

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

HERALD

OCTOBER 2022

**ELLEN WHITE
IN TODAY'S
WORLD**

ILLINOIS MEMBERS
ILLINOIS FOCUS
INSIDE



ABOUT THE COVER

Artist: Linda DeYoung of Rockford, Ill.

Matt Lucio, pastor of the Peoria Church and “Adventist History” podcast host, commissioned the artwork.

“My goal in commissioning this was to situate Ellen White in a context which we have a difficult time imagining. Many Adventists are good at visualizing themselves in her world, but what would it look like if she entered our world as she is? There are some updates, of course: her shoes are more modern, as is the hemline of her period dress. I think this forces us to think about what Ellen might embrace and what might she retain if she were alive today. She is on a train with an iPad in Asia (a place she never visited) with a SpaceX Starship launching in the background.

“The point of this unusual setting is to provoke reflection on how we relate to Ellen across time. To travel across time is to change. And yet we are sometimes surprised at how little things change over time.”

Treasuring the Gift

The other day I came across an *USA Today* headline which read, “Fast-moving E. coli outbreak in Michigan, Ohio prompts CDC investigation.” I was reminded why decades ago, after reading frequent reports of meat contamination, I decided to give up eating meat. Yes, E. coli is not only linked to meat but this, in addition to reports of the mistreatment of livestock, were more than enough.

Imagine my surprise many years later when I joined the Adventist Church and was introduced to a then unfamiliar name, Ellen White, who I learned had counseled in 1905 about the dangers of consuming flesh (*Ministry of Healing*, chapter 24). She also had the insight to warn of the hazards of smoking tobacco, long before science made the same call.

Her health predictions piqued my interest. How could she have had such foresight? Yet, it was her obvious passion and love for Jesus which were most evident. She had an authentic walk with God—and it wasn’t just in her public ministry. Notice what she said in private. In an 1891 letter to her unbelieving twin sister, Elizabeth (“Lizzie”), she pleaded:

“Do you not believe He is your Saviour—that He has evidenced His love for you in giving His own precious life that you might be saved? All that is required of you is to take Jesus as your own precious Saviour. . .

“You must accept of Jesus. He longs to give you His peace and the light of His countenance. Lizzie, my heart longs to see you trusting in Jesus, for He can give you His grace to bear all your acute sufferings. He loves you. He wants to save you.”

May our lives be a powerful witness of Christ’s saving power as we continue to cherish the Spirit of Prophecy, which is the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 19:10). ■

Debbie

Debbie Michel
Editor, *Lake Union Herald*



Jean-Ires Michel

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THE
STORIES
OF WHAT
GOD IS
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Bearing Witness to the Greater Light



▲ Ken Denslow

I heard a story many years ago while touring church history sites in Battle Creek, Michigan.

The story goes that late in her life, Ellen White would sometimes receive gifts from people who had been blessed by her ministry. One day her secretary presented her with a package that had arrived from one of these admirers. On opening the package, Mrs. White discovered that it contained a hand-knitted sweater. With the help of her assistant, she tried it on and they discovered together that it was several sizes too small. To this, Mrs. White quickly quipped, "This just goes to show that there is more to Ellen White than many people realize."

I love this story because it portrays her as a real human being that could find a moment of humor with a friend. There are many different perspectives on who Mrs. White was as a person. Some have read much of her sternest rebukes and have concluded that she was a straight-laced killjoy. Others have focused almost completely on her writings that deal with prophecy and end times, and accuse her of sensationalism.

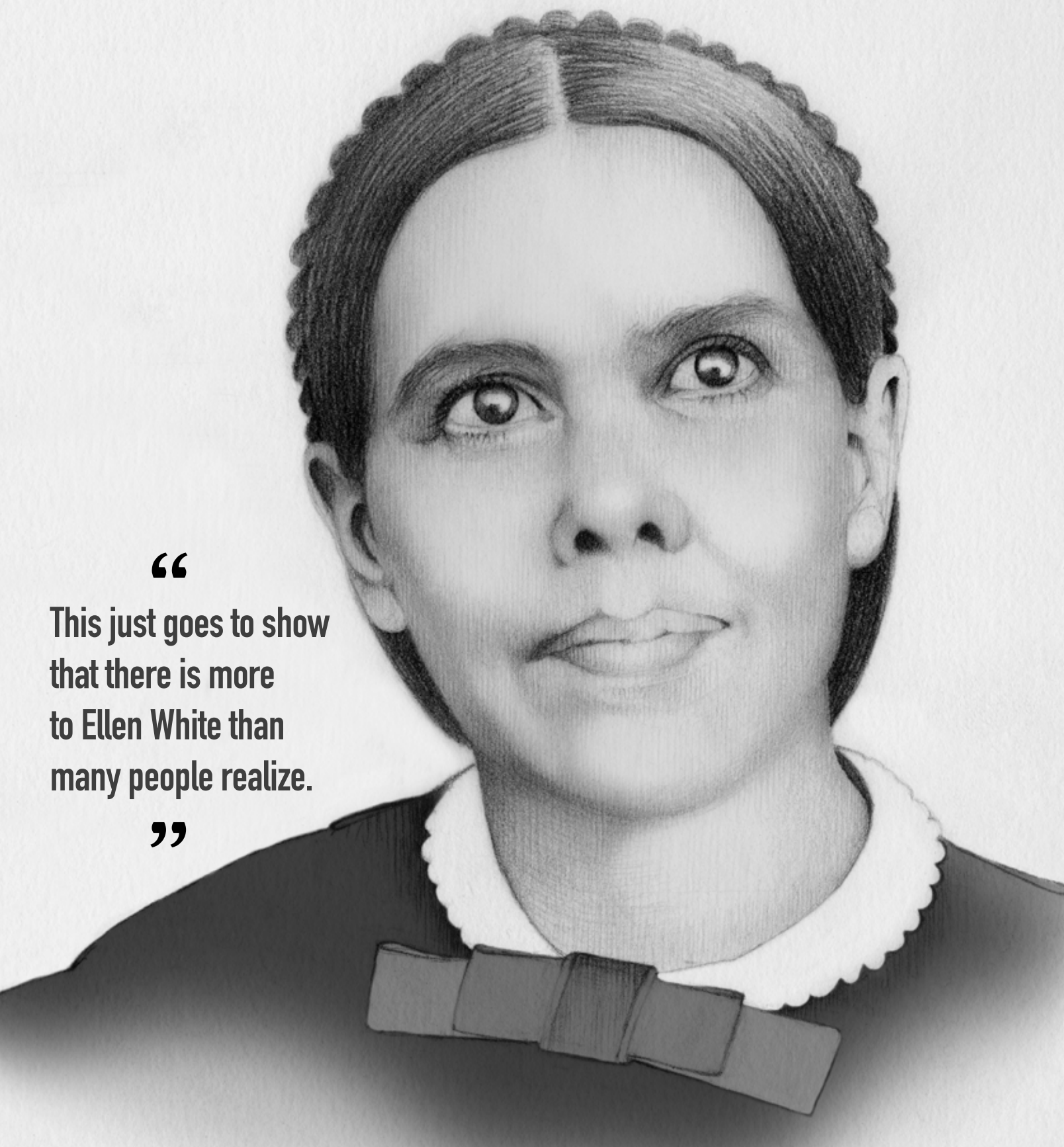
The truth may be that most of our members have experienced Ellen White's writings mainly secondhand as they hear quotes inserted into the pastor's sermons

or feel the sting of someone quoting her out of context to support their ideas.

Almost two decades ago, when I was serving in the Illinois Conference, we promoted a program among our church members to read through the Conflict of the Ages Series (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Prophets and Kings*, *The Desire of Ages*, *The Acts of the Apostles*, and *The Great Controversy*) systematically in a year. As the year went by, I heard over and over from church members who told how blessed they had been by this program. Usually, they also confessed that they had never read much of what she had written and, now that they had this taste, they were going to continue.

Ellen White referred to her writings as a "lesser light" leading people to "the greater light" of the Bible. She never suggested that her words should replace "the Word" of God. But what a blessing and encouragement her writings have been to those who take the time to read them. I encourage you to pick up one of her books and see for yourself that "there is more to Ellen White than many people realize." ■

Ken Denslow is president of the Lake Union Conference.



“

This just goes to show
that there is more
to Ellen White than
many people realize.

”

Illustration by Darrel Tank

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Snickerdoodle Cookies for Jesus

Our youngest daughter, Jody, lives in Oregon. She is a stay-at-home mom with two young children—Tucker, 6, and Emma, 3. She and her husband are very intentional about reaching out to others and, as a result, are teaching their children to love serving as well.



▲ Gail Micheff

One day several years ago when Tucker was 3, she called to share this story of how God had used her little boy to bless a family in need. Here's Jody's story.

"It started out like any other morning in our household—early. This leaves lots of room for a stay-at-home mom like myself to come up with ways to keep little ones busy and out of mischief. It was about midmorning when I decided we should make Snickerdoodle cookies. I used to make them all the time as a little girl and loved rolling the dough into balls and then into the sugar. I knew Tucker would like it as well. I pre-measured all the ingredients and then let Tucker do the rest. He had so much fun dumping everything into the KitchenAid mixer, and even helped roll the dough into balls and then into the sugar.

"It wasn't long before Tucker noticed we had leftover sugar to roll more cookies into. 'Mom, we need to make more cookies. We still have sugar!' I laughed and then started measuring out more ingredients.

This happened a total of three times until we had more than I thought our neighbors could eat.

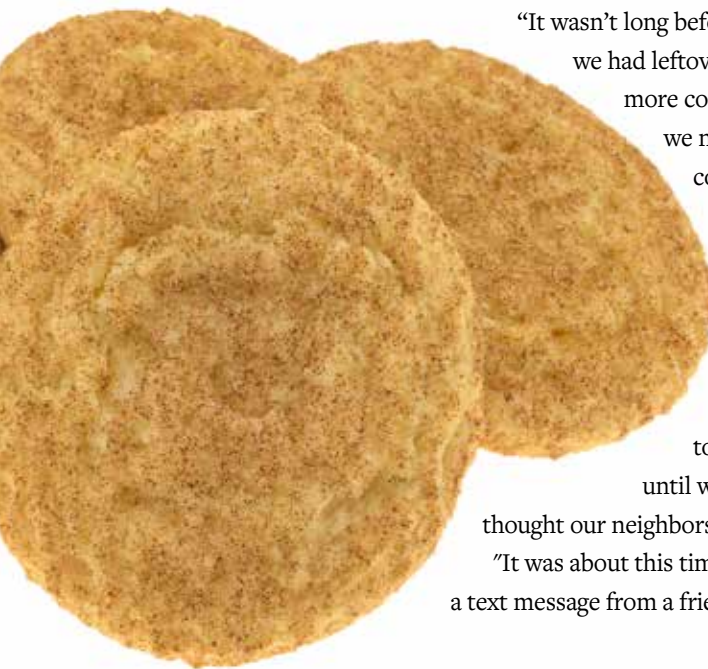
"It was about this time that I received a text message from a friend that jogged

my memory that today was my day to make a dessert and salad for a family who had been really struggling. I was stunned. God had provided the dessert when I had forgotten. He had not only provided one small batch but *three*. He used my sweet little three-year-old boy without either of us knowing at the time. I then looked at my watch and noticed I had about 45 minutes to drive into town and deliver the cookies and salad before my friend was supposed to take the full meal to the family. My eyes filled with tears as I realized what a special moment not only my son and I had shared in baking the cookies, but in God using me as His hands and feet without me knowing it at the time."

As families, God wants to use us to be His hands and feet. Mathew 25:40 says that whatever we do in His name is like doing it for Him. Life is busy, and it seems like there isn't any time in the day to do anything extra, but I want to challenge you to be open to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking. Look for ways to minister to those around you. It can be as simple as making Snickerdoodle cookies.

For lots of innovative, family outreach ideas, check out my friend Amy Austin's blog: biblelabs.blogspot.com. ■

Gail Micheff is the Family Ministries director for Michigan Conference.



When Your Workout is Worship

On most days I come to work at the Andreason Center for Wellness with pep in my step. But on a recent morning, I was listless. Just four days earlier, my husband and I had said goodbye to our beloved dog, Moses. He was the dog we knew we'll always compare the rest of our pets to.

Moses passed on a Thursday evening. While we spent that night in tears, we headed into a busy holiday weekend that left hardly any time to reflect.

When the dust settled Tuesday morning, the grief hit me like a ton of bricks. I reasoned that sitting at home and crying was a waste of time, so I went to work and cried at my desk instead.

"I'll just go home early," I thought. But I was scheduled to teach two fitness classes that evening. To be clear, the *last* thing I wanted to do was "high intensity interval training" for 60 minutes, followed by a half-hour of "restorative stretching." But as much as I didn't want to put a headset on and fake enthusiasm for 90 minutes, I knew my body, mind and spirit needed movement.

I knew this because it's something I talk about all the time—the abundant ways in which exercise improves our overall wellness. Yes, working out helps us manage our weight, strengthen our muscles and improve our cardiovascular system, but it also affects our brains. Exercise can improve cognitive function and mood, although it is in no way an emotional cure-all. While the relationship between the physical and mental domains of wellness is pronounced, both are closely related to yet another domain: the spiritual.

Isaiah 40:31 says those who trust God will be strengthened, running without tiring and walking without fainting. In 1 Kings, after contending with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, we're told that God gave Elijah the miraculous ability to run for over 30

miles. Soon after, when Elijah was discouraged, God provided food, drink and rest, enabling him to walk for 40 days and nights.

Paul understood these domains, instructing the Corinthians that their bodies were temples for the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) and in Romans 12:1 saying that offering our bodies as "*living sacrifices*" is a form of worship.

Worship is possible anytime and anywhere but, in my experience, especially in exertion. My mind clears of the day's distractions and my prayers become uncomplicated. In God's perfect design, exercise causes endorphins to lift our spirits and increased circulation results in improved mental acuity to help us better process thoughts and feelings.

I left the gym that evening, sweaty and fatigued, but feeling better. Not because I was less sad but because, in offering up my body as a living sacrifice, I had given my grief to the One who understood it best. My workout had served as an act of worship.

If your heart is hurting, may I humbly suggest breaking a sweat? God can be found whether we're kneeling in prayer or jogging in it. ■

Rachel Keele is director of Wellness at Andrews University.



▲ Rachel Keele



I Heard the Angels Say: ‘There Is Hope!’

Have you ever heard of Victory Jones? Well, I had not until a few years ago. Initially, I was unable to identify the person that Ellen White addressed in two documents in the early 1860s.



▲ Denis Kaiser

The person’s actual name, according to census records and church records, was Victor Velos Jones (c. 1826–?). That she knew the proper spelling of his first name is evident from an earlier letter, and while the misspelling of a name would not be entirely unusual for her, in this case she most likely spelled his name intentionally “wrong” because throughout her testimony to him, she emphasized the possibility to gain the victory over *the* problem.

Right at the beginning of her personal remarks to him, Ellen White highlighted that she “heard” the angels say, “There is hope [for him].” In describing his circumstances and struggles, she showed remarkable insight and empathy. She characterized him as an upright and honest person, yet he was addicted to alcohol and tobacco. He loved his wife and son but his addiction perverted his reason, threw his family into poverty, and turned them miserable. Although he was convinced that Adventists had the truth, he was disappointed about the discrepancy between their profession and life. Ellen White urged him to not allow their lack of love and care to prevent him “from following [Jesus as] the only true unerring Pattern.” Jesus pitied and loved him. She remarked that he would not be able to overcome in his own strength. He was to repent sincerely and seek earnestly for God who was waiting to impart His strength to him.

Not until the end of the testimony did she mention his actual name, when she encouraged him with the words, “Remember the sufferings of Jesus to save

you. Look at His sacrifice, and then in His strength make the sacrifice yourself, which will bring happiness to yourself and family and at last win for you *the victor’s crown*. Can you, will you, do this? I beg, I plead, I entreat of you to heed this merciful message and reform. . . . My prayer is that you may *prove worthy of your name*.” By walking with Jesus, he would be able to gain “the victor’s crown” and thus prove worthy of his name—an intentional play on his first name. Her encouragement seemed to show fruition in his life. About six weeks later, the Monterey church voted to receive Victor again “into full fellowship.” Unfortunately, this was not the end of the story, yet this snapshot is a powerful testimony of God’s amazing grace in Adventist history for all those of us who are struggling.¹ ■

¹Lt 1, 1861; Ms 2, 1863; Lt 9, 1857; *Records of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Monterey, Michigan [1860-1880]* (entries for Sept. 15, 1860, and March 3, 1861).

Denis Kaiser is an associate professor of Church History at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.



Resiliencia—Nuestra armadura espiritual

La organización cristiana de investigaciones demográficas llamada *Barna Group* (Grupo Barna) realizó un estudio acerca de jóvenes que se identifican como cristianos. Parte del estudio consistió en una encuesta con cientos de jóvenes entre las edades de 18 a 29 años.

El propósito era ver si existían cualidades o características en común entre quienes se mantenían fieles a Dios y a quienes la organización denominó como *Resilient Disciples* (Discípulos resilientes). Andrew Zoll y Ann Marie Healy, autores del libro *Resilience*, definen la palabra como la “capacidad de un sistema, empresa o persona para mantener su propósito central o integridad ante un cambio dramático de circunstancias”. Según *Barna Group*, los jóvenes que se mantienen fieles a Dios tienen en común las siguientes cinco características:

1. Una experiencia íntima con Jesús
2. Discernimiento cultural entre el bien y el mal basado en la Biblia
3. Buenas amistades intergeneracionales
4. Viven el llamado de Dios de ser discípulos fieles, especialmente en el contexto de su trabajo o escuela.
5. Sienten un gran deseo de apoyar la misión de la iglesia y de compartir su fe con otros.

Al leer esta investigación noté que la conclusión refleja las mismas características que Daniel, Ananías, Misael y Azarías tenían cuando vivían en Babilonia. Ellos acostumbraban a orar regularmente a Dios y se mantenían fieles a los principios bíblicos. Rehusaban hacer compromisos con la cultura de Babilonia. Como amigos se apoyaban el uno al otro en su fe. Demostraban también su fe en el contexto de su

trabajo y compartían abiertamente su fe cuando se presentaba la oportunidad.

El deseo de la Unión del Lago es apoyar a nuestros jóvenes para que puedan crecer en estas cualidades y ser discípulos resilientes.

Con esto en mente es mi privilegio anunciar que se está planeando el próximo Congreso de Jóvenes *Conéctate* que será del 2 al 4 de junio de 2023 en la Universidad Andrews. Los directores de las federaciones jóvenes de las cinco asociaciones de la Unión del Lago tuvieron ya en agosto su primera reunión para comenzar a organizar este evento y pronto se les compartirá más detalles de lo que se planea para ese fin de semana.

Es una realidad que la juventud enfrenta hoy muchos desafíos y tentaciones. Por lo tanto, pedimos sus oraciones para que este congreso pueda ayudar de manera especial a la juventud para ser discípulos resilientes en Cristo. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago



▲ Carmelo Mercado

▼ Congreso de Jóvenes
Bilingüe - Conéctate.



Gifted a Divine Appointment

EDUCATOR ON HOLY LAND ACADEMIC TOUR LEADS PRAYER FOR TEXAS SCHOOL SHOOTING VICTIMS. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT SURPRISES HER.

By Karen Allen



▲ Karen Allen

ON FEBRUARY 3, 2022, AN EMAIL FROM THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND LANDED IN MY MAIL-BOX SEEKING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS FROM FACULTY FOR A UNIQUE TWO-WEEK SCHOLARLY OPPORTUNITY. They eventually selected 30-plus faculty from across the country to engage in an exchange of scholarship with faculty at various colleges and universities in Israel.

Excited as I was about being chosen, things happened that had me rethinking this decision. A couple of the appointments I had in place with professors in Israel were cancelled. Then, the day before I was to leave for the trip to Israel, someone ran into the back of my car. On the morning I was to leave, I became ill. But each time, the Lord said, “Karen, get on the plane and go to Israel.”

When we arrived in Israel, some of us did so without our luggage. As I walked the baggage claim area of Ben Gurion airport looking for my luggage, I suddenly realized I was not alone. One of the professors in the group was walking with me.

As we followed the daily itinerary, we visited famous holy sites. At these sites, the tour guide would ask biblical questions. I did not respond to any, as my goal was to be invisible and rest. However, the same professor who walked the airport with me as I searched for my luggage, answered all of the questions correctly. This indicated to me that she was a pupil of the Word, the Bible.

On Tuesday of the first week of this trip, the shooting occurred at the school in Uvalde, Texas. Nineteen Latino children lost their lives. But we continued with our itinerary uninterrupted, which bothered me immensely. I felt compelled to ask that we come together and intercede on behalf of these families. Everyone participated either by silent prayer, positive thoughts or companionable grieving through moments of silence.

THE DIVINE APPOINTMENT

The tours of the Holy Land were great but, by the end of the first week, I had only been to one appointment with a professor, and was wondering why I had come to Israel. My answer came immediately.

On Friday, we visited the City of David, the Western Wall (the “Wailing Wall,” as some call it), the Holy Sepulcher and the Via Dolorosa. In the midst of these tours, the professor who had walked with me while I searched for lost luggage and was answering all of the Bible questions from the tour guide, approached me with a plea.

She stated, “Tomorrow we go to the Jordan River and I want to be baptized where Jesus was baptized. Would you baptize me?” I was stunned! I asked her, “How did you know that I had authority to baptize?” Her response was, “I was impressed to ask you.” It was then that I realized the Holy Spirit had compelled me to pray for Uvalde—and pull me out of invisibility.

Then, it hit me. *This* was the reason I had come to Israel!

I bowed my head in prayer to God, asking for His forgiveness of my attitude of wanting to be invisible, when He had set up a gloriously Divine Appointment for me. I also prayed that He would cleanse me of any unworthiness and only see Jesus as I baptized this precious soul.

As instructed in the *Seventh-day Adventist Elders Handbook* (2017), I contacted Abraham Henry, associate secretary of the Lake Region Conference, to seek approval to baptize her, and received permission. For the remainder of the day and all night, I prayed for her and myself.

On Sabbath morning, May 28, 2022, I was blessed with the honor, pleasure and privilege of baptizing Prof. Erin Stafford Dormedy from Fresno, Calif., in the Jordan River. Dr. Dormedy shared that coming up out of the water she felt like a new person.

THE DIVINE IMPACT

It was a powerful moment that will be forever stamped on Erin's heart, as well as mine. To me, the baptism was the high moment of our trip, and it had a rippling impact, unanticipated by Erin and myself, but not by God.

I had thought the baptism would occur in a small, discrete corner of the Jordan River. However, when I came out of the bathroom changed into my baptismal robe, the other professors on this trip with us were standing there with phone cameras ready. It truly warmed my heart to see the love and support for Erin.

The reactions we received were further proof that God had moved in a mighty way on the banks of the Jordan River that morning.

"Karen, I don't know what to say about this. I am speechless. All I can say is that it was so spiritual. Thank you."

"I heard of this thing called baptism, but had never seen one. This was just beautiful. Thank you."

"I was raised Baptist, now I am Atheist. But I am reconsidering that position, after seeing this."

Days later, another professor approached me and stated, "I missed my chance. I should have been baptized by

you in the Jordan River. I have been studying the Bible for 10 years, and the Lord has been telling me it is time to get baptized. When I heard on the bus that you were going to baptize Erin, my heart was deeply touched. I wanted you to baptize me as well, but I did not want to get us off schedule."

Once again, I found myself speechless as I realized just how important my Divine Appointment in Israel really was to God. I spent a few more hours talking with this professor and encouraging his next steps for baptism.

In conclusion, 2 Timothy 4:2 tells us, . . . *be prepared in season and out of season* . . . Let us keep our eyes open for Divine Appointments set up by God. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to be used by Him.

The song says,

"I'll say yes, Lord, yes, to Your Will and to Your Way,
I'll say yes, Lord, yes, I will trust You and obey;
when Your Spirit speaks to me,
with my whole heart I'll agree,
and my answer will be yes, Lord, yes!" ■

Karen Allen, PhD, RN, FAAN, is dean and professor at Valparaiso University's College of Nursing and Health Professions, and serves as an elder at the Niles Philadelphia Church in Niles, Mich.

Once again, I found myself speechless as I realized just how important my Divine Appointment in Israel really was to God.



Healing Broken People

THE MINISTRY OF CELEBRATE RECOVERY

By Becky St. Clair

KEVIN KUEHMICHEL, PASTOR OF CHIPPEWA VALLEY CHURCH IN ALTOONA, WIS., GREW UP WITH AN ALCOHOLIC FATHER AND BROTHER. BY THE TIME HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, HE WAS DRINKING UP TO FOUR NIGHTS A WEEK.

“I thought I was immune to it,” he admits. “I was ‘handling’ my drinking.”

In the Navy, his drinking increased. Although he modified his habits after leaving the military and entering the workforce, staying sober all week meant he began drinking excessively on the weekends. When he married Patricia, an Adventist, she tried tirelessly to help him see the destructive nature of his alcoholism.

“It took eleven years of marriage for God to wear me down enough to convince me to get sober,” Kevin admits. “Six months later, I was baptized into the Adventist Church.”

But, as he points out, just because you stop an activity doesn’t mean you’ve stopped your thought process.

“You can still be an addict, even if you’re not using,” Kevin explains.

It took him a while to recognize this. It finally hit him when he was coordinating a church plant in Cleveland whose primary ministry was helping houseless, low-income, and addicted individuals. They were involved with the local Alcoholics Anonymous program, and it was this connection that began to open Kevin’s eyes.

“I bought the AA book and started reading it so I could get a better understanding of the people we were trying to serve,” he recalls. “As I read, I started to realize I had my own unresolved issues which needed to be addressed.”

Kevin began to work his way through the 12 steps outlined by the AA program, but still felt something was missing. He realized what it was when he transferred to pastor a church in California and was introduced to Celebrate Recovery (CR), a Christ-centered, 12-step program designed to help participants overcome any

“hurts, habits or hang-ups” in their lives. CR aids in recognizing where pain comes from, acknowledging it, and then working toward forgiveness to recover from it.

HURTS, HABITS AND HANG-UPS

A couple in Kevin’s church had been through the CR training and together they began a program at their church.

The weekly program starts with prayer and worship songs specifically chosen to speak to the concepts of being broken and healed. There is typically a reading of the 12 program steps or the eight foundational principles of CR, which are based on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. As a group, attendees recite the Serenity Prayer, spend some time socializing, and then split into breakout groups—men in one room, women in another—to discuss the day’s lesson.

“It took us a year of prayer and planning, but we started to see people come in,” Kevin says. “And although I had intended to be there to support as the pastor, once it was rolling, I started to attend.”

As he began going through the CR steps personally, Kevin began to realize that even though he hadn’t had a drink since 1990, he still had unhealthy thought processes and wounds that needed to be addressed. And if he saw the value in his own life for this program, he knew there were bound to be others who could benefit from it, too. He vowed to share it with anyone he could.

LIFELONG RECOVERY

When Kevin returned to Wisconsin to pastor, he again got his church interested in starting a CR program for the community. One attendee was church member and elder, Michelle Larson.

Michelle was raised by alcoholic parents whose habits brought a lot of dysfunction and chaos into their home. She herself used both drugs and alcohol for many years, along with other unhealthy behaviors, and struggled with depression and anxiety.

"I feel like I've been in recovery most of my life in some form," she says. Although she quit using drugs and drinking several years prior to coming to church, "that doesn't mean everything went away," she admits. "I just found more socially acceptable, yet still harmful, ways of coping."

As a professional working in both mental health and substance abuse, Michelle points out that addictions typically come from emotional dysregulation and lack of coping skills.

"We often tell people to 'let go and let God,' implying that He'll just heal you," she says. "A lot of us don't know how to do that. You have to take responsibility for yourself and work with God to get to a place of peace. CR provided that healing space for me."

EVERYONE HAS A PAST—EVEN ADVENTISTS

The CR program at Chippewa Valley Church slowly grew, with 80 percent of attendees coming from outside of the church. While they were glad to be ministering to the community, Kevin says he was struck by how few church members took advantage of the program.

"As Adventists, we tend to assume programs like this are only for addicts, but that's not true," he explains. "CR is for anyone with hurts, destructive habits and hang-ups, and even Adventists have those."

Marcia Harycki, a Chippewa Valley Church board member, was skeptical about CR, but she and her husband came to see what it was all about. Six months later, they were still faithfully attending, having discovered the program's benefits. Harycki wrote her testimony and shared it with the board, describing why she went, and how it was helping her and her husband heal from pain they had experienced in years gone by.

"Everyone has a past, and we have all been broken or wounded in some way, large or small," Harycki said in her testimony. "People are all human, and humans all have issues. Fear, worry, co-dependence, pride, substance abuse, anger, workaholicism, impatience, arrogance, food addictions. The list of hang-ups is endless. We're all on a journey of being healed into the image of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Lisa Schultz

A DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM

Kevin says he wishes more church members would give CR a chance and eliminate the stigma of 12-step groups being only for people with a certain type of problem. He also points out that Celebrate Recovery is a disciple-making program. Once someone has completed the CR program, they're encouraged to attend again as a mentor. They seek out new attendees and attend with them, guiding and encouraging as best they can.

It may be human nature to want to fix other people, but the work begins, Kevin points out, with fixing ourselves. And Adventism is not immune to the hurts and ills of living in a sinful world.

"Celebrate Recovery is not designed to kick you while you're down; it's meant to pick you back up again," he says. "As I see it, helping broken people is the core of Christ's ministry, whether those people are outside of the church or within it. It's difficult work, but we're not giving up."

For information on how to start a Celebrate Recovery program in your area for your church and community, visit celebraterecovery.com. ■

Becky St. Clair is a freelance writer.

▼ Chippewa Valley Church pastor Kevin Kuehmichel along with members Michelle Larson and Marcia Harycki



**Celebrate
Recovery**
A CHRIST CENTERED Recovery Program

“

**AS I SEE IT,
HELPING
BROKEN
PEOPLE IS
THE CORE
OF CHRIST'S
MINISTRY,
WHETHER
THOSE
PEOPLE ARE
OUTSIDE OF
THE CHURCH
OR WITHIN IT.**

”



READING ELLEN WHITE'S WRITINGS

LIKE A CONTEMPORARY

BY DENIS KAISER

A few years ago, as I was discussing with a group of students the theme of God's love in the writings of Ellen G. White (1827–1915), one student replied, "I hear what you're all saying but, honestly, I have a hard time seeing this theme in her writings. I was introduced to Ellen White's writings through a group that was very law-oriented and that makes it difficult for me to find the love of God there."

In my experience, most teenagers and young adults experienced a rough introduction to the writings of Ellen White, where she had been employed as an arbiter of pure doctrine, a judge of right interpretation, and a rule for lifestyle questions, to the point where they were disgusted with her due to the way she had been used. It was not until they were able to experience, or "taste," her writings for themselves that their perception of Ellen White and her writings improved. So, this raises the question how we should introduce people to the writings of this historic figure that was instrumental in the founding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and still has a significant bearing on the lives of many people today.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

One might ask: "Ellen White wrote so much. Where should I begin?" Many of her contemporary readers knew her personally, had met her at some point, or had been reading her frequent articles in Adventist periodicals. Therefore, they were generally aware of the central motifs and recurrent topics in her talks and writings, allowing them to read her books against the backdrop of those motifs and topics. Unlike them, no one living today can claim the advantage of having known, met or heard Ellen White personally. Without that experience, we are certainly at a disadvantage as we try to comprehend things she had written specifically for those people that had this background. Unsurprisingly, it is especially



Most students that learned about this way of approaching Ellen White's writings have testified that it has revolutionized their perception of her as a person, her ministry and her writings.



those very writings that are often misunderstood and misused.

While we are no longer able to obtain the first-hand experience with Ellen White that her contemporaries had, I am convinced that we may approach her writings in a way that permits us to develop a similar perspective. This “method” is based on the reality that some of her writings were written specifically with an Adventist audience in mind, whereas other writings were written for a broad audience, both Adventist and non-Adventist. While the latter set of writings

did not require any knowledge about Ellen White as a person or her claim to Divine inspiration, publications for an Adventist readership could expect at least a basic understanding of those points. In order to recreate the experience that her contemporaries had, I suggest to start with those writings that do not require any background knowledge of Ellen White.

WRITINGS FOR A BROAD AUDIENCE

In this category, there are various types of writings on a number of topics, such as salvation, Jesus, the cosmic conflict, education and health. Her central motifs become especially visible as we progressively move through those types of writings, allowing us to see how those motifs permeate all those writings.

A nice starting point to her most important ideas is the classic *Steps to Christ*, published originally in 1892 by the Evangelical publisher, Fleming H. Revell. Written from a Wesleyan-Arminian perspective, this small, revivalistic book presents a beautiful description of God's character and provides practical steps on how to become and to remain a Christian. Her very first words in the book are:

“Nature and revelation alike testify of God's love. . . . The world, though fallen, is not all sorrow and misery. In nature itself are messages of hope and comfort. There are flowers upon the thistles, and the thorns are covered with roses. ‘God is love’ is written upon every opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass.” (*Steps to Christ*, 9)

The book explains many of the key themes and emphases of her ministry as a whole—love, authenticity, spirituality, commitment, growth, joy.

A passion for Jesus and Scripture drove her ministry and interaction with other people. A strong focus in her cosmic conflict narrative is on Jesus as the ultimate manifestation of God's unselfish, other-centered love. *The Desire of Ages* (1898), *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing* (1896) and *Christ's Object Lessons* (1900) deal with the person, life, teachings and death of Jesus. The two latter books, covering the Sermon on the Mount and the parables, were originally intended to be part of *The Desire of Ages* but, as that book had grown too large, they were published separately.

Her other books on the cosmic conflict narrative—*Patriarchs and Prophets* (1890), *Prophets and Kings* (1917), *Acts of the Apostles* (1911) and *The Great Controversy* (1888, 1911)—revolve around the character of God's love. Using the words “God is love” as the first words in *Patriarchs and Prophets* (33) and as the last words in the *Great Controversy* (678), she employed those words from 1 John 4:16 as the framework for the entire narrative.

In her book *Education* (1903), she stressed that “love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education” (16). Unselfish love to God and to other people underlies unselfish service and all true development. This is facilitated best through the harmonious development of body, mind, and soul (13, 16). Since true unselfish love necessitates freedom of will, “true education” aims at “train[ing] the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought” (17).

Finally, the same motifs reappear in *Ministry of Healing* (1905), a manual for unselfish ministry to those in physical, emotional and spiritual need. Help provided in this manner illustrates the love of Jesus, becoming a “vitalizing power” that “touches with healing” “every vital part—the brain, the heart, the nerves” (115). The practical illustration of God's love through our lives therefore becomes an important tool in reaching people in the context of the cosmic narrative.

WRITINGS FOR A LIMITED AUDIENCE

Seeing her focus on God's love as manifested in Christ in the cosmic conflict and how that plays out in our



◀ Ellen White and
her twin sister,
Elizabeth

**NATURE AND REVELATION ALIKE
TESTIFY OF GOD'S LOVE....**

WHILE WE ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO OBTAIN THE FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE WITH ELLEN WHITE THAT HER CONTEMPORARIES HAD, I AM CONVINCED THAT WE MAY APPROACH HER WRITINGS IN A WAY THAT PERMITS US TO DEVELOP A SIMILAR PERSPECTIVE.

individual lives prepares us as we turn to Ellen White's writings for an Adventist audience. Since those writings often spoke to particular situations and circumstances, it will be helpful to be aware of the context in which they were written. That may also explain why her son, W.C. White (1854-1937), expressed the need for the *Testimonies for the Church* to be published with historical background information.¹ The book, *Life Sketches* (1915), therefore provides a good overview of her life, family, friends, fellow Adventists, experiences, visions, travels, events, etc. *The Ellen G. White Letters & Manuscripts with Annotations*, Vol. 1, 1845-1859, attempts to make her personal interaction and inspired counsel available against the backdrop of the historical context.

A knowledge of her life provides the narrative framework for the *Testimonies for the Church* (9 volumes). As we progress through those books, we can see how the various testimonies, as they were progressively made accessible to the Adventist public through the *Testimonies*, fit nicely into that framework of her life. While a superficial reading may appear to show only reproof and directives, the sharpened eye will perceive how the motifs, previously observed in her writings, permeate the *Testimonies* as well, driving much of the counsel.

In addition, Ellen White published some writings for specific groups in the church, who presumably were aware of the main focus and emphases of her ministry. The books, *The Southern Work* (1898, 1901), *Gospel Workers* (1892, 1912) and *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and*

Students (1913), fit into this category. Reading those writings from the perspective gained through the reading of her general audience works will therefore prove again beneficial.

After discovering Ellen White's main emphases and learning about her as a person and about her life, as well as about the general nature of the testimonies, we are better prepared to turn to the posthumous compilations of her writings, such as *Counsels on Diet and Foods* (1938), *Evangelism* (1946), *Temperance* (1949), *Adventist Home* (1952), and many others. It will help us understand that many of the brief clippings in those compilations are statements that she originally made in order to address specific circumstances, always keeping in mind her general purpose. Sometimes she gave apparently conflicting counsel to different people yet, depending on the circumstances and issues, she applied different biblical principles.

Most students that learned about this way of approaching Ellen White's writings have testified that it has revolutionized their perception of her as a person, her ministry and her writings. Not only does it create a more balanced perspective but it also allows them to appreciate the content of those writings in harmony with their original intent and purpose. ■

¹W.C. White to Guy Dail, Aug. 28, 1929.

Denis Kaiser is an associate professor of Church History at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.



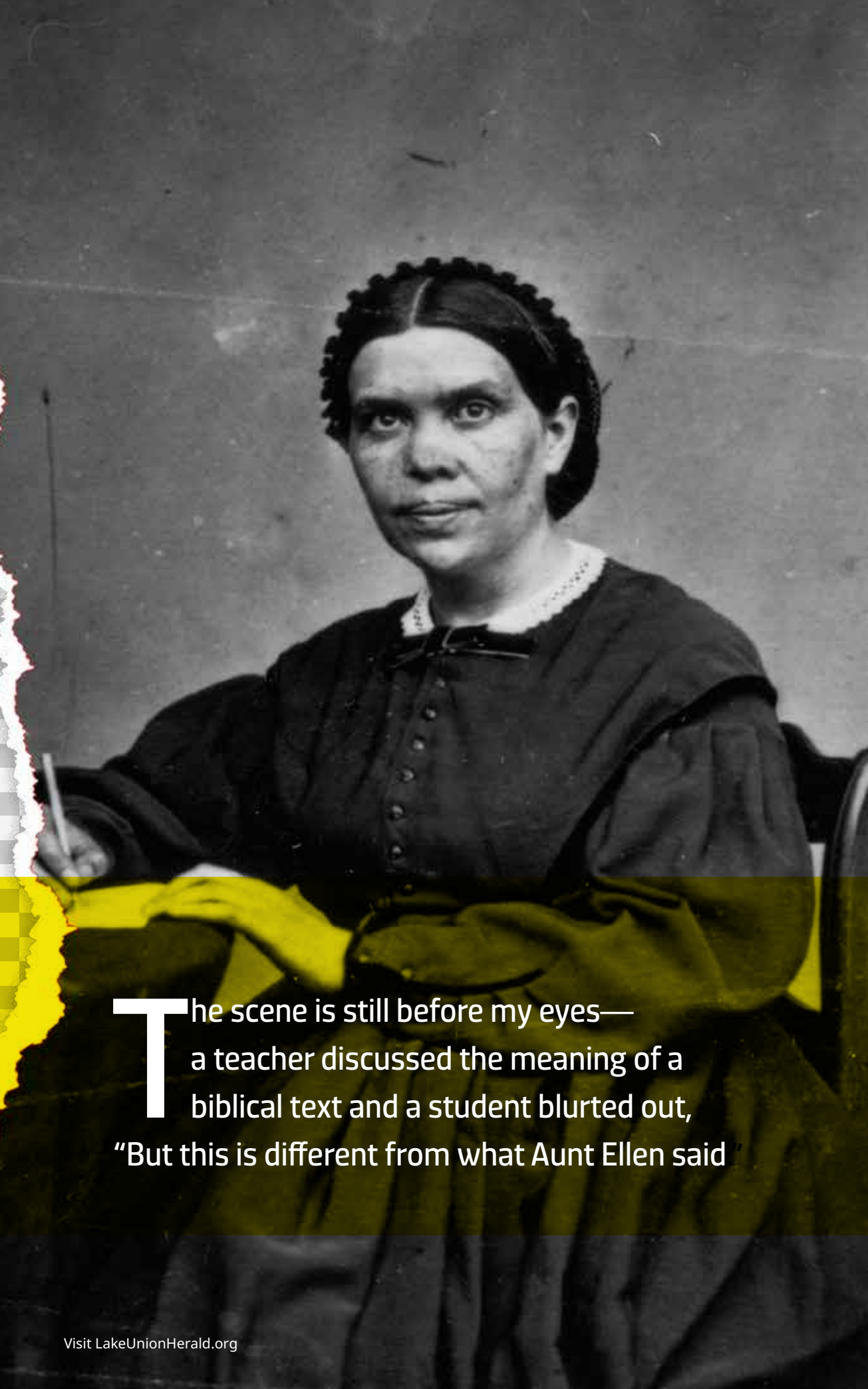
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Should We Use Ellen White's Writings

By Denis Kaiser



to Interpret the Bible?



Courtesy Center for Adventist Research and the Adventist Digital Library

The scene is still before my eyes—
a teacher discussed the meaning of a
biblical text and a student blurted out,
“But this is different from what Aunt Ellen said.”

Puzzled as to how he should respond, the teacher finally remarked that Ellen G. White (1827–1915), cofounder and prophetic voice of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was not a trained theologian or biblical exegete.

The incident left behind an unfortunate impression and some nagging questions. As Adventists, we believe that Ellen White was Divinely inspired. If she was Divinely inspired to comment on the Bible, how can we not take her comments seriously? Yet, if she was not a trained theologian or biblical exegete, what real value do her comments on the Bible really have? Should, or can, we use her writings to interpret the Bible? This pitting of the Bible against Ellen White is not only unfortunate but it overlooks various crucial aspects concerning the nature of the Bible, the function of Ellen White's prophetic gift, and her use of the Bible.

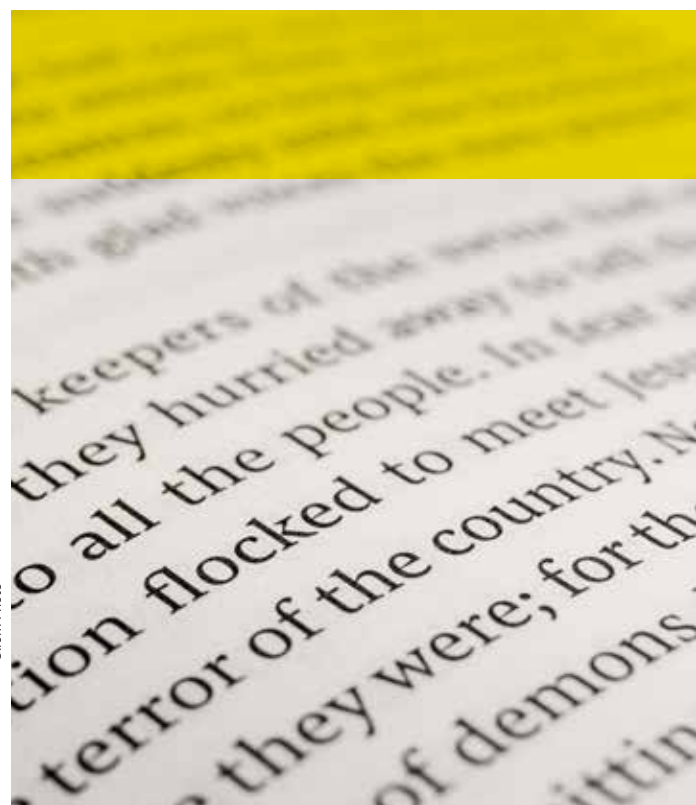
THE BIBLE IS ADAPTED TO OUR NEEDS

The Bible is surprisingly well adapted to our various needs. One of those needs is the need for our brain to be consistently stimulated for it to continue to grow. In the absence of continued learning and growth, our brains regress and deteriorate. Some people have reasoned that Divine inspiration always communicates clear propositions that lend themselves to a plain reading of the text because the meaning is at the surface of the text. Since God is perfect, He always communicates absolutely and perfectly clear.

Interestingly, Ellen White did not fully share that perspective. In her view, God had “conveyed [His testimony] through imperfect expression of human language” (*Great Controversy*, vi, vii) which at times lacks absolute precision because “different meanings are expressed by the same word [and] there is not one word for each distinct idea” (Ms 24, 1886). Still, she believed in the “perfect harmony” of Scripture because God's will and plan of salvation were clearly comprehensible as one part of Scripture explained another (*Spiritual Gifts*, 1:116, 117). She also perceived an inexhaustible depth in Scripture that could not be found through “a surface view of the Scriptures” but only through a prayerful, thoughtful and

patient searching for “the precious jewels of truth” and “the precious golden thread” that was “running through the whole [Bible]” (Ms 24, 1886).

In her view, that inexhaustible depth in Scripture continually challenges us to learn more and gain a better and deeper understanding of the Word of God through a deliberate and careful study of the biblical text in its immediate and broader literary context (*Desire of Ages*, 78–79, 253–254). So, we may read and study the Bible for decades and still discover new aspects, nuances and connections that we have never seen before. Besides stressing that a study of the Bible improves and expands our mind and reasoning faculties, she noted that “the Bible is like a fountain. The more you look into it, the deeper it appears” (*Review*, Feb. 25, 1896). She desired for her readers to continually search the Scriptures whose truths will continue to “unfold through the ceaseless ages of eternity” (Ms 26, 1888).



Ulom Photo

not afraid. I am acquainted with all your sorrows; I have borne your griefs. You are not warring against untried enemies. I have fought the battle in your behalf, and in My name you are more than conquerors."

The precious Savior will send help just when we need it. The way to heaven is consecrated by His footprints. Every thorn that wounds our feet has wounded His. Every cross that we are called to bear He has borne before us. The Lord permits conflicts, to prepare the soul for peace. The time of trouble is a fearful ordeal for God's people; but it is the time for every true believer to look up, and by faith he may see the bow of promise encircling him.

"The ransomed of the LORD shall return,
And come to Zion with singing,
With everlasting joy on their heads.
They shall obtain joy and gladness;
Sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
'I, even I, am He who comforts you.
Who are you that you should be afraid
Of a man who will die,
And of the son of a man who will be made like grass?
And you forget the LORD your Maker...;
You have feared continually every day
Because of the fury of the oppressor,
When he has prepared to destroy.
And where is the fury of the oppressor?
The captive exile hastens, that he may be loosed,
That he should not die in the pit.

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Besides stressing that a study of the Bible improves and expands our mind and reasoning faculties, she noted that "the Bible is like a fountain. The more you look into it, the deeper it appears" (*Review*, Feb. 25, 1896).



Courtesy: Center for Adventist Research and the Adventist Digital Library

NO NORMATIVE INTERPRETER

The Bible is written in a way that it will progressively open to us its wonders, permitting us to gradually discover its multifaceted aspects and nuances. Therefore, neither Ellen White nor biblical theologians could exhaustively unearth the entire depths of Scripture's meaning. She commented on aspects, facets and nuances of biblical passages, yet never exhausted their meaning. For example, she identified "the pearl of great price" (Matt. 13:45, 46) variously as Jesus (*Acts of the Apostles*, 48), the truths He taught (*Desire of Ages*, 333), salvation (*Selected Messages*, 1:399), and even humans (*Review*, June 18, 1895). While she identified us most often with the merchant, in the latter case she said that Jesus was the merchant who gave everything to purchase us.

When the early Sabbatarian Adventists carried out their studies on the fundamental pillars of faith in the late 1840s, for about two-and-a-half years, Ellen White was unable to comprehend the arguments on the subject under discussion (*Review*, May 18, 1905). Thus, our doctrines were solidly based on Scripture, whereas her visions confirmed insights gained through Bible study and steered people away from extremes and fanaticism. When tensions arose in the church over the right interpretation of certain passages and those involved in the discussions appealed to her writings to settle the conflict because they thought she had previously settled the issue, she repeatedly urged them not to use her writings but to come together and attempt to settle the matter through prayerful mutual Bible study.¹ Her son, W.C. White (1854–1937), concluded that God desired to have it settled through "a thorough study . . . of the Bible and history" rather than "by a revelation" (W.C. White to P.T. Magan, July 31, 1910). Ellen White believed the function of her writings differed from that of Scripture. Unlike Scripture, her writings were not to serve as (an additional) rule of faith and practice, and therefore, her writings were not to take the place of the Bible nor be an addition, either theologically or functionally, to the biblical canon (*Early Writings*, 78; *Great Controversy*, vii).

Since Ellen White did comment on Scripture—for example, in the *Conflict of the Ages* series, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing* and *Christ's Object Lessons*—and she claimed to have been guided by Divine inspiration, some

readers may still find it difficult to grasp then how her inspired comments on Scripture should not be normative and final.

ELLEN WHITE USED THE BIBLE VARIOUSLY

Above we learned about the inexhaustible depth of Scripture and Ellen White's refusal to function as a final and normative interpreter of Scripture. There are more aspects that illustrate why we should beware of employing her writings in such a way. First of all, there are many biblical passages on which Ellen White never commented. Beyond that we also need to realize, however, that she used the Bible variously and oftentimes she did not even intend to interpret a specific Bible text.

Sometimes she explained the meaning of a text in harmony with its literary and historical context (*exegetical use*), yet at other times she used the language of one or several passages to make statements in harmony with a biblical teaching or the overall message of Scripture although it differs from the direct literary meaning of that respective passage (*theological use*). For example, while she employed the language of John 5:39 mostly as an injunction to study the Bible ("Search the Scriptures") (*Testimonies for the Church*, 2:634), which is theologically true, she sometimes also pointed out that here, Jesus had actually rebuked the Jewish leaders ("You search the Scriptures") (*Desire of Ages*, 211).

At other times, she pointed out links between events, actions or persons in the Old Testament and the life, ministry and death of Jesus or the experience of God's people at the time of the end, perceiving the limited historical pattern as a type of a larger reality of universal significance (*typological use*). A typical example is Abraham's offering of Isaac (Gen. 22), typifying the death of Christ on the cross (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 147–155).

Since Ellen White was so immersed in Scripture, she often made use of biblical verbiage from multiple biblical passages in completely different contexts without trying to interpret any of those passages, using Scripture more as a literary mine (*parenthetical use*). For example, in a brief paragraph in *Testimonies for the Church* 4:594–595, she utilized the language of at least eight Bible passages without interpreting any of them. She certainly may have employed the Bible also in other ways.

Ellen White
repeatedly urged
her contemporaries
to settle matters of
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and doctrine through
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SUMMARY

To avoid creating unhealthy dichotomies between Ellen White's use of the Bible and the exegetical work of Bible scholars, it is important for us to keep in mind that she did not intend to offer a comprehensive, exhaustive and normative interpretation of the biblical text. Neither did she always comment on the exegetical meaning of the text, which is why it is important for us to carefully reflect on how she actually used the biblical text in a given statement. Finally, Ellen White repeatedly urged her contemporaries to settle matters of biblical interpretation and doctrine through mutual Bible study. As we study the Bible closely and carefully, allowing it to speak for itself, we may be fascinated by the richness of Scripture and the deep things of God revealed there. As we turn to Ellen White's writings, we will be able to see then a harmony with the overall message of Scripture and appreciate the spiritual truths and beneficial insights found in her writings. ■

Denis Kaiser is an associate professor of Church History at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

Volunteers Provide Care and Resources to Community in Need



David Pfleiderer

▲ Volunteers and team members from AdventHealth assist community members who have come to participate in the Glendale Heights Mission Clinic.

On June 11, a team of more than 60 AdventHealth-affiliated healthcare volunteers in the Great Lakes Region served more than 100 patients at its Glendale Heights Mission Clinic, a program that provides free medical care and services to underserved members of the community. Visitors to the clinic received dental and vision care, school physicals, primary care and COVID-19 vaccines. Volunteer interpreters and 25 community groups also provided additional services, including health care information and social services resources available in the area.

The Mission Clinics draw people who have lived in the community for years as well as recent arrivals. Among the children who came to the clinic was a young boy fleeing the conflict in Ukraine and a family who recently arrived from Colombia.

Lisa Fortman, MD, a family practice physician in the AdventHealth Medical Group,

helped care for these and other patients. The Ukrainian boy, who was about 10 years old, recently had come to the U.S. with his mother. He was at the clinic with his uncle who helped translate.

“At first, he had kind of a scared look on his face, but we were able to give him a little bit of comfort. I even got him to smile,” Dr. Fortman said. “I felt I was welcoming him to the U.S. It was an honor and a privilege for me to be able to help in my little way and show that there is still love in this world.”

She also examined the five Colombian children who had immigrated a few weeks earlier, giving them school physicals and answering questions some of the older children had about their health care.

Diane Novak, RN, charge nurse at AdventHealth La Grange, also cared for the Colombian children. “They were there for a couple hours to have access

to the resources we were providing,” she said.

“They were trying to make their way in a place they are not familiar with and in a language they don’t understand,” said Heather Hoffman, regional director of Clinical Mission Integration for the Great Lakes Region. “We just happened to be present at a time when they really needed help.”

She said the event showed the dedication and compassion of the volunteers who gave up their time on a Saturday to help others. “These are clinicians who worked tirelessly for the last two years and beyond to take care of people,” she said. “That says such wonderful things about the culture of our team members.”

But Dr. Fortman and Novak were quick to say that they felt honored to help at the clinic.

“All the staff who volunteered were really enthusiastic,” Novak said. “We were there early, we did a little circle talk, we did a little prayer. Everybody was so excited to get going.”

Dr. Fortman agreed, saying, “It is our opportunity to use the talents God gave us and extend them to other people, to pour out some of the blessings that we receive in our lifetime to others.

“Being able to connect with other people just makes me smile,” she said. “I always feel good when I come home after a clinic. It gives me a sense of peace.” ■

Julie Busch is assistant vice president of Marketing

Kevin Wilson to Lead Social Media at Andrews University



▲ Kevin Wilson

Andrews University welcomed Kevin Wilson as the new Digital and Social Media coordinator in the Office of University Communication. Starting in September 2022, Wilson oversees the University's social media platforms, developing and implementing strategy, and overseeing the creation of content.

"It's a fancy way of saying that if President Luxton jumps on a TikTok trend, she didn't do it voluntarily," Wilson quips. He explains further, "The position involves a fair bit of planning, strategy and execution with regard to communication across different social media platforms."

Wilson, who is perhaps better known as the "chai guy" or "CEO of Chai" on TikTok, has a passion for telling stories

that allow him to connect with others. In 2020, Wilson began creating videos of himself making and sharing about chai. Just two years later, he has built a community of 355k followers. He elaborates, "Sharing one-minute vignettes from my life as I make chai, highlighting chai culture, the South Asian experience or decolonized Christianity has made me realize that storytelling is a powerful conduit for impact and change."

Born in Sri Lanka and raised in places as varied as the Sultanate of Oman, Virginia, Maryland, Lebanon and Berrien Springs, Wilson has embraced his unique cultural background. He reflects, "Ever since I can remember, I've been interested in documenting experiences and transforming

them into meaningful content. . . I eventually chose short-form video production as my medium of choice. . ."

Most recently, Wilson served as a youth and young adult pastor at the Oceanside Church and chaplain at the Oceanside Adventist Elementary School in San Diego, Calif. He reflects, "Working with real humans with real stories across different age groups inspires me to create a content strategy that is not only culturally relevant and effectively marketable, but deeply human."

A call from God led Wilson and his wife, Elynn, back to Andrews University, where they originally met during freshman orientation in 2009. He acknowledges Elynn, who works as an occupational therapist and co-parent to two playful cats, Phoebe and Leo, as being an incredible force for good in his life. Andrews was also the place where Wilson received his bachelor's degree in Theology and Master of Divinity. Both he and Elynn felt moved to pursue vocations "proximal to college students" and, after much prayer and consideration, decided to return to Berrien Springs.

In addition to his other responsibilities, Wilson hosts "The Faith and Chai" podcast, which recently finished its second season. He also looks forward to the release of his book, *The Way of Chai*, scheduled for the summer of 2023.

"It's deeply gratifying to be able to give back to a place that has given a lot to me," Wilson shares. "My hope for University Communication is that we continue to leverage media as a tool for connection in addition to seeing it as a tool for promotion. In this information economy, the most pressing challenge for us is figuring out scalable solutions to create, consolidate and deepen our Andrews online community." ■

Isabella Koh, University Communication student writer

Motor City evangelism series results in 75 baptisms

Lake Region Conference jump-started their conference-wide evangelism effort in Detroit; as a result, 75 were baptized at the campaign's conclusion in April.

The series began on April 10 in two Detroit locations: City Temple Church with speaker Alfred Miller, president of In His Word Ministries, and the Silver Gardens Event Center in Southfield with evangelist Michael Lewis, South Central Conference's director of Evangelism.

Lake Region president, Garth Gabriel, said in his remarks, "Motor City has set the benchmark. God has truly blessed us."

Highlights of the series included a baby dedication and the Children's Ministries program, headed by Verniece Gaines and Roberta Perry. Through PowerPoint presentations, hands-on activities and group discussions, the Children's Ministries evangelism thrived and reaped multiple baptisms as well.

Music also was an essential part of the series as Lindsay Bryant (City Temple Church) and Dr. Gerald Curley (Burns Church) led the praise teams at each location in songs that ushered in the atmosphere of worship.

Throughout the series, conference administrators Garth Gabriel, president; Julius Everett, executive secretary; Abraham Henry, associate secretary; showed their support by participating in the service as well.

The event could not have been executed without the leadership of the area pastors. City Temple pastor, Neville Lendor, commented, "As area pastors, even though there were challenges along the way, we prayed and worked together, trusting God to bless our efforts in great and mighty ways."

At the conclusion of the two-week series, more than 75 people gave their life to Christ through baptism and professions of faith. Baptismal candidates ranged in age from the youth to the young-at-heart, as well as individuals who were the first (in their family) to be baptized, and couples and families who were baptized together.

Continue to pray for the Lake Region Conference as plans are underway for upcoming revivals in Chicago, South Bend, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Indianapolis. ■

JeNeen Lendor, Lake Region Communication director

▼ Michael Lewis preaching at Detroit's Silver Gardens Event Center.



Top: Lake Region Conference president Garth Gabriel giving greetings at Detroit's City Temple Church

Middle: Addressing the baptismal candidates at City Temple Church

Bottom: Pastor Alfred Miller Jr. preaching



Joshua Pedroza

▲ Indiana Conference Adventist Christian Fellowship director, John Leis, says, "We are living in exciting times with young men and women taking up the gospel banner and spreading the love of Christ and the Three Angels' Messages on campuses across the North American Division."

Big attendance for Public Campus Ministries event in Indiana

After a two-year hiatus, the North American Division (NAD) hosted one of the largest Adventist Christian Fellowship gatherings from July 21–25 on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington.

More than 150 attendees were able to choose from five different learning tracks with an additional two tracks available for online participants. These classes included How to Start an ACF Chapter on Campus, How to Avoid Spiritual Burnout, How to Cope with Religious Trauma.

This year Adventist Christian Fellowship Institute (ACFi) celebrated its 10-year anniversary. This annual conference is held on a different non-Adventist campus each year and brings together student and public campus leaders to network and learn how to reach the 21.1 million students at non-Adventist universities across the NAD.

This year's theme was "Christ on Campus" with keynote speaker, revivalist Lee Venden. He challenged ACF to carve out time for a devotional life with Jesus and illustrated the importance of Bible study, prayer and sharing Christ with colleges, friends and family.

One of the greatest dangers for any student in higher education, whether on an Adventist campus or not, is allowing the pressures of class deadlines and commitments to crowd out time with Jesus. "Start your day with Jesus when your day starts," Venden encouraged. He explained that, "Your day may not start at 6 a.m. It may be much later. So before you do anything else, begin it with Jesus."

OUTREACH

On Wednesday afternoon the conference left the classroom and spread out over the 2,000-acre campus. They took with them games, water and frozen pops for outreach, and later reported stories of the people they met. Students were introduced to the local ACF chapter and new friendships were made. Leaders demonstrated how to start conversations organically and provided examples of outreach to duplicate on other campuses.

After the outreach, students were introduced to their Union leaders who invited them out to eat and discussed plans on how to strengthen and grow ACF on their home campus. Almost every Union in the NAD was present.

From across the pond, Keven Johns, British Union Youth director, joined from London to learn how ACF was reaching the campus mission field. He wanted to

learn so he could implement ACF strategies on the campus in his Union.

Lake Union Youth director, Ron Whitehead, says he was happy the Lake Union was able to host such an important event because "the Adventist church has a mission and responsibility to tell public and private high school students about Jesus and the Adventist Church's message of hope and healing."

Indiana Conference Adventist Christian Fellowship director, John Leis, says, "We are living in exciting times with young men and women taking up the gospel banner and spreading the love of Christ and the Three Angels' Messages on campus across the NAD. Is there a non-Adventist campus near your church? We need you to see that campus for what it is, a vast, underserved mission field."

NEXT YEAR

At the closing ceremonies a video message from Mansfield Edwards, president of the Ontario Conference in Canada, was shared, welcoming ACFi to Ontario, Canada, for next July's conference.

If you haven't yet, get your passport because you will not want to miss out on the next ACFi which will be held July 25–29, 2023, in Ontario, Canada. ■

John Leis, Bloomington Church pastor and Indiana Conference Public Campus Ministry coordinator

Battle Creek Academy celebrates 150-year anniversary

Several hundred alumni and guests gathered in Battle Creek, Mich., June 2–5, to celebrate Battle Creek Academy's 150th anniversary.

The pioneer school of the Seventh-day Adventist Church officially opened on June 3, 1872, with Goodloe Harper Bell as its first teacher. Some of Mr. Bell's original students included John Harvey and William Keith Kellogg, E.C. Loughborough, and James Edson and William White. The school had several locations in the early years and is now located on Parkway Drive off Limit Street.

This original, 12-student school in Battle Creek grew into the second largest parochial school system in the world, with over two million students in primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities in 212 countries. As the flagship school of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, BCA now enrolls a diverse student body, which is represented by five countries and where English is a second language for many of the students.

The anniversary celebration began on June 2 with the annual alumni golf outing at the Medalist Golf Club in Marshall. That evening over 200 alumni and guests attended a banquet and awards ceremony at Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center in Augusta. An alumni choir and band provided outstanding music throughout the weekend. Friday's activities included a Fancy Drill Exhibition by the Orion Pathfinder Club from Toronto, Ontario, Canada; a K–9 demonstration by Sergeant Chad Fickle and his dog, Ace, of the Battle Creek Police Department, and a Burmese cultural presentation.

Battle Creek Mayor Mark Behnke spoke briefly to the alumni assembled at the Battle Creek Tabernacle on Friday evening about the history of the Seventh-day



Photography by Brenda Baker

▲ Beloved former BCA kindergarten teacher, Nicole Mattson (center), enjoying a reunion with some of her former students, Olivia Keller, Gabrielle Costie, Nurieliz Paulino and Ava Earl.



▲ Mayor Mark Behnke presenting a proclamation from the City of Battle Creek to BCA board chair, Dan Greutz



▲ Sunday morning family walk with participants Jordan Howes, Olivia High and Hannah Perkins



▲ K-9 demonstration by Sergeant Chad Fickle and his dog, Ace

Adventist church and school and their ongoing involvement with the city of Battle Creek. He then presented the BCA board chair, Dan Greutz, a proclamation from the city that read in part, "Therefore, on behalf of all the citizens, we do hereby proclaim that Battle Creek Academy be recognized for the 150th anniversary and the contributions that they continue to make to the Battle Creek community."

Former vice president of Education for the North American Division, Larry Blackmer, spoke for the Sabbath morning church service. Blackmer also served for seven years as associate superintendent in the Michigan Conference. In his sermon, he emphasized the importance of not only Christian education, but Seventh-day Adventist Christian education in preparing young people to be future leaders of the church. For Sabbath evening vespers, David Yaegley presented a one-man play on BCA's first teacher, Goodloe Harper Bell. Currently serving as the director of Young Adult and Camp Ministries for the Washington Conference, Yaegley wrote the play, titled "God's Goodness Through 150 Years of Battle Creek Academy."

On Sunday morning, BCA alumni and current students partnered with Leila Arboretum for a seed-planting activity and a Family Fun Walk from the Arboretum to BCA across the street. Former BCA kindergarten teacher, Nicole Mattson, closed the weekend with a devotional in the Chapel of the Pines, the outside worship area recently erected on the grounds of the school.

Alumni and guests who attended were thrilled with the weekend activities and the opportunity to celebrate such a grand occasion. Alumna Mary Jane High, Class of 1969, says, "Reuniting with people we haven't seen in a very long time was just a little taste of what heaven will be like!" BCA principal, Ranjan Fernando, and a large group of volunteers worked many hours to make the weekend such a success. ■

Charlotte Erickson is a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle.



▲ Elwell members signed the dedication book, a process that took about 30 minutes because of the large number in attendance.

Grand Rapids refugee churches dedicated and growing

ELWELL IS THE LARGEST RWANDAN CONGREGATION IN NORTH AMERICA

The month of April was an exhilarating month for two refugee congregations. Both congregations originally planted by Grand Rapids Central Church, Elwell was dedicated as a church on April 9, and Golden Gate as a company on April 30.

Justin Ringstaff, secretariat of the Michigan Conference, attended the Elwell dedication, and remarked it was well-attended by members and guests alike. "It took over a half-hour for everyone to sign the dedication book." Golden Gate also was full on April 30, with more than eighty persons in attendance.

However, the significance of these two churches is not the numbers; rather, it is the journey the members took to form their respective congregations. Elwell Church and Golden Gate Company are comprised of mostly former refugees.

Bob Stewart, director of Immigrant and Refugee Ministries for the Michigan Conference, explained that both groups of Kinyarwanda-Kirundi-speaking refugees

started out as branch Sabbath schools. Most refugees do not speak English when they first arrive on American soil and, thus, refugees often create their own Sabbath schools so they can speak and worship in their preferred language. However, according to pastor Joel Mpabwanimana, NAD consultant for Kinyarwanda-Kirundi church plants, despite the possibility of a language barrier, for refugees, their number one concern is finding a place to worship the God who has brought them safely from war-stricken countries, such as Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, or Rwanda, to name a few. When the refugees arrive, their first task is to find a church and worship, in spite of the potential to sit through a service they do not understand.

There are now two refugee congregations in Grand Rapids, a central location for refugees. One of the congregations, Elwell, is the largest Rwandan church in North America, according to Bernard Rumenera, pastor of the Elwell Church. Many sponsors bring refugees to this area, says Stewart. Mpabwanimana further comments that Kirundi refugees follow family. If a refugee family lands in Oregon and their extended family is in Grand Rapids, they will travel across the country to be with them.

FROM GROUP TO COMPANY, FROM COMPANY TO CHURCH

The Elwell and Golden Gate churches began as a refugee branch Sabbath school from the Central Church, where Stewart was lead pastor before accepting the call to Refugee and Immigrant Ministries for the Michigan Conference.

The branch-offs soon had enough members to qualify as a group, and eventually groups attain company status. It is of note that a company is not an official church entity. Membership is kept through the conference, through the conference clerk. Stewart explained that a company congregation is like parents giving their teenage child a bit of money to see how they will handle it.

There is a process to see if the congregation is viable. "We're looking for stability and good organization and good process," said Stewart, "They need to have a mission focus," and be "training their members to witness and share."

Companies can grow fast or slow, depending on the individual group. For Elwell, the process was about three years in total. Golden Gate is not yet an official church, although they are well on their way, having just achieved company status. The timeframes for both Elwell and Golden Gate, explained Stewart, are average for a company. However, for a refugee company, this is exceptional.

When refugees first arrive, he explained, "they are used to doing things differently than how they are done in America." Thus, running a church can be a learning process, especially when it comes to the paperwork and behind-the-scenes work needed to smoothly run a church.

Stewart also mentioned the Acts model. Paul would arrive and start a church, but when he left, the "people took it upon themselves to keep [the church] going." Many churches would fall apart without a

pastor or leader, or without being an “official” church. However, Elwell and Golden Gate demonstrated the ability to push through. Stewart said, “There needs to be a sacrifice from the people” to move from company to a church. These sacrifices often have a lot to do with leadership — or the lack thereof.

However, one of the most significant aspects of transitioning from a company to a church is acquiring a building. Often, one building cannot comfortably house two Seventh-Day Adventist congregations. The Elwell Church had what Stewart called “a bit of a miracle” during their church-hunting experience.

As the company looked for a church building, a member from the Central Church recommended a large, 500-member Christian Reformed church that was planning to sell the building.

Unfortunately, there was another offer on the table, an offer which was much more than the Elwell company could afford.

Elwell church members see that God was looking out for them, for when the Christian Reformed church found out that the group looking to purchase their church was a refugee group, they ignored the other offer and accepted the Elwell company's offer of just \$280,000. “For a church of that size, that's a steal,” said Stewart.

The Elwell company moved in and filled the church. There are 400–500 members, Stewart reported, not counting young children and unbaptized teens. “When all the families were counted,” said Rumenera, “it was about 1,100 [persons].” He further comments that they are planning to grow the church's membership.

The Golden Gate Company also was able to acquire a building to house their worship services. Currently, they are renting Sabbaths from another denominational church. Wilson Sembeba, stand-in pastor for the Golden Gate Church,

commented that, like Elwell, their church building is a miracle. When he called the pastor of the church they now rent, he was told there were four other interested parties. “I prayed for four days,” he said, until the pastor called back with the news: they were being given the chance to rent the church. That pastor also commented, “God told us to do this.”

REFUGEE CHURCH GROWTH

It is a well-known statistic among church planters and church leadership that refugee churches grow significantly faster than other churches.

One reason why refugee churches grow so fast, Stewart explained, is simple. Rwandan refugees are very family-oriented; they live right next to each other and are outside all day with their friends and relatives. The American way of life, consequently, is a culture shock to many refugees. Families in America appear to live more secluded from their neighbors and relatives. For Rwandan refugees, church is not only a place to worship our God, but it is also a place to fellowship with family, friends and like believers.

But that's not all. Stewart shared one more compelling reason why refugee churches grow so fast. “To be honest with you,” he said, “they're a little bit more ‘on fire’ than we are. They believe in getting every member involved.” ■

The full version of this article is available at www.lakeunionherald.org.

Judy Klein, Michigan Conference Communication



▲ **Top:** Bob Stewart, director of Immigrant and Refugee Ministries for the Michigan Conference (pictured in the white shirt), explains that both groups of Kinyarwanda-Kirundi-speaking refugees started out as branch Sabbath schools out of the Grand Rapids Central Church.

Middle: Golden Gate leaders received a plaque commemorating their transition from group to company status. The timeframes for both Elwell and Golden Gate, explains Bob Stewart, are average for a company. However, for a refugee company, this is exceptional. Pictured from left to right: Bob Stewart (Michigan Conference Refugee and Immigrant Ministries director), Wilson Sembeba (stand-in pastor for Golden Gate Company), Pastor Yosef Imam (a significant leader within the Golden Gate congregation), and Benjamin Mugisa (elder and clerk for the Golden Gate Company).

Bottom: One of 12 choirs that the Elwell church has formed

'Return to Palau' wins international award

"Return to Palau," the documentary film which shares the tragic story of a young missionary family that moves to the idyllic island nation of Palau and suffers an unthinkable tragedy, won third place for best documentary at the International Christian Film Festival in Orlando, on Friday, May 6.

The International Christian Film Festival, Inc. (ICFF) is a not-for-profit, faith-based organization which was started on Sept. 15, 2011. From its inception, the goal of the organization has been to put God first as it seeks to promote Christian filmmakers and artists from around the world. The organization provides an opportunity for anyone to submit their faith and/or family film, documentary or music. A team of 10 judges select the best submissions to receive awards during their yearly festival. During the festival, the organization provides classes and seminars as well as opportunities to network and fellowship with other filmmakers in addition to a red carpet and an Oscar-style award ceremony.

This year, there were hundreds of documentary submissions to the festival, 63 of which were official selections and 13 were nominated for Best Documentary. "Return to Palau" depicts how a tragedy impacts not only a missionary family but an entire nation. The President of Palau publicly apologized for what happened to the family and called for a National Day of Mourning. Through recently uncovered archival footage and first-person accounts, the film shares an incredible story of survival, faith and forgiveness.

The film's global premiere was held in Palau on March 16, with more than 1,500 people in attendance, the largest ever indoor gathering of people in the history of Palau, according to the President, with a second showing later that week. The



▲ "Return to Palau" has won several awards, including third place in the International Christian Film Festival, Inc. (ICFF), the largest Christian film festival in the world. Pictured receiving the award are the film's director, Michelle Hamel (second left), and producer, Ann Hamel (second right), along with their husbands, Matt (left) and Loren (right).

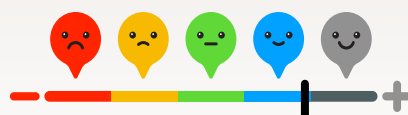
film also premiered on the campuses of Southwestern Adventist University and Andrews University, both with repeat showings.

"Return to Palau" has won several awards so far. The International Christian Film Festival, Inc. (ICFF) is the largest Christian film festival in the world so winning third place in this festival was a prestigious award. The film was shown on Friday evening, May 6, at the Wyndham International Resort in Orlando. The third-place award was given on Saturday evening, May 7. Executive producers Loren and Ann Hamel and Matthew and Michelle Hamel were all present to receive the award.

Publicly released a few days later, the film is available for purchase or rent online. Please go to www.returntopalau.com to find more information related to the film's release as well as how you might contribute to furthering the legacy and mission of the DePaiva family. The film is currently being translated into Portuguese, Spanish and Japanese. Proceeds from the film and donations from those who wish to participate will be used to produce additional translations of the film. ■

To view a trailer, download a digital flier or find more information, email Ann Hamel at drannhamel@gmail.com.

SURVEY SAYS...!



On a scale of 1 to 10, the overall content was valued at 7.31

Our second annual readership survey* is complete and the results are in! But before we get to the findings, we want to say a big thank you to the 210 respondents who gave us their candid assessment of the *Herald* content. We took notes and are redoubling our efforts to continue bringing you relevant news and information, as well as stories to deepen your personal walk with our soon-coming God.

HOW SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED:

- Published in the *Lake Union Herald* magazine March, April and June/July 2022 issues, on our website and social media. Promoted via our conferences and Andrews University newsletter.

MOST POPULAR CONTENT:

- Current matters such as news and Mileposts, feature articles, lifestyle.

SOME OF THE MOST MEMORABLE TOPICS OF THE PAST YEAR:

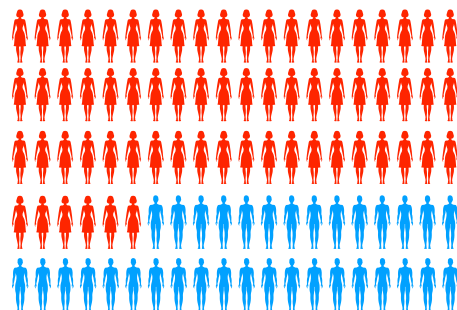
- Return to Palau, evangelism despite COVID; bold initiatives in Adventist Christian education.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- More family articles about youth, dating, marriage enrichment; have conference presidents interviewed in dialogue fashion about their vision and what's happening in their field; change the *Herald* font.

GENDER

61.9% female 38.1% male



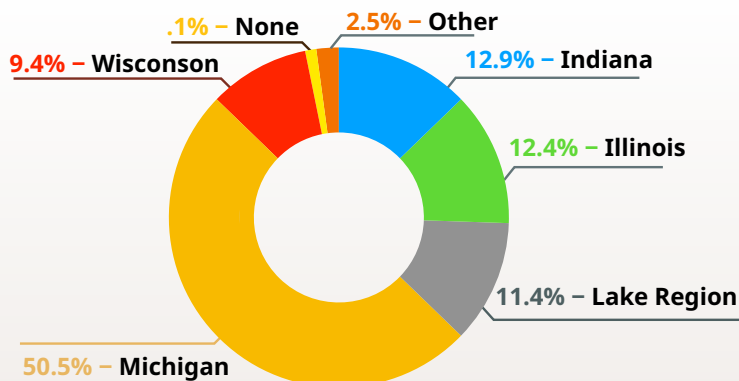
SOME OF THE LEAST FAVORITE THINGS:

- Too little information about environment and human rights; promotes old-time Adventism; font size too small.

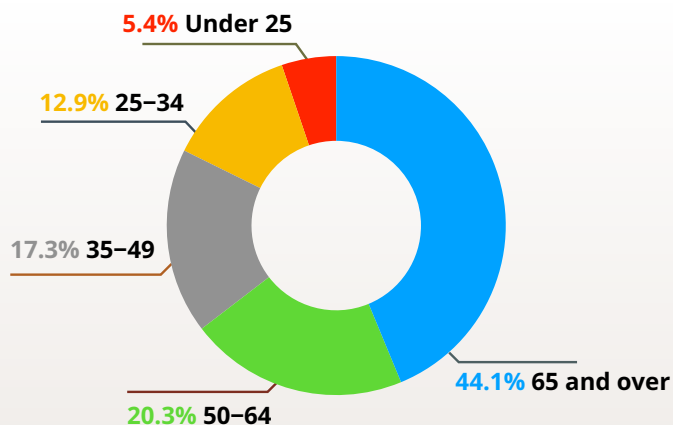


The winners of the \$50 Amazon gift cards are:
Debra Eskidsen
and Margaret Nwankpah.

WHERE RESPONDENTS WERE FROM



AGE OF READERS



*Results were tabulated by the Institute of Church Ministry, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

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 www.lakeunionherald.org. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

ANNIVERSARIES



David "Dave" and Elizabeth "Betsy"

Johnston celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Sunday, June 26, 2022. They have been members of the Berrien Springs Village Church in Michigan for two years.

They met in 1949 when both were traveling with their families on a cargo freighter/passenger ship—*The President Monroe*—on a round-the-world trip. Following the trip, they maintained their friendship by letter-writing between Santa Monica, Calif. and Newington, Conn. During this time, Dave graduated from Yale University and Betsy from La Sierra University.

After their marriage in Westwood, Calif., on June 27, 1957, Dave continued working for the Aetna Insurance Company in Hartford, Conn., and also received his law degree from the University of Connecticut Law School.

After studying the Bible with Elder O.J. Mills and his wife, Millie, Dave was baptized in 1963. Later he joined the Trust Services Department at the Southern New England Conference. In subsequent years, he served in Trust Services at Andrews University, the Lake Union Conference, the Southeastern California Conference and the General Conference, retiring in 2002. Betsy briefly taught junior high school math in Hartford before becoming a full-time mother and homemaker. The Johnstons have three children, Karen (Dave) Gotshall, Jeffrey (Dana) Johnston, and Kathleen (Steve) Sparks, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

The Johnstons celebrated their 65th anniversary in Berrien Springs with their family. A local bakery prepared a cake for the celebration decorated to look like an ocean. Sitting on the ocean was a small replica of the ship, *The President Monroe*, and the words, "With Jesus in the ship—65 years of smooth sailing."



Charles and Ramona Trubey were honored at their son's home, Andrew Trubey of Cicero, Ind., for a family gathering on Sabbath, July 9, to honor their 65th wedding anniversary. Charles and Ramona were married on July 7, 1957, in the Holly (Mich.) Adventist Church. They met at EMC where Charles was majoring in Ag and Ramona was majoring in Home Ec and PE.

Charles was first employed at Wisconsin Academy as asst. farm manager for three years, then accepted the position of farm manager at Indiana Academy where he stayed for 37 years until he retired. They retired to a small farm in Arcadia, Ind., where Charles still enjoys raising sweet corn, does gardening and has fruit trees.

They have four children—Annette Moon of Orlando, Fla., Leon (Lisa) Trubey of Hickory, N.C., Andrew (Cindy) Trubey of Cicero, Ind., and Celia Trubey of Noblesville, Ind.; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. They belong to the Cicero Church where Charles remains an elder, and Ramona helps with the social committee and still plays the trumpet.

OBITUARIES

BURLINGAME, Stephen I., age 71; born July 25, 1950, in Benton Harbor, Mich.; died July 2, 2022, in Williamston, Mich. He was a member of the University Church in East Lansing, Mich. He is survived by his wife, Mary (Miller) Burlingame; sons, Christopher Burlingame, and Timothy (Lisa) Burlingame; daughter, Meredith (Andrew) Lajewski; father, Ralph LeRoy Burlingame; mother, Ruth (Ross) Burlingame; brothers, David, Richard, and Gary; sister, Diane (Burlingame) Wendth; and one grandchild. Memorial services were conducted; inurnment.

CLAYTON, Bonnie (Calvert), age 81; born June 22, 1940, in Chicago; died Sept. 16, 2021, in Chicago. She was a member of the North Shore Church in Chicago. Survivors include her sons, Michael Clayton, and Alexander Clayton; daughters, Laura Clayton, and Rose Clayton; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. A private inurnment service was held. If you would like to send a card of sympathy or a gift in memoriam, please send it to Laura Clayton at 7121 N Ridge Blvd. #409, Chicago IL 60645.

HAYGOOD, David R., age 80; born May 29, 1942, in Ingalls, Ind.; died July 27, 2022, in Freedom, Ind. He was a member of the Spencer Church in Spencer, Ind. Survivors include his wife, Sylvia (Curtis) Haygood; sons, David Jeffrey Haygood, and Draven Haygood; daughter, Tina Smith; five grandchildren. Inurnment.

OAKS, Virginia Rose (Barber), age 97; born April 8, 1925, in upper-mid Michigan; died July 15, 2022, in Gulliver, Mich. Survivors include her daughter, Rose (Stephen) Paden; and sister, Velma Bell. A memorial service was conducted; graveside services were held in the Oak Grove Cemetery in South Branch, Mich.

STOUT, Helena (Klotz), age 88; born March 12, 1934, in Poland; died Aug. 14, 2022, in Loma Linda, Calif. She was a member of the Loma Linda University Church in Loma Linda, Calif. She is survived by her husband, John F. "Jack" Stout; son, Ron (Pam) Stout; daughter, Lynn (Dan) Reichert; sister, Lydia (Klotz) Bojanek; and four grandchildren. A private graveside service was held at the Paradise Cemetery in Paradise, Calif. If desired, a donation may be made in Helena's honor to

Neighbor to Neighbor (9147 US 31, Berrien Springs, MI 49103) by accessing n2nhelps.com and clicking on "donate."

VALENTI, Margaret E. (Sieck), age 96; born Sept. 28, 1925, in Baltimore, Md.; died July 13, 2022, in Milwaukee, Wis. She was a member of the Milwaukee Northwest Church in Milwaukee. She is survived by her sons, Thomas M. (Cindy) Valenti, Bill (Mary Anne) Valenti; daughter, Carla Valenti; sister, Gertrude Sieck, Louise (Norm) Johnson; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. A memorial service was held at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Union Grove, Wis.

WEDDINGS



Alma Navarrete Vargas and Mark Joslin were married on Thursday, July 14, 2022, in Temple City, Calif., by Pastor Cliff Jean-Baptiste. The bride is the daughter of Eduardo Navarrete and stepmother, Alma Patricia Navarrete, from Lancaster, Calif. The groom is the son of Jeffrey Joslin from Hastings, Mich., and Katherine Koudele, from Niles, Mich. They now live in Knoxville, Tenn.

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

OCTOBER 14-15 — Andrews Academy invites alumni (those who attended/graduated, and/or worked at EMCA/AUA/AA) to a reunion on the third weekend in October.

Honor classes this year end in '2 and '7. The class of **1972** will celebrate its golden (50th) reunion. The class of **1997** will celebrate its silver (25th) reunion. Alumni, please watch your email, our website at andrews.edu/aa/, Instagram (@andrews_academy_alumni), and Facebook (@andrewsacademyaa) for any updates. If you don't receive emails from us, please contact us at AAalumni@andrews.edu so we can add you to our list. You also can call us at 269-471-3138 for updates.

OCTOBER 14-15 — 2022 Great Lakes Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend.

Celebrating the honor classes from Adelphian Academy, Cedar Lake Academy, Grand Ledge Academy and Great Lakes Adventist Academy. We are looking forward to a wonderful weekend together. Please make plans to join us for this much anticipated, in-person event. This year's Honor Classes are: 1962, 1972, 1982, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2012. For more information, please call the Alumni office at 989-427-4444 or visit glaa.net.

LEGAL NOTICE — Notice is hereby given that the thirty-ninth regular quadrennial session of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the Wisconsin Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at Wisconsin Academy in Columbus, Wisconsin on Sunday, October 16, 2022.

The organizing committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. with the first meeting of the session convening at 10 a.m. Duly accredited delegates and delegates-at-large will be authorized to elect officers, directors of departments/services, and members of the executive committee, constitution and bylaws committee, and nominating committee for the new quadrennial term, along with corporation trustees for the ensuing quadrennial term. Delegates will also

transact such other business as may properly come before them. Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the church organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof.

Titus Naftanaila, President

F. Brian Stephan, Executive Secretary

LEGAL NOTICE — Notice is hereby given that the **34th regular constituency session of the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church, Hinsdale, Illinois**, with the first meeting called at **10:00 a.m., Sunday, October 23, 2022**. This session is for the purpose of receiving reports of the quadrennium which ended December 31, 2021; to elect officers, departmental directors and an executive committee for the ensuing term; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the constituency, including possible changes in the Constitution and Bylaws. Delegates are those duly elected by the churches of the conference and delegates-at-large as provided in the constitution. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each 50 members or fraction thereof, based on actual church membership as of September 30 of the year preceding the meeting. The Organizing Committee for this meeting met at the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists office, on Sunday, July 10, at 10:00 am.

John Grys, Executive Secretary



PURE DESIRE CONFERENCE



\$99 EARLY BIRD RATE THROUGH OCTOBER 13, 2022

ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE

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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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EMPLOYMENT

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SDAs — Looking for individuals who are interested in using their talents and skills in a mission-oriented setting and who have work experience at all levels of Human Resources, Software development and technology as well as TV and social media. Must be a Seventh-day Adventist church member in good standing. For additional information, contact Johanna Prestol-Dominguez at prestoldj@gc.adventist.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CAMP KULAQUA (FL) — Seeking a place to share your hands and heart in service to the Lord? Join the volunteer team at Camp Kulaqua located in High Springs, Fla. Bring an RV and spend a season with us. For more information, call 386-454-1351 ext. 7570, or email: volunteer@campkulaqua.com.

TRAVEL

ISRAEL TRIP, FEB. 6-16, 2023 — Join your host Pastor Jim Gilley and friends for this special priced, 11-day tour: Jim's 41st. \$3,399 includes RT airfare from Chicago, expert guides, tips, taxes, hotels, daily breakfast and dinner buffets. Call 602-788-8864 ext. 111 for Shay, or Jim's cell, 352-459-4762. Limited availability.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28
Berrien Springs, Mich.	7:18	7:07	6:56	6:46
Chicago, Ill.	6:23	6:12	6:01	5:51
Detroit, Mich.	7:05	6:53	6:42	6:32
Indianapolis, Ind.	7:19	7:08	6:58	6:49
La Crosse, Wis.	6:36	6:24	6:13	6:02
Lansing, Mich.	7:10	6:59	6:48	6:37
Madison, Wis.	6:29	6:18	6:06	5:56
Springfield, Ill.	6:33	6:22	6:12	6:02

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

- Oct. 1 Local Church Budget
- Oct. 8 Union-designated
- Oct. 15 Local Church Budget
- Oct. 22 Local Conference Advance
- Oct. 29 Local Church Budget

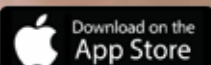
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Lifeline

The story gripped the world's attention on August 5, 2010. Thirty-three Chilean miners were trapped 2,300 feet underground when a tunnel caved in leaving them with no way out.



▲Tom Hubbard

The miners retreated to a safety chamber designed for just such an emergency. There they stayed for 17 days with no communication from the surface. Most of the world believed the situation to be extremely grim and nearly hopeless, but then something amazing happened.

Rescuers were able to drill a hole no larger than the size of a grapefruit into the safety chamber below. Upon retrieving the drill, rescuers found a note attached which read, "We are well in the refuge, the 33." Miraculously, all 33 miners were alive. The hole that had been drilled then served as a lifeline of sorts in which they were able to pass water and food, as well as Bibles, letters and recordings from their loved ones.

As I recall this story, I can't help but draw the obvious parallel between this lifeline that provided so much to the trapped miners and the incredible lifeline of

prayer. We, as residents of this planet, are continually dealing with difficulties and challenges brought about by sin, but we can praise God we are not left alone.

Ellen White wrote, "There is a mighty power in prayer. Our great adversary is constantly seeking to keep the troubled soul away from God. An appeal to heaven by the humblest saint is more to be dreaded by Satan than the decrees of cabinets or the mandates of kings." (*Prayer*, p. 267)

Our God has created a means of communication and nourishment, of strength and stability, an avenue to talk with Him as often as we would like. The Psalmist reminds us, But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer (Ps. 66:19).

Do we appreciate the lifeline God has given us in prayer? "We should watch and work and pray as though this were the last day that would be granted us. How intensely earnest, then, would be our life. How closely would we follow Jesus in all our words and deeds." (*Prayer*, p. 26)

Jesus utilized prayer to its fullest. Jesus received strength through His time with His Father. However, our tendency can be to rely on our own strength rather than going to God in prayer. He has abundant resources available, ready to be poured out as we come to Him in prayer.

Jeremiah 29:12 says, *Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.*

We can fully depend on the promise of the Lord. He is always faithful. ■

Tom Hubbard, associate Ministerial director, Michigan Conference



NASA

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

GENERAL EVENTS

- Oct. 12:** Lake Union High School Senior Day
- Oct. 14-17:** October Preview
- Oct. 19, 7 pm:** Kingman Lecture on Scient & Society, Howard Performing Arts Center
- Oct. 20:** Celebration of Community Engagement
- Oct. 28-29:** Andrews Autumn Conference on Religion and Science

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, call 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or visit howard.andrews.edu.

- Oct. 15, 8 pm:** Wind Symphony Fall Concert
- Oct. 16, 4 pm:** Sunday Music Series: Southwestern Michigan Symphony Orchestra, featuring Kimberly Kaloyanides Kennedy, violin
- Oct. 22, 8 pm:** Symphony Orchestra Fall Concert
- Oct. 23, 7 pm:** Howard Presents: The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Brass Band
- Oct. 29, 8 pm:** University Choirs Fall Concert

ILLINOIS

- Oct. 1:** Hispanic Men's Retreat
- Oct. 7-9:** Prayer Retreat
- Oct. 21-22:** Youth Rally

Oct. 23: Constituency Session, Hinsdale Adventist Church

INDIANA

- Sept. 30-Oct. 2:** Public Campus Fellowship Retreat, Timber Ridge Camp
- Sept. 30-Oct. 2:** Pathfinder Backpack Trip, Shades State Park
- Oct. 7-8:** Indiana Academy Alumni Weekend
- Oct. 13-16:** Bent Spoke Mountain Bike Adventure
- Oct. 14-16:** Hispanic Married Couples' Retreat
- Oct. 21-23:** Conference Women's Retreat

LAKE REGION

- Oct. 1:** Chicagoland Youth Federation, Shiloh Church
- Oct. 15:** Michiana Youth Federation, South Bend, Ind.
- Oct. 28-29:** Motor City Youth Federation, Detroit Burns Avenue Church

MICHIGAN

- Sept. 30-Oct. 2:** Public Campus Ministries Retreat, Camp Sagola
- Sept. 30-Oct. 2:** TLT Squared, Camp Au Sable, Northwoods
- Oct. 2-5:** Life Improvement For Teens (LIFT),

Camp Au Sable

- Oct. 7-9:** Mother/Daughter Retreat, Camp Au Sable
- Oct. 7-9:** UP Marriage Retreat, Camp Sagola
- Oct. 21-23:** ACS Retreat, Camp Au Sable
- Oct. 27-30:** Rest & Renew Retreat, Camp Au Sable

WISCONSIN

- Oct. 1-8:** Hispanic Evangelistic Caravan with Pastor Bullon
- Oct. 3-5:** LIFT, Camp Wakonda
- Oct. 14-16:** Hispanic Youth Retreat
- Oct. 16:** Constituency Session, Wisconsin Academy
- Oct. 21-23:** Pathfinder Leadership, Camp Wakonda
- Oct. 28-30:** JAHWI Youth Retreat, Camp Wakonda

LAKE UNION

- Sept. 30 - Oct. 2:** Secondary Leadership Training, Camp Au Sable

Surrendering the Mask

MY SIBLINGS, GRANDMOTHER AND I WERE ON OUR ANNUAL TRIP FROM MICHIGAN TO NEW YORK. We looked forward all year to this adventure. But this trip would be different. Suddenly, with no explanation, we were headed back home. I kept asking why we had to return, but nobody would answer me. I was just eleven years old.

When we finally reached home, I could tell that something was “off.” Everyone was there except for my father. “Where’s Dad?” I asked repeatedly. Again, no answer. Finally, I was taken into my little sister’s room where I was told the horrible and tragic news: my father had passed away. To us, he had seemed perfectly healthy but, one day, while doing yardwork, he suffered a heart attack that proved fatal.

Immediately I begin to question God. “Why?” I asked again and again. My dad, Nesamony Elanko, MD, was such a good person. He loved his children. “*If God is so good, why would He allow something like this to happen to our family?*” I kept asking the questions, even though I already knew the answer. Bad things happen because of sin.

In my grief and confusion, I considered agnosticism. Maybe there is a higher power, I reasoned, but there is no way of knowing for sure. Unlike most of my peers, as I was growing up, I found creation vs. evolution debates fascinating. To me, it seemed that the creationists were always getting destroyed. Their arguments just didn’t hold up. My faith wavered as I began to think that the evidence was not in God’s favor.

Eventually, however, I began to see things differently. My doubts gave way to a new

► Jacob Elanko

realization. Jesus was my only hope of seeing my dad again. I would give God another chance.

As I look back on the life-changing trauma of losing my father, I realize that I had been wearing a mask. Although I had been raised in the church and had attended church school, I had no relationship with God. I was broken. I dressed up like everyone else when I attended church. While there, I acted as if life were all blue skies and butterflies because Sabbath was supposed to be “a happy day.” In reality, however, I was struggling. I was going through the motions, but my mask was hiding my brokenness.

While not everyone experiences the early loss of a parent as I did, all of us are broken in some way. It is only by placing ourselves in the hands of Jesus that we can find a safe place to stand. Jesus is glorified through imperfect, flawed people, through each of us who put our trust in Him. God gives us the power to say, “Although I’m imperfect, I serve a perfect God.”

John 8:36 tells us, . . . *who the Son sets free, shall be free indeed* . . . Jesus frees us from the need to hide behind a mask. We don’t have to pretend that everything is just fine. Neither do we have to agonize over not being good enough or worry that what we’ve done makes us somehow beyond redemption.

True victory in Jesus starts with total surrender. When we accept His love, He helps us surrender all our pain, worries and brokenness. And, yes, even our masks. ■

Jacob Elanko was a senior at Andrews Academy when he delivered a longer version of this article as a chapel talk. He plans to study Business Pre-Law at Andrews University, beginning in the 2022–2023 school year. When he completes his education, he hopes to work as a lawyer or in business. “Whatever I do,” Jacob adds, “I’d like to help those in need and bring people closer to Jesus.”



NIK FELICIANO

Living a Life of Purpose



Amelia Kern

▲ Josh Alabata

IT WAS THE END OF THE FIRST FULL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SEASON since the start of the pandemic and Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) Lady Hurricanes and their coach were celebrating another championship season. This scene was not one that Joshua Alabata saw coming.

In 2010, he graduated Andrews University into a tough job market and moved back home to Chicago. Josh would search for jobs during the day, and play basketball at his alma mater, HAA, during open gym in the evening.

One night at open gym, Josh was approached about being a teacher's aide and accepted "because I needed some money." In addition to working as a teacher's aide, Josh immediately began volunteering as the coach of the junior varsity basketball team. Ultimately, he landed a job in his field of study—internal communication for a company in the dairy industry.

Josh spent his days in the office while continuing as a volunteer coach in the

evenings. Nudged by a need for change, Josh started reading *The Purpose Driven Life* during his lunch break. After some self-reflection, he started to realize he enjoyed coaching more than being stuck in the office. "I was praying about it, that it'd be great to do this [coaching job] full time."

One morning while on his way to work he was praying for a change in his employment. Shortly after arriving at work, Josh was informed his company was eliminating positions and he was being let go. "It kind of sucked, because now I don't have a job, but it was an answer to prayer."

Newly unemployed, Josh worked odd jobs here and there, all while still coaching at the academy. After a few months, he went to visit a friend in Miami with the intent of moving there permanently. But shortly after his arrival, he learned that his cousin passed away.

Josh returned to Chicago for the memorial service. "That weekend at church, the principal at the time approached me and said, 'The position for Athletic Director is open, and we think you'd be a perfect fit.'"

Since becoming head coach for HAA men's varsity team in 2011 and the ladies' varsity team in 2015, Josh has amassed five conference championships and three tournament championships. In 2018, he was the recipient of the The Clyde Newmyer Leadership Award at the Andrews University Newmyer Classic.

"Through coaching," he notes, "God has taught me to trust in Him during both the highs and challenges of life, ultimately knowing that He wants me to be victorious in the end." ■

Elijah Horton is a Chicago-based writer.

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