those around you. Now that you are around them 24/7, work even harder at imitating Jesus.

Reach out to those who are homebound.

Use a delivery service to send groceries and let them know it is coming so they can take the proper precautions when receiving the delivery, be it washing hands carefully, using rubber gloves, wiping or spraying down packages and packaging with antibacterial/antiviral spray. Connect with family members for whom time has not allowed in the recent or distant past. They will be glad to hear from you. Give to your church in ways that are safe, yet tangible. Maybe you haven't had time to give your time in the past. Call the people on your congregation's sick and shut-in list. Help a child who is being homeschooled with their homework, be they from a public private or traditional homeschool.

Trust in God. Is there a word from the Lord?

Remember what God told Jeremiah. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* (Jer. 29:11). The original language depicts a rope being let down to a person who felt hopeless and it's let down by none other than God. When God is holding the other end of the rope, you can grab hold with confidence, knowing He will never let you down and He will never let you fall. Remember, the plan of redemption was crafted in heaven before the world began. There's no crisis in God. God's word to an overwhelmed Zedekiah or Jeremiah would have been, "I will not have brought you to it, if I haven't already charted for you a path through it!"

P.S. Don't forget, the Lake Union President's book of the year is *The Great Controversy*. I can't think of a better time to read this powerful, Spirit-filled work on the last day movements of God. ■

Maurice Valentine is president of the Lake Union Conference.

Getting Victory Over the Virus

It seems the whole world is fighting the COVID-19 virus (SARS-CoV-2). Here are a few simple and practical ways we can gain victory over viruses, whether influenza or corona.



▲ John Kelly, MD

An ounce of prevention is still worth a pound of cure, and since the only way to get infected is from someone else, avoid physical contact and maintain a six-foot distance around others. The virus can survive for days on surfaces, so wash your hands after touching any surface where others might have left it behind. The virus does not infect our hands, but our hands can infect us when we touch or rub our face, eyes, nose or mouth. Use disposable gloves when in contact with potentially infected people, places or things. Wash your hands after discarding the gloves, and always before touching your face.

If the virus does catch us, it will be up to our immune system to fight it off, so let's do all we can to keep it strong and healthy. This includes a good diet with plenty of whole (unprocessed) plant foods, and without refined products like sodas, sugar, oils, animal fats (bacon, cheese), candies and pastries.

Get plenty of sleep, going to bed well before midnight. Take time for a stress-reducing daily devotional and a brisk walk in the fresh air and sunshine. Eat a hearty, whole-grain breakfast with plenty of fresh fruit and a serving of delicious beans to "top off your tank" and keep you going all morning. Take a generous lunch but little or no supper to give your body optimal rest and keep it "lean and mean."

The COVID-19 virus attacks the delicate cells lining the tiny air sacks in the lungs (alveoli). Let's keep our lungs strong and healthy with regular outdoor

exercise in the fresh air and sunshine. In general, aim for 10,000 steps per day (~4 miles), but work up to it gently. If you have health issues that make such a level unwise, keep your activity levels reasonable. (Check with your doctor when in doubt.)

Keep essential nutrients at peak levels by ensuring adequate levels of vitamins D and C. Many individuals need ~2000 IU vitamin D per day during the winter months. Strict vegetarians and older adults should consider taking a daily Vitamin B-12 supplement (1000 mcg is a typical dosage). Raw Brazil nuts provide important selenium and healthy fats. Ensure adequate, immune-enhancing zinc with a liberal intake of nuts and seeds (or no more than 25 mg of zinc supplementation daily). Zinc lozenges can help shorten cold symptoms.

The last pandemic similar to the present one was the Spanish Flu in 1918–1919. That pandemic killed millions around the globe. We've learned a lot since then, but we must be careful to apply it if we want to do any better. Seventh-day Adventists were known as champions of natural remedies, including the use of hydrotherapy, to fight disease. Records suggest that using abstemious diet, bed rest and diligent hydrotherapy (fomentations) was far more effective than what Army hospitals used, as well as other well-respected hospitals.¹

The *Hutchinson Leader* of December 13, 1919, reported on the amazing experience with the Spanish



flu at what was then the Hutchinson Adventist Seminary located in Hutchinson, Minnesota: “On the authority of the Hutchinson city health officer, Dr. Fred Sheppard, it may be stated that no public institution in the State of Minnesota has up to date made a record in handling influenza . . . like that [of the seminary].” With 120 students and faculty under one roof, 90 developed symptoms and were treated carefully with hygienic medicine, including hydrotherapy, by Dr. H.E. Larson and his staff. “As a result of this system of handling a disease that is scoring thousands of victims every day, there has not been one case that could have been called serious, or a single death in the Seminary, although there were more than 90 persons affected. The record is remarkable. It makes the ordinary methods of dealing with flu appear irrational.”² (We could not agree more!)

One simple hydrotherapy treatment is a daily hot-and-cold shower. By mobilizing white blood cells, experts believe it makes them more available to fight disease. After showering, before turning off the water, increase the water temperature to “hot” (~104–112°F) for 2 to 3 minutes and then turn it down to “cold” (<55°F) for 30 to 45 seconds. Repeat this 3 to 4 times and end with a brief cold. Dry off briskly and dress warmly to avoid any chill. (Those with impaired sensation due to diabetes or other conditions should keep the “hot” temperature ≤104°F.)

Last, but certainly not least, it’s always best to eat right from our own garden. Present circumstances suggest it may be wise to have an abundant garden this year so as to not only enjoy the freshest and most local produce, but also to help assure that we do not experience a food shortage. Inspired counsel encourages us to have a garden where we can grow our own fruits and vegetables (AH 139.6).

Check out the following online content for more practical ideas for getting victory over the virus:

- Fomentations #2 (Uchee Pines) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xxdgn9OU2iw>
(if this is helpful, watch the others ...#3, #4 and #5).

- Corona virus (Bachelor & Nedley) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKJvOYp3D3Y>
- Corona virus information (3ABN) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39jPBk5uCoM>
- https://drive.google.com/a/clnf.org/file/d/19I-6MCuaz5cgeajf2iJPzkr8wJn5erJp/view?usp=drive_web ■

1 Life & Health, May 1919, Vol. 34, No. 5. Review and Herald Publishing Assn., Takoma Park, Washington D.C.

2 Northern Union Reaper, Dec, 17, 1918, Vol. 13, Issue 39, pg. 2. Northern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Northern Union, Minneapolis, Minn., USA

John Kelly, MD, MPH, LM specialist, Oak Haven Health, Pullman, Mich.; adjunct faculty, Preventive Medicine, Loma Linda University



Retrospect on the Trinity

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen (2 Corinthians 13:14 NKJV).



▲ George R. Knight

Such were the final words of Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians, a statement that flashes to all Bible readers the identity of the members of the Godhead — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Between the 1880s and the mid-twentieth century, Adventism went through a revolution on the Trinity and the Divine natures and personhood of the Son and the Spirit. Ellen White, as noted, pointed Adventism in the new direction. But her statements did not create the revolution. Rather, they encouraged other Adventists to explore the Bible for themselves on those topics.

But even then change did not come quickly. In fact, it would take decades. A case in point is the 1919 General Conference-sponsored Bible Conference, which had an open discussion of the Trinity that made some nervous. One leading minister declared: “I have not been able to accept the so-called Trinitarian

doctrine. . . . I cannot believe the so-called Trinitarian doctrine. . . . I cannot believe that two persons of the Godhead are equal, the Father and the Son. . . . I cannot believe the so-called Trinitarian doctrine of the three persons always existing.”

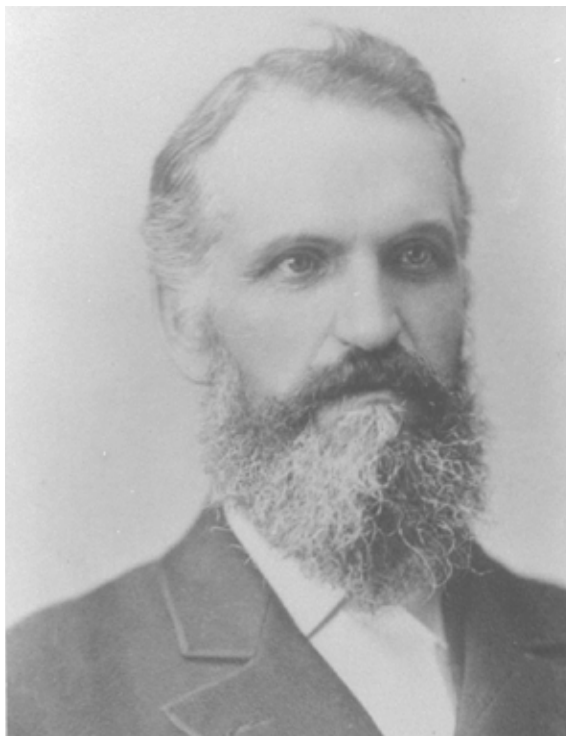
General Conference president A.G. Daniels sought to calm things down by indicating that “we are not going to take a vote on trinitarianism or arianism.” He also claimed that he had had the scales knocked from his eyes by the publication of *The Desire of Ages* and had turned to the Bible on the topic.

The year 1931 saw the denomination’s first statement of fundamental beliefs take a Trinitarian position. That doesn’t mean that all were agreed. Pockets of anti-Trinitarianism remained up into the 1940s but, by the 1950s, the church was of one voice on the Trinity.

For that reason, it has been somewhat surprising to see a revival in anti-Trinitarianism. Some of the apostles of that doctrine caught me in a “dark alley” at the Toronto General Conference session in 2000. I asked them why they believed their position was truth. Because, they responded, it was the position of our founders. Such logic would lead us to eating pork and keeping the Sabbath from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tradition, I responded, is a good position for a medieval church, but not for a Bible-based movement. That was settled back in the 1840s and reiterated in the 1888 era.

The only tradition that counts is that Adventism is a people of the BOOK. ■

► A. G. Daniels



<http://www.centrowhite.org.br/downloads/imagens/pessoas/white-estate-cd.04/>

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 293.

Let Us Praise Him

It is amazing how often we come to the Father, praying for loved ones, pleading for answers and seeking relief from various problems. Yet, we forget to — or seldom — offer real praise to the God of the Universe and the Author of amazing answered prayers.

Let your mind travel to a time and particular place, life situation or difficult problem where God — and you know it was Him — stepped in to correct the wrong, or simply sent what was needed. We truly have a Heavenly Father who cares so much for each of us that not a day goes by when He is not right there, caring tenderly for His children.

One of the things I so love about our Lord is that we can come to Him just as we are, nothing, absolutely nothing pretentious. We do not have to attain a certain status or hold a special position before we can meet with Him in prayer. Praise God!

When we think of those individuals in the Bible who knew how to praise God, there are many. But one of the most outstanding was Job. If you were placed in his position, after having lost every single thing you owned, including dear family members, what would be the first words you uttered?

Job 1:21 clearly shows the heart of this servant of God. . . . *the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.*

Or consider the insightful words of Ellen G. White on the subject of praise: “To praise God in fullness and sincerity is as much a duty as is prayer. . . . Our joy in the Lord and our efficiency in His service would be greatly increased by recounting His goodness and His wonderful works in behalf of His children. These exercises drive back the power of Satan.”

She further states, “God desired that the whole life of His people should be a life of praise” (*Christ’s Object*

Lessons, pp. 298, 299). Doesn’t that give you a truer perspective on how we should be praising our God?

There are many, many, things for which I want to praise God. One is my Mom. He blessed me with a God-fearing mother who loved and praised Him. Many times, I would see Mom on her knees in prayer. Praise God! She has been gone now eight years and, although I miss her terribly, I look forward to the day when I will see her again. The Lord Himself will embrace her along with the other faithful saints as He states, “*Well done good and faithful servant . . . enter into the joy of the Lord*” (Matthew 25:23).

John sums up praise so nicely in Revelation 5:13, *Then I heard every creature in Heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever!”*

My brothers and sisters, this Christian walk is not easy with its sometimes-near-death pitfalls, and occasional moments of sheer joy and elation. But, remember, the rewards are beyond anything we could ever imagine. Rejoicing and praising the Father — Himself, in Heaven! Let us pray, by His grace, to be there — together! ■

Paulette Taylor, Prayer coordinator, Indiana Conference



▲ Paulette Taylor



Donna Willey

▲ Agnes Moushon

On the Air

NINETY-THREE AND STILL POWERING ON

It's rare, nowadays, to hear of a TV program continuing for 33 episodes — forget about 33 years! But that's exactly what *The Orion Connection* can boast. The one-hour program has aired on local cable stations in the Peoria, Illinois, area every week since 1986, and its director/producer/editor and occasional announcer insists she'll continue as long as stations will air it.

Agnes Moushon, now 93, says it all started when she was visiting Chicago one weekend. She was mesmerized with a high-rise apartment building and one nagging thought: "*How in the world will we introduce Jesus to all those people?!*" Agnes brought the burden to her pastor at the time, and he simply replied, "We'll do it through TV."

Soon Agnes, her pastor and a few other helpers from church (including one of her sons) went to 3ABN to get some ideas and expertise from the then newly established production studios in West Frankfort, Illinois. She remembers a "sound and lighting guy" graciously coming back with them and laying the groundwork to get things set up at their church. Her son eventually took on most of the production, until he moved from the area in the early 2000s. By 2004, Agnes was at the helm and continues to run the show today which is no small feat.

She admits it takes her two to hours a week to finish editing everything together. That doesn't include shooting the Sabbath service (where she oversees nine broadcast quality cameras) and recording an additional special music or interview most weeks. Agnes claims she didn't know anything about videotaping until her son showed her some things, now more than three decades ago. Today, she sounds like a pro.

"The first thing I do is check to make sure the audio and pictures are good. Then, I just have to change some cables (in the editing suite), put it on a DVD, then have another computer print a formal label for the cable station." She makes about 10 copies in four minutes, then promptly drops one off at the local station. And she's done this every week for at least the last 16 years.

So, what are the results? Agnes says she continues to run into people who have seen the program, and yes, several have come into the Adventist Church because of it. But, if you think she's resting on her laurels, think again. "I feel like we're not doing enough for outreach," she says somberly. "We're on the verge of Sodom and Gomorrah again and we need to let people know we're very, very close to the end of time." This thought daily drives her and helps drill down to the underlying theme she hopes is threaded throughout each episode.

"I don't know that [the viewers] need to do what I or any preacher says, but if they can just get into their Bibles and understand there's a way they can be saved . . ." That, says Agnes, is her ultimate goal and what God has pressed upon her missionary heart. ■

Cheri Daniels Lewis, freelance writer in the Quad Cities Area of Illinois

En medio de la cuarentena

“Ahora bien, sabemos que Dios dispone todas las cosas para el bien de los que lo aman, es decir, de los que él ha llamado de acuerdo a su propósito” (Romanos 8:28).

En el momento de escribir este artículo me hallo en una realidad muy diferente a la que yo esperaba encontrar en el año 2020. Al comenzar este año pensaba que la Iglesia Adventista estaría en plena actividad. La Unión del Lago estaba apoyando grandes planes de evangelismo en el estado de Indiana. Se habían planeado programas de entrenamiento laico, promoción de salud en la comunidad y grandes campañas evangelísticas en diferentes lugares en el estado de Indiana. Se esperaba también llevar a cabo la sesión quinquenal de la Asociación General de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en la ciudad de Indianápolis, Indiana. En ocasiones anteriores miles de adventistas de todo el mundo solían asistir. Todo esto estaba listo para ser implementado este año hasta que llegó lo inesperado — el coronavirus.

¡Jamás había visto algo semejante —una tercera parte del mundo recluida en sus hogares debido a una pandemia! Dado a esta grave situación las autoridades restringieron la habilidad de salir de los hogares, impactando la ida al trabajo, las actividades escolares, y aún las reuniones en los templos. Al comienzo de esta nueva situación me sentía frustrado y desanimado, pues teníamos tantos planes en marcha para realizar la obra de Dios. Entonces, me hice la pregunta: “¿Por qué ha permitido Dios que todo esto ocurriera?”

Recibí la respuesta a mi pregunta justo después del Congreso de Oración que fue el 6 y 7 de marzo, inmediatamente antes de que se nos ordenara permanecer en nuestros hogares. El objetivo de este congreso era pedir el bautismo del Espíritu Santo. De manera que los participantes pasamos mucho tiempo en oración unos con otros. Poco después de concluir el evento nos llegó la noticia de que todos los que habíamos participado en ese congreso debíamos permanecer en

cuarentena por catorce días. Al concluir ese período comprendí que Dios había permitido que ocurriera esto teniendo en cuenta la promesa que se encuentra en Romanos 8:28, donde dice: “Dios dispone todas las cosas para el bien de los que lo aman, es decir, de los que él ha llamado de acuerdo a su propósito”.

¿Cuál ha sido el resultado positivo de esta situación actual? Debido a las cuarentenas y que la mayoría de la población permanece en sus hogares, las predicaciones de los pastores alcanzan por medio del internet a muchos más de los que asistirían al templo. A pesar de la distancia social que practicamos nos acercamos mucho más el uno a otro a través de los medios sociales. Las iglesias auspician días de ayuno y oración para pedir la dirección y la protección de Dios. Los pastores se acercan más a sus dirigentes de las asociaciones para solicitar apoyo y consejo. Además, se están dando campañas evangelísticas de manera virtual, cosa que favorece la formación de los grupos pequeños.

Es mi opinión personal Dios ha permitido la necesidad de la cuarentena y el aislamiento en los hogares con el propósito de preparar nuestros corazones para recibir el Espíritu Santo y practicar el discipulado en forma muy personal. Que Dios nos siga acompañando y guiando para poder ser mejores discípulos de Cristo. ■



▲ Carmelo Mercado

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

'God, Use My Hands'

By Katie Fellows



▲ Keila Sánchez



WHILE MANY ARE QUARANTINED AT HOME, figuring out what to do with their time, Keila Sánchez, scarf designer and church member of the Paw Paw Church, has put her skills to work sewing medical face masks for local and out-of-state health-care providers.

"God blessed our daughter with life six years ago and the least I can do is to bless others in this time," Keila says. "Through my work, I'm able to share a story, hoping to encourage other families in their fights, and just to share that God is still there. We can't control the future but He's always there."

Keila's passion for designing began when she started sewing from home to cover her daughter's medical expenses. Her daughter, Saila, was born with Congenital Heart Disease, leading to five open-heart surgeries at a young age. Thankfully, these life-saving surgeries were a success and Saila is a thriving and joyful, living miracle.

In order to better protect Saila as they traveled to doctor's appointments, she designed a blanket to fit Saila's carseat. It wasn't long after posting a photo on social media that other mother's began to take notice and started to contact her about making carseat covers for them.

"In a couple of weeks, I had several orders for carseat covers. And that's how we were able to pay for my daughter's medical expenses," Keila shares. "It turned into a growing business."

Keila's passion and creativity are the driving force behind the growing brand, KozySaila, named for her daughter. Featuring a versatile collection of accessories, designed with a mix of fabrics including velvet, leather and cashmere, KozySaila has gathered a group of loyal fashionistas who can't get enough of her bold, elegant, artistic pieces.

While Keila's degree is in Art Education, she soon realized that her true calling was in fashion design. After several years of creating wearable art pieces inspired by her love of color and patterns, she sought to transform the everyday scarf.

Today, KozySaila's scarves have become a fashion-forward, year-round accessory that has garnered the attention of many, including the fashion world.

"Last year, KozySaila started growing even more. An agency reached out to me from New York and invited me to Paris Fashion Week to showcase my first designer collection," says Keila. "I prayed and asked God to show me what to do and I left the decision in His hands."



Courtesy of Keila Sánchez

As a small business owner, Keila had concerns about the future of her business with COVID-19. But, early in the morning, she got up and spent time with God and prayed, “I’m going to keep doing my part, but You’re my business partner, so we’re going to do this together.”

It wasn’t long after when Keila received a text from a healthcare friend asking if she’d thought about sewing homemade face masks.

“My friend got me thinking about it and I’d heard about shortages of masks,” says Keila. “So I put away the scarves I was going to work on and, instead, spent half of the day designing a CDC-approved face mask pattern.”

Throughout the day, Keila received more messages and social tags about making homemade face masks. One message in particular about nurses and doctors having to reuse their medical masks for up to a full week helped to strengthen her determination in making more face masks. Keila continued to work throughout the night and until noon the next day.

“I felt God was telling me that it was time to do something,” says Keila.

In less than 24 hours, Keila was able to make 60 masks and hand deliver them to medical staff at

Spectrum Lakeland in St. Joseph and Niles, Mich. Since then, she also has sent face masks to other healthcare facilities out-of-state, including one in New Jersey. Along with her deliveries, Keila sends a note of encouragement with a Bible verse. Most recently, she’s been writing Nahum 1:7, which says, *The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.*

“The Pediatric team from Spectrum Health Lakeland is very grateful for [her] donations [and support],” says Grashelle Dungo-Peña, a pediatric nurse. “Your gift is greatly appreciated and will be used to assist Spectrum Health Lakeland to provide the very best in healthcare to our community.”

Within the first week, Keila sewed more than 150 face masks for medical workers and concerned family members who want to protect their loved ones.

“Thank you to all the SUPERMEN and SUPERWOMEN on the frontlines!” says Keila. “I feel that we all need encouragement right now, and if I can do that through a face mask, I won’t stop. God takes care of us and He’s providing, one face mask at a time.”

Interested in helping this ministry? Visit www.facebook.com/kozysaila. ■

Katie Fellows is a Michigan-based freelance writer.



Watch at <https://vimeo.com/404613894>





DEALING WITH CHANGE

By Andrea Luxton

Working in a school of a university setting means living in a constant environment of change — new students, new course material, finding new ways to present old material, seeking creative ways to support, encourage and nurture the minds and hearts of every student. In the words of Ellen White, “. . .the work of education and redemption are one.” And redemption, by its very nature, is about bringing change.



Nevertheless, the last two weeks have demanded educators embrace a level of unprecedented change. That need will not abate soon. As Seventh-day Adventist educators, how do we respond, and how perhaps can that response model a way that we all can live in our current challenging environment?

First, let me tell you a little of how the first few weeks of March rolled out at Andrews University. In early March, life was still comparatively normal. We had a concert on the campus as part of our regular season of music performances. We had a graduate student gala night. Mid-terms were coming up; spring break was a week away. Coronavirus (COVID-19) was beginning to impact the United States, but Michigan was on the edges of that.

Only two days later, although there were only two confirmed cases in Michigan but looking at the developments throughout the country, we decided to move to

remote learning for the rest of the semester. Executive orders and recommendations from the Governor's Office happened almost simultaneously and, within two days, the campus had been informed and students starting leaving.

That was just the beginning of the changes. As the campus emptied, we heard our early March guest vocalist had tested positive for COVID-19. Three positive tests on campus followed, and a large number of quarantines/self-isolations. Faculty who had never taught remotely geared up to do so in order for students to complete the semester. Students who needed to stay on campus moved into single rooms and prepared to make their rooms their learning space. The University identified who was essential to continue operations while we moved to a more remote form of operations. Our staff imagined new ways of working from home. Some staff

WE DO NOT HAVE THOSE ANSWERS. WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THIS: GOD REMAINS THE SAME, AND WE HAVE AN AMAZING FAITHFUL AND COMMITTED COMMUNITY.

faced reduced hours or furloughing. All of this in a matter of days.

Change brings fear — and possibility. It can make us withdraw to keep safe, and it can make us reach out in new ways to keep important connections. It can rip a community apart and it can deepen its ties in new and innovative ways. As for Andrews University, I have been humbled by the amazing, committed and creative students and employees that I work with and for. From creative teaching delivery, to a wealth of spiritual and personal support programs and tools, to personal commitments of support to the University and wider community: I have seen it all. Again, all in a matter of days. Word on the street is that higher education is one of the slowest institutions to change, yet I have seen my colleagues pivot to a new environment of learning and working, not just rapidly, but in a way that emanates positivity, faith and hope.

So how can our experience help us all know how we can live in this current fearful environment of change?

Let's look at the Israelites and their journey through the wilderness. The Israelites had grown used to a life in Egypt. True, they were slaves, but they knew what to expect. So it is not surprising that once they left Egypt and were in the wilderness facing uncertainties every day, that they kept looking backwards. "If only we had never left Egypt" was their common cry. No matter what miracles God performed on their behalf, how He gave evidence of His daily presence, when something went wrong, the cry went up again, "If only we had never left Egypt!"

Then they stood on the edge of the Promised Land. God's promise lay ahead but the barriers were just too immense and the majority fears of yet more change took over. The giants in the land would overcome them; they were merely "as grasshoppers." They should go back to Egypt. We know what happens. The Israelites are forced to turn away from the promised future and spend another 40 years in the wilderness before the time for entering the Promised Land comes again.

How does this example help us in our current environment? I would suggest that the greatest risk to us personally and spiritually from massive change is that we are so overwhelmed with the loss of what is normal and so fearful of what may come that we can lose sight of what remains secure. In the case of the Israelites, what remained secure was God's leading and presence. Joshua and Caleb, the two spies that were ready to go into the Promised Land, realized that. And that is true for us, both at Andrews University and each of us in the Church. No matter what changes around us, God remains the same loving, faithful, redemptive Lord of our lives.

The second point of stability is one we create ourselves: the stability of our own faith community. Just as my colleagues are doing all they can to create a new norm of connection to our University community, so we can do the same within our family and church communities. Do not lose connection with each other! No other time do we need that connection more than now.

At Andrews, we still have many uncertainties. Those who were initially impacted by COVID-19 have recovered, but what of the future as the virus continues to rampage around the country? We know we will have massive short-term revenue losses over the next few months. How do we recover from that? What will be the long-term impact on our University and what do we do? When will we return to normal or will normal now always be different?

We do not have those answers. What we do know is this: God remains the same, and we have an amazing faithful and committed community. With that knowledge, we can be at peace, even while we manage our environment and create opportunities amidst the change. ■

Andrea Luxton is president of Andrews University

On the Frontlines

HEALTHCARE WORKERS BATTLE PANDEMIC WITH RESILIENCY

By Thor Thordarson

Physicians, nurses and other associates at AMITA Health arrived on the COVID-19 front lines earlier than most U.S. healthcare providers.

A woman who had traveled to Wuhan, China, where COVID-19 originated in late 2019, was diagnosed with the disease in January and admitted for treatment at AMITA Health St. Alexius Medical Center in the Chicago suburb of Hoffman Estates. She was the first person in Illinois and the second person in the U.S. with a confirmed case of COVID-19, which is caused by the novel coronavirus.

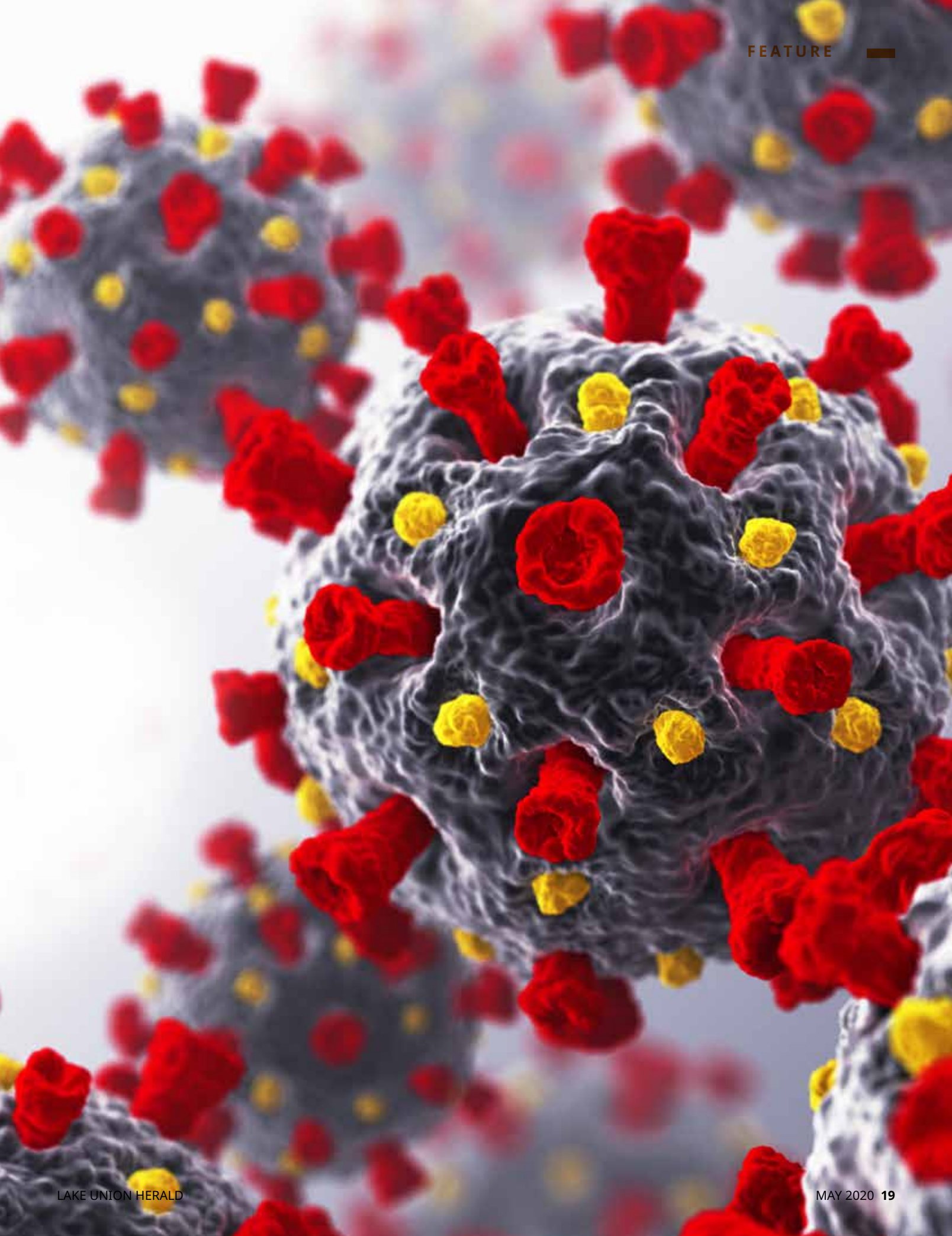
Her husband soon contracted the virus and also was admitted to the medical center for treatment. He was the first person in the nation who was known to have contracted the virus through human-to-human transmission.

The couple responded well to treatment and eventually recovered after leaving the hospital in February. But for AMITA Health's physicians, associates and leaders, the battle against COVID-19 had just begun.

Honoring founders' legacy

In the months since the couple was released from the hospital, AMITA Health's medical teams and support staff have worked tirelessly to care for COVID-19 patients and protect the community as the pandemic has spread, exacting a deadly toll across the nation. In the process, they have displayed exceptional strength, courage and compassion, along with an unwavering commitment to AMITA Health's mission of extending the healing ministry of Jesus.

By running bravely toward the urgent call for COVID-19 care, they have honored the legacy of AMITA Health's Seventh-day Adventist forebearers, including physicians David and Mary Paulson, who were dedicated to serving the sick and poor. In the early twentieth century, they led others of





As our battle against COVID-19 continues, we find comfort in the words of Jeremiah 29:11, which says: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

faith in founding a rest home for destitute women and a sanitarium for indigents and others in Hinsdale, Illinois, west of Chicago.

As the COVID-19 crisis has unfolded, AMITA Health’s medical teams and support staff have displayed the same altruistic spirit, exemplifying these faith-based values in powerful ways.

While our medical teams have put themselves at risk on the front lines, other AMITA Health associates have worked together, and with public health officials, to optimize our response to the crisis and slow the spread of COVID-19.

Mobilizing quickly

Our physicians, associates and leadership teams mobilized quickly to ensure an organized response to the pandemic, taking steps to increase access to high quality care, identify and address emerging issues in real time, and protect the health and safety of our physicians and staff.

We established a systemwide Incident Command Center to manage our daily efforts to fight COVID-19, implemented a rigorous COVID-19 screening process in our Emergency departments, and arranged daily calls between system leaders and clinical staff to ensure we were in a constant state of readiness.

We created committees to deal with issues such as the appropriate use and conservation of personal protective equipment, ventilator availability, lab turnaround and employee health. We formed a medical staff task force that put in place emergency privileging capabilities and a medical staff hotline.

In addition, we offered drive-up Coumadin testing in hospital parking lots to reduce hospital foot traffic and ensure continuity of care for patients taking the blood thinner. We fast-tracked and implemented technological advancements, such as e-visits for patients and providers. We also formed committees to prepare for a COVID-19 surge and to address issues we could face after the crisis.

Other efforts focused on disseminating important COVID-19 information and updates to the general public, our medical teams and other associates. Examples included:

- Establishing a COVID-19 resource center at www.amitahealth.org to provide safety tips and other information about the disease and related AMITA Health services.
- Using social media to educate and to update the public about COVID-19.
- Publicizing advice for managing anxiety related to the crisis.
- Sponsoring a webinar on parenting and supporting children's emotional health and wellness during the pandemic.
- Offering tips for fun activities to do with children while staying at home.
- Communicating frequently with physicians and associates through email, our intranet and newsletters, including providing guidance about protecting themselves and reducing community spread while caring for patients.

All of these initiatives occurred while our physicians and staff continued to handle non-COVID-19 cases, challenging their physical, mental and emotional stamina.

Looking ahead hopefully

As we have confronted this generational challenge, we have benefited from the support of our co-sponsors, AdventHealth and Ascension, whose faith-based identities remind us of the charge found in Isaiah 7:4: . . . *Say to them, be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart.* . . .

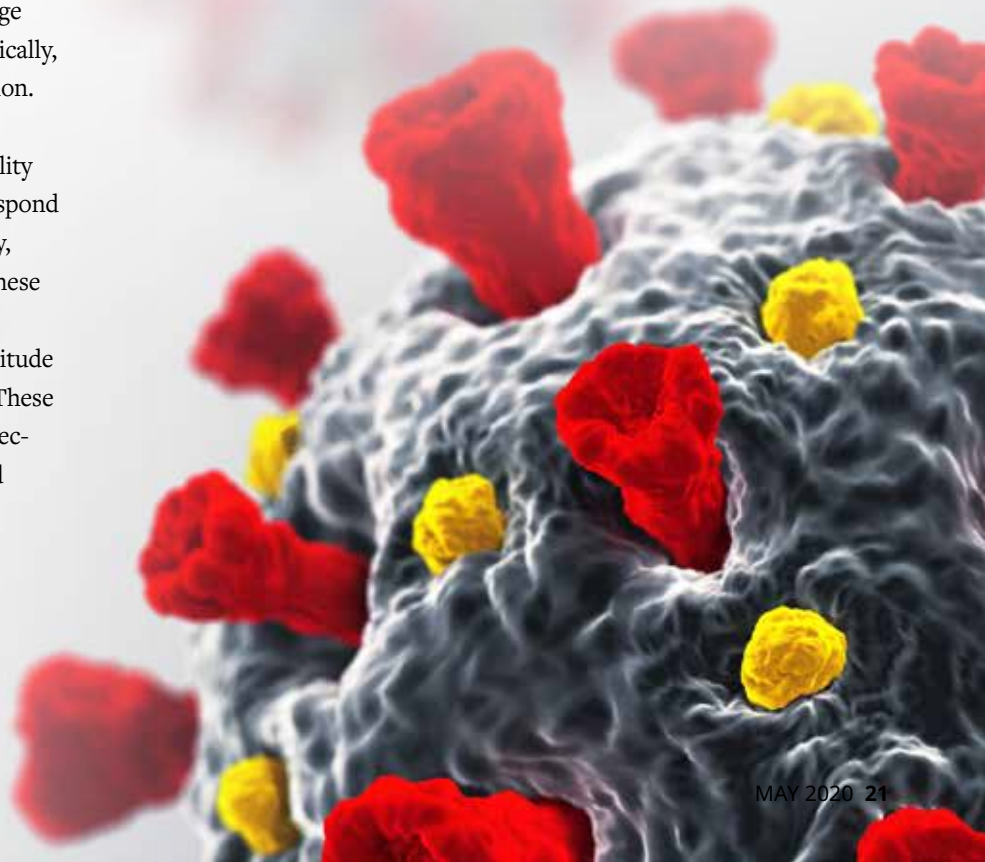
Cast into the cauldron of COVID-19, our medical teams, associates and leaders have shown their true character, and it is one of strength, calm, resolve, resilience and hope. They have risen to this challenge together and have responded selflessly and energetically, inspiring all of us with their dedication to our mission.

For strong organizations such as AMITA Health, trying times like these actually can enhance our ability to fulfill our mission. They call on us not only to respond swiftly and appropriately, but also to look for mercy, grace, goodness and hope around us. We can find these qualities in our patients, their families and our colleagues. We also see them in the outpouring of gratitude we have received from the communities we serve. These discoveries allow us to see God in our human connections, helping us become stronger, more united and more resilient.

That's how I expect AMITA Health to emerge from the COVID-19 crisis. As difficult and frightening as it has been, I'm confident we will learn valuable lessons which will gird us for future challenges and enhance our ability to address the needs of the patients and communities we serve.

As our battle against COVID-19 continues, we find comfort in the words of Jeremiah 29:11, which says: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* ■

Thor Thordarson is executive vice president and chief operating officer of AMITA Health.



THE CHURCH IS STILL OPEN

Community in the Midst of COVID-19

By Becky St. Clair

Adapting to a fast-paced world has long been a challenge for many churches. Technology is advancing faster than most can learn it, and with so many responsibilities on our plates, keeping up with modern technology often takes a back seat.

Until it can't.

As 2020 unfolded and the realities of a world overtaken by COVID-19 began to take shape, churches suddenly found themselves with unexpectedly closed doors. Weekly community by gathering in one building was no longer possible, and adaptation was directly tied to survival.

As grim as that sounds, the results have been anything but. Lake Union pastors, elders and church members have all mobilized without a second thought, collaborating, researching and learning as they go. Suddenly, no effort is too much and no idea is too crazy — community and connection depend on them.

Illinois Conference

Ever since he was a kid, Milt Coronado has loved art. While in his senior year pursuing a degree in Art from the Art Institute in Chicago, his father's death rerouted his passion toward service, particularly to youth and young adults. Today, trained as a pastor, he works for the State


and does commissioned murals, paintings and illustrations. Recently, he's taken his skills and his passion, and combined them with Facebook Live to create an artistic ministry he never saw coming.

"The first day my seven-year-old son was out of school, he asked me to help him draw all the animals in the world," Milt recalls. "We ended up doing FaceTime so my nephew could join us. Then I realized, 'All the kids home from school need to see this.'"

Milt now does a virtual drawing class twice a week. He has children from around the world tuning in for not just the art, but the life lesson that comes with it.

"I tie a positive message to every drawing," he explains. "When we draw a unicorn, for example, I talk about how unicorns don't really exist, but you can consider yourself a unicorn, because you are unique — God made you special with talents and abilities no one else has."

Milt has done everything from unicorns, to elephants, to dragons, to hummingbirds and superheroes, each one

A stylized illustration featuring a large, white, three-dimensional cross that dominates the center of the frame. The background is a vibrant yellow, covered in a repeating pattern of light-colored, stylized virus particles. In the lower-left corner, a small figure of a person with dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt and dark pants, is walking away from the viewer along a white path that leads towards the base of the cross. The lighting creates soft shadows on the yellow floor and walls, giving the scene a sense of depth and perspective.

"I miss face-to-face interactions with my church family, so I don't count this as a permanent substitute," Hodet says, "but I am considering possibilities of combining the two later. It's become a joy for us, and we trust it has been for those joining us as well."

tied to a positive message in what he calls a “mini kid sermon.”

Although his teaching experience, art training and personality made this project a breeze, Milt says a major component is “the Jesus factor.”

“He’s there every time I go live, and some of the things I say I didn’t expect to,” he says. “The Holy Spirit jumps in and tells me what those kids need to hear.”

Although most adults know how to cope with and find resources for their emotions, most children do not. Milt says art can help ease the feelings of anxiety, fear, depression and anger.

One mom messaged him: “When all of this started happening, my son was nervous and stressed. He had even started grinding his teeth at night and was restless. I’ve noticed him become more and more relaxed and little distractions like the one you’ve been able to provide have contributed to his peace. Thank you!”

Find Milt on YouTube @MiltCoronado.

Indiana Conference

“We knew this day was coming.”

Throstur Thordarson, South Bend First Church pastor, anticipated a situation as predicted in Hebrews 10, where it would be more important than ever to meet together, although churches would not be able to. This is why ten years ago he began working with his elders to create parishes within the church.

There are about 20 elders in SBFC, and each elder has 12 to 15 families in their parish. They are the primary pastors for the church; Thordarson serves as administrative and training pastor.

“My associate pastor and I split the group of elders, and every week he and I call our group to encourage and support them in their work,” Thordarson explains. “The rest of the week we work to make what they do possible and provide resources.”

SBFC has over 650 members, made up of about 200 families. As soon as COVID-19 reared its head, the elders jumped into action to contact their members, checking in and encouraging them via text, phone and email. Six Zoom Sabbath School classes, including teen and collegiate, offer options for members, and children’s Sabbath School services are recorded ahead of time and streamed on Sabbath mornings.

Thordarson says he saw this day coming, and their church was prepared.

“We planned ahead of time,” he says. “Whatever happens, we will be ready, which is precisely what Jesus told us to do.”

Lake Region Conference

Due to their proximity to University of Illinois at Champaign and other university towns, Pastor Nikolai Greaves’ churches have a lot of medical students, residents, nurses and other health professionals in their congregations, and they had been monitoring the COVID-19 situation even before the crisis hit. As a result, they anticipated what to do to continue ministry when the physical building closed.

Greaves’ churches include Park Avenue Church in Champaign, Lebanon Church in Decatur, and Mt. Sinai Church in Peoria. Like most other churches, they began utilizing Zoom and other technology to hold prayer meetings, Bible studies, Sabbath School and church services, but then they went a few steps further. They split their membership into teams/tribes, then assigned leaders, identifying those in the high risk categories and arranging grocery and other deliveries for them.

“We also are planning online finance seminars and health seminars,” Greaves explains, “as well as online workshops on how to make one’s own essential items such as laundry detergent and hand sanitizer.”

It’s not just the pastor and elders who are stepping up and caring for the flock; church members are leading initiatives to stay connected. Many regularly check on each other, finding creative ways to meet identified needs.

“This has strengthened our community as a church,” Greaves says. “We’re acting from love for God and for people, and it has brought us all closer with Him and each other.”

Their community is growing, too; new people have joined their online Bible studies, prayer meetings have increased attendance, and there is greater communication between everyone.

“The church building may be closed,” adds Greaves, “but the church is still open.”

Michigan Conference

For years, Pastor Christien Hodet and his family have enjoyed daily worship together. When the South Flint Church pastor's family found they could no longer meet with their church for Sabbath services, they opted to go live with their family worship to close the Sabbath on Saturday evening.

"It's not just keeping us connected to each other, it's keeping us connected with Christ," Hodet says.

Keeping their family worship format, the Hodets share blessings and prayer requests, pray, sing, recite Scripture, then read and discuss a portion of Scripture. On Facebook Live, they invite viewers to contribute to each portion of the worship via the video comments. On average, between 30 and 50 people have joined the livestream, and over 200 have viewed the video after the fact.

"Time will tell how many others along the way will decide to listen in on a good ol' fashioned family worship," Hodet says. "It's pretty cool to think about what an impact such a simple thing might have on people."

Hodet says this approach to corporate worship has opened the door for many who might not feel comfortable attending an in-person church activity.

"I miss face-to-face interactions with my church family, so I don't count this as a permanent substitute," Hodet says, "but I am considering possibilities of combining the two later. It's become a joy for us, and we trust it has been for those joining us as well."

Wisconsin Conference

Although taking church online is now a must, Pastor Sheldon Bryan of Southside Adventist Fellowship and Milwaukee Central Church knows not everyone is comfortable with technology. So, based on members' comfort level, he created a three-layer communication plan to ensure every member was connected. The layers include a phone tree, Zoom, and multiple social media platforms.

The largest connection point, however, is the Greater Milwaukee Adventist Fellowship, a joint Facebook community between Bryan's churches, Pastor Zack Payne's WISEN (a network of Adventist churches in southeastern Wisconsin), and Pastor Myoung Kwon's Waukesha District.

"We wanted to maintain an encouraging community while observing the safe-at-home mandates," Bryan

explains, "so we started a group that leverages each of our talents while tapping into the resources within our local and wider community."

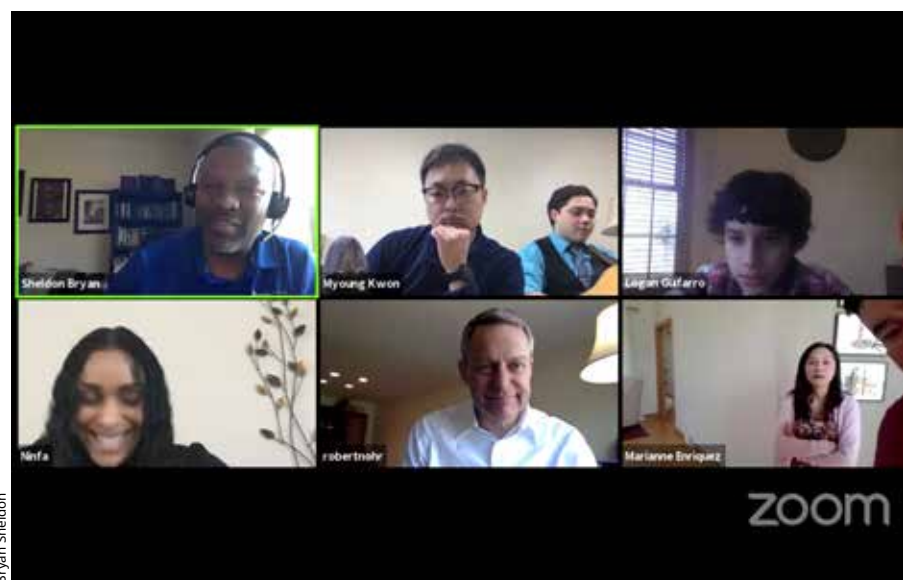
These Wisconsin churches are used to having major snowstorms close their doors for a Sabbath or two each year, forcing them to experiment with hosting church on Facebook. GMAF expanded on the thought, providing positive and encouraging messages all week long.

The pastors' specializations — media-integrated sermons, multigenerational ministries, video editing, and e-learning — prepared them well for the current situation.

"What is key, though," Bryan emphasizes, "is that before all of this happened, we were already working together. Our pre-established relationships made transitioning online seamless and successful."

Join this online community: facebook.com/groups/GMAF2300. ■

Becky St. Clair is a freelance writer.



▲ Greater Milwaukee Adventist Fellowship is a Facebook group organized to provide services via livestream as well as share what's going on at various churches and ministries.

"We're acting from love for God and for people, and it has brought us all closer with Him and each other."



By Nicholas Miller

Love, Liberty and Worship in the Time of Coronavirus

How should the Church carry out its mission during a worldwide pandemic? How can it preach the gospel and protect its religious freedoms at a time when most churches around the country are closed for worship?

This is not the first time that the Adventist Church has faced these difficult questions. It confronted them in 1918 during the worldwide influenza pandemic that infected a quarter of the world's population — almost 500 million people. The pandemic killed anywhere from 20 to 100 million people.

During this period, Adventist schools experienced closures, camp meetings and evangelistic meetings were cancelled, and churches were organized to help both their members and neighbors deal with the pandemic. Articles from the Lake Union Herald from 1918 reveal that churches and schools were closed at the time for periods of up to two months.¹

An article published in the *Adventist Review* at the height of the pandemic described scenes very like the ones we see on our television screens from Italy, Spain or New York City. Written by Dr. W.A. Rublev, secretary of the General Conference Health Department, it recorded that “gruesome accounts are given on every hand of cemeteries strewn with occupied coffins awaiting diggers to inter them; undertakers with dozens of bodies awaiting caskets; morgues taxed to their capacity, and additional buildings and even tents requisitioned for the overflow.”²

At that time as well, the medical system became overwhelmed, and was unable to cope with the vast number of sick, dying, and dead. “Among the living many are dying unattended by physician or nurses. . . . Every practical nurse and every other person that could at all minister to the sick has been called into service, and still there is not enough help.”

But rather than dwelling on the suffering and horror, Rublev spent most of his article calling for Adventists to take advantage of this opportunity for service and outreach. “Every Seventh-day Adventist has had ten times as many opportunities for service as he would fill if he had been ready for them. What a chance for missionary endeavor and for practicing that pure religion and undefiled of which James speaks!”

Rublev went on to discuss the desirability of every Adventist church and member re-tooling to serve as a lay medical missionary helper. He saw the crisis as breaking down barriers of race, class, profession and religion, as people just needed help, from wherever it came. “It matters not whether the helper be white or black, Christian or heathen, rich or poor.” Even formal degrees no longer

Closing churches to stop
coronavirus isn't yet Rev. 13.
It is Lev. 13.
So act like 1 Cor. 13
'til Rom. 13 runs its course!

were of great importance. “The doctor and the nurse no longer hold the pre-eminence they have held heretofore. The practical nurse, or anyone who can do things, is in demand.”

In his conclusion, he urged all church members to become knowledgeable about matters of basic health. “After influenza, what? Let every Seventh-day Adventist become a medical missionary.” He saw a role for formal programs at our schools and colleges, but wanted churches themselves to become involved in the training. “Let schools of health and first-aid courses be given in every church.”

Rublev's urgings were more than mere rhetoric. Adventists were active in the field of practical, natural remedies, and successfully treated many members with them. One such instance was at the Adventist Seminary, based in Hutchinson, Minnesota. At some point in October and November, 1918, at the height of the flu epidemic, fully 90 of the 120 students at the Seminary contracted the virus. But not a single one died or became even seriously ill. Other places saw fatality rates of as high as 10 percent.

The Hutchinson Seminary, under the leadership of Dr. H.E. Larson, a physician on faculty, relied on a combination of isolation of the infected, rest, diet, and hot and cold abdomen, chest, and neck fomentations (hot towels compressed onto the patient, front and back, followed by chilled towels). The Public Health officer of Hutchinson City certified that no other institution in the State of Minnesota had close to such impressive treatment results.³

Today, our own medical systems appear threatened by a potential flood of patients, should current predictions hold, as we have already seen happen in Italy, Spain and now even in America. In Italy and Spain, older patients have been essentially sent home to die because of lack of space and ventilators. Can we as Adventists prepare to aid our neighbors and our own members who lack access to

hospitals in their time of need? Yes, says Dr. John Kelly, Adventist physician and professor, who explains how on pages 6-7 of this magazine, which includes links to descriptions of the methods used by the Adventists in 1918 and how they can be implemented today.

Worship During a Pandemic

But what about worship and freedom during this time of crisis? As Adventists, we believe that the Bible tells us that there will come a time when the government will interfere with and legislate regarding worship. At this time, many of our churches across the country cannot meet because of local and state laws. One non-Adventist pastor in Florida was arrested for holding church services in violation of local law. Is this a fulfillment of prophecy?⁴

To answer this question simply, biblically and memorably, I created, with the help of my graduate student, Pastor David Hamstra, the meme on my Facebook page which reads: "Closing churches to stop coronavirus isn't yet Rev. 13. It is Lev. 13. So act like 1 Cor. 13 'til Rom. 13 runs its course!"

What does it mean? I believe that the current restrictions on public gathering that impact churches are, in general, a valid expression of the state's concern with the health and lives of its citizens. Revelation 13 is about religious discrimination, required worship and persecution. It predicts a time when the power of the state will be used to promote a certain kind of worship at the expense of religious minorities, and their rights of religious freedom and conscience.

But currently, the restrictions on worship gatherings are neutral towards religion. In most states, not only are all churches, mosques and synagogues closed, but all kinds of other gatherings, whether social, political, or artistic, also are prohibited. Further, worship of any particular kind or creed is not actually prohibited. Rather it must take place either in small groups, or online. These restrictions are reflective of the concerns we find in Leviticus 13, which contains limitations on people suspected of being infected with a plague. They were to be shut up, or quarantined, for seven days, which would include not being at the worship assembly. Some people who became permanent carriers of known contagious diseases, such as leprosy, were permanently put outside the camp (see Lev. 13:45-46).

We live in a time when we simply cannot tell who is carrying a virus which can kill those who are especially vulnerable among us. Surely a basic teaching of love is that in such circumstances we should avoid social contact for a defined period. This can protect the vulnerable and ourselves. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 urges us that love suffereth long, and is kind. Surely, we can endure the inconvenience and hardship of worshipping from afar and online to keep our vulnerable members and neighbors alive.

Paul also says that *love is not easily provoked, . . . but that it beareth all things . . . endureth all things*. Yes, social isolation is not easy, and missing in-person worship is difficult and sad. But should we let our lack of patience, or our insistence on our "rights," jeopardize the health and safety of others? Already a number of churches which persisted in worshipping or meeting amidst growing warnings have experienced many infections, and several deaths. In spite of this, some churches are insisting on their rights to gather to worship.⁵ This seems an unfortunate and misguided sense of rights that violates the basic principle of love for the vulnerable.

Prophetically, we do believe at some point the government will overstep its boundaries, and seek to inappropriately curtail and compel worship. But Romans 13 shows us that civil rulers actually have a Divine mandate to protect us from evil, and to reward the good. Thus, their work at keeping us safe from the coronavirus, and penalizing people who endanger others, even in the name of religion, is Divinely ordained. We do need to stay aware, however, and watch carefully the temptation to governmental over-reach that always comes with a crisis.

When will worship restrictions become constitutionally and biblically problematic? As long as the state restrictions are narrowly constructed to advance the compelling interest of keeping the community safe and alive, they are constitutionally acceptable. This may depend on the scope and duration of the restrictions. But, at this point, it is too early in the crisis to assume or argue that most social distancing requirements thus far are inappropriately intrusive or limiting.

We have seen hospitals, ventilators and even morgues fill up with bodies in Spain and Italy, and that is now starting in America. Quite extreme measures are justified, as long as they are not targeting religion or religious minorities for inferior treatment compared with other

gatherings. Currently, this does not appear to be the case. Our Adventist pioneers in 1918 endured such closings for up to two months. I can find no objections they made to these measures on religious liberty grounds.

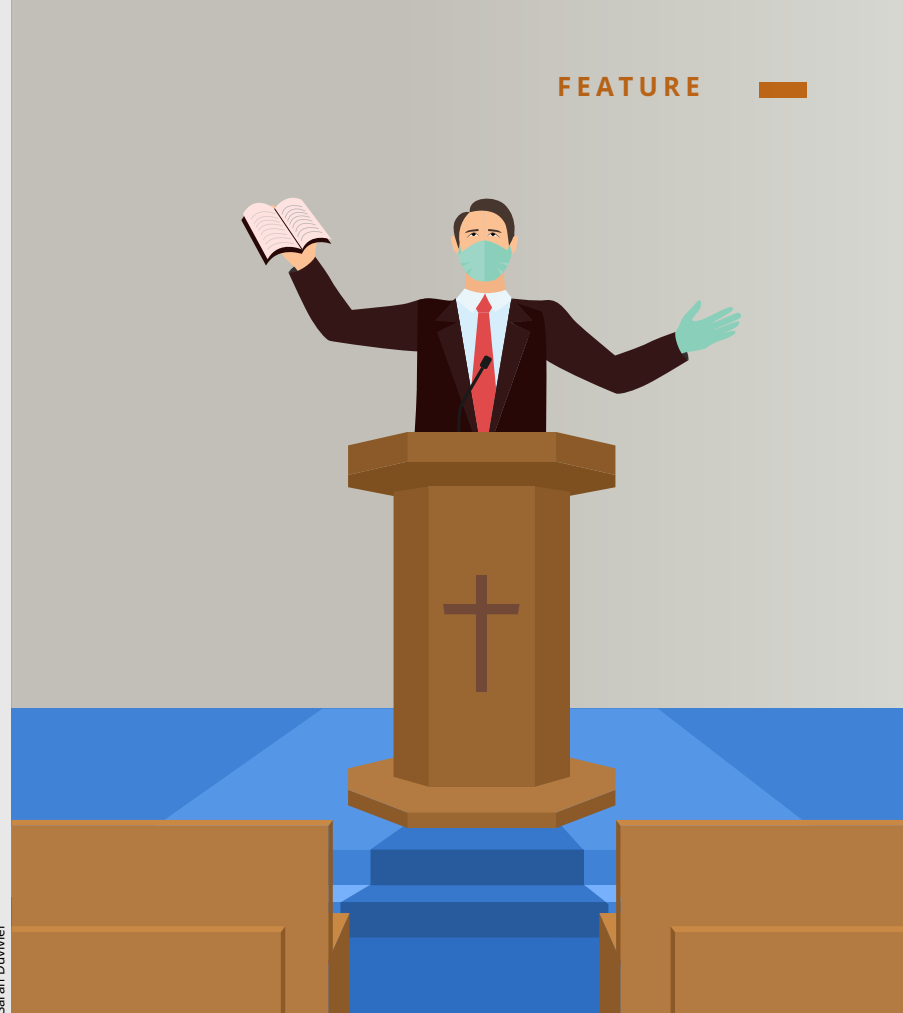
But we must maintain our vigilance. As we look at the increasing social, political and economic challenges of our country, students of the Bible can see that we are on the verge of a time foretold where people will be pleading for governments to support an economic centralization, at both a national and international level. The financial crisis we are entering will need the ability to support, control and manage credit, buying and selling in a manner never seen in the history of the world.

The early stages of this crisis have been a legitimate exercise of governments in protecting their citizens' health. But what the crisis itself has done, however, is to create an opportunity for the creation of a centralized national and even international economic system, as foretold in Revelation 13. As we see this shift happening, we have an obligation of love to our neighbors and leaders, under 1 Corinthians 13, to remind them of the limits of lawful government authority. When they begin to stray beyond punishing evil and rewarding good as described in Romans 13, we must bear witness to this violation of conscience and freedom. We will need to be prepared to assert commitment to be loyal to God rather than man, when the two conflict.

May the Lord give us the Spirit of wisdom to know what and when to speak, the Spirit of loving courage to do so, and the zeal to pursue the Divine mission of the church during these challenging times. ■

- 1 Augusta Blosser, "News Notes," Lake Union Herald, Dec. 18, 1918, p. 6.
- 2 Rublev, W.A., "After Influenza, What?" Adventist Review and Advent Herald, October, 31, 1918.
- 3 N.P. Nielson, "Seminary Cinches Flu," Northern Union Reaper, December 17, 1918, p 2 (Viewed on 3/31/2020 at <https://adventistdigitallibrary.org/adl-416204/northern-union-reaper-december-17-1918>).
- 4 <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/03/31/coronavirus-florida-megachurch-pastor-arrested-church-amid-orders/5093160002/>
- 5 https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/a-choir-decided-to-go-ahead-with-rehearsal-now-dozens-of-members-have-covid-19-and-two-are-dead/ar-BB11Tjim?ocid=ob-fb-enus-280&fbclid=IwAR3p0pGTdoh6jYP-jrf9_-RaqNZY_DgOOHyIPcQc3eNXE5pdj8lYkYa5Yo6Y; <https://www.christianpost.com/news/greeter-is-first-coronavirus-death-at-ark-church-where-34-infected.html>; <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-03-31/coronavirus-megachurches-meeting-pastors>

Nicholas Miller is a professor in Church History at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director at the Lake Union Conference.



Sarah Duvviver

May the Lord give us the Spirit of wisdom to know what and when to speak, the Spirit of loving courage to do so, and the zeal to pursue the Divine mission of the church during these challenging times.

Leapfrog honors two Adventist hospitals



Two Adventist hospitals in Illinois-based AMITA Health have earned recognition from the Leapfrog Group as “Top General Hospitals.”

The honor highlights the nationally recognized quality and patient safety achievements of AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center Bolingbrook and AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center GlenOaks.

“It takes leadership, teamwork and absolute dedication to patients to achieve this award,” said Leah Binder, president and chief executive officer of Leapfrog, a national watchdog organization focused on healthcare quality and safety. “We congratulate the board, staff and clinicians whose efforts made this honor possible.”

AMITA Health Bolingbrook and AMITA Health GlenOaks were among only eight hospitals in Illinois and 120 hospitals nationwide to receive a 2019 Top Hospitals award. The two hospitals were among only 37 hospitals nationwide to be recognized as Top General Hospitals. Leapfrog also awarded Top Hospitals honors to 10 Top Children’s Hospitals, 18 Top Rural Hospitals and 55 Top Teaching Hospitals.

The recognition came after AMITA Health Bolingbrook and AMITA Health GlenOaks both earned an “A,” the highest possible grade, in Leapfrog’s biannual Hospital Safety Grades study last fall.

“It is an honor to have both our Bolingbrook and GlenOaks medical

centers recognized,” said Bruce Christian, president and chief executive officer of both hospitals. “The Leapfrog Top Hospitals award is widely acknowledged to be one of the most competitive honors American hospitals can achieve. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication shown by our physicians and associates every day.”

Thor Thordarson, AMITA Health executive vice president and chief operating officer, added: “This recognition shows that the long-standing Adventist tradition of providing high quality, compassionate care continues to benefit patients and set a high standard for other healthcare providers.”

To qualify for the Top Hospitals distinction, hospitals must rank as top performers in the annual Leapfrog Hospital Survey. In addition, hospitals that are eligible to receive a Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade must have received an “A” in the most recent round of scoring to be eligible for Top Hospitals consideration.

Top Hospitals have lower infection rates, higher quality maternity care, and better systems in place to prevent medication errors, among other exceptional qualities, according to Leapfrog.

The Top Hospitals award is not given to a set number of hospitals, but rather to all

teaching, general, rural and children’s hospitals that meet the high standards defined in each year’s Top Hospitals methodology.

Top Hospitals “have truly gone above and beyond in their pursuit of excellence,” Binder said. “The standards achieved by Top Hospitals reflect the high expectations set by Leapfrog and its expert panels, which start with a commitment to transparency.”

To see a full list of institutions honored as Top Hospitals, visit www.leapfroggroup.org/tophospitals. ■

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

Camp Connections

Timmy Duado, a sophomore majoring in Communication and Marketing at Andrews University, grew up on the North Side of Chicago, Ill. He attended Amundsen High School and was a member of the Northshore Church. At church, he learned about a nearby summer camp.

“From sixth grade on, I went to summer camp at Camp Akita in southern Illinois. After being a camper for many years and seeing the staff come and go, I wanted to be like a lot of them,” Timmy explains. “I decided to fill out a camp staff application, turned it in, and was accepted. So I started summer 2017 as staff at Camp Akita.”

Timmy enjoys the community that camp builds. “At camp, we’re like a family,” he says. “We work together for eight weeks, even if you might not work with everyone personally every day. I think it’s great that, especially in the Adventist world, after working at camp, you can go anywhere and find someone you worked with over a summer.”

He also has appreciated the opportunities to mentor campers. “With the campers, I really like that I can be a big brother. I have campers who will reach out to me and check in with me or ask me for advice. It’s really cool to see them grow and develop as a person. When I was younger, the staff invested in me and my development. Now I can care and be involved in somebody else’s.”

An added bonus to employment at camp has been the college tuition scholarship available. Andrews University provides a scholarship for camp employees based on the number of weeks they work at camp. When Timmy transferred from Northeastern Illinois University to

Andrews in the fall of 2018, the Andrews scholarship was applied to his tuition costs. Timmy is grateful for this assistance. He says, “It’s helped me achieve my goals, to make sure I could continue to go to school, and it helped me focus more on my classes so I don’t have to worry about money.”

Timmy has become very involved at Andrews. He was on the basketball team last year, works for Student Activities & Involvement (to which he was introduced by a former camp leader) and serves as an ambassador to welcome prospective students.

After graduating, he hopes to be an actor, entertainer, sportscaster, or to work in sports analysis or social media marketing. “I love all of those things,” Timmy says, “but I’m trying to work on my relationship with God currently. I don’t know where God is leading me right now, but I’m looking forward to seeing what happens.”

As for camp, it has made such a positive impact on him that Timmy plans to go back. “I will continue to work at camp. I like working there and the connections you get to make. Summer camp also is a great way to find God if you’re really looking.”

He encourages people who are considering working at camp to do so. “If you have the opportunity to work at summer camp, you absolutely should,” he says. “It will change your life in ways you never really imagined.” ■

Laura Fierce, University Communication student writer



Photo courtesy Timmy Duado

▲ Timmy Duado (second from left) with co-workers at Camp Akita

“IF YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK AT SUMMER CAMP, YOU ABSOLUTELY SHOULD,” HE SAYS. “IT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE IN WAYS YOU NEVER REALLY IMAGINED.”



Ryan de Hamer on Unsplash

<https://session.adventist.org/>


Postponed GC Session to focus on mission and business meetings

ADVENTISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE 2021 GC SESSION

On March 19, the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church announced the postponement of the 2020 General Conference Session due to the rapid and unpredictable spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The 2021 GC Session will be held in Indianapolis, Ind., and is currently scheduled for May 20 through May 25. It was originally scheduled for June 25 through July 4, 2020.

As planning for the meetings moves forward, more details are emerging about what the 2021 GC Session will look like. While the entire Session will be livestreamed, seating during the meetings to be held on Thursday, May 20, and Friday, May 21, will be available only for the 2,700 delegates who represent the world field. However, beginning Friday evening through Tuesday, May 25, space is available for approximately 20,000 visitors as

the meetings will take place in a larger area where the exhibit hall was originally planned to be. Livestreaming will continue throughout the Session and is available to all.

While there are a variety of aspects to the GC Session, it is primarily a spiritual and business meeting of the World Church. During the meetings, world leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are elected and items of worldwide significance are decided, such as fundamental beliefs, constitutional changes and Church Manual items.

President Ted N.C. Wilson emphasized that leaders were still planning for a very meaningful and inspiring Session but with a reduced footprint. “The 2021 General Conference Session will still be focused on mission,” he said. “However, we now are in a time where we find we need to reduce our financial footprint. However, this does not stop us, as Seventh-day Adventists, from participating in our communities through Total Member Involvement. We can be anchors of stability and pillars of hope to those around us.”

Other changes for the 2021 GC Session include the absence of exhibits, since some days of the Session will be held in the room previously designated as the exhibit hall.

Additionally, no ancillary meetings will be held.

More information is available about the 2021 General Conference Session on a continually updated page (<https://session.adventist.org/>) where Wilson asks all members to continue to pray for God’s leading. “As we look forward to the 61st General Conference Session, let’s pray together for God’s leading in a marvelous way as we plead for the outpouring of the latter rain of the Holy Spirit in anticipation of the soon second coming of Jesus Christ.” ■

- <https://session.adventist.org>
- <https://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story14603-world-church-executive-committee-votes-to-postpone-general-conference-session>

ANN Staff


<https://session.adventist.org/>



▲ John Bradshaw, speaker/director of It Is Written

Indiana pivots to virtual evangelism campaign

As the COVID-19 crisis escalated, the Ignite Indiana plans suddenly came to a halt. They were no longer able to meet in large gatherings, whether it was in a public venue or at church.

Indiana Conference president Vic Van Schaik wrote, “At first, we were wondering what this all meant. ‘God, what happens now? Many members have been trained for Bible work in the last three years. Your people are ready to work. Where do we go from here?’”

What they did not know at the time was God already had a solution — evangelism in a different way, one which could potentially reach more people than ever imagined.

Van Schaik said in a statement, “Through much prayer and many conversations with the It Is Written (IIW) team, we are excited to share that Pastor John Bradshaw will preach a full evangelistic series from the IIW studio in Chattanooga during April and May. This online opportunity will include the entire state of Indiana, not just the Indianapolis area.”

Furthermore, there are talks underway with the North American Division to offer these meetings across the entire country. Where before we expected to reach hundreds with the IIW meetings, the potential now exists to reach tens of thousands of people across Indiana and the entire country with the Three Angels’ Messages. Praise God for how He works. I am reminded of Joseph’s words: *But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive* (Genesis 50:20 NKJV).

The month-long series, running April 17 until May 16, is entitled “Revelation Today: Hope Awakens,” and is designed to reach people across North America with more than simply the facts of the Bible. Organizers shared that, at a time when people are searching for answers and hope is in short supply, “Revelation Today: Hope Awakens” will “present the prophetic message of the Bible while speaking to hearts burdened by anxiety, fear and uncertainty.”

It Is Written is utilizing the latest technology and a large team of online Bible workers to digitally connect with registered guests before, during and after the event.

“God demonstrated that when He shuts one door, He often opens another,” said John Bradshaw, speaker/director of IIW. “Dozens of events around the country have been canceled or postponed. We see God providing a way to make this a bigger and more effective outreach event than we could have imagined — at a time when people are not distracted by sports, school and work events.”

Churches are encouraged to partner with It Is Written to reach people in their local areas through direct digital marketing. The interactive meetings will be viewable on mobile devices and online.

“God has promised to pour out the Holy Spirit without measure,” said Yves Monnier, IIW Evangelism director. “We’re seeing God turn tragedy into a time of triumph for Christ and the gospel.” ■



▲ It Is Written and pastor/physician partnership produces coronavirus educational presentation

Indiana pastor/physician partners with It Is Written

Dr. David DeRose serves as pastor of Fort Wayne First Church, and has teamed up with It Is Written for a coronavirus educational presentation. “What Can I Do to Be Prepared?” offers practical steps on protecting our physical and spiritual well-being. DeRose and Bradshaw discuss the most important aspect of this — something that is being ignored. ■

To watch video: <https://bit.ly/2ydcH5b>

Debbie Michel, Lake Union associate director of Communication



▲ Lake Union administrators reported on tithe gain, membership growth and evangelism opportunities.

Lake Union approves guidelines on sexuality and gender; tithing and membership numbers up

The Lake Union approved guidelines on sexuality and gender for Church institutions at the March 4 executive committee meeting.

The guidelines were developed within the context of the Great Commission and the Three Angels' Messages (Revelation 14:6-12), and follow general principles that have been developed by church leadership, theologians and medical experts within the Lake Union and its affiliated conferences. They can serve as a guide and supplement in implementing the General Conference and North American policy statements on issues of gender and sexuality. Conferences are free to adapt the Lake Union statement to their specific needs.

Full document is available at: https://lakeunion.org/churchstatements_sexualityandgender.

Other highlights of the meeting:

President

A few years ago, executive committee members gave the top three areas on which they'd like the Lake Union leadership to focus: 1) spiritual growth of churches; 2) discipleship training; 3) spiritual growth of leaders.

In seeking to deepen the Lake Union leadership's spirituality, a group of administrators and conference presidents traveled to the Middle East in early January to walk where Christ lived while on His earthly mission.

President Maurice Valentine said he wasn't expecting to be so moved by the trip, reporting that it was "life changing." He said, "To see the same hills that Jesus saw, same sea He stood upon, it encourages you to dig deeper."

Several of the presidents expressed their gratitude to AdventHealth for sponsoring the trip and said they counted it a blessing to see the Bible come alive. "It was a time of renewal, individually and collectively," said Jim Micheff, Michigan Conference president.

Secretariat

Executive secretary, Steven Poenitz, shared that the net increase in Lake Union membership for 2019 was 362, representing a 0.41 percent growth. Membership is now at 88,898.

	Membership (2019)	Membership (2018)	Net Gain (Loss)	Net % Gain (Loss)
• IL	13,790	13,879	89	0.65%
• IN	8,744	8,944	217	2.46%
• LB	31,555	31,282	273	0.87%
• MI	26,666	26,887	221	0.82%
• WI	7,741	7,789	48	0.62%
• LUC	88,536	88,898	362	0.41%

**LAKE UNION CONFERENCE
NET SUMMARY DECEMBER 31, 2019**

Poenitz noted that in analyzing the 10-year growth chart between 2009 and 2019, he noticed a large dip in membership in 2015 and 2018. He plans to investigate why this may have occurred and report back at the next meeting scheduled for May.

Another area of interest was where Lake Union members go when they leave the Union. "There seems to be a Southeastern movement where folks are transferring to," he said.



Three conferences presented on how they utilized special evangelism funds from the Lake Union:

Lake Region reported on various evangelistic efforts underway, including a creative partnership between Michigan and Indiana conferences called the Michiana Initiative. Five churches are involved: Berean Church

(LRC), Praise Fellowship (LRC), South Bend First (IN), Grace Place (IN) and Niles Westside (MI).

In his report, Indiana Conference president Vic Van Schaik said he's excited to see what's happening with their Burmese and Mizo refugee groups. "When you go and preach there, they have a lot of young people and they are supportive of our church schools." Also, thankful for the Hispanic work. Last year, they invested money in small groups; from these 87 groups meeting across the state, they had 40 baptisms. Evangelism funds also were used for their conference evangelist to conduct proclamation evangelism.

Wisconsin president Mike Edge said they invested in their Hispanic Ministries for training and other plans are forthcoming this year.

Other matters voted:

Talia Bryant from Lake Region was added to the executive committee.

Five new pastors were approved for ordination. From Michigan: Sean Brizendine, Josiah Hill and Carlos Sotomayor; and Wisconsin: Alcidiel Leopoldino and Justin Spady.

Treasury

At the end of 2019, overall tithe gains in the Lake Union were in the positive territory, up 0.42 percent.

Across North America in 2019, tithe was down 0.20 percent (slide at right), so "I praise God for the faithfulness of our people," said Lake Union treasurer, Glynn Scott.

LUC executive committee voted the following 2020 appropriations: \$100,000.00 each to Indiana and Lake Region for GC 2020; \$500 to each full-time pastor within the Lake Union to attend GC Session or NAD 2020 Pastors' Convention and

\$25,000.00 each to Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin Conference for General Evangelism.

Vice president Carmelo Mercado in his report gave updates on some of the various initiatives he is spearheading:

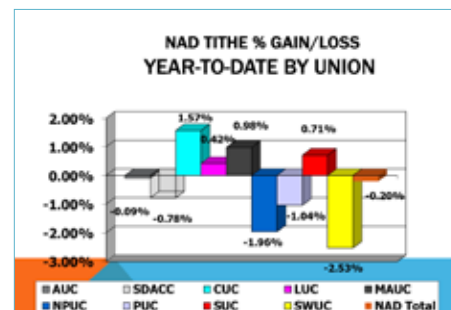
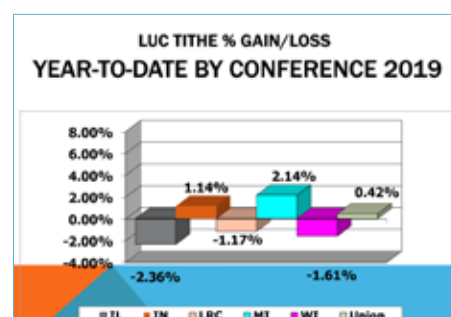
"Our United Cry" Prayer Rally is at near capacity with 480 registrants coming from across the U.S.

Your Pathway to Health is still looking for volunteers. All committee members were urged to talk to dentists and make personal appeal for them to serve.

General Conference sponsored an initiative to distribute material across the city during the upcoming GC Session.

Second-generation immigrant kids are susceptible to leaving the church. As such, a plan is in the works to have thousands of small groups across North America come together, Oct. 16–24, to study Bible and conduct service-related projects. See more information at www.migps.com. ■

Debbie Michel, Lake Union associate director of Communication



▲ In his report, Indiana president Vic Van Schaik said he was excited to see the growth of their refugee groups.

Felicia Tonga



Julia Vnizay

▲ José Bourget, University chaplain



Lloyd Martinez

▲ Danielle Pilgrim, associate chaplain

Andrews University appoints new chaplains

Andrews University is pleased to welcome two new chaplains to its Campus Ministries team. José Bourget has accepted the position of University chaplain and began his work this past January 1. Danielle Pilgrim has accepted the position of associate chaplain and began her work later that month.

“We have taken the unusual approach in our University plan to talk not about strategic initiatives but storylines. The first of those storylines reads: “To live, work or study at Andrews University will mean active engagement in a community that is passionate about being a caring, inclusive, healthy community of faith,” says Andrea Luxton, president. “Central to the direction of this storyline is the chaplaincy office. Our chaplains must be able to collaborate and engage with the totality of our campus community to ensure faith development is central to what we do and that this faith development makes a difference in the way we live both on campus and in our communities. It is with that in mind that the search committee worked and candidates were selected.”

As the lead chaplain, Bourget is primarily responsible for creating the

faith development strategy for Andrews and ensuring this priority is embedded into the campus culture and community. From his undergraduate years as a student at Andrews University, Bourget has been engaged in youth ministry, outreach, chaplaincy and making events happen. He is an innovator, strategist and organizer. “I look forward to working with this generation of faculty and staff in developing resilient Jesus followers,” says Bourget.

Pilgrim is a 2015 graduate from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Most recently, she was the associate pastor at the Atlanta Berean Adventist Church in Atlanta, Ga. There she focused on and excelled in three areas: community engagement, youth and young adult ministry, and discipleship and care. She is a preacher and a doer, leaving each community she has served better because of her focus on care and engagement. Pilgrim says, “I hope to facilitate an environment where students, faculty and staff pursue emotional wholeness and selfless service to others as an integral part of their faith development journey.”

Luxton says, “I am excited to be working alongside José, who has such a deep passion for students as well as the capacity to help us all keep our focus clear, and I look forward to the energy and commitment Danielle will bring to her position.”

A third appointment for the Campus Ministries office is still outstanding. That appointment is made through the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Pioneer Memorial Church. ■

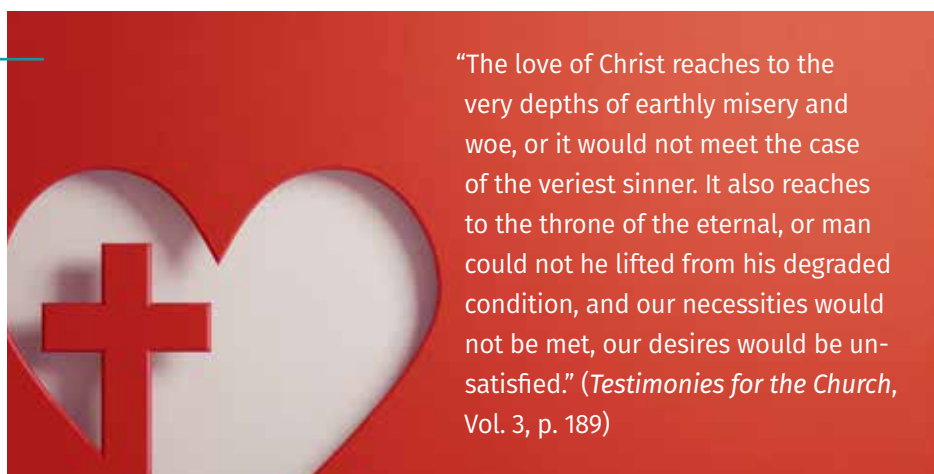
Gillian Panigot, Media Communications manager,
Andrews University

OUR CHAPLAINS
MUST BE ABLE TO
COLLABORATE AND
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AND IN OUR
COMMUNITIES.

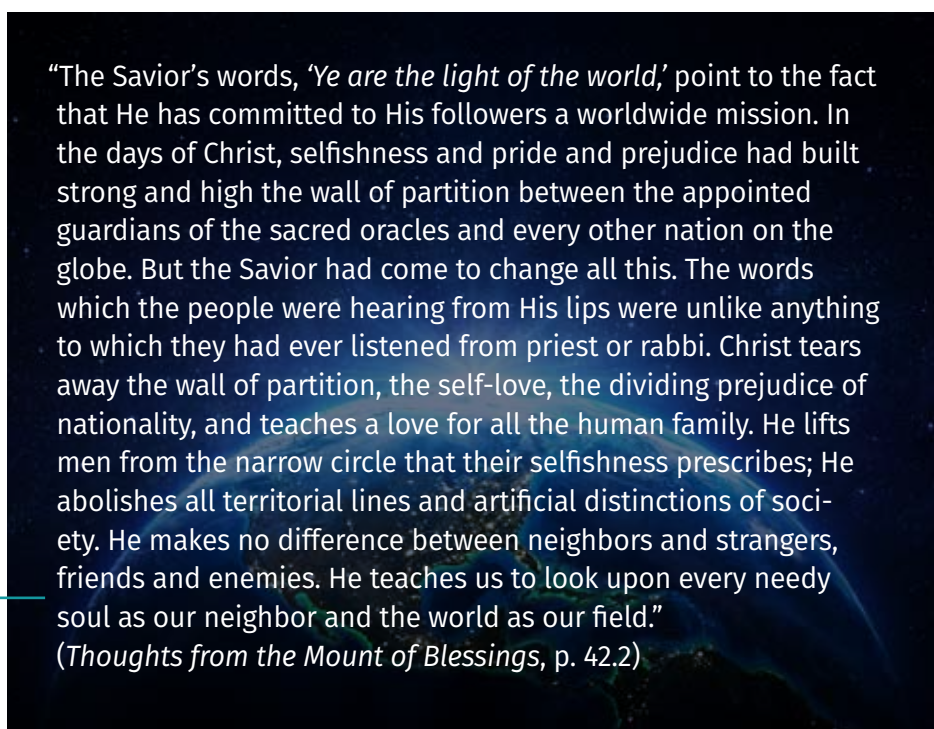
Words for Times of Testing



"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history." (*Life Sketches*, p. 196)

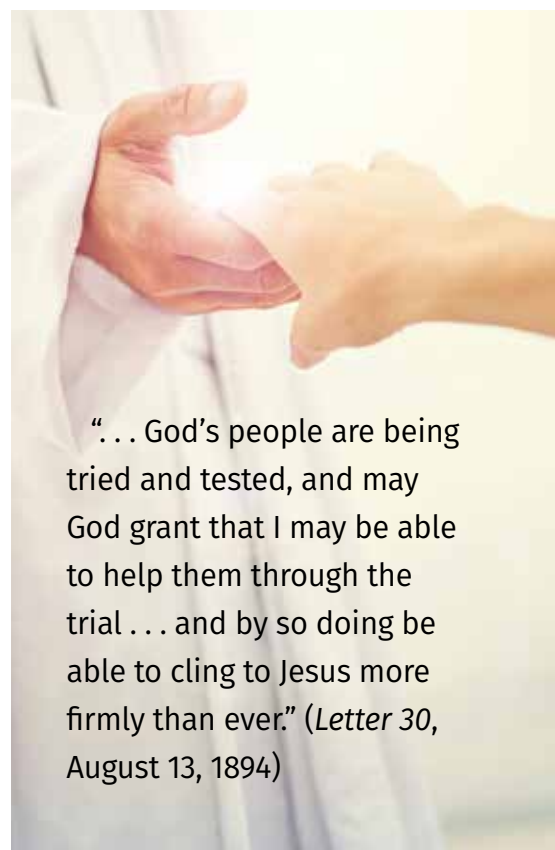


"The love of Christ reaches to the very depths of earthly misery and woe, or it would not meet the case of the veriest sinner. It also reaches to the throne of the eternal, or man could not be lifted from his degraded condition, and our necessities would not be met, our desires would be unsatisfied." (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 3, p. 189)



"The Savior's words, 'Ye are the light of the world,' point to the fact that He has committed to His followers a worldwide mission. In the days of Christ, selfishness and pride and prejudice had built strong and high the wall of partition between the appointed guardians of the sacred oracles and every other nation on the globe. But the Savior had come to change all this. The words which the people were hearing from His lips were unlike anything to which they had ever listened from priest or rabbi. Christ tears away the wall of partition, the self-love, the dividing prejudice of nationality, and teaches a love for all the human family. He lifts men from the narrow circle that their selfishness prescribes; He abolishes all territorial lines and artificial distinctions of society. He makes no difference between neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies. He teaches us to look upon every needy soul as our neighbor and the world as our field." (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, p. 42.2)

"God requires His people to shine as lights in the world. It is not merely the ministers who are required to do this, but every disciple of Christ. Their conversation should be heavenly." (*Christian Service*, p. 20.3)



"... God's people are being tried and tested, and may God grant that I may be able to help them through the trial ... and by so doing be able to cling to Jesus more firmly than ever." (*Letter 30*, August 13, 1894)

**WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

Welcome to the *Lake Union Herald* Readership Survey!

This is your opportunity to share your opinions and suggestions so the *Herald* magazine can best serve your interests. Your responses will help us gain a clearer understanding of what you expect to see in these pages and assist us in producing a magazine that is a better reflection of interests and concerns to our readers.

How often do you typically read an issue?

☐ Every ☐ Most ☐ Occasionally ☐ Never

How much of each magazine do you read?

☐ All ☐ Most ☐ Some ☐ None

How long do you keep an issue?

☐ >1 mo. ☐ <1 mo. ☐ 1 wk. ☐ Discard

Total minutes reading each issue?

☐ 60+ ☐ 30-60 ☐ 10-30 ☐ 0-10

If additional content is available online only, how likely are you to go to the website to read it?

☐ Not ☐ Some ☐ Moderately ☐ Very

Using either the list below, the Table of Contents (on p. 3) or by flipping through the magazine, please answer the questions that follow:

Feature articles which focus on a particular theme or topic for that issue

Perspectives (editorial, Lest We Forget, Conversations with God, Conexiones, One Voice)

Evangelism (Sharing Our Hope, Telling God's Stories, Partnership with God, On the Edge)

Lifestyle (Family Focus, Alive & Well)

Current Matters (AdventHealth, Andrews University, other News stories, Calendar of Events, Mileposts, Classifieds)

What type of articles would you like more of?

What article(s) do you *Always* read?

What article(s) do you *Never* read?

In general, the articles should be (*check one*):

☐ Shorter ☐ Longer ☐ Remain Same

On a scale of 1–10, how valuable is the content to you?

In your opinion, how can we improve that value?

What article topic would you consider to be the most memorable in the last year?

What do you like the most about the magazine?

What do you like the least about the magazine?

Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest?

Do you subscribe to the weekly e-newsletter?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please sign me up (*provide info. below*)

Email address

Name

Please rate the quality of the current *Herald* magazine on the following:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	No opinion
Content						
Cover						
Readability						
Design						
Photography						
Writing						

Of what conference are you a member?

☐ Ind. ☐ Ill. ☐ Mich. ☐ Lake Region
☐ Wis. ☐ None ☐ Other

What is your age? ☐ under 25

☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-49 ☐ 50-64 ☐ 65+

What is your gender? ☐ Male ☐ Female

Please mail completed survey by

**April 30, 2020, to: *Lake Union Herald*,
P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103**

Or, go online to fill out the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VTYXSRJ>.

**Or, scan this
QR code.**



Watch for survey results in the June/July issue of the *Herald*.

Thank you for your time and support in completing this survey.

Readers - Return your survey **TODAY** to be included in a drawing for a \$50 gift card at Amazon.

Due to a disruption in our mail service, we are extending the deadline to July 31.

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

EDSELL, Bill, age 84; born Jan. 12, 1935, in Muskegon, Mich.; died Aug. 21, 2019, in Akron, Mich. He was a member of the Unionville Church, in Unionville, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Pat (Neal); daughters, Gayla (Tim) Rumble, Marla (Ron) Rasmussen, and Londa (Tim) Bishop; brother, Ron Edsell; sister, Donna Kanna; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Ron Rasmussen; interment was in Wisner Township Cemetery, Wisner Township, Mich.

GILLMAN, Florence C., age 100; born Sept. 25, 1918, in Chicago, Ill.; died Feb. 28, 2019, in Niles, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include sons, Christopher (Carol) Gillman; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor John Glass; inurnment was at Rose Hill Cemetery Columbarium, Berrien Springs.

HOWARD, Harold J., age 90; born April 20, 1929, in Marshfield, Wis.; died Feb. 8, 2020, in Altamonte Springs, Fla. Most recently a member of the Forest Lake Church, Apopka, Fla., his Wisconsin connections include both the Bethel and Marshfield churches. Survivors include his wife, Gwen Howard; sons, Michael, Terrence (Carol), Greg (Nadine) Offenback, and Mark (Cindy) Offenback; daughter, Peggy (Tommy) Howard; nine grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren. Inurnment was in Arpin, Wis.

MILLER, Barbara E., age 93; born Nov. 2, 1926, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died March 24, 2020, in Pontiac, Mich. She was a member of the Waterford Church in Waterford, Mich. Survivors include son, Ralph; and one grandchild. Private inurnment.

MOYER, Bruce C., age 82; born May 3, 1937; died May 11, 2019. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Shirley Moyer; son, TJ; daughter, Lis; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Larry Downing.

PETTIGROVE, Elvin LeRoy "Bud", age 93; born June 8, 1926, in Rochester, Mich.; died Feb. 21, 2020, in Lake Ann, Mich. He was a member of the Traverse City Church in Traverse City, Mich. Survivors include sons, Roy Pettigrove, and Eric Pettigrove; daughters, Janet Arguzon, Brenda Brown, and Mary Molamphy; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. Private inurnment.

PULFER, Gary, age 74; born July 7, 1945, in Shelby, Ohio; died March 25, 2020, in Houston, Tex. He was a member of the Fort Wayne Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. Survivors include his wife, Carol (Kwiek); sons, Brad, Keith, and Ryan; daughters, Tracie, and Lisa; sisters, Joyce Weber, and Nancy Rehil; and 14 grandchildren. Memorial and interment will be in the Leo Cemetery, Leo, Ind.

SCOTT, Richard L., age 75; born Jan. 26, 1944, in St. Louis, Mich.; died July 12, 2019, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Dixie (Beardsley) Scott; son, William Scott; daughter, Shelley (Duane) Bolin; sister, Kay Nelson; and four grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dwight Nelson; interment was at Rose Hill Cemetery in Berrien Springs.

VYHMEISTER, Werner K., age 88; born Sept. 5, 1931, in Los Angeles, Calif.; died March 21, 2020, in Loma Linda, Calif. He was a member of the Berrien Springs Church, in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include his wife, Nancy (Weber); son, Ronald (Shawna) Vyhmeister; daughter, Heidi (Christian) Vyhmeister Prohaska; brothers, Gerald Vyhmeister, and Edwin Vyhmeister; sisters, Lucy Vyhmeister Veloso, Ellen Vyhmeister Mayr, and Helga Vyhmeister Sack; and three grandchildren. Due to COVID-19, private memorial services were conducted by Pastor Randy Roberts at the Loma Linda Church, Loma Linda; private inurnment was at Hermosa Gardens Cemetery, Colton, Calif.

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

2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION RESCHEDULED to May 20–25, 2021. For more information, see news article on page 32.

QUINQUENNIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY CORPORATION POSTPONED to a date to be determined, but which shall not be more than nine (9) months after the conclusion of the rescheduled GC session (May 20–25, 2021).

BVA REUNION RESCHEDULED from April 24–25 to Oct. 2–3. For questions or more information, contact Dale Rollins (224-407-0233), BVA Alumni Association.

THE "YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION CANCELLED, originally scheduled for June 5–7 at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich., due to the coronavirus. Honor classes will be honored in 2021.

CAMP MEETINGS CANCELLED — Michigan and Wisconsin conferences. Due to previously planned GC Session, Indiana, Illinois and Lake Region conferences were not planning for 2020 camp meetings.

CAMP MEETING DECISION ON HOLD — U.P. camp meeting, scheduled for Sept. 3–7, at Camp Sagola.

SUMMER CAMP DECISIONS ON HOLD — Camp Akita (IL), Camp Timber Ridge (IN), Camp Au Sable (MI) and Camp Wakonda (WI). Lake Region was not planning for 2020 summer camp at Camp Wagner.

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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EMPLOYMENT

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY-

SDAPI EDTR/DGTL CMS MG — Responsible for the development, maintenance and promotion of the Adventist Digital Library, the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index, and the James White Library's Digital Commons. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_4

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS ASSISTANT/ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF AUDIOLOGY

— The Assistant/Associate Professor of Audiology will teach in the undergraduate Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology program as well as support the Speech-Language pathology graduate program. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_7

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS INSTRUCTOR-

RMES — Ruth Murdoch Elementary School is seeking a certified, enthusiastic teacher to teach English/Language Arts (reading and writing) at the Jr. High level/Grades 7 and 8. The candidate must be able to work in a collaborative environment, demonstrate professional competence, be proficient in other core subject areas, and have a passion for inspiring students to strive for excellence in their total development. The employee will perform all supervisory and extracurricular responsibilities expected of a full-time elementary

classroom teacher. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_5

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS INSTRUCTOR-

RMES — Ruth Murdoch Elementary School (RMES) is seeking a certified, innovative teacher to teach Grade 5. Candidates must be proficient in the core/STEM subjects, demonstrate commitment to collegiality and professional competence, and have a passion to instill a Christ-like character while inspiring students to strive for excellence in their total development. The employee will perform all supervisory and extracurricular responsibilities expected of a full-time elementary classroom teacher. RMES is the K-8 laboratory school at Andrews University and has an enrollment of about 228 students. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_5

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

- May 2** Local Church Budget
- May 9** World Budget (*Emphasis: Disaster and Famine Relief*)
- May 16** Local Church Budget
- May 23** Local Conference Advance
- May 30** Local Conference/Union Designated

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS

FOCUS FOR THE MONTH — COMMUNITY SERVICES

- May 1–31** Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- May 4–10** Screen-Free Week
- May 2** Community Services Sabbath
- May 9** Youth Sabbath
- May 16** Single Adults Sabbath

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:45	8:52	9:00	9:06	9:12
Chicago, Ill.	5:44	4:36	4:30	4:24	4:21
Detroit, Mich.	6:25	5:16	5:10	5:04	5:01
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:39	8:46	8:53	8:59	9:05
La Crosse, Wis.	8:09	8:17	8:24	8:32	8:38
Lansing, Mich.	8:39	8:47	8:55	9:02	9:08
Madison, Wis.	7:59	8:07	8:15	8:22	8:28

Quarantined with God

By Jonathon Woolford-Hunt

I CAN REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST HEARD

ABOUT THE DEADLY CORONAVIRUS. It was a few months into my Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA) program at Villa Aurora University in Florence, Italy, where I was having the best freshman experience — enjoying the spiritual development, food, culture and tours.

The virus had moved from China to Italy in late January, but we continued to live life normally. After all, we were 200 miles away from the outbreaks in Milan and Rome. We even ventured out to the world-famous Venice Carnival in February and mingled amongst the thousands of visitors from around the world. But a day after we returned to campus, the City of Venice closed the Carnival because the coronavirus had spread to that region. Still, we felt pretty safe as the school and the City of Florence had no reported cases.

Then a series of unbelievable events happened rapidly, which I can only describe as March Madness: the Italian Government ordered all schools shuttered; the Prime Minister put the entire country on lockdown, which meant the borders would soon close. That mid-March evening, we were told that the ACA program in Italy was closing and we had eight hours to pack our things. By 4 a.m., we were on our way to the airport for the very last flight out of Italy.

We flew to Rome before landing in New York — two gigantic hotspots for the virus — fully expecting to have our temperature scanned and placed in quarantine immediately. However, to my surprise, all of us, including the students who travelled from Rome, weren't asked any questions or scanned.

When I arrived back in Michigan, Andrews University required that all returning students put themselves in a 14-day quarantine. My mother would tell me this was one of the hardest times, to see me and not be able to give me a big welcome home hug.

During the first few days of my quarantine, life was a mess. I stayed up late and woke up late. I ate all the



Jean-Ires Michel

▲ Jonathan Woolford-Hunt

junk food I missed during my six months away. I binge-watched TV series and eventually felt unwell!

So, I purposed to have a healthy balance and get back on a schedule: Sleep by 10 p.m. Morning devotion. Exercise. Speak to family and friends. Engage in a daily creative activity. Make recordings for my audio journal. Psalms 100, one of my favorite texts, became my life-line. *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord . . .* This is directly related to my love for music. I spent my days writing and recording music and uploading it to my YouTube channel. I was in my happy zone.

So, if you're feeling alone and isolated from family and friends, even God, see this as an opportunity to strengthen your relationship with Him. Reorganize your life and priorities. Engage in creative activities you may have always wanted to do but never had enough time. Use this time to reconnect with loved ones and reset your life to live for His purpose. God has a plan for us, even under quarantine. ■

Jonathan Woolford-Hunt graduated from Andrews Academy last year and is attending Andrews University. He enjoys writing and performing music. You can listen to songs that were born out of his quarantine experience here: <https://bit.ly/34GEw1Y>

Jonathan received a \$100 scholarship for this article. If you're a youth or young adult interested in submitting an article for consideration, please contact: herald@lakeunion.org.

Delight to Do God's Will

By Laura Fierce



Courtesy Nayeli Nix

▲ Nayeli Nix

AS NAYELI NIX EXAMINED HER COMMITMENTS, she wondered how she could help revive the Federation Jovenes Adventist Hispanos (FeJAH) in Indiana. *My family and I already have too much on our plate*, she surmised.

At the time, Nayeli was the Glendale Church Pathfinder director, VBS director, a youth pastor's wife, a mother of three children, a fulltime student working towards her Bachelor's in Psychology, head teacher of the Earliteen Sabbath School, a teacher's aide at Indianapolis Junior Academy and a member of the school's Board of Education.

But she had built her entire life around youth — from her time in Mexico, Tennessee and now Indiana — and knew that FeJAH would help build community amongst the Hispanic youth. She was conflicted because she knew it would be no small task helping with an organization that had been in Seventh-day Adventist Hispanic churches for many years. In Central Indiana, FeJAH is comprised of 18

churches; they change their location often so everyone within driving distance has an opportunity to attend the events.

"So, I prayed and said, 'Lord if I do this, you can take care of my education, I will do everything for You and Your youth. Please close the wrong doors and open the right ones.'"

Feeling impressed that God was leading her to say, "yes," she called Indiana Hispanic coordinator Victor Jaeger and volunteered to help restart FeJAH.

Nayeli's first task was planning a statewide event. With her youthful zeal and non-traditional thinking, the weekend was a success and a blessing, with over 200 people from 13 churches attending. Some of the ways Nayeli injected her creativity were on display. "On Friday we gathered together the directors and described to them a point system; your group will get a point every time your group is on time and attends an event. At the end of the weekend the group with the most points will get a trophy," she explained. It worked well because, "As youth, we like to be challenged, we like to be a part of a group, but we also like to stand out. This was a fun and easy way to get the youth involved with participating and attending the activities."

On Sabbath, there was music worship, and the staff produced a skit about David. Also, every church group came up with their own theme and Bible verse and drew spiritual life lessons about what they were facing.

She said, "It's important to show life with Christ as exciting and joyful — not a boring experience. I want to show that with God you can do anything." ■

Laura Fierce is Communication major at Andrews University.

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