

Lake Union HERALD

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020



WILLING AND ABLE
MINISTRY OF THE DISABLED





The privilege of walking with Jesus during His time would have brought us face-to-face with all facets of His ministry. A great part of that ministry was spent reaching out with outstretched arms to those with disabilities. The crippled, blind and lame were not overlooked by Jesus. Some might call this Jesus' ministry to the disabled. However, in looking more closely at this special needs ministry, we come face-to-face with ourselves.

So, in this month's issue, we want to highlight these beloved of God who are in a unique position to receive His special love and remind us of His incredible love for all of us, and that we can serve Him in spite of our own brokenness.

Debbie Michel
Associate Director of Communication



On July 31, Adventist Information Ministry staffer Douglas Janssen received a special roadside retirement party in honor of his 45 years of service. With his wife gravely ill, Director Jannette Cave knew a traditional send-off wouldn't be likely. There could be no restaurant gathering of colleagues and family, at least not during the pandemic.



In September, Milt Coronado spray painted a Pathfinder character on a brick wall for a street art event in Chicago to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Pathfinder Club Ministry. Since 1950, Pathfinders has grown worldwide, now roughly at two million Pathfinders in 60,000 clubs in over 180 countries.



On Sept. 22, Illinois Conference President Ron Aguilera shared a message of comfort and hope at AMITA Health Medical Center Hinsdale. The occasion was a special memorial service remembering those who, over the last six months, have lost their lives to COVID.



Bruce C. Christian, CEO of AMITA Health Adventist Medical Centers GlenOaks and Bolingbrook, has been honored by AdventHealth with its annual Crystal Angel Award, which recognizes a leader for his/her dedication to the organization's faith-based mission.

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ON THE COVER: Fawn Scherencel is Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) principal.

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Unfinished Business

A painting called “The Adoration of the Magi,” whose brush strokes were painted by one of the greats of the art world, Leonardo da Vinci, remains, to this day, an unfinished work of art. It can still be seen hanging in the Uffizi Art Gallery in Florence, Italy.



▲ Maurice Valentine

In Leonardo’s depiction of the star-guided Magi’s visit to see the Babe born in a manger, there are penciled outlines that can still be seen where the renowned artist’s brush strokes of paint were never applied. It has a characteristic of being lifeless as little color adorns this painting. Yet, where paint was applied to the three kings, its perspective of these three dark, shadowy figures who curiously know, yet probably do not fully understand this baby’s purpose, is illustrated as they touchingly, yet whimsically, present their gifts to the King.

DaVinci’s portrayal of that moment may be emblematic of today as, still now, it seems but few understand why this Baby was born. That is, His life’s purpose which was, simply, to die, thus paying the penalty of sin for everyone, so we might be saved. In doing so, the Father’s love was magnified and His name glorified through Jesus.

These three enigmas from foreign lands endured a lengthy journey. We don’t know their earthly origin or even their names. But we know they returned home with their hearts gratified that the journey was well worth the opportunity to see the prophesied King. While it’s possible they didn’t know He was their Savior, they at least knew the timing of His birth, and it is my hope that their investment in time and means to visit the King of Kings was a transformational experience that will end for each of them in glory. Their searching of Scripture still defies understanding because, although His people, at least the intelligentsia of the day, should have known what the three kings knew regarding the birth of the new King, it

appears they were too busy with life to anticipate His appearing.

Birth and death are the starkest contrasts that we experience while here. The Bible says, *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints* (Ps. 116:15). We, too, in a way because of sin, are born to die. Yet when we die in Christ, just like Jesus, death has every bit as much purpose as life. Our legacy lives on as others copy our patterns both good and bad. And when loss occurs, although intensely painful, those who are left behind move on in spite of pain to continue the pursuit of a divinely appointed purpose in life.

Many of us have lost loved ones during the pandemic, from other illnesses, or in past years during the holiday season. As we lived with them and loved them, our sojourn, like the three kings, has been lengthy, too. And after so long a journey, it’s hard letting go. We have suffered multiple painful losses in our office this year. For many, this year maybe more than any other, the holiday season may seem to be anything but something worth celebrating.

Many years ago, I lost my father a few days before Thanksgiving. Although painful, I also was thankful for how hard he worked during my entire life to provide for me. If you are struggling with loneliness due to loss of loved one or a sense of overwhelming isolation because of the pandemic, Psalms 34:18 says, *The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*

God is with you in your sorrow is what the first part of this verse states. But it also says it requires a

humble heart in seasons like these to realize we need help from God for our sorrows, and some situations may necessitate getting help from our fellow man.

If you are battling depression, please reach out for help! Get a Christian counselor who shares your world-view. If you are mourning loss, please join a Christian grief recovery group, especially to help you through the holidays.

There's another unfinished painting I'd like to tell you about. Not long after Davinci's unfinished piece, it is generally accepted that the Italian Renaissance master, Michelangelo, left another canvass uncompleted; his masterpiece also was of Jesus. However, this time the painting was not of Jesus' birth, but rather of His death. Isn't it interesting that two great artists — one painting about the beginning of the life of Jesus, and the other, the end, both failed to complete their works of art?

Yes, no longer a Baby King, Michelangelo painted Jesus' lifeless body being carried to the tomb. But whole parts of the canvass have no paint applied by the master artist. Is it possible that it was providential because, even after rising from that tomb, Jesus' work for us remains uncompleted? Although He said, "It is finished," this statement simply meant the plan of salvation was completed for all to be saved. Now that the investigative judgement has begun, salvation is being applied, name by name and person by person, as everyone's destiny is then forever decided. Yet even then, we are still not finished until the time when Jesus returns and mortal puts on immortality. Yes, even now in the Heavenly Sanctuary, He is completing the plan of salvation in your life and mine.

We, too, have an unfinished business to perform — to keep a missional heart in a time when men's hearts are waxing cold; to care for others who could care less about us. DaVinci and Michelangelo's works will never be finished for they are dead and gone. But, as long as we are alive, ours carries on.

Ours is to share, like the angels at His birth and the disciples after His ascension, that there's no manger or tomb where He can be found. No earthly pilgrimage to undertake or ascetic life to be lived to purge ourselves of sin because Jesus lives! He is in the Heavenly Sanctuary! And because of His ministry, when we pray, the sound of *whoosh* can be heard again and again as



<https://www.uffizi.it/en/artworks/>

▲ The Adoration of the Magi

our prayers arrive there and are mingled with the sweet incense of the perfect life that He lived.

Therefore, from the throne room, the Father dispatches angels with a simple command to save us from our lost state, the same as He dispatched the angels to announce Jesus' birth. Again and again, the gates of Heaven swing as angelic forces wing their way through celestial realms to come see to our needs. When life is over, they mark our resting place because, one day, the unfinished business of salvation will be complete when together, we, through Christ, make Heaven our home. If you have suffered loss, I pray that you found the journey with your loved one well worth it for to have loved and then suffered loss is better than to not have loved at all.

As this year concludes, please do continue to read the 2020 Lake Union Conference President's book of the year, *The Great Controversy*. Additionally, I have chosen for the New Year, the powerful book, *Patriarchs and Prophets*. Please join me in reading this great unparalleled work of Ellen White on how all things began and the stalwart faith of those whose courage remains inspiring and challenging to us to this very day, starting together on January 1, 2021.

Lastly, thank you for your faithfulness throughout 2020. Glory to God in the Highest! ■

Maurice Valentine is president of the Lake Union Conference.

Improve Your Mental Health

The vagus nerve (pneumogastric) is receiving focus of late as mental health experts are becoming increasingly more interested on the impact this far-reaching nerve has on the body and subsequent mental health.



▲ Ingrid Weiss Slikkers

The vagus nerve, the most intricate of the cranial nerves, is responsible for the function and regulation of vital internal organs including digestion, heart and respiratory rate. As its Latin name for “wandering” states, this nerve is the longest of all as it wanders from the brain stem through the neck, chest, and into the abdomen. The vagus nerve is the primary contributor in activating the parasympathetic nervous system that helps the body to relax after stress. This “rest and digest” state for the body comes in direct, contrasting response to the sympathetic nervous system’s “fight or flight” response once the “all clear” is given.

Unfortunately, due to chronic stress and traumatic events, from the past or currently occurring, many of us are having a difficult time fully entering the rest and digest state, and our bodies are remaining within an active sympathetic nervous system affecting breathing, heart rate and digestive functions which can have large impacts on our mental health and well-being. Activating the vagus nerve helps our bodies to relax faster after stress and can contribute to overall health. While there are medically induced ways that can include electrical impulse devices, there are natural ways being considered that may activate this amazing nerve.

As we already know, to maintain brain health we should exercise, eat foods rich with Omega 3 and even be intentional about probiotics, to name a few. But I am often asked by students at Andrews University regarding natural ideas to improve mental health and combat the effects of trauma, even if from secular sources. I encourage them, and you the reader, to do some internet searches and have discussions about these.

Ideas that quickly rise to the top include massage for inducing healing in the body and proposal of the positive impact of cold exposure, such as ending your shower with a few minutes of cold water as restorative. Laughter has been found to stimulate the vagus nerve as it vibrates in the throat close to the origin of the nerve in the brain stem. Singing, especially loudly, is being proposed as a way to activate this nerve. Humming a tune has been suggested to stimulate this positive response and is being encouraged by some. In discussing these in a graduate class recently, one student quickly recalled her grandmother humming hymns frequently and wondered if, along with her deep faith in Jesus, this might have been physically helpful to calm herself in recalling all the traumatic events and chronic stress her grandmother survived. Students recall how Peter and Silas sang in jail. Comments are quickly made about how easily accessible some of these potentially restoring ideas are.

Of course, the one that gets the most attention for reducing the effects of chronic stress is deep and steady, intentional breathing — especially, experts encourage, if the exhale is longer than the inhale. Here again, inevitably the discussions increase amongst the students. But quickly, someone will remind us that God’s first gift to Adam, to humanity, was the breath of life. Could it be that it is still a part of His restoration for our bodies and brains?

Most often, I take pause and think, *“Why not? What’s better than some laughter, humming or singing a favorite hymn loudly, and taking in a deep breath of grace as I breathe out praise?”* ■

Ingrid Weiss Slikkers, assistant professor and director, International Center for Trauma Education & Care, School of Social Work, Andrews University

Made to Thrive

This year we certainly have been getting acquainted with very new circumstances, many of which have been incredibly challenging and painful for a lot of people around the world.

It has been a time of change and it has been a time to truly take a much deeper look at our lives.

Fact is, while we may not be able to control the circumstances, we have a choice each day to take responsibility of how we respond to them. This is a key mindset element that can significantly impact our overall wellbeing.

There are six different areas, personal dimensions of wellbeing, that I believe compose the ultimate formula for a thriving recipe for a happier, healthier and more meaningful life:

1. Made to Matter — Imagine creating a world where everyday events are woven into a much greater story and life's decisions are guided by the wisdom of its Designer. That is the power of meaning.

- **Grow closer** — Clarify your beliefs and put them into action; engage in spiritual support and practices.
- **Stay true** — Strive to uphold strong moral and ethical principles in your daily life.

2. Made to Move — Imagine creating a world where daily activity builds strength, flexibility and cardiovascular fitness, fueled by a plant-based diet and regular rejuvenating rest. That is the power of motion.

- **Stay active** — Optimize your cardiovascular, strength and flexibility fitness; sleep 7 to 9 hours a night.
- **Eat well** — Eat a healthy and balanced plant-based diet; drink enough water, limit sugary beverages.

3. Made to Explore — Imagine creating a world where problems become opportunities to explore new ideas and solutions that make life work better for everyone. That is the power of innovation.

- **Explore more** — Challenge your mind with new intellectual and creative pursuits.

- **Think ahead** — Anticipate problems and opportunities; initiate appropriate courses of action.

4. Made to Belong — Imagine creating a world where conversations are encouraged, differences are embraced and help is freely offered, turning strangers into neighbors. That is the power of inclusion.

- **Serve others** — Contribute to the wellbeing of others and your community.
- **Be inclusive** — Connect positively, respectfully and meaningfully with others and the environment.

5. Made to Unwind — Imagine creating a world where worry and stress are reduced through practices that increase self-awareness, gratitude, relaxation and resilience. That is the power of calm.

- **Tune in** — Understand and accept your feelings and those of others.
- **Remain positive** — Be optimistic in your approach to life and its challenges.

6. Made to Dream — Imagine creating a world where possibilities arise from the discovery and alignment of personal strengths, core values, acquired skills and life calling. That is the power of purpose.

- **Find your calling** — Pursue a life path that aligns with your values, strengths and purpose.
- **Develop skills** — Seek opportunities to develop essential transferable skills. ■



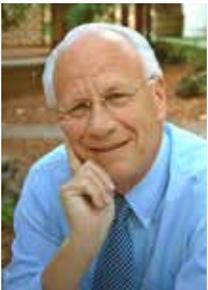
▲ Dominique Gummelt

Dominique Gummelt, PhD, CPT, CWP, Director of University Wellness | Andrews University, Wellness Expert and Media Spokesperson | Verv Inc.

What Happened to Smith?

Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken.

Luke 20:18, NIV



▲ George R. Knight

Like Butler, Uriah Smith underwent a traumatic experience at the Minneapolis meetings. Deeply disappointed and upset by the session, he resigned from his long-held position as General Conference secretary in November 1888 but held on to the editorship of the *Review*.

He would maintain that post until 1897, sparring with A.T. Jones for much of the time about prophetic interpretation and other issues. His editorship during those years, however, was a downhill battle in the face of the popularity of the charismatic Jones who, by late 1892, had become the most listened-to ministerial voice in Adventism. In 1897 Smith received his ultimate humiliation when the denomination appointed Jones as *Review* editor with Smith as his associate.

▼ Uriah Smith



Smith in the post-1888 years found it next to impossible to come to grips with the fact that Waggoner had preached the ten-commandment view of the law in Galatians and that Ellen White had backed Waggoner on the relation of law and gospel. For the next few years after the Minneapolis meetings, Smith would be a ringleader in casting doubt upon Ellen White's work.

But she didn't give up on him. She wrote him letter after letter calling for repentance, but to no avail. Then, in January 1891, he confessed his errors at Minneapolis. As Mrs. White put it: "He had fallen on the Rock and was broken."

Smith's falling on the Rock, however, did not mean that he was altogether on the Rock. His law-oriented theology still caused problems.

But in 1901 church leadership reappointed him as *Review* editor. Ellen White was overjoyed, expressing her pleasure that his name was once again at the "head of the list of editors: for thus it should be. . . . When, some years ago, his name was placed second (to Jones)", I felt hurt. When it was again placed first, I wept, and said, "Thank God!" (Lt 17, 1902).

But he still had some of the same old Smith left. Not long after he became editor he reopened the Galatians war and again had to be sacked. He never recovered from the shock. The same *Review* that announced the change of editorship noted that he was seriously ill. He passed to his rest in 1903 at the age of 70.

Lord, help us this day with our willful selves. Help us to surrender all to You, even our most cherished ideas and ways. ■

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 298; reprinted by permission.

La fe mueve montañas

“Es muy caro”. “Es imposible”. “Solo las personas adineradas estudian en esa universidad”. “Te vas a endeudar”. “¿Por qué no estudias en un colegio comunitario?”

Éstas fueron algunas de las frases más comunes que escuchaba cuando decidí estudiar en esta universidad.

Mi nombre es Jhoana Mortera, tengo diecinueve años y mi deseo es llegar a ser médica misionera. Desde que estudiaba en la escuela secundaria en el estado de Tamaulipas, México, había tenido siempre el deseo de estudiar en la Universidad Andrews. Cuando llegó el momento de hacerlo, oré mucho al Señor y le dije que, si Él quería que fuera, que por favor abriese las puertas.

Al ver la realidad y hacer la suma de cuánto tendría que pagar para estudiar en dicha universidad, me di cuenta de que era una fuerte cantidad de dinero y que no podría pagarla. Decidí entonces ir a trabajar al estado de Arizona en los Estados Unidos. Trabajé diez horas diarias en una compañía para poder comprar mi boleto de avión y tener algo de recursos para la universidad. Al final del verano, regresé a mi casa y antes de irme, mis padres me dijeron lo siguiente: “El miedo paraliza, pero la fe mueve montañas”.

Entonces decidí hacer esta aventura por fe, sabiendo que Dios iba a proveer. Fue difícil despedirme de mis padres en la frontera, ya que ninguno de ellos podía acompañarme debido a que las fronteras estaban cerradas a causa de la pandemia. Cuando me di vuelta, derramé algunas lágrimas, pero seguí con la frente en alto porque iba a perseguir mis sueños y sabía que Dios estaba a mi lado.

Al llegar a Andrews una de las cosas que más me preocupaba era la situación financiera. Todo parecía fácil cuando veía a algún padre de familia deslizar su tarjeta de crédito en la caja, y sus hijos quedaban inscritos sin ningún problema. Yo sabía que ellos eran también Hijos de Dios y que él bendice de maneras diversas. Estaba lista para descubrir cómo iba Dios a actuar en

mi vida. Oré silenciosamente y le dije al Señor: “Tú me trajiste hasta este lugar, aquí estoy. Dime qué es lo que debo hacer”.

Los primeros tres días no tuve ninguna respuesta de Dios y eso me desesperaba. Una tarde uno de los asesores financieros me llamó a su oficina y estudiamos de qué manera podría pagar mi matrícula escolar. Esa misma noche la amiga con quien me estoy hospedando me puso en contacto con una persona que me pudiera dar trabajo mientras estudiaba. Me quedé asombrada de cómo Dios pone a ciertas personas en el camino para ser de bendición en el momento que sea necesario. Me siento tan feliz que solo me queda agradecer a Dios por darme la oportunidad de estudiar aquí, en una institución adventista.

Aunque hoy en este lugar solamente empieza este sueño, tengo la confianza de que no estoy sola. No ha sido fácil dejar a mi familia y venirme a lo desconocido sin suficientes recursos. Sin embargo, los actos de fe se hacen con los ojos cerrados y cuando menos uno lo espera, Dios nos abre los ojos para que veamos sus grandes maravillas. ■

Jhoana Mortera estudia en la Universidad Andrews.



◀ Jhoana Mortera

Courtesy Jhoana Mortera

Indiana farmers create Desmond Doss-inspired corn maze

GENERATES COMMUNITY INTEREST

By Shannon Kelly

LANDESS FARM IS AIMING TO INSPIRE WITH A CORN MAZE HONORING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR AND CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT, DESMOND DOSS, in the 75th anniversary year of his heroic deed delivering 75 wounded soldiers to safety under heavy fire along Hacksaw Ridge on the island of Okinawa during World War II.

Christa McConnell
“We just talk about his character qualities of kindness, compassion, self-sacrifice, and try to tie that in to what we’re presently seeing in society. We’re hoping that we can stimulate peoples’ thoughts in the

direction of his character versus what we’re seeing in society right now,” said Susan Landess.

Jesse and Susan Landess, members of Anderson Church in Indiana, operate family-owned Landess Farm in Daleville, Indiana. Eight years ago, the farm began an annual corn maze tradition that operates during the fall. Last January, Jesse said the decision was made to pay tribute to Desmond Doss in 2020.

A former high school history teacher, Jesse incorporates historical education — often with some Bible trivia — in the mazes, influencing the decision to mark the 75th year anniversary of the Hacksaw Ridge feat, he said.

Twelve checkpoints throughout the 10-acre corn maze require guests to answer trivia questions related to Doss, his character and his deeds. Based on their answers, visitors are directed left or right until they complete the maze, Susan and Jesse explained. The



Congressional Medal of Honor Society assisted in the creation of the trivia questions.

Featuring Doss and his story opens the door for a “low-key” way to share faith with visitors in addition to historical education, the Landesses said. A booklet called “The Faith of Desmond Doss,” along with a tract about Hacksaw Ridge are given to visitors, offering more information about Doss and the Adventist faith that influenced his life.

Jesse said doing the will of God and not man, commitment, living conscientiously, and not giving in to pressure from others against morality are all traits individuals can learn from Doss today.

“[Revelation 14:13] is something that I quote to our customers: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord... their works follow them (NKJV).’ This is a prime example of a godly man who lived a life committed to Jesus. Seventy-five years later, he’s impacting lives,” Susan said.

In the first weeks of their fall season, the Landess family said they have already encountered new opportunities to share their faith with visitors through the story of Desmond Doss.

One Friday evening, Susan said, some customers stayed late and a young man inquired about the Landesses’ religion.

“That young man initiated the conversation,” Susan said. “What we pray for is that God will open the way, because we don’t want to be obnoxious, yet we don’t want to miss an opportunity that He presents to us. I love when that happens.”

Jesse was recently able to share a copy of *The Great Controversy* with a non-Adventist youth pastor who shared an interest in history with him, Susan added.

“Little things like that mean a lot to us. That we can just tell people, ‘God does care for every little thing,’” she said.

Landess Farm hopes to welcome about 2,000 visitors this fall, Jesse and Susan said.

“It’s really neat to see Him work,” Susan said. “It’s a maze! It’s corn. God uses all kinds of things.” ■

Shannon Kelly is a freelance writer.



Christa McConnell



Courtesy Landess Farm

Walking Miracle

By Rahel Wells

I AM A MIRACLE. A LIVING, WALKING MIRACLE.

While this is true for all of us in ways that we will only learn in heaven, my life is a story in which the miracles are clearly visible.

Five years ago, doctors feared I would die on the operating table. Today, although I am still on blood thinners, I am full of energy and very much alive. Five years ago, I was told I might never walk again. Today, I walk approximately five miles a day, and recently hiked a 20-mile trail in eight hours. Five

years ago, I was told I would definitely never run again. In the last year, although I cannot run every day, I have run two 5K races.

May 22, 2015 — It all began with a game of lava tag on a large playground in Berrien Springs, where I often took my youth group for supper and Bible study in the spring and summer. Lava tag involves staying off the ground and on other objects, and we had played this favorite game of mine many times at this playground over the years. I was “it” and chasing one of the youth. Part of the park has a long platform that used to connect to another platform with a wobbly bridge. The bridge had broken, so we played that we could hop

▼ Rahel Wells, here with her husband, Bill, was told she would never walk again.



All photos courtesy of A. C. Wells

to the “lava” (ground) at that point and then back up on to the platform. The youth did so, and I was right behind him, almost able to tag him. However, at the end of the platform was a board about one foot tall that used to be part of the bridge. I was in the process of hopping over it as I had done many times before. This time though, my left foot caught in a small gap under the board and my momentum carried me forward over the board while my foot stayed in place, shattering my tibia with a loud crack. I landed face down on the ground. As people crowded around and called 911, I was in shock. When I moved my upper leg, my lower leg did not move with it, so I knew it was serious.

The ambulance took about 15 minutes to arrive, and I was taken to the hospital in St. Joseph, Michigan. Because it was a holiday weekend, not many were on duty, but they took an x-ray and told me that I was ninth in line for surgery. I was on high levels of pain meds, glad it was “just a broken leg” and not too worried. But what no one knew at that point was that in shattering my tibia, the severely broken bone had also severed and mangled the main artery in my leg, the femoral artery. If the bone had broken through the skin, I might have died from so much blood loss (**Miracle #1: most people with this injury would have already bled out and died by this point in time**). As it was, compartments in my leg were filling with blood, cutting off nerves (I still cannot feel much of my lower left leg), and blood was not getting to my foot.

When the only surgeon on duty came out of surgery, he looked at my x-rays (**Miracle #2: he was board certified in Trauma, or I would have definitely lost my leg**), and thought that I likely had vascular damage. After a CT scan, I was taken immediately into emergency surgery to try to save my life and leg, making late night calls to other doctors and nurses (**Miracle #3: ten years ago, the procedure they did on my arteries and veins was not even invented yet**). My surgery lasted all night, and the doctor told my friends and family who waited that **they were close to losing me — and would have if the surgery had to be longer (Miracle #4)**. In addition, one of the nurses told me later that she knew I ate a whole-foods plant-based diet (I still do!), because there was no other way that my arteries and veins could be so clear and that was likely what saved my leg!

In that first surgery, the doctors took my saphenous vein, the largest leg vein, and turned it around and attached it to my femoral artery at my hip, threaded it along the outside of my leg right under the skin (to avoid nerves), and attached it to a viable smaller artery in my ankle, totally bypassing my knee. This meant that my body had to increase the capacity of other veins over time to replace the one that was taken (**Miracle #5: God has created our bodies able to do this**).

After a week of hoping and praying that the vein graft would take, I had so far escaped amputation (**Miracle #6: 70 percent of people with this injury lose their leg**), and the doctors were able to do a second surgery to repair the shattered tibia with many plates and screws. I then faced another two-and-a-half weeks in the hospital, three months of bed rest, followed by many months of using a wheelchair, then a walker, and finally my own legs for balance with physical therapy all along the way. When the accident happened, I had just finished teaching a summer intensive class and moved to a new apartment (**More Miracles: I didn't have to take time off work, and my new place was able to fit a wheelchair, unlike the previous one**).

I am so grateful to God for the healing He has done in my life! While I can't do everything I did before the accident and still face pain on a daily basis, **I am able to hike and backpack and swim and cross-country ski, all of which have taken on new joy in light of thinking I would never be able to do them again (More Miracles)**. In addition, God blessed me with a husband through all of this, as I never would have gotten close to him if we had not lived in the same neighborhood, and he came over often (as a friend at the time) to keep me company during my long bedrest.

The vein graft that saved my leg will not likely last my whole life, but I am seeking to live as healthfully as possible to prolong its duration. Since my accident, I have backpacked and hiked hundreds of miles, including a through-hike of the John Muir Trail. God willing, I am planning to section hike the Pacific Crest Trail with my husband over the next few summers, along with many other outdoor activities. I am a miracle. A living, walking miracle. ■

A. Rahel Wells is associate professor of Hebrew Bible, Andrews University Department of Religion and Biblical Languages.

I AM SO
GRATEFUL
TO GOD
FOR THE
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HE HAS
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MY LIFE!

SERVING
WITH A
DISABILITY

and

Able

On the thirtieth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, a landmark piece of legislation securing equality, inclusion and respect for people with disabilities, we take a look at how our members are serving.



Although Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA) junior Seth Mckelvey was born with fibular hemimelia, he does not necessarily consider managing his disability difficult nor does he feel that it causes him any trouble in his leadership position as class pastor.

“I haven’t really thought of it as a difficulty since I’ve grown up with it. It hasn’t even really been something [where] I’ve been like, ‘Oh, you know, I miss my actual legs.’ No, because these are my actual legs.” Seth said. “To me, it’s just the way I do things. I’ve grown up with these.”

At age two, he was adopted from China and had both of his legs amputated in the United States; he now resides with his adoptive parents in Michigan.

He may have some difficulties managing his disability, “but you would never know it as his attitude is always cheerful and positive,” says Beth Wallace, photography and yearbook teacher at GLAA.

Seth says the most notable difficulty he’s encountered is the inconvenience of having to wash his prosthetic legs and their liners every night, especially when he was younger.

The 16-year old’s positive attitude is reflected through the fact that his peers have elected him as the class pastor less than one month into this first year at

SETH MCKELVEY

the academy. Additionally, he is a Pathfinder in Teen Leadership Training and currently working on his Master Guide certification. In his free time, he enjoys outdoor activities like running, bike riding and backpacking. He also plays both the piano and organ.

He recalls one specific experience playing the organ at church. Although he struggles to press the pedals, his music director did not let that get in the way of his learning. He says that when she realized he would struggle with that, she just encouraged him to still do what he could. Although her encouragement may seem simple, it was all Seth needed to hear to realize that the people around him were not going to let the prosthetics get in the way. He realized they cared more about including him and making sure he was able to participate than his ability to press the pedals.

Seth believes it is important to include the disabled community because they are all as much a part of God's family as anyone else. Additionally, he mentions his belief that all humans have one specific disability.

"In reality, if we look at each and every single person, we're all sinful human beings. So, technically, we all have that disability of sin," he said.

Essentially, Seth indicates that the goal is to bring people into church to get to know Christ, no matter what they look like or what disability they have. He adds that when Jesus comes, it will not matter what disability you have. Whether you are deaf, mute, paraplegic or anything else, it will not matter since all disabilities will be gone, and that includes the disability of sin that we all have. Therefore, there is no reason to exclude someone here on earth.

SETH BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE THE DISABLED COMMUNITY BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL AS MUCH A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY AS ANYONE ELSE.

FAWN ADVOCATES THAT THE CHURCH SHOULD "SEEK OUT INDIVIDUAL'S SPIRITUAL GIFTS, WHAT THEIR CAPABILITIES ARE, AND FIND WAYS TO NOT JUST UTILIZE THOSE GIFTS, BUT TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL INCLUDED IN EVERYTHING."

Similar to Seth, Fawn Scherencel is a congenital amputee meaning that she was born with just one hand. She says she used a prosthesis for a while growing up but doing things with one hand just always felt more natural to her. So, although her disability may bring certain difficulties for the Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) principal, it is not something that ever gets in the way of her job. In fact, she says that being underestimated by others has been more of a difficulty than the actual physical obstacles her disability brings. She often feels as if people are surprised to discover she is capable of certain things.

Fawn believes that it is common in current society to underestimate disabled individuals.

"We tend to very much define people by their disability as opposed to defining people by their abilities," she said. "We look at someone, especially someone who has a visible physical disability in some way, and that's all we see."

She admitted that even she is sometimes guilty of this fault. To help overcome this mistaken perception, Fawn advocates that the church should "seek out individual's spiritual gifts, what their capabilities are, and find ways to not just utilize those gifts, but to make people feel included in everything."



FAWN SCHERENCEL

Additionally, being mindful of how a disability impacts someone can make a huge difference, stated Fawn. When planning events, taking a minute to consider whether a disabled person would be able to participate in the event or not can make all the difference. She shared the story of a staff outing to play Whirlyball, a bumper cart sport that requires one hand for driving and the other hand to hold a throwing stick. Needless to say, Fawn was not able to participate in the activity. Although she understands no one intended to exclude her, this is an example she gives of how simply being mindful or engaging in conversation would have prevented the oversight.

Seeing abilities over disabilities, mindfulness and engaging in conversation are three things Fawn finds necessary in order to be more inclusive as well as to open up leadership roles for disabled individuals. She has not forgotten it was a former principal who encouraged her to pursue a masters in leadership which ultimately played a role in her becoming a school principal.

Going forward, Fawn hopes HAA students understand that they were created for a purpose and that they are able to lead and serve wherever God takes them. She would like to be an example that anything is possible.

“If I can do it, anyone can,” she said.

NICOLETTE BELIEVES HEARING CHURCHES COULD LEARN A FEW THINGS FROM THE DEAF CHURCH IF THEY TRULY WANT TO WELCOME EVERYONE.

Growing up, Nicolette Reynoso was the only deaf person in her six-person family. However, throughout her life, the Michigan native has been very involved in ministry for the deaf community. Her experience includes singing, interpreting, attending camp meetings and Three Angels Deaf Ministries (3ADM) where she is currently the vice president of Deaf Young Adults for Christ (DYAC). She also is on the Deaf Ministries committee. She is now married to her deaf husband, and they have five children together, two of which are also deaf. She credits God for her skills in painting and crafts.

According to Nicolette, Three Angels Deaf Ministries is a resource for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. They offer easy-reading books and American Sign Language (ASL) DVD videos that help people understand Christ and the Bible better. Additionally, they provide links to the Sabbath School and worship service livestreaming from the Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship (DEAF) Church as well as the Southern Deaf Fellowship. More specifically, Nicolette works with DYAC to encourage and strengthen the faith of deaf and hard of hearing young adults. According to their website (deafdyac.org), they also hope to provide opportunities

to teach leadership while preaching the gospel to deaf, hard of hearing, and even hearing individuals.

Although she is very involved now, finding her community did not come easy. When she first moved to the Washington D.C. area to attend Gallaudet University, she attended several hearing churches and had a hard time finding a place where she fit in and felt welcomed. According to Nicolette, one of the hearing churches she attended provided uncertified interpreters who did not have the necessary experience to translate to people with different levels of understanding. Despite this, she almost looked past the flaws and made this church her home church. However, what ultimately made her keep looking was her deaf daughter. She realized she wanted to attend a church where her daughter could be involved and truly learn the Word of God. She previously had met David Trexler, pastor of the DEAF church, but had not yet visited the church. It was then when she finally decided to attend the church. Nicolette claims the DEAF church changed her life as it allows her to study the Bible deeply and talk about anything.

She believes hearing churches could learn a few things from the DEAF church if they truly want to welcome everyone. For example, ensuring that deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind people can participate in most aspects of church fellowship such as Sabbath School, worship service, potluck, Bible studies, and other church activities is crucial. Taking time to understand deaf culture, the varying levels of skill, and different needs also is important, she says.

“If they want to welcome everyone, then they must find a time to learn about them and respect their cultures in order to meet their needs. Deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind don’t have to be treated like an outsider because they are different.” Nicolette said. ■

Joel Guerra is a PR and Business Administration major at Southern Adventist University. The young adult from Chicago enjoys social media and local journalism.



Pieter Damsteegt

NICOLETTE REYNOSO-JIMENEZ & FAMILY

Increasing Opportunities for Disabled Members

Many church members and leaders make the mistake of assuming that there are no disabled members in their church. However, in 2018, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported that approximately one in four American adults live with a disability. That adds up to about 61 million people in the entire country.

Globally, there are about one billion people living with a disability, of which depression is the most common. So, statistically, it is almost certain that there are several people with disabilities at any church. As Charlotte Thoms, coordinator of the North American Division's Disabilities Ministries puts it, the Bible says we are all part of God's body and calls us to pursue every nation. Hence, it is our duty to pursue and not turn our backs on the disabled community.

Assistant to the General Conference president for the Deaf and Possibility Ministries. Larry Evans agrees and explains why it is so important to reach the disabled community.

"There's no way that Jesus will come when the people He spent so much time ministering to [during] His ministry are neglected," he says about the lack of ministry for disabled individuals.

Accordingly, Charlotte points out that over three-fourths of Jesus' miracles on earth involved disabled people. They are absolutely present in today's church and, even though we may not be able to heal them, they deserve to be treated with the same love and patience that Jesus did.

So what can the church do to encourage participation and leadership from disabled individuals? Below are several useful tips compiled from conversations with Larry Evans, Charlotte Thoms and Fawn Scherencel.

■ BY JOEL GUERRA ■



◀ *Joshua Getahun, 18, is a source of help in his Sabbath school class at Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University.*



Learn to see the possibility in people before the disability. This will help you build the community while also building your understanding.

◀ Joshua and his family, including his father, Merga (pictured here), have attended Pioneer Memorial since he was an infant. As Joshua grew, he regularly volunteered to pray following Pastor Dwight Nelson's children's stories.

Embrace the Change

Larry and Charlotte both believe that a genuine desire for change is one of the first key steps in being more inclusive towards disabled individuals. Larry trusts that every single church has compassionate members who can play a role in including disabled brothers and sisters. However, Charlotte believes that many people tend to be reluctant of including those with disabilities because they fear saying or doing something considered offensive to the disabled community. However, Fawn Scherencel, a congenital amputee and principal of Hinsdale Adventist Academy in Hinsdale, Illinois, states that she appreciates those who approach her with genuine intentions.

“I would much rather someone ask me a sincere candid question about my disability than to just be afraid to ask,” she said.

Once those fears are lifted, members can begin to better understand the community and their culture. Larry emphasizes the importance of understanding the culture before making changes. He believes trying to work with someone without understanding them is essentially pointless.

See the Possibilities

Larry has found that there is a common pattern of identifying disabled individuals solely through their disability. Remember that disabled individuals have their own passions, interests and unique personalities and should be treated as such.

Churches can try to counteract this stigma by establishing a sense of identity and purpose that goes far beyond their disability. He believes giving individuals actual roles in the church leadership to promote fellowship can help establish their sense of purpose in the local church.

Another tendency people have when participating in disability ministries is the idea that they are working *for* the disabled person. Larry explains this can be condescending as it implies someone has to do work for them. Instead, members should look forward to working *with* the disabled community.

Learn to see the possibility in people before the disability. This will help you build the community while also building your understanding.



▲ Joshua's Sabbath School teacher, David Randall, says Joshua's outgoing personality, in spite of his Down's Syndrome, makes him a natural to serve by collecting offerings and distributing Guide magazines.

Create a Plan of Action

Taking action is one of the steps of Larry's "3 A Strategy" — Awareness, Acceptance, Action — to reach the disabled. First, members need to become aware of the characteristics and needs of the disabled community while simultaneously accepting them for how God made them. Once members do this and have a clearer perception of the community, they can begin to create a plan of action. An action plan helps identify those with disabilities, addresses their specific needs and proposes accommodation plans to ultimately create opportunities for them.

Whether it be a blind person who needs a Braille Bible or a handicapped person who needs a ramp to access the audio-visual stage, the members should now be prepared to address the need. Consider creating a committee or nominating a leader to take charge of disability ministries.

Start at the Grassroots

Don't be scared if you feel like not many people are interested or as if your actions are not impactful enough. Larry describes Possibility Ministries as a grassroots movement that grows from the ground up. According to Charlotte, before the General Conference even had any type of disabilities ministry, the local church was the grassroots of this movement since before 1995.

She encourages members to remember that God promises to be there even if there are only two or three. No group is too small and no action is too small so get comfortable taking baby steps.

Use Your Resources

Larry acknowledges that even though Disability Ministries is a grassroots movement, divisions and unions play roles as well in supporting conferences and local churches. Your division may help you by providing resources not available at the local level. Interpreter training, workshops, informational handbooks and recently published virtual learning material in response to the ongoing pandemic are all resources that are sure to help your grassroots movement get going.

Useful resources for the disabled community or those interested in disability ministries:

- General Conference Adventist Possibility Ministries: <https://www.possibilityministries.org/>
- North American Division Disabilities Ministries: <http://www.dmnad.org/>
- Three Angels Deaf Ministries: <https://3adm.org/>
- Christian Record Services for the Blind: <https://christianrecord.org/> ■

Joel Guerra is a PR and Business Administration major at Southern Adventist University. The young adult from Chicago enjoys social media and local journalism.



Photos courtesy AMITA Health

▲ Leaders from AMITA Bolingbrook have supported the micro pantry by donating food each week.

Second micro pantry opens at Illinois hospital

An important component of extending the healing ministry of Jesus is to serve the community — especially those who are underserved.

Recently, AMITA GlenOaks opened a new micro food pantry near its Emergency Department entrance. The micro pantry – featuring free non-perishable food, toiletries, baby food and diapers on several shelves – is available to patients, visitors, associates and community residents, as needed. Another micro pantry is in place on the Bolingbrook campus.

Samantha Sagrado, manager, Volunteer Services at AMITA Bolingbrook and GlenOaks, created a sign-up sheet for hospital departments to adopt the micro

pantry for a week, helping to collect donations, get it stocked and monitor usage.

“I was so moved by the support of associates and hospital departments to get the sign-up sheet filled up through summer,” Sagrado said. “We’ve also had support from community partners, Elmhurst College and the Addison Romanian Church, in donating food for the micro pantry.”

Hospital departments, Pastoral Care and local churches are helping to get the word out about the new micro pantry. There are no limits on how much food an individual can take or how often. A sign near the GlenOaks pantry says, “Take what you need. Leave what you can.”

Additionally, a new Personal Supply Pantry has launched with the La Grange Family Practice Residency Clinic for patients and associates in need. Here, donations of personal care items like shampoo and deodorant, as well as baby care items such as diapers and wipes, are being collected. “These are items that may not normally be found in food pantries,” said Heather Hoffman, regional director, Clinical Mission Integration. ■

Julie Busch, associate vice president, AMITA Health

Gerson De Leon joins Andrews faculty

When Gerson De Leon was 11 years old, growing up in Guatemala, he suffered an accident which resulted in a serious injury. Several tendons, including his right Achilles tendon as well as an artery, were torn entirely due to a deep cut. The result of this accident put in question his ability to ever walk again.

Gerson underwent two surgeries, one in Guatemala and a second in Nicaragua. At that time, it was recommended that two more surgeries were needed. The Lord opened doors for Gerson to be assessed by the Pediatric Orthopedic team at the Loma Linda University Medical Center, where it was determined that no other treatment would be needed. This was a tangible answer to many prayers.

Throughout this process, Gerson wanted one thing: to run again with no visible impairment. He asked God to heal him, and God answered — providing both physical healing and spiritual healing. As a result, says Gerson, “I gave my life to God to serve Him wherever He led.”

Gerson went on to earn a B.A. in Theology from UNADECA (Universidad Adventista de Centro America) in Costa Rica, followed by a B.S. in Biology from the Universidad Adventista de las Antillas in Puerto Rico. Gerson later completed the Physical Therapy Assistant program and graduated from Loma Linda University in 2008 with a doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Gerson began working as a full-time clinician in Loma Linda and later in Ukiah, a small town in Northern California. During that time, he traveled to Andrews University for continuing education

courses. He notes, “Andrews provides an excellent CEU (continuing education unit) for physical therapists in the orthopedic area, which allowed me to obtain a top-notch CEU without having to worry about the Sabbath.”

More recently, Gerson’s wife was offered a job in the Berrien Springs, Mich., area. At the same time, a friend of the couple who was studying in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews told Gerson about a job opening in the Physical Therapy Department on campus.

Gerson pursued the opportunity. He says, “God works mysteriously.... My wife’s job was put on hold due to COVID-19, and I was offered a position here at Andrews University. I look back and see the hand of God, leading us and directing us here.”

Gerson now works as an assistant professor and the Clinical Sciences coordinator for the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences. This fall he is teaching the entry-level DPT students the PT assessment course and lab. In the spring he will teach health promotion and wellness followed by a summer course on legal and ethical issues in healthcare.

At Andrews, Gerson has especially appreciated the opportunity to pray and interact with his students, the spiritual atmosphere, and the quality colleagues with whom he works.

For Gerson, Psalms 32:8 has been a significant passage of Scripture: *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.* Gerson has seen God’s leading — from childhood to career choice



Courtesy Andrews University

▲ Gerson De Leon

to his new role at Andrews — and wants to serve God to the best of his abilities. He says, “I am looking forward to every opportunity to share the love of Christ with our students.” ■

Gillian Panigo, Media Communications manager & FOCUS editor

AT ANDREWS, GERSON HAS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRAY AND INTERACT WITH HIS STUDENTS, THE SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERE, AND THE QUALITY COLLEAGUES WITH WHOM HE WORKS.



▲ Indiana's Evansville First Church was organized Sept. 4, 1920. In the last 100 years, the Adventist movement has grown to 10 churches in the Tri-State area and an elementary school.

Evansville Indiana First Church commemorates 100 years

A series of meeting in the 1800s was the beginning of the work in Evansville.

On Saturday, Sept. 5, the Evansville Indiana First Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of Adventism in the Evansville area.

The Sabbath School time became the tribute hour and highlights were special music, slide shows of various members and activities we had participated in. Two former Indiana Conference presidents sent videos congratulating the members on 100 years of service in the Evansville community.

Church clerk, Debbie Burns, read minutes of the group becoming a church, from the original September 4, 1920, clerk report. The 18 founding members were very excited to finally become an official church. The report stated, "All were pleased to become a part of the conference whole and to have a new impetus for helping advance the work in their territory."

Indiana Conference president, Vic Van Schaik, shared that a series of meeting in

the 1800s was the beginning of the work in Evansville.

Guest speaker Dan Hall was excited to be back in Evansville. Pastor from 1983 to 1991, his sermon focused on the Holy Spirit and being ready each day for Jesus to come.

After the church worship service, everyone was invited out to the large banner for a group photo.

Evansville mayor Lloyd Winnenke gave a city-wide proclamation naming Saturday, Sept. 5, as "Evansville First Seventh-day Adventist Church 100-year Anniversary Day." This proclamation was read by Pastor Van Schaik and presented to the church board. Head elder Kent Hartmann accepted it.

In the last 100 years, the Adventist movement has grown to ten churches in the Tri-State area and an elementary school.

The members continue the ministry of service into our community. Through the years there has been various outreach through stop smoking, nutrition and pain support classes, as well as exercise groups, disaster response, serving meals in the homeless shelter, and cooking classes. The church members are working on a special community outreach project to further celebrate our 100 years.



Photos by Debbie Burns

▲ Former Pastor Dan Hall was the guest speaker at the centennial celebration.

The church has been getting an updated new look for this celebration. The foyer was totally re-done, the mother's room and all five bathrooms in the church are being remodeled.

The service was livestreamed through YouTube and Facebook. Due to COVID, we had to limit how many people could attend. Many, including quite a few former Adventists, watched on the livestream. You can access this on the church's website at www.evansvillesda.org.

The local news station also covered the celebration. You can view the story here: <https://www.tristatehomepage.com/news/local-news/first-seventh-day-adventist-church-celebrates-100th-anniversary/>. ■

Debbie Burns is the Evansville Church clerk. She and her husband, Roger have been members for 41 years.

THE CHURCH MEMBERS ARE WORKING ON A SPECIAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT TO FURTHER CELEBRATE OUR 100 YEARS.



▲ The centennial program begins with a vesper service on Friday, Oct. 30, and continues Sabbath, Oct. 31, with Sabbath school, Divine worship, an afternoon panel discussion and a virtual social.

Mission endures as Milwaukee Sharon Church turns 100

The first Adventist church centered around the African American community in Milwaukee is gearing up to mark its 100th anniversary with a virtual celebration subdued but not conquered by the coronavirus.

Richard Sylvester who has pastored the Milwaukee Sharon Church since 2013, says that although the in-person celebration planned for the summer could no longer occur, the Oct. 30-31 weekend commemoration is a unique opportunity to reflect on how far they come by faith.

"It's so easy to forget and not have a clear sense of purpose," he says, "but it's important to celebrate our past and embrace the future."

A Vessel Willing to be Used

In looking back over the church's history and its remarkable growth, longtime member and elder, Laurence Dion says the



Photos courtesy Milwaukee Sharon Church

term that best describes Sharon is that it's "a church willing to be willing." The church has a long-standing history of having a heart of service to God's will, and this attitude continues to be the pillars of faith of its members after 100 years.

A Church Willing to Move

Services were originally held in a private home; however, as more people received and accepted God's message, the members saw the need to have a church building. Rallying to the occasion, funds were raised; a church structure was finally purchased in 1955. During this time of physical transformation, the church received its new name, Sharon Chapel, which was later changed to Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church upon the increase of membership.

The final and current location of Sharon Church was acquired for \$275,000 in the summer of 1973. Through the members' earnestness and faithfulness to God that in three weeks, they raised over \$30,000 to meet the requirements of 50 percent cash in hand before the purchase. According

◀ Longtime member and elder Laurence Dion says the term that best describes Sharon is that it's "a church willing to be willing." The church has a long-standing history of having a heart of service to God's will, and this attitude continues to be the pillars of faith of its members after 100 years.

to Dion, this acquisition was a miraculous moment from God, as he researched that the building (which included a school and gymnasium, and a bowling alley in the basement) was worth \$1.5 million.

A Church Willing to Grow

With each move, the membership grew due, according to Dion, to the members' eagerness to share the gospel. He referred to the evangelistic efforts as major highlights for the church. In 1935, they were the first church to hold an open-air evangelistic tent meeting in the city of Milwaukee. Receiving permission to do so was a major accomplishment, as the city of Milwaukee did not permit tents to be erected within city limits at that time. This was the beginning of many evangelistic outreach programs for the church.

Throughout the years God has continuously blessed Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church because of the spiritual dedication of its members and leaders. As the church, along with the Sharon Junior Academy attached to the church, continues to be a vessel within the community and the Milwaukee region, Dion noted that, just like the first members in 1920, the church has to continue to be willing to be willing. "That is a prayer I ask all the time," he said. "God will do the work. We just have to be willing for Him to do the work in us."

The centennial program begins with a vesper service on Friday, Oct. 30, and continues Sabbath, Oct. 31, with Sabbath school, Divine worship, an afternoon panel discussion and a virtual social. You can view these events on the Milwaukee Sharon Facebook page and YouTube channel. For more information on the centennial celebration, visit <http://www.mkesharonsda.com>. ■

Michelle Greene, Lake Union Communication intern



Juanita Edge

▲ Among the group baptized was a former shaman, Pa-chia Fa (center). The rain could not dampen the spirit of rejoicing. "Since coming to the Adventist Church, I have found so much happiness," she explained. "I'm so happy I don't have words to express. I am so grateful that even though I am very old, Jesus still wants to help me."

New members baptized into the Milwaukee/Madison Hmong congregation

AMONG THE GROUP WAS A FORMER SHAMAN.

On Sabbath, Sept. 12, about 50 people gathered at Camp Wakonda to celebrate the baptism of eight new members into the Milwaukee/Madison Hmong congregation.

Among the group baptized by Wisconsin lay pastor Chanchai Kiatyanyong, former Wisconsin pastor Ko Saelee and Wisconsin Conference president Mike Edge was a former shaman, Pa-chia Fa.

She was born in a small village in Laos and named Khau Fa. Her family were animists, and her father was a shaman, a person who puts people into a trance state to contact spirit entities and bargain with them for healing and blessings. In 1993, Pa-chia and her family emigrated to California as Hmong refugees, and she became a United States citizen. Many Hmong fled Laos because they were being killed for siding with the United States during the Vietnam War, so the United States welcomed them and helped them become American citizens. She moved to Wisconsin about 16 years ago.

In 2010, Pa-chia's father died and, as is common in the animist world, his spirits came into her and told her she would now be a shaman as her father had been. She was not happy about this. The spirits are very controlling and required her to do many things she did not want to do. There are many curses and fears in the animist belief, and whenever people are sick or are seeking relief from a curse, they come to a shaman, such as Pa-chia, and she is required to make a sacrifice to the spirits for them. Usually this means killing a chicken and offering it up to appease the spirits in order to bring some relief. While shamans are most commonly male, females are at times chosen by the spirits as well, and she said there are many people who practice shamanism here in the United States.

Search for a Cure

Not long ago, Pa-chia became quite ill. Since shamans cannot offer sacrifices for themselves, she needed to find help. She decided to see a regular medical doctor but, while he recognized her symptoms were real, he could find nothing wrong with her. His advice was, "You need to see a pastor."

Walking down the sidewalk near her home, she met a neighbor and, during the course of their visit, told her what the doctor had suggested. "I know my pastor would be very happy to come visit with you," said her neighbor. The neighbor,

Maitha Thao, was a Seventh-day Adventist and made arrangements for Pastor Chanchai Kiatyanyong to come visit and pray for her.

Pastor Chanchai had firsthand understanding of the animist religion, as his father also was a shaman. Chanchai came to Pa-chia's home, prayed with her, and her illness immediately disappeared. She was very impressed with the superior power of this Christian God over the spirits she knew about. She asked Chanchai if he could help her learn to be a Christian and study the Adventist faith with her.

Cleansing

This past fall, she began attending the Hmong Adventist Group in Milwaukee and expressed a desire to leave the spirit worship behind. On Dec. 29, 2019, a group of about ten people from the Milwaukee Adventist Hmong Group came to her house with Chanchai and Edge, to cleanse her home of the spirits and dedicate her home to Jesus. While part of the group kept up a steady chorus of hymn singing, the rest of the group burned the shrine, cut up bamboo poles and boards, hauled out carpet, and anything else pertaining to spirit worship. Then they went to the basement to pray as well. Whenever the dog would go to the basement he would bark continuously. They believe the dog could see the spirits that lived there.

In place of the shrine, they placed a picture of Jesus; below it, Chanchai hung a picture roll. Since Pa-chia cannot read in Hmong or English, Chanchai and his wife met in her home every evening at 6:00 p.m. to study the Bible and Adventist beliefs through the spoken word, using the picture roll as a guide to help her understand the Scriptures.

There are quite a few Hmong people who come to Pa-chia for her shaman services, and she is hoping to share with them about her new faith in Jesus. When the house was completely cleansed and

dedicated to God, Pastor Churchai told her she needed to choose a new name now that she is a Christian. She chose to no longer go by her birth name, choosing Pa-chia, which means New Flower.

On Sabbath, Sept. 12, the rain could not dampen the spirit of rejoicing as Pa-chia, along with the other new Seventh-day Adventists, proclaimed their commitment to Jesus before all of their friends.

“Since coming to the Adventist Church, I have found so much happiness,” she explained. “I’m so happy I don’t have words to express. I am so grateful that even though I am very old, Jesus still wants to help me.” ■

Juanita Edge, Wisconsin Conference Communication director



Laura Hokanson

▲ Left to right: Church Planting consultant, Ko Saelee; Pa-chia Fa; Tong Yang; Wisconsin lay pastor, Chanchai Kiattyanyong; Athena Yang; Lisa Xiong (back); Lee Alvin Vang (front); Chao Thao; Houa Lee; Muaj Thoa; and Wisconsin Conference president, Mike Edge

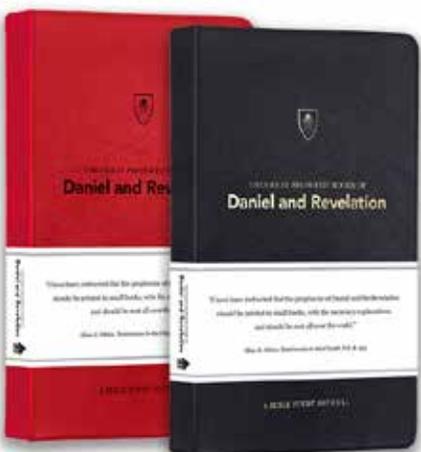


Photo courtesy Andrews University Press

▲ The Daniel/Revelation Study Bible Journal was released by Andrews University Press and is available in red or black.

Andrews University releases Daniel/Revelation Bible study journal

BERRIEN SPRINGS, Mich.—In what may be a first for Adventist publishing, Andrews University has released a small book containing only the biblical books of Daniel and Revelation with study notes, in the form of a study journal, according

to Andrea Luxton, president of Andrews University and chair of the Andrews University Press board.

Luxton said of the publication, *The Great Prophetic Books of Daniel and Revelation: A Bible Study Journal* became officially available to customers the first of September. She said it is already receiving wide appreciation from church leaders and pastors who see its immediate usefulness for public evangelism, small group ministry and personal spiritual revival.

“The world is changing rapidly and we are surrounded by uncertainty and anxiety. In that context the books of Daniel and Revelation provide both a needed frame of hope and the certainty that God will work out His purposes in this world,” Luxton said. “Thus, this little book is very timely. And Ellen White’s specific counsel about distributing those parts of Scripture in this form gives us extra confidence that this is an opportunity we cannot and should not miss.”

Luxton said that more than 5,000 pastors in North America will receive the book over the next few months, with financial sponsorship from Andrews, The Foundation for Adventist Education

(established by the Zinke family) and the North American Division (NAD) Ministerial Association.

“We see the immediate value of this little book for helping our members sharpen the essential prophetic focus of our faith,” said Ivan Williams, director of the NAD Ministerial Association. “And our pastors across this great division are in a good position to know how to use it in their churches, and in their outreach. So, we have been pleased to help make sure that each one gets a copy. They will take it from there.”

They already are. Ronald Knott, director of Andrews University Press, said pastors in two conferences that have just received the books have already ordered more than 2,000 copies for their churches and public evangelism. One of those conferences is already discussing plans to use 5,000 more for a major evangelistic event next year.

The development of the book was inspired by comments Ellen White made in 1898 to John Harvey Kellogg, and again in 1902 to her son W.C. White, according to Knott. “She said that she had been ‘instructed that the prophecies of Daniel

Lake Union Herald

"In the morning we shall sing, if we have not"
Vol. X
BUREAU: SEASIDE, MICH., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1918 No. 43

Lake Union Conference Officers

Emmanuel Missionary College

Monday, October 21, our local health officer informed us that he had received word from the state health officer forbidding any public gatherings on account of Spanish influenza, and that we should close our school. Accordingly we are holding no school sessions this week. We trust that this closing order will be lifted by next week so that we can resume school. We are very sorry, indeed, to have our school closed.

It requires a great deal of hard work on the part of teachers and students to make up for such a loss, however, daily lessons were assigned in all subjects so that the students can keep up reasonably well with their studies during the absence of the school.

We have no such work to do about the place that the students have been opportunities for absence. We have begun the building of a study hall addition to the school building and this will give us more room and plenty of equipment. This we are very busy on the farm parting the pasture and other regarding the culture and care in the city and in other full work.

We are very thankful that the health of our students is so good. We have had only a few cases of influenza and most of these have not been serious. At the present time the students here in the home are unusually well. We trust that our people will continue to stay well and safe for the health of our students, but for all interests of Emmanuel Missionary College, we are very glad to have our school closed.

The arrangements of this school have been printed and are being sent to the students. It is a four-month course, beginning November 22 and ending March 15. It is especially designed to benefit our native teachers and students who can serve in the winter months and take the benefit of the light of our work to some degree of work. And surely there is no reason that can be offered for our going and returning from our school in a hurry.

Something All Can Do

It may be that someone cannot give Bible readings or sell our books, but surely every one can give something more. A kind word, a prayer, a smile, though the light of our work to some degree of work. And surely there is no reason that can be offered for our going and returning from our school in a hurry.

We trust to soon have all the attention of our people.

and the Revelation should be printed in small books, together with the necessary explanations, and should be sent all over the world.' So that's exactly what we've done, and are doing," Knott said. "We will be content to be proven wrong but, up to now, we think this may be the first time that Adventist publishing has produced such a work."

The Ellen White quotation appears on a jacket wrap on the front of the 176-page small-format book. Overall, the book is designed with the same manufacturing specifications as high-quality blank book journals. It features easy-to-read, two-color printing of the Bible text, high-grade paper for writing, cover foil stamping and rounded corners, and a marker ribbon.

"This really is a Bible study journal," Knott said. "It is intended to make the study of these two books of the Bible a practical, beautiful, and interactive experience."

The Bible text, using the New King James Version, appears on each left page. At the top of the right page, blank lines are provided for making notes or journaling. The bottom of the right page contains the relevant notes on the Bible text from the Andrews Study Bible.

"We are particularly pleased to be able to use the excellent material from the Andrews Study Bible," Knott said. "That great resource for the church was released exactly ten years ago, and so it is fitting that we could marshal that content into use for this product that is so relevant to our time."

The Great Prophetic Books of Daniel and Revelation: A Bible Study Journal retails for \$14.99 and may be purchased in large quantities for major discounts. It is available from Adventist Book Centers (1-800-765-6955), Andrews University Press (800-467-6369) and on-line at university-press.andrews.edu.

Jeff Boyd, Andrews University Media Relations Manager

From the Archives: The Second Wave of Spanish Influenza

As COVID-19 sweeps around the world and turns our lives upside down, we take a look back to the second wave of the 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic.

What was the Spanish Influenza?

The Spanish Influenza spanned 1918–1919, killing an estimated 50 million people around the world. This devastating flu virus was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin. Previously unknown, the world was defenseless to stop its spread.

According to the CDC, "There were three different waves of illness during the pandemic, starting in March 1918 and subsiding by summer of 1919. The pandemic peaked in the U.S. during the second wave in the fall of 1918. This highly fatal second wave was responsible for most of the U.S. deaths attributed to the pandemic."

Schools Begins to Close in October 1918

In late October, the *Lake Union Herald* first reported from Emmanuel Missionary College, known today as Andrews University, that public gatherings would be prohibited due to the spread of the Spanish influenza, which meant school would have to be postponed.

"Sunday, October 13, our local health officer informed us that he had received word from the state health officer forbidding any public gatherings on account of Spanish influenza, and that we should close our school. Accordingly we are holding no school sessions this week. We trust that this closing order will be lifted by next week so that we can resume school. We are very sorry, indeed, to have our school thus closed," Frederick Griggs wrote in the October 23, 1918 *Lake Union Herald* issue.

Very similar to today's effect of coronavirus, teachers worked hard to keep their students equipped to continue their studies despite the temporary closing of their school.

Churches Close in the Lake Union Conference

As Emmanuel Missionary College closed its doors in hopes of only a temporary closure, many churches across the Lake Union Conference also closed their doors where public meetings were asked to stop temporarily.

"Word comes to us that some of our churches are closing their Sabbath meetings in towns where public meetings of every kind have been discontinued because of the influenza. This is right; and we believe our people should exercise every precaution necessary to assist in ridding the country of this terrible disease," writes W.H. Holden in the October 23, 1918 *Lake Union Herald* issue.

East Michigan Conference Reports its First Death of a Church Member

It was during this same time that the Lake Union Conference would hear of the first Adventist church member to pass away from the influenza.

"Raymond Kinsey, of Holly, who has been at Camp Custer for the past few weeks, contracted Spanish influenza in camp, and died Sunday morning. Burial was at Holly, October 16. His father, Ben Kinsey, is in a very serious condition. . . ."



Harris & Ewing via Library of Congress website

A week later, W.M. Guthrie writes in the October 30, 1918 *Lake Union Herald* issue that, “large numbers have died of the influenza.”

Faithfulness in Troubling Times

As many churches and public gatherings were closed or canceled, C.S. Wiest wrote in the *Lake Union Herald* October 30, 1918 issue about his visits in the Wisconsin area.

“I hope that during this general epidemic we shall not lose courage in the Lord but that we may worship Him most earnestly in our homes. I would suggest that you hold your Sabbath school in your own home, and not neglect the Sabbath school offering. Keep it in hand until such a time as you can turn it over to the Sabbath school secretary. There is danger of falling short in our offerings during this general epidemic and isolation. We must not come short in our mission funds.”

School Closures and Medical Inspections

“Epidemic conditions, affecting to a greater or less extent every conference in the Lake Union, have resulted in the closing of many of our schools in common with the public schools. Emmanuel Missionary College is at this writing, October 31, finishing its third week of enforced vacation. About fifty percent of the student body has returned home awaiting the lifting of the ban.

“Several of our academies have also been closed for a greater or less length of time. In some of these schools there has been no occurrence of the epidemic, and they have been permitted to operate without a break,” wrote C.A. Russell in the *Lake Union Herald* issue of November 6, 1918.

Russell also reported that while many church schools had closed, teachers were ready to jump back in to educating their community youth at a moment’s notice. Many teachers helped care for the sick, gave out lesson assignments and gave individuals assistance to students as needed. Additionally, medical inspections were implemented which consisted of one of their physicians visiting the schools to make personal examination of each student.

The Year 1919

As a new year began, Frederick Griggs reported in January 15, 1919 of the *Lake Union Herald* issue that the, “The advent of the year 1919 found Emmanuel Missionary College closed for the second time this year on account of the influenza. We had no assurance as to the length of time that we would be closed, though we hoped it would be short; and we are thankful to say that only five days of school work were lost at this time because of being closed. Tuesday, January 7th, our work began, and is being carried forward with enthusiasm by teachers and students. At the opening of our school, after the holiday vacation, we have only one student ill, and the prospects for his immediate recovery are excellent. We have had this year in the school and neighborhood one hundred and twenty-five cases of influenza. There have been four deaths; and we feel that our methods of treatment have saved us from more deaths.

“The financial loss to the school because of the influenza has been very heavy.... While we have been passing

through these waters of affliction and trouble, our trust in God has grown greater, and we have a strong belief in the success of the school year.”

In that same issue, T.S. Copeland reported that, “the influenza ban has now been lifted in most of our churches and our schools are all now in session. Much time has been lost and most pupils are behind in their work, but we hope to make up what we have lost.”

.....

The Spanish influenza would not end until April 1920. By the end of the pandemic, the virus had infected an estimated 500 million people and killed 50 million worldwide, with 675,000 in the United States.

As of October 6, 2020, the CDC reports an estimated 35.5 million confirmed cases, 24.8 million people have recovered, and there have been 1.04 million deaths worldwide. Out of these confirmed cases, there are an estimated 7.52 million cases and 210,000 deaths in the United States. ■

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Katie Fellows, *Lake Union Communication assistant*



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

ILLINOIS

Nov. 14: Southern Illinois Youth Rally (virtual)

Nov. 20: Young Adult Summit (virtual)

INDIANA

Nov. 6-8: Leadership Weekend — Adventurer/
Pathfinder, Timber Ridge Camp

LAKE REGION

Nov. 6-8: TLT Boot Camp, Camp Wagner

MICHIGAN

Nov. 1-6: New in Ministry, Camp Au Sable

Nov. 13-15: Personal Ministries Retreat,
Camp Au Sable

Nov. 15-17: Prayer and Fasting, Camp Au
Sable

WISCONSIN

Oct. 30-Nov. 1: JAHWI Retreat, Camp
Wakonda (canceled)

Nov. 6-8: Lay Pastors Cohort (canceled)

Dec. 5: JAHWI Youth Rally, Milwaukee SDA
School

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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

ERVICK, Donald "Don" Kenneth, age 89; born Oct. 9, 1930, in Chicago, Ill., died Aug. 15, 2020, in Midland, Mich. He was a member of the Midland Church in Midland. Survivors include his wife, Joyce A. (Wines) Ervick; sons, Clifford Ervick, Todd Ervick, and Donald Ervick Jr.; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Rodney Thompson; interment was in Midland Cemetery.

HASS, Carol J. (Hagerston), age 82; born April 24, 1938, in McHenry, Md.; died Sept. 6, 2020, in Madison, Wis. She was a member of the Madison East Church in Monona, Wis. Survivors include son, James (Leona) Killerlain; daughter, Lillie Yingling; stepdaughter, Diane Hass; brother, James Sweet; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Loren Nelson; interment was in Roselawn Memorial Park Cemetery, in Monona.

HAWKS, Ella May (Minisee), age 95; born May 13, 1925, in Jamestown, Mich.; died Sept. 2, 2020, in West Bloomfield, Mich. She was a member of the Wyoming Church in Wyoming, Mich. Survivors include sons, K. Dwight Hawks, and Dale P. Hawks; daughters, Anita L. Hawks, and Alice M. Hawks; sisters, Ruth E. Minisee Watkins, Shirley J. Minisee, and Barbara J. Minisee; and four grandchildren. Memorial (virtual) and interment services will be at a later date.

JANSSEN, Coral A. (Ferguson), age 72; born Sept. 18, 1947, in Artesia, Calif.; died Sept. 7, 2020, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Stevensville Church in Stevensville, Mich. Survivors include her husband, Douglas Janssen; daughters, Jennifer (John Rogers Jr.) Janssen-Rogers, and Amy Maydole; brother, Leslie (Butch) Ferguson Jr.; and two grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastors David Gotshall and Bryce Bowman; private inurnment.

JAKOBSONS, Hans G., age 75; born Sept. 25, 1944, in Riga, Latvia; died Aug. 30, 2020, in Milwaukee, Wis. He was a member of the Milwaukee Northwest Church in Milwaukee. Survivors include his wife, Clocille "Candy" (Cox) Jakobsons; sons, Michael (Andrea) Jakobsons, Jason (Cassandra) Jakobsons, Matthew (Jennifer) Jakobsons, and Jonathan Jakobsons; and six grandchildren. Graveside services were conducted by Pastor Andrea Jakobsons; interment was at New Berlin Cemetery in New Berlin, Wis.

KROMMINGA, An-Marie (Jackson), age 84; born March 23, 1936, in Yakima, Wash.; died Aug. 21, 2020, in Benton City, Wash. She was a member of the Kennewick Church in Kennewick, Wash. Survivors include her sons, Charles E. Kromminga, and Donovan R. Kromminga; step-daughter, Nancy Kromminga Penarcik; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Sandy Johnson; interment was in Tahoma Cemetery in Yakima.

LaTOUR, Kathleen Moira (Vickers), age 85; born April 5, 1935, in Detroit, Mich.; died May 30, 2020, in Battle Creek, Mich. She was a member of the Berrien Springs Village Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include her sons, Frank William LaTour, and Donn Alan LaTour; and daughter, Cheryl Finkbeiner; and seven grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor John Glass; interment was at Fort Custer Cemetery in Battle Creek.

MAHRLE, Lydia (Schoun), age 96; born June 13, 1924, in Brookfield, Ill.; died Aug. 26, 2020, in Gastonia, N.C. Formerly of the Rayborn Memorial Church in Coldwater, Mich., she was a member of the Lincoln Church in Lincoln, N.C. Survivors include son, Arden Mahrle; and daughters, Cheryl Toney, and April Mahrle-Henson; sisters, Ruth Kloosterhuis, and Alice Cunningham. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor David Gotshall; inurnment was in California Township Cemetery, Mich.

NEFT, Conrad L., age 85; born Jan. 7, 1935, in Minneapolis, Minn.; died Sept. 7, 2020, in Duluth, Minn. He was a member of the Madison East Church in Monona, Wis. Survivors include his wife, Arlene (Psila) Neft; sons, Clark (Rebecca) Neft, and Chris (Lori) Neft; stepson, Jonathan Ware; daughters, Conilee (Duane) Wing, and Carmella (Mark) Vail; stepdaughters, Jennifer (David) Madsen, Shelley Jackson, and April (Jason) Kentner; sister, Arlene Neft Schumacher; and 12 grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Loren Nelson; interment was in Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery in Madison, Wis.

PIERSON, Emma, age 85; born May 2, 1935, in Cadillac, Mich.; died Aug. 16, 2020, in Traverse City, Mich. She was a member of the Traverse City Church in Traverse City. Inurnment was in Cherry Grove Township Cemetery in Wexford County, Mich.

RADOSTIS, Emily (Kantor), age 96; born Nov. 29, 1923, in Navsi, Czechoslovakia; died Aug. 9, 2020, in Lafayette, Colo. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich.

SEYMOUR, Judith Marie (Slikkers), age 63; born Aug. 27, 1956, in Holland, Mich.; died Aug. 22, 2020, in Holland. She was a member of the Holland Church in Holland. Survivors include her husband, Daniel Seymour; daughters, Robin Seymour, Lauren Seymour, and Ellen Seymour; brothers, Rick Slikkers, and Terry Slikkers; sisters, Anita (Harold) Buell, and Karen (Larry) Mendez. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Sean Reed; interment was in Roselawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Holland.

STANISLAWSKI, Lucille (Ruseitti), age 86; born Dec. 4, 1933, in West Allis, Wis.; died Sept. 14, 2020, in West Allis. She was a member of the Milwaukee Northwest Church in Milwaukee, Wis. Survivors include her husband, James Stanislawski; daughter, Joni (Steve) Arthurs; and one grandchild. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Steve Aust; interment was in Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee.

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 7** Local Church Budget
- Nov. 14** World Budget
(Emphasis: Annual Sacrifice for Global Mission)
- Nov. 21** Local Church Budget
- Nov. 28** Local Conference Advance

DECEMBER

- Dec. 5** Local Church Budget
- Dec. 12** World Budget
(Emphasis: Adventist Community Services)
- Dec. 19** Local Church Budget
- Dec. 26** Local Conference Advance

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

- Dec. 26** Southern Asia Division (SUD)

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS

NOVEMBER

FOCUS FOR THE MONTH — PRAYER

- Nov. 1–30** Native Heritage Month
- Nov. 7** Stewardship Sabbath
- Nov. 14** Human Relations Sabbath
- Nov. 15** National Philanthropy
- Nov. 21** Welcome Home Sabbath

DECEMBER

FOCUS FOR THE MONTH — CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY

- Dec. 5** Bible Sabbath
- Dec. 12** Prison Ministry Sabbath



FINAL DAYS
What's Next in Bible Prophecy?

- Online Prophecy Meetings!
- Hope Through Prophecy YouTube Channel! 282,000+ subscribers!
- Gain interests in your church's area!
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- Nightly, 7pm CT
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231-487-2585

www.HopeThroughProphecy.org/FinalDays



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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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WATCH — “Finding Purpose in Uncertain Times,” Nov. 7, 5pm PT. Gwen Foster and Pam Townsend speak on Creating Health in Uncertain Times. Facilitator: Dr. Nerida Bates. Panel: Amanda Maggard, Dr. Richelle Wooley, Kathy Hayes. Also watch “Creating Community in Uncertain Times,” Nov. 14, 5pm, PT — Speakers: Dr. Lori Barker and Dr. Keisha McKenzie. Facilitator: Yamileth Bazan. Panel: Summer Medina, Bronica Taylor, Melody Tan. Watch/join at associationofadventistwomen.com and our co-sponsor site lluc.org vespers, for these and others: Leading, Self-care, Ministering, Serving.

EMPLOYMENT

SEEKING dedicated SDA couple for annual stipend position (April-October) as site directors at the Joseph Bates Home in Fairhaven, Mass. Need a love of SDA history and visitors who come for tours, plus a willingness and ability to care for the property. For more information, contact Donella at dandersen@adventistheritage.org.

WANTED — A lady, preferably under 65 years old, in good health to assist with cleaning and cooking, to live in. Nice home in Wisconsin countryside. Lots of free time. Best to have automobile. Call 608-483-2145.

HEAD RANGER NEEDED AT TIMBER RIDGE CAMP — Timber Ridge Camp is taking applications for a new Head Ranger. Send résumés to pastorcharliet@gmail.com

FOR SALE

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

REAL ESTATE

CASKETS FOR ADVENTISTS — Highest quality, 20-gauge steel. The Second Coming picture and the Ten Commandments are in the head panel. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 is below the head panel. Three Angels’ Message is at the end of the casket. Under \$800. Website will be up mid-November. Call 865-882-0773 or 865-809-1428.

COLLEGE DALE GUESTHOUSE — 1.5 bedroom fully equipped condo with kitchen and laundry, no steps, huge deck, secluded woodland setting. “What a find!” say guests. “Delightful!” \$80/night for two (2-night minimum). Call 423-236-4688 or 423-716-1298. See pictures at www.rogerkingrental.com.

NEED SECLUSION? — In Arkansas for sale, five-acre farm. Newly remodeled, three-bedroom and two-bath home with attached two-car garage. Formal dining and living rooms. Den with fireplace. Kitchen with laundry. Back mudroom and front screen porch. Certified well and rural water. Perimeter fence. Selling for \$97,000. If interested, call Maria at 870-841-0200.

CHOICE MOUNTAIN LAND — inside Cherokee National Forest in beautiful East Tennessee. Four tracts ranging in size from 10-50 acres. Large creek, cleared land, mixed forest with mature trees. On county-maintained road, utilities on site. 50 miles to Southern Adventist University; 60 miles to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Near scenic rivers, lakes, trails. Ideal retreat, country living, retirement. Call, text, email for more info and pictures at 301-332-8237 or Kathyrr777@gmail.com.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Dec. 25
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:32	5:25	5:19	5:16	5:14	5:14	5:16	5:20
Chicago, Ill.	4:38	4:31	4:25	4:22	4:20	4:20	4:22	4:26
Detroit, Mich.	5:18	5:11	5:05	5:01	4:59	4:59	5:01	5:05
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:36	5:29	5:24	5:21	5:20	5:20	5:22	5:26
La Crosse, Wis.	4:47	4:40	4:34	4:30	4:27	4:27	4:29	4:33
Lansing, Mich.	5:23	5:16	5:10	5:06	5:04	5:04	5:06	5:10
Madison, Wis.	4:42	4:34	4:28	4:24	4:22	4:22	4:24	4:28
Springfield, Ill.	4:49	4:43	4:38	4:35	4:33	4:34	4:36	4:40

I've Found the Answer, I Learned to Pray

More and more people are people realizing that money is not enough to make them flourish.



▲ Jenifer Daley

For me, to flourish is to wholeheartedly live my God-given purpose — as much as I understand it, always cognizant of God's willing intentions toward my redemption, well-being, fulfillment and abundance. In other words, to flourish is to be who I think God wants me to be and live the way I think God wants me to live. As I try to cooperate with God each day, I have my fair share of challenges. What keeps me going is prayer: constant, unfiltered, desperate prayer.

My life experiences have helped me to come face-to-face with my need to have God direct my life more closely and more constantly. Whether I am experiencing challenging times or tranquil times of obvious success, I need more of God's presence, power and protection. It is through prayer that I access God as and when I need Him. Prayer assures me that I am never alone, encourages me that I am called to participate in a good plan for my life, and is my greatest weapon.

Never Alone — There are days when life feels overwhelming. In these times, God helps me to recall His Word as my prayer in answer to my feeble cry for help. One by one I pray the Word and God's promises return as healing as they strengthen my faith, encourage me to trust, give me courage and hope, energize me to persevere, and motivate me to study the Word even more so that I have greater assurance of His presence (Josh 1:5).

God's Larger Plan — Encouraged by the Word, I find undeniable evidence of God's desires, wills, plans, promises and acts for my flourishing and for the flourishing of the world through me (Gen. 32:9; Matt. 19:29; John 3:16). Being called to participate in a plan bigger than myself reorients my prayer life; my personal

challenges pale in comparison to God's grace and His call to use me to change the world. In the process, I progressively unmask my pretenses of self-sufficiency, and meaningful prayer transforms my experience as I become more honest before God.

Weapon — As I become more transparent, prayer unshackles me from false security, brings peace, and strengthens my commitment to God. Undoubtedly, prayer has been the stabilizing factor in my life although the form, depth and maturity of my prayer have changed over the decades. I am learning to pray offensively (proactively) and not just defensively (reactively), using the Bible as a sword (Eph. 6:17). The fact that I am physically alive today is, without a doubt, an answer to prayer.

A meaningful prayer life has been an absolute essential to my life of flourishing. I find that my prayers are more earnest and meaningful when I sense a greater emptiness and need for God. Prayer is then a pursuit for God, a search with all my heart. I consider it an awesome privilege to be able to be in constant prayer with my God and to be able to call on each member of the Godhead as I am moved by my need whether in bad times or in good times — when I'm anxious and afraid, or when I'm confident and filled with praise. Therefore, I flourish in spite of circumstances. I believe that I've truly found the answer to a flourishing life — I learned to pray. ■

Title of article is a song by Mahalia Jackson

Jenifer Daley is associate pastor for administration at Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Language of Thankfulness

As I drove home from work last night, I was reminded by the subtle fragrance of ripening grapes why fall is one of my favorite times of year.

It's not just the grapes — the apples have turned red, making them look like lights on Christmas trees, and the little fruit stands along the way are now displaying butternut squash, pumpkins, apples, pears, and u-pick grapes, all sure signs that summer is on the way out and fall on the way in. Of course, my next thoughts were of Thanksgiving dinner finished off with pumpkin pie. Yes, there is much to enjoy and be thankful for this time of year! However, there are some who won't understand what I am talking about because they have never experienced a fall like I described above.

Some time ago, I taught grades four through six on a small island out in the Pacific Ocean. When I tried to explain winter to my students, they were not able to comprehend snow and cold. They would not believe in something they had never seen or experienced. Even though I showed them pictures of snowscapes and frozen lakes, they would not believe that they existed and were quick to say, "You lie," a phrase they used often when they couldn't comprehend what I was telling them. It was not until later, when one of my students visited me in California during winter and saw real snow, that they could understand what I had been talking about.

God understands the situation I am describing quite well. He has been misunderstood, falsely accused, and unfairly represented because sin and time have disabled our ability to comprehend what His original vision for us was. His remedy to resolve it was to send Jesus to our lost world to be "God with us" — to be a bridge between heaven and earth. To grow up with us, to work among us, to teach and show us what God is like, to die for us so we can go see Him for ourselves.

Allow me to challenge any who read this little article. During this fall season as we celebrate the bounties of

harvest and the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, let our prayer request be to receive the ability to speak the language of thankfulness. Its vocabulary might include (but is not limited to) service given in love, a smile, a kind word, sharing our blessings, showing mercy, being patient, and having a forgiving spirit. Instead of just being thankful for the bounties and blessings we enjoy, may we practice our thankfulness by tangibly sharing them with others. In that way we can introduce others to experiences they will cherish the rest of their lives, maybe even for eternity. Isn't that what stewardship is all about? ■

Jon Corder is Stewardship director of the Lake Union Conference.

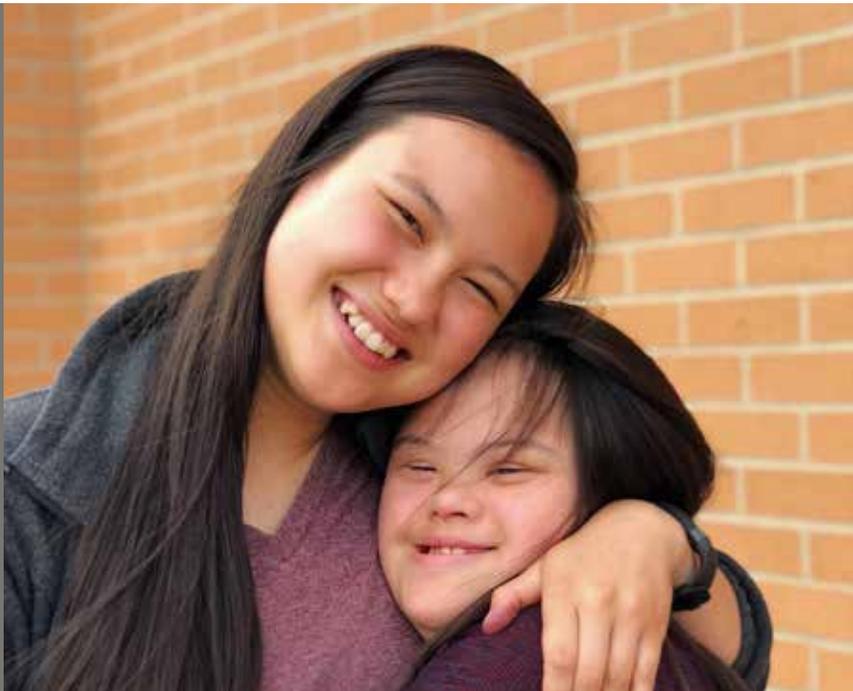


▲ Jon Corder



“I’m Just Lovin’ You!”

By Janessa Saelee



▲ Janessa (left) and her sister, Kayla

ONE WEEK AFTER MY LITTLE SISTER WAS

BORN, my parents found out that she had Down Syndrome. They explained to my brother and me a bit what life would be like for Kayla and told us she would need extra love. Little did any of us know then, how much extra love God would pour into our family through her. One of the many ways in which God loves us through her, is through her little sayings. I find myself quoting her daily as I enjoy her unique way of wording things. They are simple comments, yet often I feel as though God has hidden lessons of love in them for me.

“I THINK YOU SHOULD CALL ME ‘SISTER.’”

I may ask, “Kayla, can you pass me the soymilk?” only to be met with a twinkle in her eye as she suggests, “Uhh, I think you should call me ‘sister.’” Some days she comes running into my room exclaiming, “Sister! We should have Sister Day!” Or when I sit down to watch Bible story videos with her, she’ll snuggle up to me and say, “I think this is like Sister Day.” Or when her brother takes her out to run errands and get food, she’ll look up to him admiringly and say, “You’re my best brother!”

Although she loves her name, she likes it even better when my parents call her “Daughter.” Our names were the first things she learned to read and write but, more important to her than our names, is her personal relationship with each of us.

It dawned on me one day that while God knows us by our names, He values most our relationship to Him. We are His sons and daughters. He isn’t ashamed to be associated with us (Heb. 2:11), and longs for us to call Him “Father.”

“I’VE BEEN PRAYING FOR YOU!”

Kayla loves to go out in nature early in the morning and spend time with God. She comes back with a sense of peace and joy, and an intuitiveness that often surprises me. With my heavy class load this year, there have been many days when I come home with a lot on my mind. Somehow, she senses it right away and often runs up to greet me and says, “I’ve been praying for you!”

“I’M JUST LOVIN’ YOU!”

There are times when I’m busy working on homework or a project, and my sister comes over and gives me a long hug. Sometimes she notices my eagerness to get on with my project and looks up to me with her sweet smile as she says, “I’m just lovin’ you, sister! I’m just lovin’ you!” Other moments, I catch her looking up at me, and ask if she needs something. She just grins and says, “I’m just lovin’ you!”

I can just picture God, with a twinkle in His eye, sending situations that seem like interruptions to actually give us a moment to breathe and see that He’s really smiling and saying, “I’m just lovin’ you!”

I can’t imagine growing up without the blessing of my little sister. Through her, God has shown me a new side of His love. We thought we gave her extra love, but God keeps pouring even more love through her to us! ■

Janessa Saelee, a Biology Pre-Med major at Andrews University, loves to spend time with her family and worship God through music.

Mentored to Serve

By Joel Guerra



Eduardo Artiga

▲ Ethan Artiga

WITH HIS GUITAR ON HIS BACK AND PICK IN HIS MOUTH,

Ethan Artiga walks into the shopping mall every Saturday afternoon. Epic Church Suburbs, the church where Ethan found his faith and currently attends, is uniquely located at a storefront inside the Yorktown Shopping Center in Lombard, Illinois.

Ethan says his first few times attending Epic Church felt like culture shock. He had never encountered a church so dedicated to investing in him. In fact, he says he probably would not have been as interested in being a worship leader if it weren't for the way the Epic Church worship leaders brought him in.

"I was discipled when I started at Epic through some of the worship leaders. I was new to playing instruments in church, but they were very inviting and welcoming, and mentored me through the whole process," Ethan explains.

It was the same methodology of getting to know people before having spiritual conversations that gave way to planting the Epic Church Suburbs campus that Ethan and his family helped start about two years ago. Operating a little bit differently than the

city campus, the suburb campus is an "Art Space" where families can come do free art projects on Saturdays, as well as participate in the afternoon Sabbath worship services. They both share a closely aligned focus on creating and building relationships first as well as a desire to reach non-Christians.

For Ethan, this approach to outsiders not only brings in new people, but it also strengthens his personal faith. He said his experience within his church has brought him to not only start his own Bible studies but ultimately get baptized.

"Before I really had no real desire to open my Bible and start praying and start doing Bible studies," says Ethan, "but, through being in a church where everybody is together with that purpose, I now find that purpose here as well. I've seen a lot of growth in myself and in my family because now we're more open to talk to people and get to know who they are."

Epic Church pastor, Andres Flores, commends Ethan's dedication to outreach and ministry. "I have seen him grow slowly but surely into a committed follower of Christ. He is very passionate about offering the best he can offer to God . . . and everything he does, he does with excellence. He really believes in the mission of disciple-making. I'm really pleased that he is continuing to help us and to serve and grow in God."

As for the future, Ethan says that where God leads him, he will go. "I'll take everything that I've learned here and everything that God has given me through this church and take that same mission to wherever He leads me." ■

Joel Guerra is studying Business Administration and Public Relations at Southern Adventist University. He enjoys social media and local journalism.

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