

# HERALD

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

**FOOD, FAITH & FAMILY**  
*What Brings Us Together*







Photography by Katie Fellows

## Bind Us Together

For some time, we had prayerfully planned to dedicate this issue to telling stories at the intersection of food, faith and family. But the challenge was narrowing that focus. Our team brainstormed a bunch of ideas, but nothing seemed to be coming together in a timely manner. But at the eleventh hour, God showed up in a marvelous way. He sent members from across the Lake Union who joyfully pooled their talents to making the magazine you're now reading possible.

There was Amy Rhodes, a gifted graphic designer-baker, who pitched the idea of baking an actual replica of the *Herald* cover in cookie form—which is the amazingly creative image you see on this month's cover. That cookie, created through hours of hand-drawing and lettering, was then skillfully photographed by recent Andrews University graduate, Julia Viniczay. Then, of course, we had our master chefs, Miguel Larcher, Camp Au Sable's chef until recently, and Linda Brinegar, general manager of Andrews University's Dining Services, who graciously spent hours cooking and baking the delightful foods we photographed. We can't overlook you, our dear readers, who submitted your favorite recipes and shared meaningful memories of time spent with family during this special time of year.

Within the Lake Union, we have people of various cultures, and it is through collaboration that we achieve something greater. We look different and eat different foods, but we are all one family in the eyes of God.

So, we invite you to feast on the food recipes, stories and images, and then *taste and see that the Lord is indeed good!* (Ps. 34:8) ■

*In recognition that this isn't the "most wondrous time of the year" for everyone, please don't forget to look out for those who are alone or missing family members.*

Debbie

Debbie Michel  
Editor, *Lake Union Herald*

**ABOUT THE COVER AND TABLE OF CONTENTS:**  
DESIGNED AND CRAFTED BY AMY RHODES OF AMYKINS BAKES  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JULIA VINICZAY



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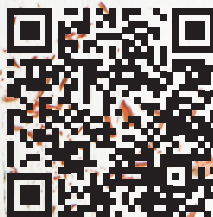
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### Your Favorite Family Recipes

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# Digesting Grace

When it comes to caring for his neighbor, my colleague in the Lake Union office, Elder Elden Ramirez, practices what he preaches.



▲ Ken Denslow

He frequently, when approached by a homeless person for money, will invite that person to eat a meal with him. Sometimes it takes several tries before he locates a café or diner that will serve them, but he is persistent. Sometimes he has to get take-out and shares the meal on a park bench or at a bus stop. But, however the food is gotten, eating together opens the doors to amazing conversations.

He listens carefully to the person's story, asking questions about their life while trying not to invade too much on their privacy. He gets stories—incredible stories—of people who sometimes have struggled with addictions, or broken relationships, or mental illness. He always looks for opportunities to share with them his own testimony of the difference that Jesus has made in his life. If they are open to it, he leads them to an understanding of the redemption that can be found in giving one's life to Jesus.

A couple of weeks ago, our Lake Union staff enjoyed lunch together in the Andrews University cafeteria. While the food was delicious, the fellowship we enjoyed as we sat together over a good meal was extraordinary. We work together every week; we have worship together; we meet together for staff meetings. But something

special happens when we sit and eat together. Masks come off as we sit at a meal and talk about our kids, and hopes, and dreams, and disappointments.

In the New Testament, there are 10 stories of Jesus spending time with others over a meal. From the feeding of the 5,000 to dining with sinners, Jesus used mealtime to break through to the hearts of people like you and me. During this Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season, as you gather with family and friends, I hope you not only enjoy the foods that are traditional to your family but that you are blessed by warm conversations, that you take time to share the stories that bind your hearts together and draw you collectively to Jesus. ■

*Ken Denslow is president of the Lake Union Conference.*



▲ Elden Ramirez practices what he preaches.







# Wrestling with Prayer

As you start to read this, let me give you a disclaimer: If you are looking for a nicely wrapped piece of writing, skip this one and move on to the rest of this periodical. This piece of my journey is raw.



▲ Ingrid Weiss Slikkers

Last fall, my oldest son, his wife of a few short months and a friend were involved in a serious car accident on a rainy evening. Gratefully, they survived their critical injuries, but two individuals in the other vehicle did not, and one was a child. My sons have had near-death experiences at other times and, here, once again, I bowed my head in thankfulness.

After a horrific accident like this, in the immediate days following, people started to attempt to make sense of it with words. Sadly, this even included comments that my children survived due to prayer. I remember hearing that comment and feeling physically ill. I had to leave the room I was in to catch my breath. Please do not misunderstand; remain with me as I explain. I was told that during the time of the accident, the mom of the little boy that died was actually attending a prayer meeting. How could I not feel sick?

My mind screamed to comprehend and my heart broke for a praying momma that had lost a child and had another one fighting for his life. There were no words for the feelings and thoughts I had. Of course, there had been prayer; there is *always* prayer for my children. Knowing my battles with surrendering control, I even had scheduled times of prayer for each of my kids, as I have shared previously in this column.

In subsequent days, I found myself increasing in fear. I became obsessed with having my phone with me at all times. I had physical panic responses every time it rang or if I had not heard from loved ones in a few hours. Although I was able to recognize my traumatic responses, my fear had overtaken me to such an extent

that, somehow, I felt as though it was on me to keep them all safe.

There was deep work I needed to do with God, and I am glad the Lord can handle my anxieties even as He repeatedly reminds me in Scripture to not fear. A favorite verse has been Proverbs 3:5. To trust with my whole heart with the reminder to not lean on my own understanding. That kind of trust means complete surrender. Could I do that? I was struck by the story of Job and felt convicted I needed to follow his example, even if it made no logical sense—*After hearing of the death of all his children he fell to the ground and worshipped* (Job 1:20 NIV).

I needed to declare where my trust was: I would continue to drop down to my knees. I would release my clenched fists and open my hands during prayer as a physical gesture signaling my brain to relinquish control. But mostly importantly at that moment, I would surrender the fear, knowing that it would need to happen daily. Will you join me? Let us surrender even when we do not understand. ■

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*Ingrid Weiss Slikkers, LCSW, LMSW, CCTP, assistant professor of Social Work; executive director of the International Center for Trauma Education and Care, Andrews University School of Social Work.*



# Rules of Engagement

When we are in relationships with people, we have expectations. Inevitably, those people will let us down and not say or do the things we want and expect them to do. Many times, these expectations are “unwritten rules” in a relationship.

For example, who takes the trash out? Who mows the lawn? Who does the dishes? Who calls the credit card company when some random charge shows up on the statement? Many couples have not talked about who will necessarily do these things, and yet it's understood who is responsible for certain tasks in relationships.

We have all been there. Someone with whom we are in a relationship has not done something that was expected (expressed or implied) and now we are upset. Many times we respond with, “You never. . .” or “You always. . .” or, worse yet, “If you loved me, you would. . .” These phrases are destructive to relationships. Using these, and other similar phrases, will cause your partner to become defensive and likely cause an argument.

One reason these phrases are not recommended is because of the word “you.” When you have a complaint to share, using “you” automatically puts the other person in a defensive position. Holding in your displeasure also is not healthy. You should express your displeasure but it would be helpful to do it in a way your partner can hear you and respond without becoming defensive.

One way to accomplish this is by using the phrase, “I am confused.” Using that phrase eliminates the need to use the word “you.” For example, if you prefer gas to be put in your car when it reaches a quarter-tank, and no lower, and your partner drove your car and now the gas light is on, a good way to express your displeasure would be, “I am confused. The gas light is on in the car.

I prefer putting gas in when it reaches a quarter-tank.” Notice, while there is no “you” in those three sentences, yet the displeasure is still expressed. This allows your partner to explain their choice to not put gas in without having to become defensive. Maybe they forgot, maybe they didn't have their wallet, maybe they were late and didn't have time. It's a much better discussion than “You are so disrespectful! Every time you drive my car you return it on empty! You do this on purpose just to make me mad!” Notice the difference? A good companion phrase to use with “I'm confused” is “Help me understand.”

Expressing yourself in a relationship is important, but it is also important not to do things on purpose which you know will make the situation worse. Peaceful communication will lead to more sharing and better understanding of yourself and your partner. ■

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*It is important to note that this article is not intended to take the place of medical advice or to diminish the effects of mental or personality disorders.*

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*Dr. Brad Hinman, LPC, LMFT, AASECT certified sex therapist; director, Hinman Counseling Services; assistant professor, Andrews University*

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▲ Brad Hinman



# The Story Does Not End There

He is mostly known for his vehement opposition to the decision of the church to choose the name “Seventh-day Adventists” rather than “Church of God” and to adopt a legal form of organization.



▲ Denis Kaiser

The way historians have written about him seems to suggest that this was the end of Thomas J. Butler’s (1828–1908) story, yet the remainder of his story is a wonderful illustration of God’s abundant grace and amazing patience.

Interestingly, Ellen White showed understanding for Thomas’ hard feelings. She noted that he had generally only represented Adventists from Ohio, especially from the Gilboa church. Unaware that he had trusted some people who had presented matters to him in an exaggerated manner, he was soon left alone and blamed by the church as if he acted independently. Further, he could not comprehend why many of those who had initially supported the *scriptural* name “Church of God,” which included even James White, switched so quickly to the *unscriptural* name “Seventh-day Adventists.”

He was naturally stubborn and when he was treated unjustly by church members and fellow ministers, he became bitter, withdrew from the church, and gave up the Sabbath. When Ellen White and her husband explained the background to him, he could finally understand why they had come to make that decision. She asked those who had injured him to confess their wrongs and to remove as far as possible the hindrances on their part. J.N. Loughborough and J.H. Waggoner followed suit and confessed their wrongs to him.

By May 1863, Thomas seemed to accept their confessions and returned to his ministerial work, yet soon his heart hardened again. He severed his connection with

the church for some eight years during which he did not keep the Sabbath, despite the fact that his wife and children did keep it. He attempted to live an honest life, yet he could not fathom why all his endeavors for success in temporal matters came to nothing as if some supernatural power thwarted all his attempts.

In early 1872, he finally acknowledged that he had been fighting God’s guidance and he resolved to return to the church. At that point, his hope in God returned and some measure of blessing. Not long after, he met George I. Butler (no relation), then president of the General Conference, who supported his desire to return to preaching. Until the turn of the century, the *Review and Herald* frequently printed reports about his work in Missouri, Kansas, Ohio and Texas. The obituaries of multiple church members referred to Thomas Butler as the minister who brought them to the Truth and into the church.

His story may comfort and encourage us that God does not give up on us, and that the struggles we may experience now do not have to be the end of the story but they may have the potential to draw us closer to Him. ■

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

SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST<sup>®</sup>  
CHURCH



# ¿Qué es la iglesia?

*Pero vosotros sois linaje escogido, real sacerdocio, nación santa, pueblo adquirido por Dios, para que anunciéis las virtudes de aquel que os llamó de las tinieblas a su luz admirable.*

(1Pedro 2:9)

En el año 1971 fui por primera vez a la Universidad Andrews para estudiar. Estaba recién bautizado en la Iglesia Adventista y mi deseo era estudiar en una institución adventista y prepararme para servir al Señor como médico. Al llegar encontré un ambiente totalmente diferente al que yo estaba acostumbrado en mi iglesia hispana en Bronx. Me llamó la atención el hecho de que la universidad tenía su propia iglesia, conocida como Pioneer Memorial Church. Tuve que acostumbrarme a la cantidad de personas que asistían—más de mil cada sábado—como también a su estilo de adoración. Todo era muy bueno e inspirador pero a la vez me hacía falta la adoración hispana de la iglesia donde me bauticé.

Durante los años que estudié en Andrews University noté que poco a poco llegaban más jóvenes hispanos. Es más, al regresar de pasar un año en Bolivia como estudiante misionero me sorprendió la cantidad de nuevos alumnos hispanos. Llegó a un punto que algunos jóvenes hispanos decidieron tener su propia reunión de Sociedad de Jóvenes los viernes de noche en un salón del *Campus Life Center*. Tuve el privilegio de estar relacionado con ese grupo de alumnos por dos años hasta mi graduación. Han pasado ya muchos años y me da mucha alegría saber que hay alumnos que estuvieron involucrados en esas reuniones de jóvenes hispanos que aun siguen fieles en la iglesia.

Hace poco tiempo se estableció en la Universidad Andrews un culto especial los sábados por la mañana llamado *Génesis Fellowship* dirigido por jóvenes latinos (español y portugués). Este culto está diseñado especialmente para jóvenes latinos que han crecido en este

país y que prefieren hablar en inglés. Los cantos son bilingües ya que asisten también jóvenes que no son latinos pero que gozan mucho de la cultura latina. No es una iglesia hispana tradicional; es más bien un servicio latino dirigido totalmente por estudiantes universitarios que prefieren su propio estilo de adoración.

Espero que este culto cumpla con su propósito de animar a los jóvenes en su crecimiento espiritual y que ellos puedan mantener ese ánimo después de graduarse. Mi deseo es que nuestras iglesias hispanas apoyen a los jóvenes graduados ofreciéndoles programas y servicios que estén adaptados a su cultura, conocida generalmente como *Hispanic American*. Es mi petición que las iglesias hispanas hagan todo lo posible para que la nueva generación juvenil forme una parte integral de la iglesia, ya que esta generación es también lo que Dios llama “nación santa, pueblo adquirido por Dios”. ■

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



▲ Carmelo Mercado

▼ Estudiantes en Andrews oran en el nuevo culto latino llamado Génesis Fellowship.





# From Crisis to Connection

SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY'S HEALTH

By Samuel Girven

**IN MICHIGAN, THE APPROXIMATELY 50-MEMBER BRIGHTON CHURCH** is reaching its community through cooking and health classes, while also leading people to the gospel message. Since its inception as a church plant, it has had a strong focus on health ministry in its outreach to the city's population of 7,500.

"[At the beginning,] the members prayed about possible ways to reach their community with the gospel and decided their emphasis would be community health education through plant-based cooking classes and wellness and natural remedies seminars," explained Staci Schefka, Health Ministries director of the Brighton Church.

Even before the church secured a building to hold events, they held classes in libraries, hotels and community centers. The church was able to promote the

events by setting up fair booths and going door-to-door. "More and more people began to attend our regular cooking and health classes and plant-based fellowship lunches on Sabbath. Prior to 2020, we had developed a health interest list of well over 150 names," Staci said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when many churches ceased doing community outreach, the church's health ministry continued to thrive. "Our church saw this as a perfect opportunity to reach people with our health message which was more relevant now than ever."

The ministry pivoted to the digital arena, holding its first online class in December 2020.

"We had a lot of fun personally coaching our guests during this interactive cooking experience and watching them enjoy the dishes they created with us," Staci said of the guests who cooked a plant-based holiday meal. Up to

◀ Staci Schefka, Brighton Church Health Ministries director, introduces attendees at an event.

Alexander Winkler





75 guests often attended the demonstrations, which became monthly events. Later, the ministry decided to alternate between cooking classes and “health connection meet-ups,” where presenters taught attendees learned about topics such as immune and emotional health.

The church continued to hold online events monthly until August 2021. “We did not lose momentum, and it made it easier to transition to in-person events once things began to open up more.”

The ministry’s first in-person event was a meet-and-greet event called “Dinner by the Garden.” “It was a combination of a cottage and herb garden tour (both of which are on our church property), a PowerPoint presentation shared by our pastor, Steve Scheffa, on the significance of gardens in the Bible, and a full dinner featuring local garden produce,” said Staci.

“We weren’t sure how many would come, but we had 46 in attendance, including 30 community guests, non-member family members, and friends!” She said the event encouraged the ministry to hold more events because it demonstrated that people were ready to reconnect. Since then, the church has held multiple successful in-person events, including plant-based cooking classes, hydrotherapy training, presentations on “the gut-brain connection,” and several other events.

In every class, the team has a brief devotional and specifically tells attendees that as a ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, they believe in biblical principles of health. Bible studies on the topic of health are regularly offered, as well as free literature and books such as *The Ministry of Healing* and *Steps to Christ*. Participants are invited to come to a “soup and study” Bible study group.

She says the response has been phenomenal. “We had 19 non-members attend at least one of these sessions. Several have continued in Bible studies and even come to church.” Because the ministry participated in summer festivals, “We signed up many for our classes and had great interactions with community civic leaders. Several also signed up for Bible studies.” In addition, at least one of these interests has expressed a desire to be baptized.

“Health ministries,” she noted, “is just the avenue that God has given us—the right arm of the

gospel—that will gain people’s trust and open the door for sharing further truth with them.”

*You can find out more information about New Beginnings Health and the Brighton Church on Facebook, or by emailing [nbhealthteam@gmail.com](mailto:nbhealthteam@gmail.com). ■*

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*Samuel Girven, 15, is a student at Northview Adventist School and ASPIRE Academy.*



Courtesy Brighton Church



Courtesy Brighton Church



Alexander Winkler



# Giving Thanks for Every Breath

By Beverly Matiko

**WHILE AT WORK ON A JOB SITE ON LAKE MICHIGAN IN EARLY 2021, ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR DON STARLIN KNEW HE WAS IN TROUBLE.** “I was carrying tools and ladders from the main house on the bluff down 88 steps to the lake house on the beach,” Don recalls. “I noticed I was short of breath. I said to myself, ‘This is not good. I need to do more cardio and start walking again.’”

Four months later, upon awakening one morning, the realization hit: “These are the symptoms my dad had.” After numerous medical tests and consultations with specialists, Don’s suspicions were confirmed. He had idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF)—the disease that had taken the life of his father and his uncle. Don knew there was no cure. A bilateral lung transplant was his only hope.

Don was hospitalized in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Medical students and residents who came to observe and learn about IPF listened to Don’s lungs through their stethoscopes. “His lungs sound like Velcro,” Don heard repeatedly.

Don was intubated and placed on a ventilator. With carbon dioxide levels rising, he was placed on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). A machine removed the CO<sub>2</sub> from his blood, added oxygen, and returned the blood to his body—in short, keeping Don alive.

Don remembers, “With 5/8” tubes coming out of my neck and going into the machine, being plugged into this thing for two weeks, I had a lot of time to think.” One sustaining thought was knowing that so many people around the world were praying for him.

Don also had time to reflect on his upbringing and how it had shaped him. He grew up in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and attended the Andrews University school system from kindergarten through college. He remembers as a youngster working with his father on construction sites. Spotting ten-year-old Don there one day, a builder who was also a Pioneer Memorial Church deacon remarked to Don’s father, “We need to

give the young people responsibility in the church.” With the builder’s help, Don soon found himself serving as a church deacon, his first church office.

Don’s parents co-directed Pathfinders, and Don enjoyed years of activities in that organization. When Don was a young teenager, a former roommate of his father invited the Starlins to come to Haiti on a Maranatha project. This missionary explained that electricians were needed to help with the expansion of the Adventist hospital there. Don’s entire family spent several weeks in Haiti, a time Don describes as “a real eye-opener.” Throughout all of these experiences, a passion for mission was born.

Don met his future wife, Trudi, at the 1989 Andrews University graduation weekend. Trudi, a Karen from Burma (a/k/a Myanmar), had an architecture degree. While on a mission trip herself, Trudi had acted as the project manager on the construction site. With shared interests in missions, Trudi’s architecture experience and Don’s background in electrical contracting, these two soon discovered they had even more in common.

After they married, Don helped found and became president of Adventist World Aviation. Trudi worked for Adventist Frontier Missions. About fifteen years ago, they learned about the plight of many refugees from the region surrounding the Burma–Thailand border. A church member in Rockford, Illinois, informed Trudi of refugees in his area who needed assistance from someone who could speak their language.

Trudi answered that call. Although she hadn’t actively used her native language for years, employing the use of Karen, Burmese and English languages, she was able to help. After Trudi’s first contact with the refugees by telephone, Don flew them over to Belvedere (Illinois) to meet the refugees. Don and Trudi learned of similar groups throughout the United States and began helping them as well, including facilitating some of the young people to come to Andrews University to study. The Starlins became surrogate parents for these students, welcoming them into their home, and supporting them





Victor Rayno

in every way that they could, all the while remembering the pleas of the students' parents, "Watch over our kids."

Now in 2021, being kept alive by modern medical technology, Don was the one in dire need of watchful care. From their ever-expanding work with refugees, Don and Trudi had a global network praying for them. "We had text messages, video and phone calls from not only across North America, but also Australia, Burma, Thailand and Norway," Don acknowledges. "All the local churches in the Berrien Springs area were praying, too. Literally thousands were praying for me."

One prayer stands out in Don's mind. Even before his hospitalization, the Karen believers called a special Zoom meeting when they discovered the seriousness of Don's condition. Don gave a devotional on the power of prayer at this meeting, drawing from the experiences of Peter and Paul as recorded in the New Testament. Many prayers were offered.

One participant was a Karen pastor from Des Moines, Iowa, whom Don was assisting with his seminary studies. "Lord Jesus," the pastor prayed, "we're coming to You this evening because we have a real problem that only You can solve. We're coming to You and through You to the Father. It concerns our brother, Don." Don remembers the pastor using the Karen word *thara*, meaning "teacher" or "pastor." The prayer continued, "Two hundred years ago You sent Adoniram Judson and, as foretold in our ancient prophecies, he brought back the Book of golden pages to our people. One hundred years ago, You sent Eric B. Hare to our people with the Advent message. One hundred years later, you sent Thara Don to us, and he brought us the Gospel of Grace. He hasn't finished the work You gave him. We know that he has more to share! And so, you can't take him now." Don

remembers sobs punctuating the pastor's prayer which ended with this plea: "You've got to call a meeting. Go into Your Father, call the Holy Spirit, shut the door, and work this thing out. Because Thara Don is not done with what You gave him to do."

Later, lying in the intensive care unit, Don often mentally replayed that prayer. Petitions on Don's behalf continued. To these were added prayers of thanksgiving as Don became one of the fortunate ones on the transplant list chosen to receive new lungs. The surgery lasted over twelve hours. The surgeon later told Don, "Those lungs are a perfect fit. It's like they were made for you." Don thought to himself, "Wow, I think they were." While the surgeon couldn't share specific details with Don about the donor, he described the lungs as "pristine," and said they had come from someone younger than Don's 57 years. Prayers and more prayers were being answered.

As Don continues to adjust to life as a transplant recipient, he and Trudi and their mighty band of prayer partners continue to pray daily. They pray for many things, including guidance, continued health and strength, and the needs of others. They also express thanksgiving for that initial breath of life that God breathed into His creation, and for every breath following. "This experience has taught me many things," Don says. "We may not always see it in our little sphere of activity and influence. But on a grand scale, God's purposes will be accomplished. They will happen in His time, and in His way. We can trust completely in that." ■

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*Beverly Matiko, PhD, lives in Niles, Mich., and was associate professor of English and Communication and member of the Honors faculty at Andrews University from 1992 to 2021.*

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Watch a video interview with the Starlins at <https://www.nadadventist.org/ajdonandtrudistarlin>.



# Food, Faith and Family

TWO MASTER CHEFS  
DISH OUT THEIR SAVORY  
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS



Samuel Given





# MIGUEL LARCHER

**T**errified and excited, Chef Miguel Larcher was just 12 years old when he cooked his first meal—a chicken dish. Much to his surprise and delight, the meal turned out well. He was excited and, at that moment, he knew he wanted to be a chef. He had no way of knowing that, decades later, his food would take him far from his home island of Martinique and become the tool he used to bring people to Christ.

Larcher, now 53, travels the world cooking, teaching and educating others about the Seventh-day Adventist health message. He has conducted countless cooking classes all over the United States and abroad, including in countries like South Africa and Botswana.

“Witnessing to people is my passion and my love,” says Larcher. “Food is just a means to that end. When I cook, I say, ‘Lord, let them see Christ.’ Because if they see me, they’ll be lost.”

In 2020, Larcher began a farmer’s market ministry in Grayling, Michigan, a small town with a population of only 1,969 people. It was an instant success.

He focused on attracting people by preparing a variety of

ethnic foods and baked breads without heavy use of sugar, oil or refined ingredients. The result? His customers felt cared for and returned for more. He later opened Nature’s Nest, a health food store at Camp Au Sable to meet the demand resulting from the farmer’s market ministry.

“When my customers come, they know they can trust me because I demonstrate care for their health,” explains Larcher. “They know I see them as valuable human beings. When the food is delicious and responds to their physical and health needs, they love every bite and trust that I want the best for them.”

For Larcher, cooking is so much more than just making a dish. It’s how he draws people in.

“I try to learn every single person’s name. I talk with them, and they talk with me. They share their problems and I pray with them on the spot,” says Larcher. “They often cry. It’s moving and humbling. This is how God uses me to reach souls. It’s fulfilling for me—and them.”

Larcher is not surprised at this power of demonstrating care for people through food. In fact, it’s how he won his wife’s heart.

“When I met my wife and while we were still friends, I prepared

*moussaka* for her. It’s an eggplant-based dish,” he explains. “It spoke to her heart because I took the time to prepare something for her. Food speaks many languages, especially love.”

When he’s not managing Nature’s Nest, you can find Larcher spending time with his wife, Nadine, and their two children, Emmanuel and Hadassah.

“The best thing is sitting around the dinner table with your family. I get to hear my kids say, ‘Mmmm’ as they eat and ‘Daddy, we love you so much!’ It’s the food and fellowship that bring us closer together. We share a meal, we talk, and we laugh. That’s the power of delicious, intentionally prepared food. My kids know I care about their health, too.”

Larcher believes that food in ministry cannot be neglected—food is a powerful tool. “Both Jesus and Jacob used food to accomplish something,” acknowledges Larcher. “Food is a necessity for every human being, so we need to use it to continually win souls for Christ.” ■

*Danni Thaw is a freelance writer.*



▲ Miguel Larcher

“  
LIKE CHRIST  
WHO FED THE  
MULTITUDE WHILE  
PREACHING THE  
GOSPEL, FOOD  
IS MY TOOL  
TO WIN SOULS  
FOR CHRIST’S  
KINGDOM.  
”



# "THIS MEAL IS VERY SPECIAL TO ME AS IT IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE CHILDHOOD COMFORT FOODS."

"I remember every Sunday after church (I used to be Catholic until conversion to Adventism at age 17), we would sit down together as a family—my mother, father and siblings—and partake of this delicious meal. We would have yams and purple sweet potatoes, and kidney beans and dumplings. We all took part in making the food.

"We also have a cake—the Caribbean cake. There are four layers: the crust, custard sauce, coconut gems, and then the cake batter."

*Recipes compiled by freelance writer Samuel Given*

## RECIPES

### KIDNEY BEANS AND DUMPLINGS

- 2 c. dry red kidney beans
- 10 c. water
- 3 cloves, whole
- 1 bay leaf

#### Directions

1. Soak beans overnight.
2. Drain, then add the 10 cups of water, clove and bay leaf.
3. Cook on low-medium heat for 1–2 hrs. or until tender.

- ½ c. onion, diced
- 1 stalk celery, minced
- ½ bell pepper, diced
- ½ c. carrot, diced
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. yeast flakes
- 2 tsp. chicken-style seasoning (vegan)
- 1 tsp. fresh sage
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 Tbsp. fresh thyme
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 scotch bonnet pepper, whole

- 2-½ c. unbleached white flour
- 200 ml. water
- ¾ tsp. salt

#### Directions

1. In a bowl, add flour and salt then make a well in its center and pour in the water.
2. Knead your dough until it is smooth and elastic, but not sticky or tacky.
3. Take out small pieces of dough and roll it round between the palms of your hands; place balls into the beans.
4. In a skillet, sauté onion, garlic, celery and carrots in olive oil until tender.
5. Add seasonings.
6. Cook for 2 more mins., then add it to the kidney beans and the dumplings.
7. Finally, add the whole scotch bonnet pepper for fragrance and a slight hint of heat.
8. Cover and cook 10–20 more mins.

### YAMS

- 2–3 lbs., white or yellow Caribbean yam, peeled and cut into medium-sized pieces
- 2 ripe plantains, peeled and cut in half
- 1 tsp. salt (optional)
- water for boiling

#### Directions

1. Bring the water to a boil.
2. Add the yam pieces and cook for 30 mins. on medium-high heat.
3. Remove the yams from the boiling water.
4. Serve hot with beans.

*Bon appetite!*















Samuel Given

FOR LARCHER,  
COOKING IS  
SO MUCH MORE  
THAN JUST  
MAKING A  
DISH. IT'S HOW  
HE DRAWS  
PEOPLE IN.

## CARIBBEAN CAKE

*"Heathen Love" or Amore Cache*

- 2½ c. flour
- ¾ c. Smart Balance butter
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. sugar

### To form crust

1. Put flour and butter into a bowl. Both should be cold.
2. Put in ½ c. of water to make sandy texture.
3. Then put in ½ c. of *ice-cold* water. Don't overmix, just enough to bring together.
4. Refrigerate for about 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350°.

- 3 tsp. unbleached white flour
- 3 tsp. butter
- ¼-½ c. sugar
- Dash of fresh cinnamon and nutmeg
- 1-1½ c. plant-based milk

### In meantime, prepare the pastry cream.

1. Melt butter in saucepan
2. Add flour.
3. Add sugar.
4. Mix well.
5. Make sure flour mixture is well-cooked.
6. Add 1/4 c. sugar.
7. Add pinch of salt, nutmeg and cinnamon.
8. Pour cold milk and whisk while pouring. Mixture should have a thick consistency. If too thick, add milk.
9. Check for flavor. If not sweet enough, add more sugar.

10. Cook for 8-10 mins..
11. Put in a bowl and refrigerate.

### Jam

- 4 c. shredded coconut macaroon
- 1 c. sugar
- ¼ c. water
- 1 tsp. cinnamon and nutmeg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. lime zest (sub lemon)

1. Mix water and sugar together.
2. Bring to a simmer for 8 mins., stirring from time to time.
3. Add coconut and all spices.
4. Stir well and put on low flame for 1 hour.

### Cake Batter

- 2 c. soy milk
- ¾ c. vegan butter
- ½ c. canola oil
- 3 c. unbleached flour
- 2 c. brown sugar
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 lime zest
- 2-½ Tbsp. baking powder

1. Blend butter, oil and milk together.
2. Mix all dry ingredients.
3. Incorporate other ingredients and mix—do not overmix.

### Final Directions

1. Roll pie crust in 10" cake pan.
2. Add layer of pastry cream.
3. Then add layer of coconut jam mixture.
4. Add cake batter. Pan should not be filled more than 3/4 full.
5. Bake at 350° for 40 mins.







# LINDA BRINEGAR



▲ Linda Brinegar

“  
GOD HAS A  
TREMENDOUS  
MINISTRY FOR  
ANYONE THAT  
WANTS TO  
REACH PEOPLE  
THROUGH FOOD.  
”

**L**ong afternoons picking fresh vegetables and fruit from the garden, picnics on hot summer days, fresh yellow watermelons—passion for food runs through the generations of Chef Linda Brinegar's family.

“I learned a lot about cooking at the apron strings of my mother and two fantastic grandmothers,” recalls Brinegar. “Alongside family, I learned to work the garden and take what God provided—that beautiful bounty—and turn it into food for the table and medicine for the body. I fell in love with the concept.” Since then, she's gained experience working at summer camps, women's retreats, churches, conference events and weddings alike, serving vegan and plant-based foods that feed both soul and body.

As the head chef at Andrews University, Brinegar focuses on having a positive impact on the community of young people she serves. “This is a crucial age,” explains Brinegar. “I want to empower the students to make

food choices that improve them spiritually, physically and mentally.” In fact, several years ago Brinegar started From Our House to Yours, a program to bring familiar, home-cooked meals to students living far away from the comfort of their homes. Families send in a favorite recipe, then Brinegar and her team recreate it for that student.

For Brinegar, food not only connects you to family, but serves as medicine for a sick, suffering and dying world.

“God has a tremendous ministry for anyone that wants to reach people through food. If we care about a person's illness and help them heal with the foods we make, we open a door to share the gospel. I've had the opportunity and blessing to counsel people on how to use food to heal. I thank God for guiding me in those moments.” In a former role, Brinegar worked at a wellness center and recalls watching the transformation people experienced after eating food made from scratch with high-quality, natural ingredients.

“I met guests who could hardly walk at first. Then, within three weeks, they were ruddy and mobile. It is so wonderful to watch! I believe so strongly that God has enabled us to harness the healing power of food to reach people and alleviate their suffering. There's something spiritual there. It's both a commission and a blessing.”

Now as a grandmother herself, one of Brinegar's greatest joys is cooking alongside her 15-year-old grandson, Paul, and passing on the love of food. Together, they enjoy making breakfast spreads with fresh orange juice, homemade potatoes with fresh herbs, hot drinks and teas, muffins, pastries, and even biscotti. Always from scratch.

It's amazing because he's so engaged that the phone goes away,” says Brinegar. “Food has become our point of connection as it was for me and my grandmothers. Through food, we've built a bond. That's the power of food.” ■

Danni Thaw, freelance writer

Photography by Julia Viniczay











# “THANKSGIVING DINNER AT THE BRINEGAR HOME HAPPENS AT NIGHT, UNDER CANDLELIGHT—AND THERE’S ALWAYS A SET MENU.”

“There’d be a rebellion if we switched things up,” laughs Brinegar.

On the family menu, you’ll find a plant-based spread with grandma’s stuffing, mashed potatoes, grandma’s gravy, brussels sprouts (long-stem, of course!), and a mandatory pumpkin pie. For her daughter, Angela, who works as the manager of the Gazebo at Andrews, she’ll also prepare a homemade apple or lemon meringue pie.

Service is another key holiday tradition. “We always take time to serve the community,” she adds. “We often go to the local high school and pack stockings for soldiers. We include personalized notes, snacks and fun trinkets. It’s part of our tradition.”

## RECIPES

### VEGAN SPECIAL K LOAF

- 2 Tbsp. oil (olive or your choice)
- Chopped onion
- $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. tofu (firm or soft)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c. walnuts/pecans, chopped fine
- 12 c. Rice Krispies cereal
- 2 Tbsp. chicken-style seasoning
- 5 Tbsp. flour
- 1 Tbsp. aluminum-free baking powder
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. Italian seasoning
- 5 Tbsp. Veganaise
- 3 Tbsp. yeast flakes
- 3 Tbsp. unsweetened soy milk
- 3 tsp. ground flaxseed
- 1 Tbsp. salt

#### Directions

1. Sauté onion in oil until tender.
2. Place tofu in mixer bowl and mix with paddle for 30 secs.
3. Combine all ingredients with tofu in bowl. Mix lightly for 1 minute.
4. Place three qts. of mixture in each greased 9x13 pan.

5. Cover with two sheets of foil.
  6. Bake covered for 30–40 mins. at 300°, then 10–15 mins. uncovered until set and golden brown.
- Serves 12.

### GRANDMA’S KICKIN’ MOLASSES COOKIES

- 1 c. packed brown sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$  c. canola oil
- $\frac{1}{4}$  c. molasses
- 3 Tbsp. Ener-G egg replacer
- $2\frac{1}{4}$  c. unbleached all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. ground cloves
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. salt
- 3 Tbsp. sugar

#### Directions

1. Heat oven to 325°.
2. Mix brown sugar, oil, molasses and egg substitute in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium. You also can mix with a spoon, but it’s better when it’s really whipped up.
3. Stir in the rest of the ingredients except the vegan sugar.

4. Make tablespoon-sized balls of dough and roll in the sugar.
5. Place cookies 1–2” apart on ungreased sheet.
6. Bake for 13–16 mins. or until set (appears dry).
7. Let cool for 1–2 mins., then place on wire rack, or a plate is fine as well.

### ALMA’S TRADITIONAL MEXICAN WEDDING COOKIES

- 1 c. butter, softened
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c. powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- $2\frac{1}{4}$  c. sifted flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$  c. chopped walnuts or pecans
- powdered sugar (for rolling baked cookies in)

#### Directions

1. Cream together butter and powdered sugar until light and fluffy.
2. Stir in vanilla.
3. Whisk together flour and salt; add gradually to butter mixture.

4. Stir in chopped nuts.
5. Chill dough if it seems too soft to handle.
6. Form dough into 1-1/4” balls, then place onto parchment-lined or ungreased baking sheets.
7. Bake at 400° for 10–12 mins. or just until the cookies start to turn light golden brown.
8. Remove from oven and allow to cool slightly.
9. Remove cookies from baking sheets while cookies are still warm (but NOT hot), then roll, a few at a time, in powdered sugar until evenly coated.
10. Cool cookies completely on wire racks.
11. Cookies may be (optionally) rolled in powdered sugar a second time, once cooled to room temperature.

**Note:** Forming dough into 1” balls will increase yield to 48 cookies.



# YOUR FAVORITE Family Recipes

SOME OF THE BEST HOLIDAY RECIPES  
HAVE LONG FAMILY TRADITIONS.

*When we asked you to send us your favorite Thanksgiving and Christmas recipes, you graciously obliged. From entrees to dessert to drinks, you showed us there's so much to enjoy beyond the traditional holiday staples. If you try any of these recipes, we definitely want to hear from you! Share your photos and don't forget to tag us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok or Twitter @lakeunionherald. —Editor*



**T**his recipe takes me back to my childhood. My mom was the expert in preparing this delicacy and I was always in the kitchen trying to help. Our extended family always hoped we would arrive with this dessert at family gatherings. Now that I'm a professional chef, I have continued the tradition of preparing this dish for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Eve and church events. — *Carlos Melendez*

## COCONUT CUSTARD OR COCONUT PUDDING\*

(I call it *Tembleque*, which means "wiggly" in Spanish.)

\*Fresh, ripe coconuts are traditionally used to make the coconut milk used in the recipe for this dessert, but there aren't many palm trees here in Wisconsin, so canned coconut milk does the job!

- 2 (3.5 ounce) cans coconut milk
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 c. water
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 5 whole cloves
- 1 sm. piece of fresh ginger (1 or 2 oz.)
- ¾ c. corn starch
- pinch of salt
- ground cinnamon for garnish

### Directions

1. Combine water, cinnamon sticks, cloves and fresh ginger in a medium saucepan. Boil on medium heat for 5 mins., then let it cool.
2. Strain all the spices and stir rest of ingredients in the saucepan.
3. Cook on medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture begins to thicken.
4. Continue cooking, stirring vigorously until mixture boils.
5. Let boil for about 30 secs., stirring constantly.
6. Remove from heat.
7. Pour mixture into small baking dishes or one large mold.
8. Let cool at room temperature for 1 hour.
9. Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hrs. or overnight until set.
10. Sprinkle ground cinnamon before serving for garnish.



▲ Carlos with wife, Karen Avilés, and their two daughters, Karla and Kiara

“ THIS RECIPE TAKES ME BACK TO MY CHILDHOOD. ”



**M**any years ago, for our family holidays, we had turkey and dressing and all the trimmings with fall decor to add festivity. We always had something to be thankful for through the years. As time passed our children married, and they had children of their own. The table got bigger but cottage cheese loaf and all of the trimmings became a favorite. Olives on fingers brought giggles. Hot wassil was a must, filling the kitchen with a fall fragrance. God had continued to bless and we were thankful. Now, it is my husband and myself again. We continue to be ever grateful for life, our family and the unconditional love and grace of God. One recipe that has remained throughout the years is “Sky in the Pie.” — *Fran McMullen*

### SKY IN THE PIE

- ½ c. sugar
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- ½ tsp. vanilla
- 1 egg

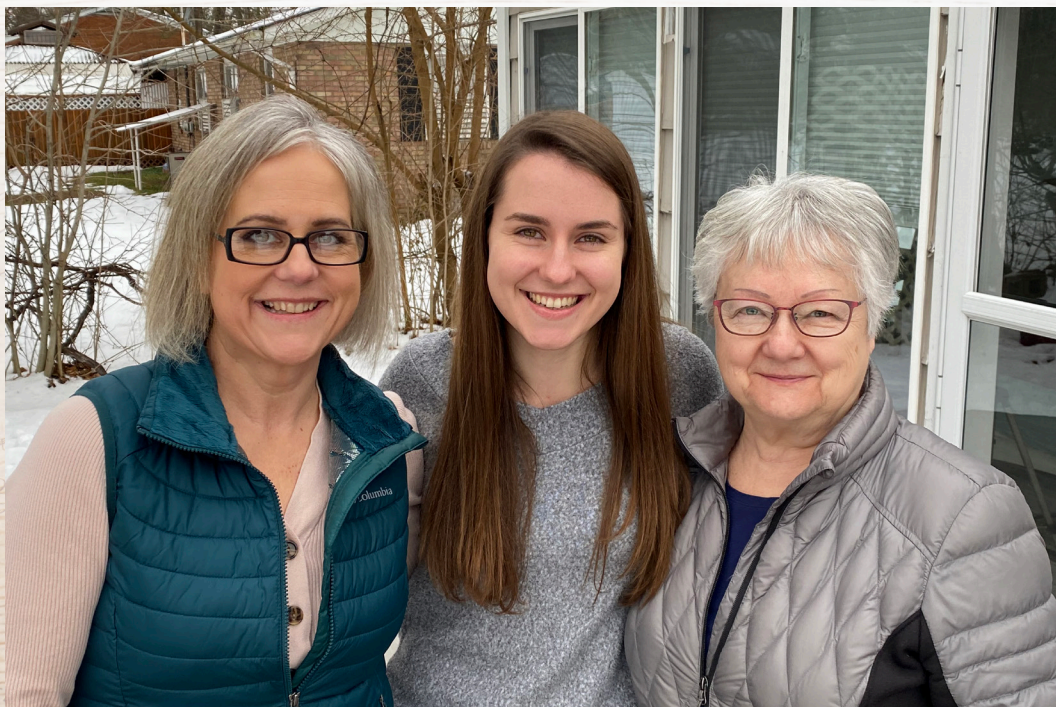
Mix well and spread on unbaked shell.

### Combine:

- ¼ c. pumpkin from can
- 2 eggs
- 1 c. evaporated milk
- ½ c. sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ¼ tsp. ginger
- ¼ tsp. nutmeg
- dash of salt

Place pumpkin mixture very carefully on top of cream cheese mixture so it doesn't make holes/dips in it.

Bake at 350 for 65–70 mins. or until knife comes out clean from pumpkin section.



▲ Fran with daughter, Lori Manley (left), and granddaughter, Cheyenne Hardy (center)

“ GOD HAD CONTINUED TO BLESS AND WE WERE THANKFUL. ”



**K**oko samoa is a traditional Samoan drink consumed during family get-togethers. Our family tradition during the holidays is baking goodies and delivering them to our local Polynesian community. One of the treats we make is *koko samoa* brownies. It's a Samoan twist on an American dessert. This is our adaptation of *koko samoa* and our way of infusing island flavors into our baked goods. *Koko samoa* is not available in stores and is considered a rarity which is why we treasure our *koko samoa* supply sent from home. My children look forward to our baking tradition every year as we take the time to appreciate our Samoan heritage. — Hannacho Lei-Sam

## KOKO SAMOA

Boil 8 c. of water  
Add ½ to 1 c. koko  
Sugar to taste  
Stir until everything is melted

## KOKO SAMOA BROWNIES

1 c. all-purpose flour  
¼ tsp. baking soda  
¼ tsp. salt  
¾ c. granulated sugar  
½ c. (1 stick) butter  
2 Tbsp. water  
8 oz. semi-sweet baking chocolate  
(broken into pieces)  
2 large eggs  
2 tsp. vanilla extract  
1 c. ground or grated Koko Samoa

## Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Combine flour, baking soda and salt in small bowl.
3. Microwave sugar, butter and water in a large, microwave-safe bowl on high for 3 mins. or until mixture boils, stirring once.
4. Add broken baking bars; stir until melted.
5. Add eggs, one at a time, stirring after each addition until well blended.
6. Stir in vanilla extract.
7. Add flour mixture; stir well.
8. Stir in ground Koko Samoa.
9. Pour into greased mini-muffin pan (use a tablespoon to scoop).
10. Bake for 16–20 mins. or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out still slightly sticky.
11. Cool in pan on wire rack.
12. Dust with powdered sugar (optional)



► Hannacho with husband, Frank, and children, Mchaella, Pele, Mirabelle and Peniamina

“MY CHILDREN LOOK FORWARD TO OUR BAKING TRADITION EVERY YEAR AS WE TAKE THE TIME TO APPRECIATE OUR SAMOAN HERITAGE.”



“THERE WAS ALWAYS FAMILY WORSHIP TO THANK GOD FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS OF FAMILY AND FOOD AND THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR.”

Hyde family holidays were a blessed and joyful time. My parents, Helen and Wayne, always loved having their family home for the holidays. My mother always made lots of food, including her “turkey and stuffing,” mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, homemade pumpkin pie and cranberry sauce, plus much more. We always had family worship to thank God for all the blessings of family and food and the birth of our Savior. Holiday time included plenty of music at home and at church. We would often provide the special music for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Sabbath at the Jackson (Michigan) Church.

This is the recipe my mother served at holiday meals. (She passed away last year at age 97.) It's called Chik'n with Dressing but we always called it Turkey and Stuffing.

—Elwyn Hyde

▼ Doug, Jeanette, Carisa Teller, Helen Hyde, Laurel Teller, Joy and Elwyn Hyde

### CHIK'N WITH DRESSING

- 3 Tbsp. oil
- $\frac{3}{4}$  c. chopped onion
- $\frac{3}{4}$  c. chopped celery
- 1 (12-oz.) pkg. cubed stuffing
- 2 cans FriChik, sliced long ways, drained. Preserve the gravy from the cans.
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. sage
- 2 Tbsp. minced parsley
- 2 eggs, scrambled (optional)

#### Directions

1. Sauté onions and celery in oil.
2. Add sautéed vegetables to the stuffing.
3. Then add FriChik gravy, sage and eggs.
4. Place stuffing mixture in a 9x13 casserole dish.
5. Arrange sliced FriChik amongst the stuffing mixture.
6. Bake for 35 mins. in 350° preheated oven.





# David Faehner Retires from Andrews University



▲ David Faehner at his retirement celebration

David Faehner came to Andrews University in July 1985 as vice president for University Advancement. On Nov. 1, 2022, he is retiring after nearly four decades in the role.

During Faehner's leadership in University Advancement, approximately \$200 million was raised for Andrews, including pledges and estate plans. The University's contributed endowment total grew from \$2.1 million to \$27.2 million, with an accrued growth of over \$70 million and with the commensurate increase of endowments from 92 to 460. He also has participated in more than 800 Andrews alumni gatherings around the world.

In his work, Faehner prioritized students and dedicated much of his time to building projects that would benefit them. These included Chan Shun Hall, Harrigan Hall, the Seminary addition, the Howard

Performing Arts Center, the remodeling of the cafeteria, the Dairy, the new Entrance, Buller Hall, the remodeling of Nethery Hall, Damazo Hall and the Andreassen Center for Wellness. His team also was instrumental in coordinating the donation for innovation on campus.

Faehner found unique ways to engage with students, too. At each University Convocation, he presented "The Top 10 Reasons Students Choose Andrews University." The Top 10 was always developed with student leaders' input and generated positive responses from the student body. At this year's Convocation, he was presented a replica of the J.N. Andrews sculpture in recognition of his years of service.

Faehner and his wife, Frances, who began work at Andrews as dean of women for Lamson Hall and is now vice president for

Campus & Student Life, have opened their home to over 10,000 students through the years. These students have included new international students, first-year students and various student leader groups.

Faehner is also known for starting the popular Almost Anything Goes (AAG), which has brought more than 30,000 students to Johnson Gymnasium for friendly games of class competition.

During this September's Almost Anything Goes, he was honored with the surprise renaming of AAG to "The David Faehner Almost Anything Goes." The classes of 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 celebrated his legacy with a video tribute, and alumni still in the local Berrien Springs area greeted him during a special procession.

On Wednesday, Sept. 21, the Andrews campus community was invited to a retirement celebration for Faehner in the Howard Performing Arts Center lobby. The program included a welcome by Donald Bedney, who succeeded him as vice president for University Advancement in August; tributes by Ronald Knott, Danielle Pilgrim, Charles Randall, president emeritus Niels-Erik Andreassen and president Andrea Luxton; musical selections by Laura Whidden-Wetterlin as well as Charles and Julie Reid accompanied by Rose Eide-Altman; and a prayer of dedication by Dwight Nelson. Faehner shared his own reflections, and his family gifted him a painting by Dan Tilstra—a collage with imagery representing important locations and moments throughout his life.

"It's been a great privilege to work at Andrews University," says Faehner. "I have grown personally and spiritually during my time here, and I pray for God's continued blessings on this institution." ■

Gillian Panigot, Communication manager & FOCUS editor, University Communication



# Hinsdale Micropantry Fills Big Need



▲ Mark Fialkowski, who is a painter at Hinsdale, viewed his time constructing the micropantry as a way of serving God. In 1995, he fell off a ladder and broke his back. He was worried he would never walk again. “But when the doctors told me I would be fine, I realized that God was looking out for me,” he said, and then dedicated himself to looking out for others.

In the case of the new micropantry near AdventHealth Hinsdale, one good idea led to another.

For the past three years, AdventHealth hospitals in Hinsdale and La Grange have partnered with the Hinsdale Church and a local food bank to run the twice-monthly Rx Mobile Pantry.

“Clinicians identify patients in the system who live at the intersection of food insecurity and chronic disease,” said Janet Kennedy, program manager, Clinical Mission Integration. Patients are referred to the Rx Mobile Pantry which distributes food at the local church. But she became concerned about people who needed food when the mobile pantry was not operating and decided a micropantry might fill the gap.

A micropantry is a freestanding box that holds nonperishable food and is open all the time to people who need food as well as

those who want to restock it. A sign on the pantry says, “Take What You Need. Leave What You Can.” Kennedy brought the idea to Joe McGovern, facilities manager at AdventHealth Hinsdale. During a facilities meeting, he suggested building one.

“When I heard about it, I decided I was going to do it,” said Mark Fialkowski, who is a painter at Hinsdale.

He acquired a plan from AdventHealth GlenOaks and received some input from Harlo Chapman, a colleague at Hinsdale. But he was determined to build every part of the pantry himself. Fialkowski saw it as a way to live out the system’s mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ and pay forward his good fortune after he was seriously injured in an accident.

The micropantry was put up in the yard of the Hinsdale Church in April 2022, which is next door to the hospital. Church



▲ Hinsdale Community Preschool students gathered donations for the micropantry, demonstrating their commitment to the community.

members and local residents keep the micropantry stocked, and food left over from the Rx Mobile Pantry events also often finds its way in.

But the most moving contributions come from those in need who recognize that others may be in greater need.

“One of the really beautiful things is that the people who come to the mobile pantry often bring food they have taken from that pantry and donate it to the micropantry,” Kennedy said. “They will say, ‘I took this, but I think there might be people who need it more than I do.’”

“It is a very beautiful piece of our mission living that we could never have imagined,” she said. ■

*Julie Busch is assistant vice president of Marketing & Communications for the Great Lakes Region of AdventHealth*





## 2,000+ Pathfinders gather for “Fearless” camporee

Photos by Andrzej Mucka





Photos by Andrzej Mucka

On Sept. 15-17, more than 2,000 Pathfinders gathered at the Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds in Berrien Springs, Mich., for the Lake Union Pathfinder Camporee. Postponed in 2021, the camporee has been over six years in the making.

The gathering is the largest Pathfinder event in the Lake Union and one of the largest camporees in the North American Division (NAD). Held every five years since 1996 (and every four years before that), the camporee is eagerly anticipated by Pathfinders around the Great Lakes region.

"It feels amazing to be here. They seem to be having a blast," said Terry Trecartin, Pathfinder director at Michigan's Harbor of Hope Church, one of the 135 clubs represented at the camporee.

That sentiment was echoed by Trey Slikkers, a Pathfinder from the Holland Huskies club. "It's been awesome," he said. "I've gotten to meet a lot of new people and the evening programs have been great. I really liked the speakers."

Armando Miranda, NAD associate Youth director, and Andres Peralta, General Conference associate Youth director, were the featured speakers throughout the camporee. Miranda and Peralta presented morning and evening messages based on the "Fearless" theme.

During Miranda's messages, he focused on showing biblical examples of 'fearless'

individuals. "We had two guys (Caleb and Joshua) who were fearless. Two guys who said, 'I don't care what anybody else says, I believe in my God,'" he said during Thursday evening's message. Miranda encouraged the Pathfinders to be fearless in the face of opposition and to be steadfast in their faith, even when it's hard to do so.

Peralta's messages encouraged Pathfinders to be fearless in dealing with sin and serving others. "Let me bring a solution to you guys because some of you want to give up. You don't want to be fearless anymore," he said during the Friday evening service. "You are afraid to face your situation but Paul said, in Hebrews 12:1-4, *'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance ... fixing our eyes on Jesus.'*"

In his Sabbath evening message, Peralta focused on being fearless through serving God by telling the story of how he became a pastor. "Even if you don't believe in yourself, God shows you, and believes in you," he said. "I said, 'God will never choose someone unworthy.' God chose

me because I'm His special treasure. Don't have fear. He has chosen you!"

At the end of his message, Peralta presented an appeal to Pathfinders who may feel called to pastoral ministry. "I don't care if you're three years old or if you're twenty years old, if you want to be a pastor someday, I want to pray for you," he said. "We need warriors that are fearless!"

"I'm going to be very transparent," Peralta continued. "To the girls that are here: do not allow anybody — whether the church, a pastor, an institution or a vote — to say that you cannot be a pastor," he said, speaking to several girls who had indicated during the appeal their interest in becoming a pastor.

Three baptisms took place during the Sabbath morning worship service. Rachel Capps, 14, a member of the Eau Claire Critters club, was one of the people baptized. Her family has a tradition steeped in club ministries. Four of her siblings were baptized at previous Lake Union camporees. "I love Pathfinders and it's a very special thing to me," she noted. Although she was nervous right before the baptism, she says she was helped by the club's TLT



director Rahel Wells, and “ended up really liking it.”

The concluding day, Sabbath, was jump-started by a parade of Pathfinders, dressed in their full-dress uniform. Led by a police car and firetruck, the Pathfinders marched throughout the fairgrounds to the grandstand. “I’d say [the parade] went very well,” said Eric Herve Jean-Baptiste, the coordinator for the parade. “I think the firetruck and police car for the escorts, for the dignitaries, put a little gravitas to the parade.”

Jean-Baptiste, who also serves as Lake Region’s Pathfinder coordinator, says that the review stand at the end of the parade route also was a highlight of the parade. “Usually we have the conference directors on the review stand with the dignitaries,” he said, “[but] I switched it up. I wanted the conference directors to lead their conference [clubs], so you can recognize who the leaders of the conference are and to see them march. They did an awesome job.”

A special offering was taken during the worship service to benefit Pathfinder clubs in Cuba. “Our Union has a Pathfinder tradition to help other parts of the world. Pathfinders take care of Pathfinders,” said Ron Whitehead, Lake Union Youth

director. “In Cuba, there are not a lot of options down there for their support except us. And so, Pathfinders in the Lake Union have adopted Cuba to be our place to support over the years.” Money from previous offerings has been used to purchase equipment, training materials, backpacks, and other essentials. “These are things that they don’t have access to, but really makes them stand out in their communities. Most of their clubs are community kids, so, what an evangelism opportunity we’re offering our fellow Pathfinders in Cuba.”

Pathfinders were able to participate in over 30 honors and other activities such as archery, 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, and a youth museum throughout the entire camporee. On Sabbath, over 500 Pathfinders earned the Dunes honor at Warren Dunes.

Blacksmithing was another one of the honors taught at the camporee. The instructor, Henry Davis, says that his family has taught the honor over 11,000 times in 14 states. “I’m trying to keep kids doing things with their hands. I want the kids to learn how to do something when things don’t work,” Davis explained. “The first project we make is called a ‘frederick cross.’ It’s a piece of scrap steel that we

make into something beautiful. We live in a society where if you’re not what people want, they’re going to throw you away. We take that piece of ‘scrap’ and we make it into something that’s valuable. I can teach life lessons while I have their attention because of the fire, and they’ll understand it. It’s my passion.”

The camporee is not only an opportunity for Pathfinders to make new friends and learn, it’s also a way for Pathfinders to realize that their faith is bigger than the local church. “Some don’t have the same opportunities to relate, but when they come to this place and they see a few thousand Pathfinders coming together, they realize that they’re part of a movement that is far greater than the local area,” said Michael Campos, Illinois Conference Youth director, during a Lake Union Herald live broadcast. “They gain this global mission mindset of who they are and what God wants them to be as Christians.”

You can watch the evening programs archived on the *Lake Union Herald* YouTube channel. More information about the next Lake Union Pathfinder Camporee will be available at [luc.camporee.org](http://luc.camporee.org). ■

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*Samuel Given, 15, is a student at Northview Adventist School in Cadillac, Mich., and ASPIRE Academy.*





## Andrews University Receives \$5 Million Grant

Andrews University has received a \$5,000,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary establish the Andrews Center for Community Change.

The Center is being funded through the third and final phase of Lilly Endowment's Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. The initiative is designed to help theological schools across the United States and Canada as they prioritize and respond to the most pressing challenges they face as they prepare pastoral leaders for Christian congregations both now and into the future.

Supporting the Seventh-day Adventist Church with the training, educating and certifying of pastors since 1937, the Seminary has identified a need to collaborate with churches, healthcare providers and other denominational bodies to develop and expand new strategies for the training of pastors and lay ministers so they can better engage their churches with their communities.

The grant project will establish the Andrews Center for Community Change on the campus of Andrews University which will provide individualized mentoring and guidance to pastors and lay ministers to create contextualized innovative solutions that address felt community needs and their root causes. The Center will work with collaborating partners to provide (a) training, (b) mentorship, (c) technical support and, where applicable, (d) funding to pilot community-level projects.

The training and mentoring will support pastors through the processes of social innovation to help them undertake community needs-based assessments, program design and evaluation, grant writing, project management and



▼ The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

dissemination of findings. The Center will prioritize up to 60 pastors and/or lay leaders each year, with support provided to participants for a period of up to three years. Mentors with varied academic backgrounds will be employed to give customized support to pastors and lay leaders.

The Andrews Center for Community Change will seek to leverage the unique relationship between (a) the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, (b) the extensive North American Adventist healthcare network and (c) local faith-communities throughout North America to expanded access to training, project-based learning and mentoring for Adventist pastors and pastors of other denominations. A collaborative project undertaken in partnership with AdventHealth, Kettering Health, Adventist Community Services at the North American Division, the InMinistry Center, Versacare and the Urban Ministry Network, it will work to establish an endowment that will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the project.

Andrea Luxton, president of Andrews University, stated, "As a University, we are very excited and thankful to be one of the recipients of this grant. It will enable us to further deepen our commitment to both our church and the wider community by developing local pastoral leadership

capacity to bring hope, healing and positive change. We look forward to working with our partners to see the development of many transformational community projects."

Jiri Moskala, dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, thanked Lilly Endowment for their support: "This prestigious Lilly Endowment grant we have received will enable the Seminary to strengthen our focus on urban ministry and allow us to expand the support of our pastors and churches in North America through the creation of the Andrews Center for Community Change. We praise the Lord for this enormous opportunity to deepen our usefulness, especially for communities with specific needs. I am sure that the combination of spiritual and physical work will prove to be a blessing for many." The University and the Seminary thank Cedric Vine and Carlisle Sutton for their leadership in developing the project proposal and their commitment to executing this project.

The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary is one of 16 theological schools that have received grants to fund large-scale, highly collaborative programs through the Pathways initiative. Lilly Endowment believes these programs have the potential to become models for other schools as they seek to strengthen the way they educate pastors and other congregational leaders.



"Theological schools play an essential role in ensuring that Christian congregations have a steady stream of well-prepared leaders to guide their ministries," said Christopher L. Coble, the Endowment's vice president for religion. "Many theological schools believe that their paths to the future depend on their abilities to form strategic partnerships

with other schools and church agencies. These grants will help seminaries develop innovative and collaborative approaches to theological education that we believe will strengthen their efforts to prepare and support excellent leaders for Christian communities into the future."

Lilly Endowment launched the Pathways initiative in January 2021 because of its

longstanding interest in supporting efforts to enhance and sustain the vitality of Christian congregations by strengthening the leadership capacities of pastors and congregational lay leaders. ■

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*Andrews University Office of Communication*



▲ The Holy Spirit spoke powerfully through Pastor Stephen Mothapo, a Karen pastor in Iowa, who gave heart-searching messages on finding life's purpose, victory over sin, the assurance of salvation, and God's great love and plan for their lives. His powerful appeals and prayers touched hearts deeply as precious young people responded to the call for baptism and dozens rededicated their lives to the Lord and His service. It was unforgettable.

## Hundreds attend NAD Karen Youth Camp in Michigan

The Karen Adventist Youth Camp 2022 drew a crowd of nearly 400 youth and their leaders at Camp Wagner in Michigan, July 5–9, with the theme, "Alive in Christ." They represent the Karen (pronounced ka-REN) Diaspora, most of whom are refugees from Myanmar and Thailand resettled to North America in the last 10–15 years.

It was the first time in two years since the pandemic that these youth could be together in person; they traveled from 17 states across the U.S. as well as Canada.

Dozens of committed youth, some of them attending their first camp meeting, joined early morning united prayer sessions. Then followed rousing song services, powerful testimonies, and morning worship sessions given by students studying to become pastors. Seminars were offered on Karen history, culture and mission, healing from trauma and overcoming challenges, health and more. Some presenters were Andrews University social work graduate students. Children's meetings also were provided by dedicated volunteers.

Afternoon schedules held lively outdoor games, while the evenings featured singing competitions, inspiring Scripture

recitals and creative skits. Most of the time the Karen language was used, but English was also used at times.

Sabbath school time focused on mission trip reports and an interview of a young family who are going back to the refugee area as missionaries to their own people. They said that "chasing the American dream" was unfulfilling and had decided to go back to the jungles to teach refugee children. Aspiring young pastors were interviewed and a group was prayed over by senior pastors. The sermon about the prodigal son was given by Ken Denslow, president of the Lake Union Conference.

### A Gospel Work in Progress

Currently there are 56 Karen congregations spread across North America in dozens of states, with only twelve church-supported pastors that are either part- or full-time. Many groups are being faithfully shepherded by volunteer lay leaders. Pastor Jimmy Shwe, NAD Karen Church Planting consultant, and his team of leaders have a vision for their youth to become strong leaders and workers for God. Frequent youth leadership trainings, youth camps and other opportunities, such as youth camp meetings, give them motivation and tools for God's work.

The Karen people are originally from Myanmar (a/k/a Burma). Oral tradition passed down from generation to generation declared that their forefathers had once believed in the one true Creator God, but they had lost God's Book. Their elders repeated that one day their "younger



brothers from the west” would bring God’s golden Book back to them. They were longing and waiting for this to happen.

When missionaries finally arrived with the gospel, hundreds of thousands of Karen people became Christians. Storyteller and author Eric B. Hare was perhaps the most well-known Adventist missionary who worked with the Karen people. There are many faithful third and fourth generation among them who have become pastors, teachers and leaders. Amidst the prevalent Buddhism and Animism of Southeast Asia, the Karen are a testimony to the *eternity in their hearts* (Eccl. 3:11) that God has planted in many distant tribes that have responded when the key is found within their own culture to link them to the gospel. ■

*Carol Reynolds grew up on Eric Hare’s mission stories and is a former missionary to Thailand. She first met the Karen people over 40 years ago and cares deeply about the persecution they have endured. Carol has been greatly blessed and inspired by the faithful Karen believers who have been relocated to North America.*



## Wagner Kuhn named new Seminary associate dean

BERRIEN SPRINGS, Mich.—Wagner Kuhn, Ph.D., has accepted the administrative position of associate dean at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Originally from Brazil, Kuhn has extensive cross-cultural experience. He has worked on three continents in various capacities within the Adventist church, including country director for ADRA Azerbaijan.

Kuhn began his pastoral career in Brazil working for the publishing department of the Southern Rio Grande Conference, and later served as professor of Mission and Theology for the Adventist Theological Seminary in São Paulo. Later he served as a pastor in Framingham, Mass.

After receiving his Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies (Missiology and International Development) from the School of Intercultural Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary, Kuhn began serving at Andrews University in 2005 as associate director of the Institute of World Mission and associate professor in the Department of World Mission.

In June 2011, he became a full-time faculty member as professor of Mission and Intercultural Studies while also serving as director of the Doctor of Missiology program from 2014 to 2016. Currently, he is chair of the Department of World Mission and director of the post-doctoral program.

“I am very pleased that Dr. Kuhn accepted this responsibility. God prepared him well for this important and challenging ministry, and I am sure He will guide him to give prosperity and success. I rejoice over the fact that we will work closely together to facilitate the fulfillment of the Seminary’s mission to be the light and the theological resource for our worldwide Adventist Church and beyond,”



▲ Wagner Kuhn

says Jiri Moskala, dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

“Dr. Kuhn brings to this position a wealth of international experience in both administration and teaching; this will be an invaluable asset to this critical role in the Seminary,” adds Andrews University president, Andrea Luxton.

Kuhn also has published “Christian Relief and Development: Biblical, Historical, and Contemporary Perspectives of the Holistic Gospel” and edited “Adventist Mission: Stories of Adventist Missionaries on the Frontlines,” among other scholarly works.

Kuhn is married to Gisele Kuhn, and they have two adult daughters, Gielle and Gillian. ■

*Office of University Communication*



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](http://www.lakeunionherald.org). Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

## ANNIVERSARIES



Greg Edge

**Craig and Cindy Morgan** were married on June 11, 1972, in West Lebanon, N.H. They celebrated 50 years of marriage on June 11, 2022, with their Camp Au Sable summer camp family. Craig and Cindy met at a camp meeting in Freeport, Maine, where they were introduced by a mutual friend who just happened to be dating Cindy at the time. That all changed when Craig took his turn at her heart and won it. The rest is God-led history.

Craig was a Seventh-day Adventist school teacher for 46 years, teaching at schools in Maine, Indiana and Michigan. Cindy was a homemaker, mother, daycare provider and teacher's assistant.

Adventist summer camp ministry has played a major part in their lives as well. This past summer was their 50th summer at an Adventist summer camp with 11 summers at Camp Lawroweld in Maine, two at Camp Timber Ridge in Indiana, and 37 at Camp Au Sable in Michigan. Affectionately known as Father Time and Mother Nature, the Morgans now live year-round at Camp Au Sable.

The Morgans have two sons, Chad and Christopher, two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

## OBITUARIES

**BOWMAN, Ray Allen**, age 73; born March 12, 1949, in Paw Paw, Mich.; died July 8, 2022, in Cave Junction, Ore. He was a member of the

Anacortes Church in Anacortes, Wash. He is survived by his sons, Ray E. (Danica) Bowman, and Robert (Diana) Bowman; stepson, Richard Scull; stepdaughter, Heather (Bill) Martin; brother, Charles R. Bowman; five grandchildren; one step-grandchild; two great-grandchildren; and one step-great-grandchild. A memorial inurnment was held. Cards for the family can be sent to Charles Bowman, 60 Madeline Blvd., Piperton TN 38017.

**DUX, Thea**, age 88; born Sept. 10, 1931, in Rummelsburg, Germany; died Aug. 27, 2022, in Glenview, Ill. She was a member of the North Shore Church in Chicago. She is survived by daughter, Cornelia (David) Griggs; one grandchild; and one great-grandchild. A private service was held. A card of sympathy or a gift in memoriam can be sent to Cornelia Griggs (4425 St. Andrews Blvd., Irving TX 750380) and/or Lisa Kana Baroi Scott (6533 S. Topaz Dr., Chandler AZ 85249).

**KAHLOW, Gertrude "Gertie" A.**, age 91; born May 7, 1930, in Horicon, Wis.; died April 12, 2022, in Columbus, Wis. She was a member of the Beaver Dam Church in Beaver Dam, Wis. She is survived by her sons, George Kahlow, Steven Kahlow, and Bill Kahlow; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild. A memorial service was held at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Horicon.

**LANAVILLE, Gloria E. (Chartier)**, age 94; born April 23, 1928, in Nadeau, Mich.; died Aug. 6, 2022, in Powers, Mich. She was a member of the Wilson Church in Wilson. She is survived by her sons, Allen Lanaville, and Donald (Debbie) Lanaville; daughters, Beverly (Gary) Berger, Debra (Mike) Groleau, and Sherry (Doug) VanderVenter; 24 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and 10 step-great-great-grandchildren. Graveside and memorial services were at the Wilson Church.

**POSTHUMUS, Robert P.**, age 67; born Aug. 15, 1955, in Kalamazoo, Mich.; died Aug. 19, 2022, in Galesburg, Mich. He was a member of the Paw Paw Church in Paw Paw, Mich. He is survived by his sons, Nathan (Lynee) Posthumus,

and Zachary (Azriel) Posthumus; brothers, Tom Posthumus, and Dave Posthumus; sisters, Sally Lehrman, and Deb Posthumus; and three grandchildren. A private graveside service was held.

**WILDMAN, Joan (Lane)**, age 91; born Oct. 10, 1930, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Aug. 28, 2022, in Allendale, Mich. She was a member of the Grand Haven Church in Grand Haven, Mich. She is survived by her son, Greg (Dineen) Wildman; daughters, Joni (Mike) Baker, and Patti (Tim) Carlson; brother, Richard Lane; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted; private inurnment at the Abraham Lincoln Cemetery in Elwood, Ill. Cards of sympathy or a gift in memoriam may be given to the Maranatha Volunteers International.

## CORRECTION

**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; brothers, David, Richard, and Gary; sister, Diane (Burlingame) Wendth; and one grandchild. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor George Pangman on July 13, 2022, at the University Church in East Lansing, Mich. Inurnment.

## REUNIONS

**BROADVIEW ACADEMY'S CLASS OF 1982** celebrated their 40th reunion at Camp Akita, Sept. 2-4, 2022. We had 20 classmates and their spouses attend a weekend of remembering, reflecting, and reconnecting. —Submitted by Venice' Garcia, Class of 1982





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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>.

**LEGAL NOTICE**—Please take notice that a quinquennial meeting of the members of the Andrews University Corporation (commonly known as a “constituency meeting”) will take place on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, beginning at 3:00 p.m., in the Garber Auditorium of Chan Shun Hall on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. At the meeting, the members will receive reports from Andrews University administration, elect a portion of the Andrews University Board of Trustees, and consider minor amendments to the bylaws and/or other business deemed necessary.

Theresa C. Popp  
Secretary of the Corporation

## CLASSIFIEDS

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>.

### EMPLOYMENT

**OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE (Oklahoma City) IS SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR AN ASSISTANT TREASURER FOR PAYROLL**—This is a full-time position with competitive compensation and full benefits package. Please see the full job descriptions and instructions for application at [www.okadventist.org/employment](http://www.okadventist.org/employment). Contact Charles Reel at [creel@okadventist.org](mailto:creel@okadventist.org) for more information.

### 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.

### SERVICES

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

## CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

### NOVEMBER

- Nov. 5** Local Church Budget
- Nov. 12** Annual Sacrifice for Global Mission (GC)
- Nov. 19** Local Church Budget
- Nov. 26** Local Conference Advance

### DECEMBER

- Dec. 3** Local Church Budget
- Dec. 10** Adventist Community Services (NAD)
- Dec. 17** Local Church Budget
- Dec. 24** Local Conference Advance
- Dec. 31** Union Designated

## Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 30
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:37	5:29	5:23	5:19	5:14	5:13	4:15	4:18	4:23
Chicago, Ill.	5:42	4:35	4:28	4:24	4:21	4:21	4:22	4:25	4:29
Detroit, Mich.	6:23	5:15	5:09	5:04	5:02	5:01	5:02	5:05	5:10
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:40	5:33	5:28	5:24	5:21	5:21	5:22	5:25	5:30
La Crosse, Wis.	5:53	4:45	4:38	4:32	4:30	4:29	4:30	4:33	4:38
Lansing, Mich.	6:28	5:20	5:14	5:09	5:06	5:05	5:07	5:10	5:14
Madison, Wis.	5:47	4:39	4:32	4:28	4:25	4:24	4:25	4:28	4:33
Springfield, Ill.	5:54	4:47	4:42	4:38	4:35	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:44



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# NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

## ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

### GENERAL EVENTS

**Nov. 2-5:** North American Division Campus

Ministries Convention

**Nov. 6 & 7:** Junior Preview

**Nov. 14:** Health Professions & Transfer Preview

**Nov. 16, 7 p.m.:** Ambassador Talks, Virtual

**Dec. 7, 7 p.m.:** Ambassador Talks, Virtual

### HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER EVENTS

For more information on the following events  
and to purchase tickets, call 888-467-6442 or  
269-471-3560, or visit [howard.andrews.edu](http://howard.andrews.edu).

**Nov. 5, 6 p.m.:** Andrews Academy Concerto  
Night

**Nov. 13, 4 p.m.:** Sunday Music Series: Laurie  
Smukler, violin

**Nov. 19, 8 p.m.:** Wind Symphony Holiday  
Concert

**Dec. 3, 8 p.m.:** Symphony Orchestra Christmas  
Concert

**Dec. 9, 8 p.m.:** University Choirs Welcome  
Christmas Concert

**Dec. 10, 7 p.m.:** Andrews Academy Christmas  
Pops Concert

**Dec. 11, 4 p.m.:** Lake Michigan Youth  
Orchestra Concert

**Dec. 13, 6 p.m.:** Ruth Murdoch Elementary  
School Christmas Concerts

## ILLINOIS

**Nov. 4-6:** Young Adult Summit, The Cottages  
in Antioch

**Nov. 12:** Southern Illinois Youth Rally,  
Thompsonville Church

**Dec. 19-30:** Office Closed – Christmas holiday

## INDIANA

**Nov. 4-6:** Adventurer/Pathfinder Leadership,  
Timber Ridge Camp

**Nov. 18-27:** Indiana Academy Thanksgiving  
Break

**Nov. 23-24:** Office Closed – Thanksgiving  
holiday

**Dec. 22-26, 29:** Conference Office Closed

## LAKE REGION

**Nov. 4-6:** TLT Bootcamp, Camp Wagoner

**Nov. 12:** Illiana Youth Federation, Indianapolis  
Jr. Academy

**Nov. 11:** Health and Wellness Online Program –  
Lake Region Facebook and YouTube

## MICHIGAN

**Nov. 4-6:** Public Hi-C Retreat, Camp au Sable

**Nov. 11-13:** Crystal Mountain Marriage Retreat

**Nov. 11-13:** Sabbath School Workshop, Camp  
Au Sable

**Dec. 23-26, 30:** Conference Office Closed

## WISCONSIN

**Nov. 20:** Hispanic Women's Evangelistic  
Banquet, Milwaukee

**Dec. 3:** JAHWI Youth Rally, Milwaukee

**Dec. 26-29:** Office Closed

## LAKE UNION

**Nov. 23-24:** Thanksgiving Holiday – Office  
Closed

**Dec. 22-29:** Christmas Holiday – Office Closed



# Seven Layers of Stewardship

The holidays are a special time of the year for families to come together and surround each other with joy, love and laughter, all while indulging in food you have been craving all year long.

Growing up, one of my favorite dishes at Thanksgiving was my mother's seven-layer salad. Vegetables and I were not the best of friends then. However, it was something about these particular vegetables, that while I would not happily ingest on a normal basis, somehow merged together to form a delightful and satisfying dish.

The recipe for a seven-layer salad is quite simple:

1. romaine or iceberg lettuce
2. tomatoes
3. peas (thawed)
4. cucumbers
5. carrots
6. Miracle Whip or mayonnaise
7. cheddar cheese

Sprinkle paprika, fresh herbs, scallions or imitation bacon bits for more flavor. You can substitute vegetables as you desire (i.e., broccoli, cauliflower, mushrooms, onions, etc.)

Throughout the year, we have examined the concept of stewardship, described as more than just the opportunity of giving. Stewardship can be viewed as a wholistic approach to finances or, in another sense, a "financial way of life." While giving is the end result of becoming a faithful steward, it is recognized that there can be many challenges along the way which can create an unbalanced financial lifestyle.

Consider the following seven ingredients for a healthy steward:

1. Love for God
2. Routine prayer life
3. Minimize financial stress
4. Create a balanced budget

5. Establish a proper savings

6. Have complete faith in God

7. Practice obedience and love through giving

Contemplate the previously mentioned dislike of eating certain vegetables individually. The notion of me attempting to ingest peas on their own was inconceivable. However, with the assistance from an additional delectable food source, the possibility of consumption became more feasible. The same can be said for giving. For some, the idea of returning a faithful tithe and a generous offering seems improbable, due to various financial constraints currently present. On the contrary, by adding the additional six ingredients to the "bowl of giving," you have created a habit that's not only colorful and beautiful to observe, but its enjoyable and pleasing to partake in.

We have discussed several aspects to the ministry of Stewardship and how we can enhance our financial outlook, becoming more of a financial blessing to God's ministry. II Corinthians 9:6–8 states, *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly (grudgingly, KJV) or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly* (NIV).

As we enter into the season of thankfulness and giving, may we all recognize that God gives us more than just a simple bowl of peas, but a rich and delightful dish to consume, bringing us great joy and happiness. ■



▲ Jermaine Jackson

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*Jermaine Jackson is Stewardship director and associate treasurer of the Lake Union Conference.*



# Dating in the Age of Pornography

## **“I’VE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH AN ADDICTION TO PORNOGRAPHY SINCE I WAS 11.”**

These words, spoken to me by Nathaniel (not his real name), the guy I was ‘talking to’, were my first real encounter with pornography. Up until that moment, watching porn was only spoken about in hushed tones in the hallways of my high school. It was always the weird, slightly creepy guys, the ones whom most of the girls knew to avoid.

But Nathaniel wasn’t like that. He was always up front at church, singing with the praise team. He was involved in children’s ministry and gave chapel talks. He seemed like the perfect Christian guy. When he told me, Nathaniel was so upset over this “struggle.” I wanted to be accepting. I appreciated his honesty and felt I could trust him because of it. He was a good guy; he just had a problem he was “struggling with.”

At the time, I had no idea how serious this revelation was, and navigating the relationship thereafter was a whole different ballgame. At its heart, the use of pornography is a betrayal of the intimacy that God intended to be shared by two people. Beyond that, it trains and reshapes users’ minds to see their current or future partner as an object to satisfy their needs and, in many cases, leads to violence and abuse.

I’m just going to pause here to give a disclaimer. I have never struggled with a porn addiction. However, porn is *far* from being just a “guy issue.” What I have to share here I have learned from navigating relationships with guys as a young woman, so that’s the perspective I will be drawing on to pass on the concrete advice that I wish had been given to me.

First, you cannot assume porn is not an issue for Christians and that you won’t have to deal with it. In general, sex isn’t

talked about in church circles, so addressing a subject like porn can be challenging. However, just because it’s not talked about, doesn’t mean that it doesn’t exist and won’t affect your relationships.

Statistics show that the use of pornography within Christian circles is nearly on par with that of the rest of the world. The average age of first exposure to pornography is 11. By 14, 94 percent of children will have seen porn. Seventy-six percent of young Christian adults aged 18–24 years old actively search for porn. Porn is a massive, *massive* issue in the church for both men and women.

Second, no matter how good his intentions, if porn is an active part of his life, you are likely to get hurt. One of the things I struggled with most was where to draw the line for past or current porn use in a potential partner. Should he have never touched it? Should he be one-year clean? Is it okay to date him if he’s still addicted but wanting to change? The answer will be slightly different for every person but, as a rule of thumb, if you’re going to date him, porn should be very *clearly* not a part of his life anymore.

A very wise person once told me that a man who has worked through and overcome a porn addiction will have developed strong character traits, such as self-control and patience, and can actually sometimes be a better partner than someone who has never battled porn. That doesn’t mean there won’t be challenges,

but God can transform people’s lives in amazing ways, working evil for good. If you have met a wonderful person who has porn in their past but has completely overcome it, fear not. You may have met a keeper. ■

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*Caitlin Jankiewicz grew up in Michigan and is currently in her first year of teaching high school at Hills Adventist College in Sydney.*

◀ Caitlin Jankiewicz





# Knowing God, Sharing Hope



Debbie Burns

▲ Levi Pemberton

## FOR LEVI PEMBERTON, RETURNING TO CHURCH WAS LIKE FINDING A MISSING PUZZLE PIECE.

“Throughout life, people have their problems. I guess you could say that I was looking for a missing puzzle piece,” he said. As Levi grew up, he shares that his family was Adventist, but they didn’t always have a strong connection to the church. Because of this, the 21-year-old from Evansville, Indiana was in and out of church for years. “I searched a lot for my calling in life, but I always felt like something was missing.”

In 2020, Levi’s grandfather passed away. “I was close to him and he was my best friend, so I was devastated,” he said. His grandfather’s passing motivated Levi’s parents. They decided to return to church—for good. As a result, Levi says he noticed a positive impact on their lives. “I thought, ‘I might take a look and see what it’s all about.’”

His journey didn’t start with Bible studies or seminars though—it started with service. Levi started by volunteering in his church’s summer vacation Bible school program. He wanted more. “I began to slowly get more involved with church,” he

said. Since then, he’s grown in the faith. In October 2021, he became a baptized member of the Evansville First Church. “I found what truly completed me. Something I had longed for.”

But Levi’s story doesn’t stop there. Levi has continued to help at his church in various roles. One example is his work on “Hope 4 Ukraine,” a powerful initiative of the Evansville First Church. With the combined efforts of Levi and several other young adults, the church has been able to support war-torn Ukrainian churches in unprecedented ways.

Seeing the struggles of Ukraine from a distance, Kamil Metz, pastor of the Evansville First Church, says that the church’s young adults recognized that sympathy isn’t a substitute for action. “We knew we had to do more than just pray.” They tackled the issue head-on by raising money for Ukrainian churches and asking the Evansville community to help.

They solicited direct donations and organized fundraising events, such as a rummage sale that Levi led. Combined, the group of young adults was able to raise over \$20,000 for Adventist churches in Ukraine. Metz says that the money they have raised has allowed the local Ukrainian churches to become centers for refugees to get food, medicine and counseling. “Many of the churches even started evangelistic meetings, prompting many to be baptized.”

Levi says his goal is to show love and support to everyone who needs it. “There’s a lot of pain and suffering in today’s world. We’re so grateful that we’re able to help, and spread the love of God.” ■

*Samuel Girven, 15, is a student at Northview Adventist School and ASPIRE Academy.*

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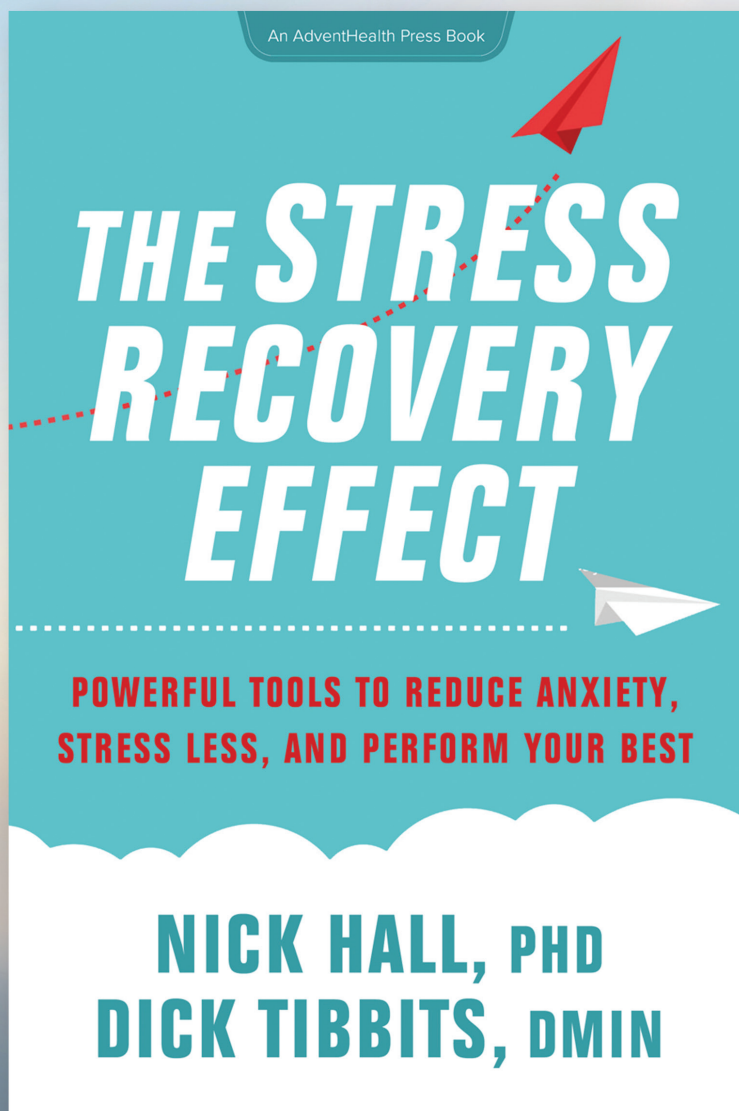
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