

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

HERALD

MAY 2023

Celebrating

50

YEARS OF
PASTORAL
MINISTRY

A tribute to Dwight Nelson

ODE TO ONE WHO HAS POINTED US TO THE ONE

DEDICATED TO PASTOR DWIGHT NELSON

Remembering and praising God for you, including ...

The soft landing you provided my family and I as we settled into a peaceful atmosphere where the love you gave was evident in the love that moved through the campus community ...

Your license plate GO2ALL, as you went to all—to the young, to the old, to the lost, wherever they may be, even if that meant across the globe ...

The banner in the sanctuary that flew high for many years with a phrase you often embodied, “Forward On Our Knees” ...

The image of you bending over to comfort a widow whose soft sobbing causes you to rearrange the usual prayer meeting flow, and as the tears fell, the prayers rose ...

The children’s stories where wide-eye faces gasped at the onomatopoeia and sound effects delivered from your mouth ...

The birthday letters to almost 4,000 congregants, even if it took some days to decipher the personalized scribble around the neatly typed page ...

The homilies for funerals and baby dedications complete with your signature touch, where we felt you knew us personally, and you called us friend ...



Jean-Trés Michel

You suited up in athletic gear jogging through the Berrien streets early Sunday mornings—a living, breathing advocate of a healthy lifestyle ...

Your influence on former Lake Union President Don Livesay giving an apology for the church’s past mistreatment of Blacks, and the bottled-up decades of pain finally released into the Camp Wagner summer air ...

The clever Christmas songs you wrote and with the other pastors delivered with humor and cheer ...

The calm, reassuring guidance through a calamitous last few years ...

For the words you would often utter, “The Maker of all things loves and wants you” “The best is yet to come!” ...

May we, one day soon, together hear the words that for 40 years you have encouraged us to hear, “*Well done, thou good and faithful servant.*”

Debbie

Debbie Michel
Editor

Lake Union HERALD

Official publication of the
Seventh-day Adventist Church/Lake Union Headquarters
lakeunionherald.org Vol. 115, No. 4

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TELLING THE STORIES OF WHAT GOD IS DOING IN THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE

The Lake Union Herald (ISSN 0194-908X) is published monthly (except for January/February, June/July and November/December) by the Lake Union Conference, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs, Michigan, and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription price is \$12.50. Vol. 115, No. 4. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to: Lake Union Herald, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.

ADDRESS CORRECTION

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clerks directly for all Lake Union Herald address changes. Contact phone numbers and our mailing address are listed below for your convenience. Online submissions can be made at <https://www.lakeunionherald.com/contact>.

Lake Union Herald office: 269-473-8244, Illinois: 630-716-3505, Indiana: 317-844-6201, Lake Region: 773-846-2661, Michigan: 517-316-1552, Wisconsin: 920-484-6555
Members outside the Lake Union may subscribe by sending a check for \$12.50 (per year) to P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.

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Worth the Expense

TWO ITEMS LOOM LARGE IN MOST CONFERENCE BUDGETS. THEY ARE CAMP MEETINGS AND SUMMER CAMPS. LET'S TALK ABOUT THESE EXPENSIVE EVENTS.



▲ KEN DENSLOW

I was born in April (you will have to guess the year) and the following July my parents packed me and my two-year-old sister into the car along with clothes, bedding and a portable stove and headed to the Michigan Conference camp meeting in Grand Ledge. For 10 days, my mom stayed with us in an army surplus tent with flaps and a wooden floor (Dad had to go home and work during the week but would join us on the weekends). That was the family ritual for the next nine years until we moved to another state. But it wasn't the end of our engagement with conference camp meetings. I think there are only four or five years in my entire life that I haven't attended at least one camp meeting.

I have vivid memories of doing crafts in the craft tent and playing with my little friends on the playground. I also remember the dirt floor in the main auditorium which I was told not to sit on "because those pants have to last you for several more days."

There was a food tent and singing in the mass children's choir in the big auditorium. As teenagers we would gather on the terrace behind the auditorium after the evening meetings were over and sing some new songs like "Pass it On" or "Side By Side." During the days we would walk around the campgrounds seeing who we could see.

Camp meetings are wonderful times of spiritual refreshment. But they are also times to develop memories that can never be taken away.

And then there are our summer camps. Again, this is an opportunity to develop memories that will

last a lifetime. If you want to start an animated conversation, get Adventists to share their camp experiences. So many fun things to do—wakeboarding, go-karts, archery, making new friends. But even more importantly, this is a place to deepen your understanding of God's plan for your life and to appreciate more fully the grace of Jesus in His sacrifice on the cross. Just today, I heard a young adult say that it was at summer camp that they learned to love the Sabbath.

I once sat in a room full of conference presidents and we were asked to raise our hands if we had ever worked at an Adventist summer camp. The majority of those present raised their hands. Camp staffers have powerful opportunities to develop leadership skills through their camp work that will serve them throughout their careers.

I hope that as you read this month's Lake Union Herald and its emphasis on camp meetings and summer camps that you will appreciate the role they continue to play in the lifelong development of disciples. While each generation has a different set of stories to tell, they all can experience God's presence in their lives through these two ministries. I hope that you will agree that they are worth the investment of time, energy and money. I hope to see you at Camp Meeting or Summer Camp. ■

Ken Denslow is president of the Lake Union.



Responding to the Needs of Hurting Children



▲ JASMINE FRASER

“I WILL SATISFY THE WEARY SOUL, AND EVERY LANGUISHING SOUL I WILL REPLENISH.” (JEREMIAH 31:25)

Studies have highlighted trauma’s debilitating physical and psychological effects on individuals and proposed approaches for healing and thriving after traumatic experiences.¹ Trauma is evident in stressful and disturbing experiences that hinder individuals’ ability to function optimally. Trauma is widespread; there is hardly any family that has not experienced at least one traumatic encounter. What affects individuals and families physically and psychologically also affects them spiritually.

Trauma at any stage in life is challenging, but childhood trauma has lifelong adverse effects on a person and generations of families. Studies show that the impact of childhood trauma does not heal on its own.² Trauma affects individuals’ well-being similarly to the effects of a festering untreated wound. Many adults who struggle mentally or emotionally and who strive to experience wholeness and well-being have untreated trauma. Yet, it is alarming that many parents and caregivers are unaware of the signs and long-term debilitating impact of trauma on children. Early traumatic experiences affect children’s ability to trust and distort their view of others and their environments.

Awareness is the first step in addressing trauma. Awareness, early intervention and trauma prevention are necessary for individuals’ wholeness and well-being. Awareness involves exploring the widespread impact of trauma and the effects of untreated trauma. Awareness provides parents, caregivers and ministry leaders with the skills and tools necessary for identifying/recognizing trauma in children who are often marginalized and labeled as disruptive and troublesome.

Another step is **understanding** that “children who have experienced trauma often feel *unsafe, dysregulated, disconnected, and devalued*,”³ and they

tend to relate to situations based on their feelings. Traumatized children who feel unsafe may exhibit anxiety symptoms, including fear, panic and undue worry. They also tend to be hypervigilant and exhibit behaviors such as avoidance—avoiding people, situations or activities that remind them of the trauma or that they perceive as potentially threatening. Isolation and withdrawal from social interaction can also be signs of trauma as children retreat into themselves to cope. Some children may also exhibit aggressive or violent behaviors to protect themselves when they feel unsafe. Understanding determines responses to traumatized children.

A third step is to **respond proactively** to the core needs of disruptive/traumatized children instead of *reacting* to their antisocial attitudes or behaviors. To be proactive means *creating conditions and loving environments* that will help children feel safe, regulated, connected and valued, and where healing happens over time. Disruptive behaviors must not be ignored but dealt with in ways that help heal (not prolong) trauma. Guided by the Holy Spirit, our *awareness, understanding and response* to trauma are means of helping children grow into wholesome disciples of Jesus. ■

1. Van der Kolk, B. (2014). “The body keeps the score: Brain, mind, and body in the healing of trauma.” New York, NY: Penguin Books; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): <https://www.samhsa.gov/childrens-awareness-day/child-traumatic-stress-resources>
2. Ibid.
3. Crosby R., and Crosby, L. (2022). “Trauma-Informed children’s ministry: A practical guide to reaching hurting kids.” Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, page 10.

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Benefits of Sprouting

IN THE PAST DECADE PEOPLE HAVE BECOME MORE AWARE OF SPROUTING. THE CONSUMPTION OF SPROUTS IS GRADUALLY INCREASING, AND PEOPLE ARE BECOMING CONSCIOUS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIET AND HEALTH.



▲ YIN SCHAFF

There is also an increased accumulation of knowledge relating to the therapeutic properties of sprouted foods to improve immunity. Sprouting means to begin to grow or germinate; give off shoots or buds according to the Webster dictionary. Almost any seeds or beans can be sprouted, offering a wide variety of quick and easy food. The nutritional value is greatly enhanced as well. Even grains such as rice, barley or wheat can be sprouted to make bread. Whole-grain breads cannot match sprouted-grain breads nutritionally and they are delicious.

There are two steps in the process of sprouting. First, soak the seeds, beans or grains for several hours or more. Depending on the type of bean or seed, some outer shells may peel off. Second, set up a simple apparatus to allow sprouting, such as in a large mason jar. Average soaking and sprouting times are around a week or less. There are sprouting packages available online or at health food stores. Once sprouted, they are ready to eat and can be stored in the refrigerator for several days.

The process of sprouting “activates enzymes in a dormant seed and triggers various enzymatic activities leading to the breakdown of stored protein, carbohydrates and lipids into simpler forms. During the process, the degradation of sugars, free amino acids, and organic acids is significantly increased. The processes ultimately increase the bioavailability of active compounds in sprout seeds. This bioavailability of active compounds source provides health benefits in prevention and treatment of various diseases.”

Benefits of sprouting:

- can be grown in any climate at any time of the year;
- can be grown indoors with minimal space;

- requires neither soil or sunshine, yet are still rich in vitamins and minerals;
- are a powerful source of antioxidants;
- can rival meat in nutritive value;
- are full of living enzymes;
- are a good source of essential fatty acids;
- are one of the highest sources of fiber; and have a low glycemic index and are low in calories.¹

The process of sprouting or germinating seeds and receiving the full benefits for physical health are a parallel to our Christian walk with God. “The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life, and the development of the plant is a beautiful figure of Christian growth,” says E.G. White in “God’s Amazing Grace,” page 283. The seed is the life of Christ within us. That seed must peel off the outer shell, our own will has to be buried and broken; “Being born again” like Nicodemus so we can grow spiritually. For the spiritual life to happen, there is ongoing preparation that takes place every day, preparing our mind and heart to be receptive to God’s voice! Paul said, “Set your mind on Christ!” David said, “Create in me a pure heart!”

It is my prayer that as we daily spend more time in His Word and on our knees we not only know the physical benefits of sprouting but, most importantly, the spiritual germination that makes Jesus alive and shines through each of us. ■

1. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/34445042>

Yin Schaff is Wisconsin Conference health director.



From Gambling to Believing in the Second Advent



▲ DENIS KAISER

FROM DECEMBER 1849 TO MAY 1850, JAMES AND ELLEN WHITE PUBLISHED THE “PRESENT TRUTH” IN OSWEGO, NEW YORK, WHERE THEY WERE ENTERTAINED BY ELIAS AND MARY ELIZABETH GOODWIN, EARLY SABBATARIAN ADVENTISTS IN THAT LOCATION. THE STORY OF ELIAS’ CONVERSION IS FASCINATING.¹

For many years he had been an “expert gambler” and he was able to make a living by gambling. He spent his nights at the gambling table and caught up with sleep during the day. One night in 1843 he lost interest in the game and decided to go home early in the evening. While walking along the street, he passed by an open stairway that led up to a hall where a man was preaching about the prophecies of Daniel. Curiosity led him into the hall and he listened to the speaker’s discourse intently. As he set down and listened, he felt somehow impressed that the speaker needed money. After the close of the meeting, he walked up to the speaker and handed him a five-dollar bill. He was not even out of the building and was already cursing himself for giving the man the money. Back at home he tried to sleep but he could not stop thinking about the image and beasts of Daniel and the solemn impression that the end of all things was at hand. Convicted, he left his gambling lifestyle behind and kept going back to that hall to listen to other speakers. He accepted Jesus, was converted, and joined the Millerite movement.

Elias wanted to meet the man again who had been instrumental in changing his life. A few months later, the same speaker returned to the hall and testified of a wonderful experience he had

there the previous time. He stated, “When I started out to preach the near coming of the Lord, I told him I would go as long as he opened the way. As I came on the steamer to this city, an entire stranger, I had only fifty cents left. I prayed most earnestly in my cabin. I said, ‘Lord, if my work is done I can as well stop in Oswego as anywhere else; but if there is more for me to do, open the way.’ At the close of my sermon, a man handed me five dollars, and I have not lacked since. None of the brethren could tell who the man was; I would like to meet him.”

After the meeting Elias approached him and said, “I am the man who gave you the five dollars, I want you to go home with me.” Amazement overcame them as they shared their respective experiences.

God works in unexpected ways. Elias Goodwin’s experience is a reminder to listen to the little promptings of the Holy Spirit, which may transform both our and other people’s lives. ■

1. J. N. Loughborough, “Experiences in the Publishing Work—No. 10,” *Review and Herald*, Sep. 24, 1908, 21.

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



Conquer the Gap

LOS CONGRESOS DE JÓVENES QUE HEMOS TENIDO LLAMADOS CONECTATE NACIERON EN EL 2010. NUESTRO PRIMER ORADOR FUE EL PASTOR JOSÉ ROJAS.



▲ CARMELO MERCADO

Recuerdo que fue un congreso extraordinario, tuvimos cientos de jóvenes de las cinco conferencias y aun de otros lugares fuera de nuestra unión vinieron a buscar ánimo en su peregrinaje espiritual y a rededicar sus vidas a Cristo. Lo más impactante de ese fin de semana fue ver jóvenes entregando sus vidas a Jesús por medio del bautismo.

Algo que me encanta también de los diferentes congresos son los seminarios y las actividades de servicio a la comunidad que hemos ofrecido. Todos enfocados en tocar las necesidades y preocupaciones que existían en esos tiempos. Recuerdo un seminario en especial que tocó el tema del homosexualismo contestando muchas de las preguntas que los jóvenes tenían. En otra oportunidad pudimos renovar dos estaciones de bomberos y entregar chaquetas nuevas especiales para bomberos en aprecio por el lindo trabajo que ellos hacen para las comunidades donde sirven.

El próximo congreso titulado Conectate: Conquer the Gap, lo tendremos el mes que viene. Será nuestra primera reunión desde que inició la pandemia. El Pastor Arnaldo Cruz, conocido por muchos como el #PastordelGozo, estará con nosotros como nuestro orador principal y enseñando una clase sobre evangelismo digital. El Pastor Cruz es un predicador de televisión reconocido, quien con su programa "Si Podemos" alcanza alrededor de 34 millones de personas y es escuchado en más de 50 emisoras.

Habrà variedad de seminarios, cada uno ofrecido en español y en inglés. Entre ellos se abordarán temas sobre la ansiedad y la depresión, la sexualidad, la pornografía, cómo tener una vida

balanceada. Igualmente ofreceremos un seminario titulado "Being Latino in Cristo" (Ser Latino en Cristo) donde el seminarista compartirá como nuestra identidad como Latinos es un apoyo para la iglesia en la proclamación del evangelio y la unidad que Dios desea ver en su pueblo. Los jóvenes tendrán oportunidades para participar en variadas actividades de servicio comunitario y recreativas.

Los pastores que tienen cinco o más jóvenes inscritos están invitados a quedarse el fin de semana (auspiciado por la unión) y participar de un seminario muy especial abordando los principios de un ministerio juvenil, en el contexto de la iniciativa "Creciendo Juntos".

Todavía hay tiempo para inscribirse. El congreso Conectate tomará lugar desde la tarde del **viernes 2 de junio hasta la mañana del domingo 4 de junio**. Recuerde que este evento es especialmente dirigido para jóvenes (no para niños) de edades 15-35 años. Aproveche ahora a inscribirse en el sitio web www.conectateluc.com. Pido sus oraciones para que este fin de semana sea una gran bendición para todos lo que asistan. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago



The Story of Boo

HOW A DOG BECAME STAFF AT TIMBER RIDGE CAMP

I REMEMBER VERY WELL THE FIRST DAY I SAW BOO. MY DAUGHTER HANNAH AND I WERE AT THE HUMANE SOCIETY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, NEAR OUR HOME IN ARCADIA, INDIANA. WE WERE LOOKING FOR A NEW PET.

As we walked through the dog area, we saw a lot of dogs that needed homes. As we walked, we saw different kinds of temperaments: high energy, angry or dejected described most of the dogs we saw.

As we got toward the end of the viewing area, there was a beautiful Pitbull mix in the cage. As we walked up, she sat back from the door and slowly wagged her tail. She looked us in the eye. I know dogs aren't supposed to have expressions, but hers said, "Hi, how are you? Can we be friends?" Her body language was relaxed and welcoming. We called her to the door and she walked up, tail still slowly wagging and stuck her nose through the slat. At that moment, I knew without a doubt this was the one!

Boo spent 13 summers at Timber Ridge Camp (TRC). As a younger dog, she joined in our nightly game of Capture the Chicken, running with the kids all around the playing field. Campers would forget the game as she allowed them to "catch" her and stop for some petting before running off again. Before long, Boo had the run of the camp. She always went where the campers were. Instinctively, she knew not to chase horses but loved to hang out at the barn. She would join campers as they rode the mountain bike trails and the beach was a favorite hangout. When the weather got hot, she went to the office or hung out in the ceramics room. She always came to the porch of the cafe for meals. If a camper or staff offered her a snack, she would gently take the food, taste it and if she liked it, down it would go! Boo literally had the run of TRC.

Boo was a dog that always sought out people who needed a bit of unconditional love. At staff worship, she walked around the staff circle until she found the right staff member. She would curl up at their feet to be petted and to show love. Usually, by the end

of the summer she found her way into staff quarters and campers' cabins for sleepovers. Again, she found the person who needed her most and curled up on their bed for the night.

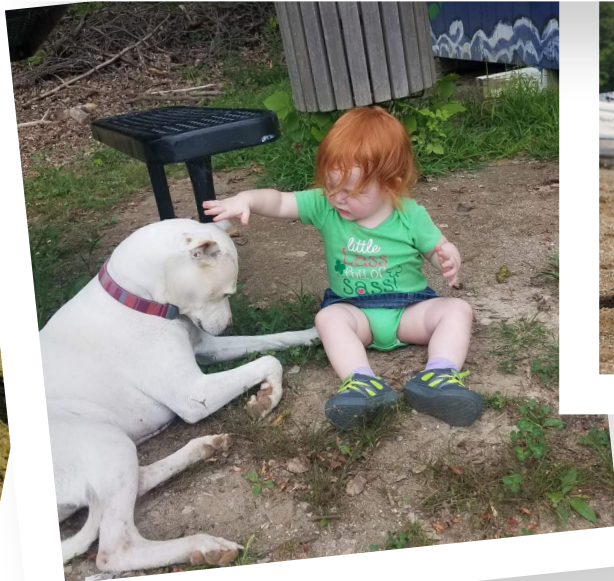
This past summer, there was a staff member who was going through a lot of personal struggles. There were several times when they walked off to be alone. Each time, Boo sought them out. When they sat down, Boo snuggled up against them to say, I love you and everything's going to be alright. This is a story I've heard over and over again, as God used Boo to comfort those who needed it most.

As time went on, Boo learned that Adventurer Family weekends and Pathfinder Fair and Camporee were great weekends to go where the people were. She spent whole weekends being an ambassador for TRC as well as Jesus.

A week before Thanksgiving, Boo got sick. As she went to the vet for what would be her last visit, she saw a woman in the waiting room. The lady was sad. Without any urging, Boo went up to offer comfort. Can a dog be any more Christlike than that? I don't know how many lives Boo touched, but I know she had an important job that God called her to do. Boo was so much more than a pet. In her 13 years with us, it didn't matter where she was or what we were doing, Boo made friends and made a difference in people's lives. Will our pets be in heaven? I don't know, but I can surely hope. I and many others now live with a note of sadness when we think of Boo's passing. But that sadness is overwhelmed by the memories of a dog that loved others and represented Jesus in all she did. ■

Charlie Thompson is Indiana Conference youth director.

In her 13 years with us, it didn't matter where she was or what we were doing. Boo made friends and made a difference in people's lives.



A portrait of Dwight Nelson, an older man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling and sitting in a red tufted chair in a room with red walls and windows. Overlaid on the image is a large gold '50' and celebratory text.

Celebrating

50

YEARS OF
PASTORAL MINISTRY

A tribute to Dwight Nelson





This year, Pastor Dwight K. Nelson celebrates 50 years of ministry, 40 of them at Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University. To put that into perspective:

- Fifty years ago, in 1973, U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords.
- Forty years ago, in 1983, the world's first commercial mobile cellular telephone call was made, in Chicago.

So much has changed over these decades, and through it all God has honored Pastor Dwight's call to ministry and sustained him and his wife Karen along the way. Below is an excerpt from an interview "Lake Union Herald" editor Debbie Michel conducted with Pastor Dwight back in February 2023. The link to watch it in its entirety is at the end of the article.

DEBBIE: So, Pastor Dwight, thank you so much for sitting down and having this conversation with us. 50 years in pastoral ministry. And 40 years right here.

DWIGHT: Are you serious? Has it been 40 years?

DEBBIE: 40 years! Right here in this building at Pioneer Memorial Church. And so, I want to start off by reading this quote from an article you wrote in "FOCUS" magazine 20 years ago, and its reflections of 20 years of pastorate back then, "Confessions of a rookie marathoner." It says, "The starting gun went off April Fool's Day, 1983 when Charles Keymer, the Michigan Conference president, phoned Karen [your wife], and me in Salem, Oregon, with the invitation to come east at the age of 31 and begin a new pastorate on the campus

of Andrews University. And I can assure you, we have been running ever since. We thought it would be just another professional sprint a few miles down life's road—never dreaming that it would become the long and winding marathon that it has." So, as you reflect on these long and winding 50 years and 40 years here at Pioneer, what's going through your mind?

DWIGHT: Well, I'm not sure, Debbie, that I've even gotten a hold of all those thoughts tramping through my mind. My first reaction is when I hear those numbers quoted back to me is like, wow. Number one, we're dealing with a very gracious God who says, "I can keep doing business with you." But the other point is, this congregation has been an incredible congregation. There's no way that Karen and I could have stayed had it not been for a congregation that was full

of compassion, full of patience. There's no other congregation like this on the planet. The people that sit in these pews every Sabbath, we have fallen in love with them over the decades, and they have been good to us. And so, I praise God and I thank them.

DEBBIE: I'm sure you could have had other opportunities to go as they say "higher up" in administration, but you stayed local. Why didn't you say, you know what, yeah, I can go higher up in administration.

DWIGHT: Well, I grew up in a home where the administrative ladder was very evident. I'm a fifth generation Adventist, fourth generation preacher. But a lot of the family were just moving up the ladder. And I suppose along the way, when those opportunities did present themselves, there were times when I was like, really, "God, maybe this has been long enough here. Do you want me to try this?" But what kept me coming back here, Debbie, and all candor now, is there is nothing in the world like life in the trenches. And I tell my guys, I teach over here at the seminary. I say, "Guys, you have been called to live in the bloodied-up trenches of human life."

You're not safely ensconced in some office far away from the battlefield. And that's the life of a pastor. And as time went on, I realized that that's the life that I've been called to, that I was actually wired for this.

I don't fault my buddies and friends in higher places, I love them all, but I just know that to be true to Jesus and to be true to me, in the trenches was where I belonged. And I just can't believe that we got 40 years in one trench.

DEBBIE: This is a good time for us to go back to the beginning when you had that first call to ministry. So, you were born in Japan to missionary parents, childhood dream to study medicine. And in your junior year of high school, this General Conference visitor comes to the school. Tell me about that experience you had.

DWIGHT: I can see it. The name of the church is Balestier Road Church in Singapore, because I went to boarding school—missionary's kid in Japan, lived there 14 years, but then went off to academy in

Singapore. And I don't know who the man was, and I have no idea what he was saying that day, but all of us missionary kids are here to hear him and man, these children of pastors, doctors, dentists, teachers, missionary people. And somewhere in the middle of his talk, he stops, and he looks out. He said, "I want to see all of you boys," because it was back when only boys went in ministry. "I want to see all of you boys who are thinking about going into ministry. I want you to stand right now." So I'm thinking, man, well, I know where I'm going, but I said, there are going to be guys standing up all over this sanctuary.

So, I look around, there's nobody standing there. So, I keep turning. And I count, three, maybe four in a school of 70 kids. And I'm thinking to myself, I can't believe this: Four guys in this whole school are going into ministry. Where's everybody else? And just like that, I heard a voice that said to me, "Why aren't you standing?" I didn't stand. But from that moment on, it was just like a paradigm shift, and I'm going into the ministry. I mean, it was just like that.

And I need to add to that, not all calls to the pastoral ministry are so evident and noticeable and maybe even dramatic. It's that there's a certainty that just grows into you. For me, it was that voice in my junior year in academy.

DEBBIE: So then fast forward to college, Southern Adventist University. So, you're studying theology, right? But you start to have some doubts, struggle a little bit. Talk about that. Because we sometimes go through that whereby we sense the call, but then there's still that doubt.

DWIGHT: I was just wrestling with, do I really want to do this ministry thing up front preaching and what I'd seen my dad do? I was a history minor and a theology major, and I thought, well, you know what? Let's turn that minor into a major and I'll go into law school, because I can talk. I mean, that's what you got to do. But I didn't know. I just wasn't sure. It was the day that we have to go to registration. Christmas break is over. And back then we had registered the semesters in January, so I have to go and sign in on something. And I've been a year and a half doing ministry, and my folks were overseas, and I just was in my room praying.



"I want to see all of you boys who are thinking about going into ministry. I want you to stand right now."





I recognize not everybody prays it best at the point of a pen. Someone prays best at the edge of a song, at the reading of a song. We all have our way.



And I look up on my little bookshelf, humble collection of books, and there's a book, and it just was sticking out, and I pulled it out, "Carlyle B. Haynes speaks to young ministers." My mother gave me the book when I left the house. And I look at that and it's just all the Holy Spirit needed. He just wanted something to trigger memory. Come on, boy, we're in this together. You've forgotten. See, and just like that I said, okay, all right. And I continued my major and the rest is history.

But I got to add this because there are some preachers out there and church members who have preachers. Let me tell you, your pastor goes through this struggle maybe two or three times a week. I mean, it's not something that we lock in like Spock on Star Trek.

No, pastors wrestle with it again and again. And when the times are low, pastors ask: So maybe I'm not supposed to be doing this. This is God's way of showing me. No. Most often it's just the devil's way of saying, I'll get you while you're down. Boy, I can't get you when you're up, but I'll kick you when you're down. And I remind pastors, listen, don't walk out. If you've been cut out for this, and if your 1 Corinthians 15:10, I am what I am, then you stay in those trenches, those bloodied up trenches, because there's Somebody you can't see who's ducking with you, Who is loving you through this. And the best is yet to come. Don't quit. Romans 11:29. Both the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Irrevocable.

DEBBIE: I want to segue to journaling and prayer. How important is that for you?

DWIGHT: I came across a line by John Henry Newman. He wrote the old hymn "Lead, Kindly Light," it's an old King James kind of hymn, but it's a beautiful hymn. And he was in the Church of England and became a Roman Catholic cardinal. He made the statement, once I pray best at the point of a pen, and that's me. I pray. I got 148 journals now. I started in 1986. I took a quiet day where you just take the whole day off and just disappear to think. I took a jar of orange juice, grabbed a journal, a pen, and my Bible, and headed out to the shores of Lake Michigan.

It was late August and there was no beach crowd that day. It was kind of cloudy and it looked like a storm was going to be coming off the lake, and it did.

But I sat in that car and just thought about the cross. That Sabbath a preacher had been on campus named Robert Wieland, and he had preached on the cross in the afternoon. And it just so moved me. And the cross was so evident in his preaching. He was preaching on Romans 5. And the Lord just created that little gnawing—there's something more that you don't have. And out of that experience by the lake all day, God brought me to 1 Corinthians 2:2, where Paul said, "I've determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

So that's kind of the pivotal triumphant declaration of the New Testament. And I had been scribbling notes. I took that notebook home. The next morning, I got up and that's how it was born. It was kind of sporadic at first, but then I realized this works for me. I wrote a little book called "A New Way to Pray," and I've shared it all over the world. And I recognize not everybody prays it best at the point of a pen. Someone prays best at the edge of a song, at the reading of a song. We all have our way.

DEBBIE: I want to talk about challenging decisions that you've had to make. So, during your time here, Esther Knott became the first female pastor of Pioneer. And this is, 20, 30 years ago. Today it might not seem like a big to-do, but it was a big to-do. How do you get people to think how they may not necessarily have thought?

DWIGHT: We're talking about women in ministry because you say, how do you deal with something that could be controversial? We have to educate the people that we serve. If there's no exposure to a thought in advance, if there's no study, reflection, prayer, whatever. Cold turkey, just sometimes it is just a shock in the face. And there's so much shock that people instinctively go to their default position, which is no. We had already been over that bridge long before Esther came because we had to go through the big decision that should we have woman elders? As there was a time when that was just like, no, we don't do that.

Skip McCarty was on the team and helped us carefully think through the process. This is back in 1987, we educated the congregation by presenting two papers: one against women in ministry and one in favor

of women in ministry. We asked each group to write a paper. We took the two papers, folded them together, put them in an envelope and mailed it to every member of this congregation, asking them to prayerfully read these two papers.

I, at one point, had taken the position against women's ordination after working on my dissertation project in 1985. And I did a series from Ephesians and preached a sermon called the Adam Bomb. And it's a word about Adam and wives being submissive. And I kind of took that angle.

Well, that ran into a stonewall. There were people that said, "Right on, boy." And there were others that said, "Are you crazy?"

I graduated in '86 and prior to graduating Karen and I adopted a little girl. We had a little boy, but we adopted Kristen. And it was just a miracle.

My whole perspective changed. It just changed. Some of the women who were very much a part of the pro women's elder, got together, and they said, let's put a shower on for the pastor. They plan a beautiful shower at Ruth Murdoch gym. And then the little baby gets born and comes into my heart and our lives, and then I'm rethinking everything. And by the time that's over, I'm saying, "You would deny this little girl a place in ministry because of her gender?" And then I listened again to some of the texts that I thought were so rock solid. You already know the rest of the story. I had to reverse myself in the pulpit.

DEBBIE: Let's talk about the current generation, Generation Z.

DWIGHT: One of the biggest challenges for me in this congregation over 40 years, there have been four generations. I came as a boomer. Ten years later, the whole world is dealing with something called Gen X. Suddenly they're writing books on it, psychosocial profiles. And then I take a summer off just to study Gen X. We make it for another 10 years. And then they say, oh, by the way, that's over. Now we're into Millennials. Who are they? The ones that followed Gen X, of course. Oh brother, you mean I got to do the study all over again?

You do. Because if you want to communicate to this group, how you communicate it here won't work. They have their own mind. That's the toughest part of my job on this campus where the young keep turning

over. Just when we thought we had Millennials down, somebody says, guess what? They're called Gen Zers now. And they're nothing like anything we've had.

I took the summer of 2019 just to study and say, "My Lord, what are we dealing with here?" And I share it with the faculty when we have faculty dedication, before the kids come. And I said, this is a generation like we've never seen before. They scored the highest of any class in the history of the entering class in the history of America.

I have mental health issues, check yes or no. They check yes, the highest number of yeses of any class in history. So there are kids coming in now with an ache already inside of them and oh my, have we found that to be true. I'm not dissing Gen Zers. I'm just saying, "Hey ladies and gentlemen, these are our kids. You sent them to us. We're doing our best to reach them. But this is a unique challenge. They've been nurtured and bred by something called this (holds up phone)." And this has created a unique isolation that is hard to break through now. Teachers, preachers and Sabbath School leaders are finding it. They are in their little world. They have many friends and don't know one of them by name.

We're going to have to keep adapting if we want our doors to stay open. If the church doesn't reach out to this generation and find out, what do we redesign for them, we're lost. We'll lose the generation. And God says, I didn't give you that option. You cannot lose them. I died for them. You will find them if you ask Me. In fact, you know what I tell people, the best is yet to come the worst in terms of American society. I wrote a book called "American Apocalypse." I'm pretty downbeat on the future of America, politically, racial division wise and economic division wise and the whole nine yards, I'm down. I'm not optimistic about that future. But the best is yet to come because Jesus is coming and Jesus wins. And that's my life.

DEBBIE: Do you know what's next?

DWIGHT: I don't, but He does. A seminary student gave me a sign I have in my office. It goes like this, "I don't know what the next chapter is, but I know the Author." And I thought, that's the truth. I don't know what the next chapter is, but I know the Author. Hallelujah. ■

Watch the full interview at



HOW SHALL WE GO?



SPEAKERS



▲ John Gryz



▲ Michael Campos

MUSICAL GUEST



▲ Hugo Yin

Our theme this year centers around the question, “How Shall We Go?” Jesus authorizes those who would come after Him to, “Therefore, Go.” We will reflect on that theme of the Great Commission within the context of these turbulent days.

Our Family Camp Meeting provides an opportunity to get away, to be around the community of faith, to reset our spiritual batteries, and to enjoy the beautiful outdoors provided by our getaway retreat center. While we pray it will be a time of relaxation, a time for slowing the inner rpm’s of our lives down, we also pray that this will all serve to prepare the way for Jesus and His Spirit to become noticeably present in each life. With the variety of offered activities, all ages can enjoy this respite. This annual gathering can remind us of what is most important during these last days.

The invitation is to come, replenish and consider the works of God in our lives and in our times. I am reminded of those inspiring words: “In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what God has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our history.” (CET 204)

God be with each until we see you again. ■

John Gryz is president of the Illinois Conference.

CAMP MEETING DATES — JULY 26-29, 2023

Location: Camp Akita, 1684 Knox Rd 1200 N, Gilson IL 61436

Web: ilcsda.org/campmeeting

Phone: 630-716-3560



EXPERIENCING THE WORD



In keeping with this year's conference-wide theme, we are extending a special invitation for you to experience our 2023 Indiana Camp Meeting, taking place June 12–17 on the campus of Indiana Academy. Whether camp meeting is a long-standing tradition for you and your family or this is the first year you will be attending, there will be something for everyone.

From the devotional time before breakfast to the seminars and presentations throughout the day and evening meetings in the gymnasium, the adult schedule is full of wonderful spiritual opportunities. The children's programming, which includes classes for toddlers through teens, is fun-filled with plenty of recreation and engaging Bible lessons. In addition, enjoyable activities for the entire family are being planned after each evening meeting.

Afternoon seminar topics include practical ways to experience and share the Word of God, such as Bible study, memorization, journaling and prophecy. A second track will feature local church ministries training, designed to assist members and leaders to serve their congregations and communities more effectively.

On Sabbath, June 10, our Spanish single-day camp meeting will take place in the Indiana Academy gymnasium. Called Día de la Hermandad (Fraternity Day), this event has been a blessing from year to year. Our 2023 gathering will be no exception.

A new addition to our camp meeting schedule will be a gathering of Haitian brothers and sisters on Sabbath, June 17, in the Cicero Church. With the rapidly growing Haitian congregations in our conference, we are pleased to provide this special opportunity.

Over and over, the experience of making new friends and renewing long-standing friendships for both adults and children in our multicultural conference is a highlight of the week. Plan now to attend this year's event! ■

Vic Van Schaik is Indiana Conference president.

CAMP MEETING — JUNE 12-17, 2023

Location: Indiana Academy, 4815 State Rte 19,
Cicero IN 46034

Phone: 317-844-6201



SPEAKERS



▲ Clifford Goldstein



▲ Suan Lian Kham



▲ Bill Knott



▲ Jud Lake



▲ Justo Morales



▲ Neil Nedley



▲ Omwocha Nyaribo



▲ Michelete William



▲ Saravia Yohalmo



DEEPER ROOTS IN CHRIST

This year, the Lake Region Conference will embark upon a 10-day encampment, beginning Friday, June 16, through Saturday, June 24. This will be the first full camp meeting since the pandemic that forever changed our global landscape. Various services will include dynamic speakers from across the Lake Region Conference, as well as invited guest presenters and weekend guest speakers. Our theme is “Deeper Roots in Christ.”

Errol T. Stoddart has served as a minister of the gospel for over 30 years. He is an international speaker and teacher who has ministered extensively throughout Africa, India, Europe, the Caribbean and all over the United States. In addition to preaching, he is frequently called upon to conduct music and worship workshops. He is the author of the book, “The Silent Shout: A Guide for Biblical Praise and Worship.” Stoddart currently pastors in the Allegheny East Conference.

Calvin Watkins Sr. serves as a vice president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. He previously served as president of Southwest Region Conference for two terms. He brings a wealth of experience, having worked as a conference evangelist and as director for the ministerial, personal ministries and community services departments.

Emil Peeler is in constant demand as a preacher, mentor, motivational speaker and leadership and church growth consultant worldwide. Because of his love, passion and gift for teaching God’s Word, he has been blessed to preach in the Philippines, Africa, England, Korea, Jamaica, Bahamas, Trinidad and Canada. He has also written books and produced music, and has been involved as a musical consultant for several noteworthy projects that have been critically acclaimed. He currently pastors in the Allegheny East Conference.

We are embracing the words used by the prophet Jeremiah, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.” Jeremiah 17:7, 8 NKJV.

Garth Gabriel is Lake Region Conference president.



SPEAKERS



▲ Emil Peeler



▲ Errol Stoddart



▲ Calvin Watkins Sr.

CAMP MEETING — JUNE 16-24, 2023
HISPANIC CAMP MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPT. 1-MONDAY, SEPT. 5, 2023

Location: Camp Wagner, 19088 Brownsville St,
 Cassopolis MI 49031

Email: president@lrcsda.com

Website: www.lrcsda.com

WITH ALL BOLDNESS



In Acts 4:29, Peter and John point us to a divine calling to boldness. The two apostles are released after an encounter with the chief priests and elders, and immediately lift their voices in prayer, saying, “Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word.”

Our conference president, Jim Micheff, will open camp meeting with his message Friday evening. Our main speaker for the first Sabbath through Tuesday night will be Stephen Bohr, president of Secrets Unsealed, who has committed his life to spreading a cutting-edge gospel message for these last days.

Each morning of camp meeting will begin with an early morning worship by Tim Rumsey, the director of Pathway to Paradise Ministries, a supporting ministry that provides training and educational resources in the areas of family, health and the Bible. Our speaker for the mid-morning meeting will be Dwain Esmond, associate director and editor of the Ellen G. White Estate. Randy Skeete, an international evangelist, originally from Barbados, will be the main speaker from Wednesday through Friday evening. Shawn Boonstra, Voice of Prophecy speaker and director, will speak for the divine service on the second Sabbath morning, and will close out camp meeting on Sabbath evening.

Our prayer and desire are that camp meeting will be a spiritual blessing to each one. As we devote a few days to seek the Lord together, may the hearts of old and young be encouraged and strengthened in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please visit the Michigan Conference website for more information: www.misda.org. ■

Justin Ringstaff is executive secretary of the Michigan Conference.

SPEAKERS



▲ Stephen Bohr



▲ Dwain Esmond



▲ Tim Rumsey



▲ Randy Skeete

MICHIGAN CAMP MEETING — JUNE 9-17, 2023

Location: Great Lakes Adventist Academy, 7477 M575,
Cedar Lake MI 48812

Phone: 517-316-1512

HISPANIC CAMP MEETING — MAY 26-28, 2023

Location: Camp Au Sable, 2590 Camp Au Sable Rd.,
Grayling MI 49738

UPPER PENINSULA CAMP MEETING — SEPT. 8-10, 2023

Location: Camp Sagola, 2885 State Hwy M-69, Crystal
Falls MI 49920





COME, FOLLOW ME

At the beginning of His ministry on earth, Jesus met His future disciples and invited them to be part of His missionary team. One by one, they responded to His call, and after three and a half years of training and assisting Him, they were sent out as His ambassadors into the whole world. We are part of God's kingdom today because of their response to the call: "Come, and follow Me."

Now, it is our privilege to respond to the same call. Jesus needs new disciples in every generation in our assigned territory. He wants us to follow Him and to be actively involved in the process of making disciples. We cannot make disciples; the Holy Spirit does. But we need to invite others to become His disciples.

Having this perspective, our main speakers include John Bradshaw, president/speaker of It Is Written Television; Titus Naftanaila, Wisconsin Conference president; Don MacLafferty, founder and president of InDiscipleship; and Rick Remmers, assistant to the president at the North American Division.

Other midweek speakers include Dr. K'dee Crews, licensed clinical psychologist at Beautiful Minds Medical in Northern California; Gem Castor, prayer coordinator for ASAP Ministries, Kathy and Roger Hernandez, ministerial and evangelism directors for the Southern Union Conference; and Yin Schaff, health ministries coordinator for the Wisconsin Conference.

A concert by Stephanie Dawn, a week-long cooking class, a baptism and ordination ceremony, and the annual 5k run/walk (Hallelujah Hustle), besides other training events and seminars, will be a blessing for all participants. We look forward to seeing you at Wisconsin Camp Meeting 2023! ■

Titus Naftanaila is Wisconsin Conference president.

WISCONSIN CAMP MEETING JUNE 16-24, 2023

Location: Camp Wakonda, W8368 County Rd E, Oxford WI 53952

Camp Phone: 608-296-2126



SPEAKERS



▲ John Bradshaw



▲ Don MacLafferty



▲ Titus Naftanaila



▲ Rick Remmers



▲ Gem Castor



▲ K'dee Crews



▲ Roger Hernandez



▲ Kathy Hernandez



▲ Yin Schaff

Camp Akita

Camp is typically associated with the idea of spending an immense amount of time outdoors, simply pitching a tent and living off nature. Though it does encompass a great amount of outdoor time, it goes beyond your typical weekend camping experience—a weekend simply does not suffice. It is not enough to say that camp was, quite literally, a Great Adventure this past summer. Interacting with children and watching them get to experience Jesus on their own is beyond what a simple camping trip can offer.

Perhaps it's the way that Camp Akita incorporates worship into everything that kept me motivated and encouraged as we worked day and night to create this Jesus-filled environment for our campers. Morning, noon and night I watched campers as they were encouraged to enjoy the beauty that God provides at camp while providing support to them as they sought to find who Jesus is to them. From praying with their friends, gazing at the night sky as praises are sung, to learning about the many forms of life that coexist within this beautiful creation, everything points to our Creator. It is a learning experience unlike any other.

I recall a particular camper making known that they felt seen at camp. By the end of the week, this camper was overwhelmed with the care and love brought by the staff and the environment created, and she teared up knowing she would be leaving soon. Campers had been reflecting on the daily skits given by camp staff that depicted the character of Jesus. They portrayed how much Jesus cares deeply for each camper, so much so that His life was given as a sacrifice for every last one. This specific camper had mentioned to her counselor that camp had taught her that she is not as invisible as she initially believed when she arrived, rather that she is loved and cared for by more than just her family and friends at home. She mattered to camp staff; she matters even still. She mattered so much that interactions she had with each camper and staff member only strengthened what a one-hour skit introduced. The visual was tied

with camp experiences to produce a Jesus that she knew loved her and she loved in return.

This upcoming summer is set to not only remind campers that they matter but to teach them to be set free from lies—much like those this camper arrived with. Camp Akita is where children get to step into a safe space and learn freely what it means to live and experience the joys of dwelling with Jesus all day long and learning about His love for each of them individually. We can live in hope and victory from the lies that try to hold us captive, that is the lesson. You won't regret sending your child to Camp Akita; send them and prepare to hear about the wonderful ways Jesus showed up. This is the summer to be motivated, encouraged and Set Free. ■

Leslie Diaz, Illinois Conference office manager.

SUMMER CAMP DATES

May 28–June 4 | Wrangler Training
June 4–11 | CASA Retreat + Certification Week
June 11–18 | Base Camp—Staff Training
June 18–25 | Cub + Junior Camp
June 25–July 2 | Tween Camp
July 2–9 | Teen Camp I
July 9–16 | Teen II + Specialty Camp
July 16–23 | Family Camp
July 23–30 | Pastor's Retreat + Camp Meeting
July 31–Aug. 3 | Camp Strike

Location: Camp Akita, 1684 Knox Rd 1200 N, Gilson IL 61436

Contact: Stacey DePluzer, camp director

Email: youthdept@ilcsda.org or
summeratakita@ilcsda.org

Phone: 630-716-3555

THEME: "SET FREE" | GALATIANS 5:1

ILLINOIS

Summer camp



Timber Ridge Camp

Camp has always been a place where old friends meet, new friends are made, and memories that last a lifetime are built. Camp is also a place where our campers see Jesus in all that we do and say. Each summer, campers leave camp with a resolve to serve Jesus.

This past summer at Tween camp I was called into the girls village on Monday night. A camper was threatening to go home. There were a lot of strong “feelings” going on as I walked in the door. Tensions were high. With God’s leading I came into the cabin and sought common ground with the group. The mood lightened and with a prayer in my heart I began to unpack the stressful situation. I asked the girls if they understood what I was saying. One of the campers, who had been deep in the tension, smiled and said, “This is where we all tell Pastor Charlie yes we totally understand.” Tension melted from the room, and the rest of the week went well for everyone in that cabin.

The girl who had spoken up was Hannah. As the week went on, we developed a relationship. On Friday night, she came forward and dedicated her life to Jesus. Later that night she asked to talk with me. Hannah told me that life had been difficult and that she had not handled it well in the past. In fact, before camp, she had pretty much given up on the idea that she was even interested in a relationship with Jesus. Hannah had literally been kicked out of another camp that very summer. After a week at Timber Ridge Camp, she felt the Holy Spirit’s presence in her life and decided it was time to give God another chance.

Each summer, our Lake Union summer camps make a huge impact on our campers. They are places where our staff represent Jesus with love, compassion and yes, just good old fashioned fun that can only happen at camp. Come see us this summer! Let’s see what God has in store for our staff and campers! ■

Charlie Thompson is youth director for the Indiana Conference.



SUMMER CAMP DATES

June 14–18 | Single Moms & Kids Camp

June 18–25 | Camp for the Blind

June 25–July 2 | Cub Camp (Ages 7–10)

July 2–9 | Junior Camp (Ages 10–13)

July 9–16 | Tween Camp (Ages 13–15)

July 16–23 | Teen Camp (Ages 15–17)

July 23–30 | Family Camp (All ages)

Location: Timber Ridge Camp, 674 Timber Ridge Rd, Spencer IN 47460

Camper Email: trcampermail@gmail.com

Phone: 812-829-2507

INDIANA

Summer camp



Camp Wagner

Camp Wagner is a special place for so many of our young people, especially our inner-city youth. It is always amazing to see the simple yet splendid display of God's nature captivating their attention. A night sky filled with stars so numerous, big and bright you can hear gasps of wonder and excitement. Or the silence at night, something many campers often never experience in the hustle and bustle of big cities.

Camp Wagner is a unique space that creates a change of pace and environment for many of our campers. One of the major factors that motivate the staff is that we get to partner with God and be conductors of His grace and mercy. Junior Camp has proven itself as a place where many of our young people make decisions to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Last summer we celebrated 13 baptisms, and we look forward to what God is going to do this year and beyond.

Junior Camp this year is titled "Wild West." We are taking the youth west—not physically, but spiritually—and teaching them about the exciting story of David and how he was a lone ranger in the Bible. We strive to make the Bible come alive so our campers can take ownership for their personal walk with God while still having an amazing time.

This year's camp will be full of fun activities including horseback riding, skating, laser tag, driving go karts and swimming. We are especially excited to visit the Tree Runner Adventure Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We can't forget to mention the western grub that will be swinging its way to our cafeteria.

Junior Camp will climax with a conference-wide Olympic and family fun day in Cassopolis on Sunday, July 30. All are invited, so we hope to see you there, partners!

Registration for Junior Camp is open for children ages 8–16. Sign up today and get ready for us to welcome you to the Wild West! ■

Earl Baldwin is the Lake Region Youth director.

SUMMER CAMP DATES—JULY 23-30

Location: Camp Wagner, 19088 Brownsville St., Cassopolis MI 49031

Web: www.lrcyouth.com



LAKE REGION *Summer camp*



Camp Au Sable & Camp Sagola

Every week I spend at Camp Au Sable is extraordinary, but one I will absolutely never forget happened when I was a 10-year-old camper. I was thrilled and terrified to be away from home for the first time. The week consisted of crafts, games and amazing friendships, but the most memorable moment happened during the Friday night play.

"If any of you want to accept this call and give your life to the Lord in baptism, come up front." Nobody. All was silent except for a few emotional sniffles in the distance. A tear ran down my cheek that I hoped would go unnoticed; but someone did notice. The assistant counselor of my cabin, Emory Dent, grabbed my hand and walked with me toward the greatest decision I've ever made. I've never looked back.

Now that I am a counselor, I am always looking for these moments that I can share with my campers. I received many blessings last summer, but one of the most beautiful examples happened during foot-washing.

I led my cabin members to a peaceful, quiet spot right on the shore of Lake Shellenbarger and we got into our usual football huddle. Instead of our normal rambunctious excitement, we all took turns sharing what we were most looking forward to in Heaven. Tears rolled as we sang a few songs and talked some more. After that, I took each of the boys aside and individually prayed with them and washed their feet.

Finally, I came to the troublemaker of the cabin. He was the type of boy I had many reasons not to like. I caught myself just going through the motions because, deep inside, I had no desire to do this for him. Feeling a bit of guilt, I continued in a more thoughtful way. I prepared to wash the dirt from his brown speckled feet lined with marks from his flip flops, but before I started, he yelled impulsively, "Wait! Mr. Tyler, would it be ok if I washed yours instead?"

"Of course," I said, holding back a giant sob stuck in my throat. He then said something that will stick

with me forever, "I'm excited about Heaven because you and Cabin 15 will be there."

All I thought about for the rest of the night is the new thing I'm looking forward to most about Heaven ... I can't wait to stand before the throne of Jesus and hear Him say, "Welcome, Cabin 15." ■

Tyler Morgan is currently the Nature Center intern at Camp Au Sable. He has served in the camping ministry at Camp Au Sable as a counselor for three summers and Camp Sagola as a counselor for one summer. He is a secondary education and English student at Southern Adventist University.

CAMP AU SABLE DATES

June 11–18 | Adventure Camp (ages 8–10)
June 18–25 | Junior Camp (ages 10–13)
June 25–July 2 | Tween Camp (ages 12–14)
July 2–9 | Teen Camp/High School Camp (ages 14–17)
July 9–16 | Family Camp I
July 16–23 | Family Camp II
July 23–30 | Family Camp III

Location: Camp Au Sable, 2590 Camp Au Sable Rd., Grayling MI 49738

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Contact: Jordan Grove
Web: campausable.org
Email: jgrove@misda.org
Phone: 989-348-5491

CAMP SAGOLA DATES

July 16–23 | Junior Camp (ages 8–12)
July 23–30 | Teen Camp (ages 13–17)

Location: Camp Sagola, 2885 State Hwy M-69, Crystal Falls MI 49920

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Contact: Craig Morgan
Email: campsagola@gmail.com
Phone: 313-333-6129

MICHIGAN

Summer camps



Camp Wakonda

I worked as summer camp staff at Camp Wakonda in 2022. I've been going to camp meetings since I was a baby so Wakonda has been a huge part of my life, and it's been an even greater part of my life in recent years.

In 2021, I attended teen week at Wakonda. It was probably one of the most influential weeks of my life, as well as one of the many reasons I decided to apply to work at Wakonda.

Every year I've gone to Wakonda, either for camp meetings or for summer camp, I've felt a closer relationship with God, and I want to help other youth feel that way too! It's something I've looked forward to every time I get the chance to go.

It is a place set apart, a place you are able to unplug from the world and plug into God's creations in nature and in His word. It is a place filled with God's grace; the second I pull into that driveway, I feel at peace. I've seen so many ways to minister to young people and it is amazing to watch that happen! The activities we do during summer camp are normal everyday activities, to show how God works in every way.

When I was given the opportunity to work at Wakonda as a staff member, I was thrilled! My own chance to minister to other youth and watch them learn the ways of Christ. When you're staff, you get to see how the camp staff develops into a family, and by the end of the summer you have so many new friends and people who you consider brothers and sisters in Christ! ■

Becca Cordwell, Camp Wakonda staff

SUMMER CAMP DATES

July 2-7 | Cub Camp (ages 7-9)

July 9-14 | Tween Camp (ages 10-12)

July 16-21 | Teen Camp (ages 13-17)

July 23-30 | Family Camp (All Ages)

Location: Camp Wakonda, W8368 County Hwy E, Oxford WI 53952

Web: wakonda.org

Phone: 920-609-0483



WISCONSIN

Summer camp



Andrews University

In summer 2023, Andrews University will host several camps that provide opportunities for participants to grow academically, spiritually and socially.

Explore Andrews Summer Camp

Join Andrews University this summer for an exciting, week-long day camp for middle school students. This unique academic camp connects students entering grades 7–9 directly with Andrews University's academic departments and faculty in an engaging, hands-on format.

Campers will participate in the fun side of learning through small group interactions with University faculty and staff. They will learn about future academic and career possibilities that will help them gain knowledge, confidence and practical skills.

Summer 2023 programming includes six different camp topics.

- Technology Camp: Lego robotics, 3D printing, industrial lasers and more
- Art & Design Camp: hands-on experience in fine art, graphic design and photography
- History Camp: an exploration of local and world history
- Pre-Veterinary Camp: hands-on animal care at the Agriculture Education Center
- Architecture Camp: building and woodworking in the architecture design center
- Coding and Computing: the basics of computer science and the tools to code

Aaron Moushon, assistant dean for Undergraduate Education and Explore Andrews Program director, says, "With the Explore Andrews Program, our goal is to help young people make the connection between their academic interests, talents, abilities and God's calling for their lives. We look forward to welcoming students to campus."

Andrews University Summer Camp/The Crayon Box Children's Learning Center

Andrews University Summer Camp and The Crayon Box are together offering 10 weeks of Bible-based educational adventures for children entering grades 1–7. Held exclusively on the University campus, the new day camp features Vacation Bible School-style programming and field trips. Each week of camp highlights a different theme, such as "Everything is Awesome," learning about architecture and

architects, and "Where the Wild Things Are," learning about God's amazing creatures.

"We hope every camper ends this summer closer to Jesus, with new friends, and prepared academically and emotionally for the coming school year," says Kristy Conklin, camp director.

Social Survival Camp

Social Survival Camp, a therapist-led day camp program run through the Speech-Language & Hearing Clinic in the School of Communication Sciences & Disorders, uses a video game theme to teach children and young adults effective social skill strategies. From June 12–23, participants ages 9+ will learn new skills, including eye contact, listening, commenting, answering questions, asking questions, initiating conversation, maintaining a topic, understanding emotions, social problem solving and carrying on a conversation. Jordan Mondak, program director, says, "I want our clients to leave our camp feeling empowered and confident in their ability to make and maintain friendships." ■

EXPLORE ANDREWS SUMMER CAMP — JUNE 12-16, 2023

Location: Andrews University, 8975 M-139,
Berrien Springs MI 49104

Web: andrews.edu/exploreandrews/middleschool

Email: explore@andrews.edu

Phone: 269-471-3382

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SUMMER CAMP/THE CRAYON BOX CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER — JUNE 12-AUG. 18, 2023

Location: Andrews University, Johnson Gym and
Marsh Hall

Web: [andrews.edu/services/crayonbox/
summercamp](https://andrews.edu/services/crayonbox/summercamp)

Email: crayonbox@andrews.edu

Phone: 269-471-3350

SOCIAL SURVIVAL CAMP — JUNE 12-23, 2023

Location: Andrews University, Bell Hall, Suite 114

Web: socialsurvival.net

Email: suzannem@andrews.edu

Phone: 269-471-6569



ANDREWS
UNIVERSITY

Summer camps



Young Nurses Reflect Ideals of National Nurses Month

EVERY MAY IS NATIONAL NURSES MONTH IN HONOR OF LEGENDARY BRITISH NURSE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE (1820–1910), WHOSE BIRTHDAY WAS MAY 12. LIKE THE FAMOUS “LADY WITH THE LAMP,” A NICKNAME SHE RECEIVED DURING THE CRIMEAN WAR AS A RESULT OF HER NIGHT ROUNDS CHECKING ON WOUNDED SOLDIERS, MILLIONS OF NURSES HAVE FOLLOWED HER STEPS AND DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO CARING FOR THE SICK AND HURTING.

In celebration of National Nurses Month this year and Nightingale’s exemplary work, AdventHealth takes a look at two new graduate nurses who are building on the rich legacy that Nightingale left behind as well as the many nurses who came before them at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth.

Rebeka (Beki) Tanurdzic, RN, is a nurse who graduated from Walla Walla University in 2021 and now works in the Progressive Care Unit (PCU) at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth La Grange. She has a long history with AdventHealth; her mother was a chaplain and director of pastoral care after the family immigrated from Serbia in 2007. Tanurdzic started with AdventHealth as a certified nursing assistant (CAN) and volunteer at AdventHealth Hinsdale. “I feel like AdventHealth has been a part of my family,” she said.

As a child, Tanurdzic knew she wanted to do something in the medical field, but she didn’t decide on nursing until the summer before her senior year of high school. “I prayed about it all that summer,” she said. And she is glad she received an answer to her prayers.

She finds the PCU unit very rewarding. Her best days are when she makes a connection with patients who give her insight into how to help them.

“You are the advocate for your patients,” she said, explaining that can mean advocating with other staff, with family or with the patients themselves. “Our patients are very sick and very vulnerable, and you have to be compassionate and be someone they can trust.”

Someday she would like to direct a traveling clinic to bring medical care to people in underserved areas of Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia. “Some areas there don’t have enough care, and I would like to help,” she said. “Nursing is a calling for me.”

Meanwhile, Brooke Barnes, RN, joined the Pediatric Intermediate Care Unit at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale after she graduated from Western Illinois University in 2022. Her mother is a nurse at Hinsdale, and she always encouraged Barnes to consider nursing.

“Because she was telling me what to be, I thought I didn’t want to be a nurse,” Barnes



▲ Brooke Barnes (left) and Beki Tanurdzic (right) are new graduate nurses following in their mothers’ footsteps working at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hospitals.

said. “But going to college, being on my own for the first time, I had a chance to reflect and take stock. Then I thought, ‘Maybe she has a point.’”

As was the case with Tanurdzic, the COVID-19 pandemic dominated Barnes’ nursing education. Her experience only furthered her belief that nursing is a selfless profession. She feels that working through the pandemic made her a better nurse and prepared her for the reality of nursing.

She was especially thrilled to get a job in the Pediatric unit. “I really love the people I work with, and I also really love meeting the kids and the parents,” she said. “I like talking with them and finding unique solutions to things like when a child doesn’t want to take medicine or have an IV line put in. You have to be creative.”

Barnes loves working in her current unit and hopes to work there for years to come.

“I want to keep aspiring to be the best nurse I can be,” she said. ■



Julie Busch is associate vice president for Marketing & Communication, AdventHealth Great Lakes Region.

John Wesley Taylor V Voted as President-elect

ON TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023, THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTED JOHN WESLEY TAYLOR V TO SERVE AS THE SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.

Taylor will replace Andrea Luxton, who is retiring July 1 after serving for seven years as president of Andrews University and as the University provost for six years before that.

Prior to becoming president-elect, Taylor served as associate director of the Department of Education at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists since 2010 and as executive secretary of the Adventist Accrediting Association. He has also served as a professor and dean of the School of Education & Psychology at Southern Adventist University and a professor, associate dean and director of doctoral programs at the School of Graduate Studies at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines. He also served as a professor and founding dean of the Division of Graduate Studies at Montemorelos University in Mexico.

Taylor holds PhD and master's degrees from Andrews University, an EdD from the University of Virginia and a master's degree from University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He has presented at a wide array of conferences and professional development events around the world and has authored, or jointly authored, articles in a number of academic and professional journals.

"I have a vision for Andrews University," says Taylor. "That vision is for our Andrews

University to be mission focused, to exemplify exceptional excellence in academics and services, be nimble in process and program, and be committed. Committed to God and His word, to the philosophy of Adventist education, to our University's heritage and values, to create a warm and supportive setting for faculty and staff, and to serve its students and constituents well."

"By God's grace, I endeavor to lead with empathy and compassion, with a clear sense of purpose, and with moral and ethical integrity. Throughout our University, I will seek to advance the biblical worldview and to promote strategies that nurture faith," adds Taylor.

The selection of Taylor was guided by the work of a Board-appointed Presidential Search Committee. Artur Stele, chairperson of the Presidential Search Committee and chair of the Andrews University Board of Trustees, says, "We believe that Taylor ... reflects an opportunity to continue the visionary, thoughtful and God-centered leadership that President Luxton has offered to Andrews over the last seven years."

Stele adds that "while we have been seriously praying for God's guidance of this search process, we all now need to pray even more for our new president as he seeks God's leading and influence, and especially as he



Dave Sherwin

▲ John Wesley Taylor V

works closely with the Andrews University community ... as President-elect Taylor and that community seek to reflect and fulfill God's will for His University." To read more about President-elect Taylor, visit andrews.edu/agenda/62441. ■

Andrews University Office of University Communication

Wisconsin Administrator Announces Retirement

F. BRIAN STEPHAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF THE WISCONSIN CONFERENCE, ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL RETIRE ON JULY 1, 2023. STEPHAN HAS SERVED IN THIS CAPACITY SINCE HIS ELECTION IN 2011. UPON RETIREMENT, HIS DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE IN THE MICHIGAN AND WISCONSIN CONFERENCES WILL SPAN 43 YEARS, TO THE DAY, FROM WHEN HE BEGAN WORKING FOR THE CHURCH.



▲ Brian and Cindy Stephan

He has served in treasury functions for the Adventist Church since graduating from Andrews University with a Master of Business Administration in 1980. He began his work as a business intern for the Michigan Conference. Shortly thereafter, he became assistant treasurer, then undertreasurer and corporation secretary. After serving in the

Michigan Conference for 31 years, Stephan accepted the call to Wisconsin.

Stephan shared the news with members of the Wisconsin Conference Executive Committee on March 1, 2023. During his announcement, Stephan said, “I feel it is time to slow down and shift into retirement. It is time to change my ministry to my family now.”

He stated that throughout his time in Wisconsin he has worked with a lot of good people and that his colleagues and the many committee members he has served with have all been excellent. He further shared, “It has been an absolute privilege working these 43 years for the church. I would not change anything. I have enjoyed it and still do.”

In closing, Stephan gave special thanks to Mike Edge, former president of the Wisconsin Conference, who had to call him twice before he accepted the call to Wisconsin. He says, “It has been a blessing. It is wonderful. Thank you.”

Reaction

“Brian has been a great blessing to our conference,” said Titus Naftanaila, Wisconsin Conference president. “His proficient management, competent leadership, and steadfast commitment to the mission of our church has led our conference to a strong financial position.” He further notes, “When Brian started his ministry in 2011, the conference net assets were around one million dollars and today with, God’s blessing, they stand at over four million dollars.”

Speaking of his time working with Stephan, Naftanaila said, “My colleagues and I have enjoyed working with him and will miss him greatly. We wish him and Cindy God’s blessing on the next phase of their journey.”

Brian and his wife Cindy plan to relocate to Michigan to be closer to family. ■

Laurella Case is communication coordinator for the Wisconsin Conference.



▲ From left to right: Receiving the Living Legends Awards for Service to Humanity Foundation were George Fatheree III, Justin Hansford, Maxine Waters, and Edward Woods III.

Lake Region Director Receives National Recognition

ON SUNDAY, FEB. 26, 2023, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY (PARL) FOR THE LAKE REGION CONFERENCE WAS RECOGNIZED FOR HIS YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AT A GALA HELD AT THE SLIGO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN MARYLAND.

Edward Woods III was honored with a Living Legend Award for Service to Humanity for his decades of advocacy for equitable representation and liberty of conscience.

The theme for the awards gala this year was “Liberty and Justice for All!” and three individuals who have been activists in the fields of law and policy were recognized. In addition to Woods, honorees were attorney Justin Hansford, attorney George Fatheree III and Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

Long History of Service to the Church

Born and raised in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where he attended Ruth Murdoch Elementary School and Andrews Academy, Woods is a graduate of Oakwood University and has a master’s in public administration from Western Michigan University. He currently serves as the executive director of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, which was able to successfully

create the first citizen-driven redistricting map that more equitably reflects the state’s demographic and geographic diversity.

Woods has also had a long history of involvement in the PARL work of the church: first, as the PARL director of his home church, Highland Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church, and later as the PARL director for Lake Region Conference, where he initiated PARL forums and engaged with faith and civic leaders.

He was instrumental in forming the Conscience and Justice Council, launched in 2016 to encourage PARL work at the local church level and provide biblically based programs about conscience and justice issues.

In accepting the award, Woods quoted Isaiah 1:17 which is a call to “learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.” And he reminded those in attendance that the Seventh-day

Adventist pioneers had a history of being involved in the social issues of the day and that we should continue that tradition.

Another awardee, Congresswoman Waters, thanked Woods for his remarks by stating that because of his remarks she “learned about the work of the Seventh-day Adventists. ... we don’t really know about the depth of the work that is being done by the Seventh-day Adventists.”

Doreen Hines, founder and director of the Living Legends Awards for Service to Humanity Foundation, said that the selection committee is always looking for people with a passion for service. “In our research and talking to people around our faith community Edward’s name came up and further research revealed his impact on the Michigan community,” she explained. “The fact that in his employment he was passionate about achieving fair and equitable treatment for all Michiganders. His work with PARL shows his passion to put in the work to educate and fight for members of his faith community to maintain religious freedoms and access to justice.”

For over a decade the foundation has recognized individuals and organizations which have made significant impact through their humanitarian service. By using the arts, the foundation shines the light on the stories of those who have made a significant impact on their local and global communities. The foundation also focuses on ending food insecurity and is currently providing meals to 1,000 families monthly on average.

Past recipients of this award have included Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee, Congressman John Lewis and Chaplain

Barry Black.

You can watch the program at <http://bit.ly/3mkko2y> or by scanning this QR code. ■



Jennifer Gray Woods is the Lake Union PARL director.

Young Adult to Represent Lake Union at North American Division Year-end Meetings

ON MARCH 8, 2023, THE LAKE UNION CONFERENCE VOTED JOI MCCLELLAN TO SERVE AS OUR YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (YEAR-END MEETINGS). JOI IS CURRENTLY A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY IN ANN ARBOR.



▲ Joi McClellan

She completed her undergraduate studies in music with minors in chemistry and biology, graduating at the top of her class at Southern Adventist University. During her time at Southern, she was a piano and violin instructor, a choral accompanist and a tutor.

After completing her undergraduate studies, Joi took a gap year to serve as a missionary on the campus of Michigan State University in the middle of the pandemic. She collaborated with local churches, student groups and the community to bring spiritual, mental and physical stability to young adults

in East Lansing and beyond. After prayerfully considering various scholarships across the country, she chose to continue her ministry as a student in Michigan.

McClellan is the president of Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) at the University of Michigan—one of our official Adventist student organizations on campus. She is also the Class of 2025 Health and Wellness Chair for the School of Dentistry, where she leads out in providing wellness programs and events that support her classmates.

Israel Ramos, public campus ministry coordinator and director for the Lake Union and Michigan, says that Joi has a wide variety of experience in working within cross-cultural contexts. “She serves in church and secular leadership settings, she is a leader among her peers, and she has a breadth of knowledge and experience across many platforms. She will represent us very well—especially young adults who feel that they come from under-represented backgrounds, high-achieving academic contexts, and those who have ties to both Adventist and non-Adventist colleges and universities. She is a great example of what we want all of our Lake Union young adults to model and she has the full support of our Lake Union PCM representatives and youth directors.”

The Lake Union is one of a very small number who historically have sent young adults to sit on the highest governing body of the North American Division. For more than five years, we have sent young adults from public and Adventist colleges to represent our field in the discussion of topics that move the mission of the church. ■

Alanna Rodriguez is Student Ministry director for the Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students (CAMPUS).

Communication Professors Publish Book on Relationships

HEATHER THOMPSON DAY AND SETH DAY, BOTH COMMUNICATION PROFESSORS AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, RECENTLY PUBLISHED “I’LL SEE YOU TOMORROW,” A BOOK ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS.

Heather and Seth first met at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Years later, as adults, they rekindled their relationship and have now been married for nearly 12 years. With three children and years of experience and research, the Days decided to share their hard-earned wisdom by co-authoring this exploration of relational dynamics.

The idea for “I’ll See You Tomorrow” first emerged as they watched “The Last Dance,” the 2020 Netflix documentary series about Michael Jordan. The series covered Jordan’s basketball career as well as his development throughout life. Heather recalled a scene when

the Chicago Bulls made it to the playoffs for the first time. Despite the team’s excitement to be in the playoffs, they lost the first series to the Orlando Magic. As the team walked off the court feeling dejected and discouraged, Michael Jordan’s trainer asked, “Hey, Michael, just let me know when I’ll see you.” Jordan responds, “I’ll see you tomorrow.”

“The second we heard him say that line, we knew this was something. The reason Michael Jordan became ‘Michael Jordan’ is because when everybody else went home, he went back to the gym,” says Seth.

Seth has a chapter in the book titled “The Infinite Game.” He explains that Jordan didn’t

see basketball as a finite, fixed game. Rather, he saw it as an infinite season, where there would be winners and losers, and the goal was to stay in the game. Seth shares that the couple reflected on this line and asked, “What does this look like for a generation of people that has really been losing the ability to stay in relationships with one another? What does it look like to start saying to one another, ‘I’ll see you tomorrow’?”

Heather emphasizes that the book is not specifically about marriage, but about relationships. She notes, “This book is not for everybody. This book is really specifically for people who genuinely want to figure out how to navigate the reality of their lives.” She continues, “This book is for the person who’s trying to figure out, how do I keep my heart soft toward others and myself despite the things I could not control in my life?”

On this shared project, Seth and Heather are open about their differing perspectives. “In the opening of the book, you’ll see two different voices,” Heather explains. Seth clarifies further, “I think there’s something in there for the two different types of readers who are going to read this book. Maybe you’ll resonate with Heather’s voice or maybe my personal story. If you identify with what Heather says, then I might challenge you a little more based on the things that I say. And if you resonate with me, then maybe you’ll find a challenge based on Heather’s chapters, because we alternate chapters. I think there’s something that will challenge anyone who reads this book.”

For more information on Heather Thompson Day, visit heatherthompsonday.com. ■

Nicholas Gunn, University Communication student writer



▲ Heather and Seth Day pictured together with their newly released book, “I’ll See You Tomorrow.”

Nicholas Gunn

Pioneer to Welcome Shane Anderson as New Lead Pastor in June

ON MARCH 22, THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE AND THE PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH BOARD CONFIRMED A CHOICE OF NEW PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TO SUCCEED DWIGHT K. NELSON, LONG-TIME PASTOR, WHO WILL LEAVE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S CAMPUS CHURCH AT THE END OF MAY.

Shane Anderson, current pastor of the New Market Seventh-day Adventist Church in Virginia, will take up duties as lead pastor on June 1. He will be the fifth lead pastor to serve in that post since the institution's campus church was formally organized in the 1950s.

Since 2004, Pastor Shane has served as senior pastor of New Market, which has 700 active participants and operates the Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School. New Market is also the campus church for Shenandoah Valley Academy.

"For many years now, PMC has been one of the leading churches in our global Adventist community. God has worked mightily through this dynamic and diverse congregation, and I am excited to have been called to serve as its lead pastor!" says Pastor Shane.

He continues, "I am grateful to Dr. Dwight Nelson for his leadership over the last four decades. His work at PMC has been filled with passion and vigor, and it is an honor to succeed him in leadership. I am looking forward to getting to know the members of the Pioneer and Andrews families, and to discover the ways God has chosen for us to work together to achieve His goals."

Passion for youth and discipleship

Prior to New Market, Pastor Shane was employed for 10 years by the Washington Conference as a pastor and church planter.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in theology from Walla Walla University, then earned a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry with a concentration in leadership from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. His dissertation topic was "Reducing pastor-dependency in the New Market SDA Church through self-managed ministry teams."

During his time at New Market, he led the creation of a discipleship training program through which more than 2,000 community guests have visited the church in the last five years—a remarkable feat considering the town has just 2,100 residents. This has led to regular baptisms and to the planting of two churches in the area, one Spanish-speaking and the other an English-speaking congregation.

While he continues to train disciples, Pastor Shane's passion is revival and reformation in the Adventist Church. "I crave seeing the church fully embrace its liberating prophetic message and its unique mission of preparing the world for Christ's return," he says.

Pastor Shane authored the book, "How to Kill Adventist Education (And How to Give It a Fighting Chance!)," which was published in 2009 by Review and Herald.

The basis for the book was inspired by what he learned during the process of restoring a positive relationship between



▲ Shane Anderson

Shenandoah Valley Academy and the church. The academy, which nearly closed in 2006, experienced a resurgence and today has a strong enrollment of 192.

It was in this context that he received numerous invitations—appearing on the Hope Channel, presenting at teachers' conventions, writing a cover story for the "Adventist Review"—to address the topic of helping Adventist schools to thrive. ■

Debbie Michel, Lake Union Herald editor



Todd Rosenberg

▲ Cellist Andrei Ioniță and guest conductor Herbert Blomstedt acknowledge enthusiastic audience applause following a performance of Dvořák's Cello Concerto with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center on March 9, 2023. Ioniță made his CSO debut in this performance. Blomstedt has made regular podium appearances with the CSO since 1988.

The Adventist Musicians Who Made History at the Chicago Symphony

THE 2023 U.S. TOUR OF THE WORLD-RENOWNED AND BELOVED CONDUCTOR HERBERT BLOMSTEDT, WHO CELEBRATED HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY IN 2022, WAS COMING TO AN END. THE TOUR HAD INCLUDED FIVE WEEKS OF REHEARSALS AND CONCERTS WITH SEVERAL FIRST-CLASS ORCHESTRAS AND VARIOUS PROGRAMS IN U.S. METROPOLISES SUCH AS NEW YORK CITY, SAN FRANCISCO, CLEVELAND, PHILADELPHIA AND CHICAGO.

Now, starting March 6, the final week would include three concerts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at their home base, Chicago Symphony Hall — evening events on March 9 and March 11, and an afternoon concert on March 12. Leading out were two Seventh-day Adventists, Herbert Blomstedt and Andrei Ioniță, together on the stage of a leading orchestra.

“This is Adventist history!” Blomstedt said enthusiastically.

The Language of Music

For Blomstedt, with whom I have had the privilege of being a friend for a long time, the cheers of the audience are not the decisive value for the conductor and not the ultimate

driving force of his now almost 70 years of work on the conductor's podium.

He sees himself in the service of a mission, namely the “Music Mission.” Blomstedt does not understand this in a functional, superficial way. Music for him is not a means to some hidden end or goal. Music is the unique form of a special human possibility of expression, which God, as the Creator of the world and humanity, has opened to us.

Music is like the “proclamation with words of faith,” but it is not the same thing. Understood in this way, music is neither a complement nor a competitor to the proclamation with words, but a “language” of its own, which touches people deep inside. Music speaks to us toward life and

possibly God, even “without words” (cf. Psalm 19:1–5).

A Musician and a Believer

It is not surprising that Blomstedt is a Christian believer. Coming from a Seventh-day Adventist pastor's family, he has been a committed Adventist all his life. He is a seeker, who has found within faith that which serves humanity and life at the deepest level, what gives fullness of meaning and hope.

Blomstedt lives his Adventist faith in permanent curiosity and openness, as a person who remains mentally and spiritually on the search — in the field of religion as well as in the sphere of music. As a seeker, he is interested in images and symbols of “God and the world.” He wants to track them down, understand and interpret them. For himself, he does this in the Bible; for his audience, he does this in the scores of the great composers of all time, from the Baroque to the modern.

Living His Faith

In this respect, being an Adventist is the inner foundation of his musical vocation; this vocation is service for man, service in favor of life, as Johann Sebastian Bach formulated: “Soli Deo Gloria” — glory to God alone.

Blomstedt says he is grateful for the fact that this has become possible in the top echelon of the conducting elite and with the world's best orchestras — even if this is also due to his will, his diligence, his musical expertise, and his particularly appreciated way of dealing with orchestral musicians. Blomstedt does not flaunt his Adventism, but he lives the faith, as he openly admits in all interviews where he is asked about it.

And so, he likes to encourage young Adventist musicians to set their professional goals broadly, to persevere in their journey, and to do so with the values of faith, hope, love and, thus, philanthropy. In this regard, he was very committed and extremely pleased that a year ago, he suggested Andrei Ioniță, a young soloist, for the performance

of Dvořák's Cello Concerto in Chicago, and Ioniță was chosen. Like Blomstedt, he is a Seventh-day Adventist.

Remarkable Age Difference

The joint performances of the two Adventist musicians were remarkable for several reasons. Ioniță was making his Chicago Symphony Orchestra debut. Blomstedt, on the other hand, has made regular podium appearances with the orchestra since 1988.

Also, as critics pointed out, it is impossible not to mention their striking age difference, where "the young meets the old," as the Chicago Tribune put it.

Blomstedt is now in his 96th year. Ioniță, someone I know from personal and musical encounters since he began studying at Berlin University of the Arts in 2012, is now 29. After winning major competitions, including the gold medal at the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow in 2015, he is considered one of the greatest cello artists of his generation.

With 66 years between the two, the age range could hardly be bigger. In their performances, the "old" and "young" meet to do something together that requires the highest skill, the most intensive preparation, and the greatest commitment in equal measure:

classical music in live performances with a first-class orchestra.

"It's just a number!" Blomstedt said, speaking of his age. And despite this astonishing fact, the performances worked without a hitch and convincingly, according to the public and critics present.

It is a model we could use as an incentive — the young and the old — committed to a project that is greater than themselves.

In the case of the Chicago performances of Blomstedt and Ioniță, it worked very well. ■

Klaus Schmitz is a retired pastor and active chaplain at Waldfriede Adventist Hospital in Berlin, and an avid listener of Chicago concerts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Ye' Olde" Cedar Lake

Academy reunion will be held June 2–4, 2023, for the alumni and schoolmates of 1973 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. The Honor classes this year include: 1953, 1963, 1973. Details will be sent by mail to all alumni. You may contact GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181 or <http://www.glaa.net>.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 34th session of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Cedar Lake Church in Cedar Lake, Mich., Sept. 24, 2023, with the first meeting called at 9:00 a.m. Reports of the previous five years will be rendered, proposed constitutional changes may be considered, the election of conference officers, departmental directors and members

of the executive committee will take place, and any other business will be transacted which may properly come before the session. Delegates are those duly elected by the various churches of the conference and delegates-at-large as provided in the constitution. Each church in the Michigan Conference is entitled to one delegate for its organization, and one additional delegate for each 100 members or major fraction thereof, determined by the membership as of Dec. 31, 2022. As provided by the bylaws, the organizing committee (composed of one delegate from each church, plus one additional delegate for each 500 members or major fraction thereof, as of Dec. 31, 2022) will meet on Sept. 23. The organizing committee meeting will begin with vespers at 7:00 p.m. at the Cedar Lake Church.

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>.

THE WORK IN THE CITIES
— is the —
ESSENTIAL WORK
FOR THIS TIME • P.28
Ministry to the Cities
BY ELLEN G. WHITE

MISSION TO
THE CITIES.ORG



MILEPOSTS

OBITUARIES

BAZZANELLA, Susan K.

(Platzke), age 55; born March 28, 1967, in Racine, Wisconsin; died Feb. 12, 2023, in Eagle River, Wisconsin. She was a member of the Clearwater Lake Church in Eagle River, Wisconsin. She is survived by her daughter, Melissa (Nathan) Gebhardt; mother, Viola (Peters) Platzke; half-brother, Bruce Platzke, Joel Platzke, Brian Platzke, John Mahon, Mark Mahon; half-sister, Lori Mahon; and two grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted by Wanda Wincek on Feb. 26, 2023, at the Clearwater Lake Cemetery in Eagle River, Wisconsin.

FOLL, Katherine Beatrice "Bea"

(Wilson), age 92; born May 12, 1930, in Gentry, Arkansas; died Dec. 14, 2022, in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was a member of the Avon Park Adventist Church in Avon Park, Florida. She is survived by her children, Gary (Cindy) Stone, Sunny (Steve) Thompson; grandchildren, Kristina (Dominic) Kaiser,

Kimberly (Larry) Anderson, Heather (James) Forman, Tania (Jason) Dennee, Shawna (Martin) Stone, Timothy Stone; and 13 great-grandchildren. A funeral inurnment was conducted by her son, Gary Stone, on Dec. 18, 2022, in Indiana and streamed online at <https://youtu.be/Ph6HX5uQXII>.

HAINES, Roger C., age 64; born May 30, 1958, in Indianapolis; died Nov. 5, 2022, in Bloomington, Indiana. He was a member of the Spencer Adventist Church in Spencer, Indiana. He is survived by his wife, Molly E. (Allen) Haines; sons, Joshua C. (Danielle N. nee Lanius) Haines, Nathanael A. (Mindy L. nee Nogle) Haines; daughter, Sarah E. Wilhoit; and four grandchildren. A memorial service was held on Nov. 20, 2022, in Indiana.

HALL, Jack "Blake," age 84; born July 19, 1938, in Dallas, Texas; died March 4, 2023, in Logansport, Indiana. He was a member of the Monticello Adventist Church

Within the Lake Union, the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Forms are available in print format, or they can be filled out and submitted directly online. Milepost forms are available at www.lakeunionherald.org. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

in Monticello, Indiana. He is survived by his wife, Gina (Bowen) Hall; son, Wade (Lori Kay) Hall; daughters, Kenya (Mark) Ballard, Brandeis C. Hall; stepdaughter, Kellie Van Der Veen; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. A funeral inurnment was conducted by Vic Van Schaik on March 7, 2023, in Indiana.

JEWELL, Jerome K., age 78; born Aug. 6, 1944, in Superior, Wisconsin; died March 11, 2023, in Brule, Wisconsin. He was a member of the Superior Adventist Church in Superior, Wisconsin. He is survived by his sons, Frank Jewell, Donavin Jewell; and daughters, Terri Forstrom, Lorrie Jakubek, Jeanne Jewell. A funeral interment was conducted by Jeff Veldman on March 26, 2023, and a private interment in Wisconsin.

KETCHUM, Nancy M., age 87; born March 11, 1935, in Newberry, Michigan; died Feb. 21, 2023, in Dowagiac, Michigan. She

was a member of the Dowagiac Adventist Church in Dowagiac, Michigan. She is survived by her sons, Roger Ketchum, Timothy Ketchum, Thomas Ketchum; daughters, Diane Ketchum, Julie Ketchum; brother, Ken (Becki) Bivens; sisters, Eunice (Jim) Schwake, Christine (Howard) Mannisto, Minnie Barnes; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Funeral inurnment was in Clark Chapel-Starks Family Funeral Homes and Cremation Services in Dowagiac, Michigan.

SARGIS, Mary (Pluska), age 90; born May 27, 1932, in Allegan, Michigan; died Feb. 2, 2023, in Chicago, Illinois. She was a member of the North Shore Adventist Church in North Shore, Illinois. She is survived by her sister, Phyllis Trotter; and many nieces and nephews.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Berrien Springs, Michigan	7:48	7:56	8:03	8:10
Chicago, Illinois	7:53	8:01	8:08	8:15
Detroit, Michigan	8:36	8:44	8:51	8:58
Indianapolis, Indiana	8:43	8:50	8:56	9:02
La Crosse, Wisconsin	8:12	8:20	8:28	8:35
Lansing, Michigan	8:43	8:51	8:58	9:05
Madison, Wisconsin	8:03	8:11	8:19	8:25
Springfield, Illinois	8:57	9:04	9:10	9:16

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

EARTH BURGER: Adventist owned plant-based fast food restaurant Earth Burger is now franchising. Sabbath closure is approved. All territories are currently available. For inquiries, visit earthburger.com/franchise/.

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

TEACH Services Helping Authors: Publish your book, including editing, design, marketing and worldwide distribution. Visit TEACHServices.com to submit your manuscript for a free evaluation or call 800-367-1844. Shop for NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS at TEACHServices.com or at your local ABC.

Psalms Peace: "David ... the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, 'The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and His word was in my tongue.'" (2 Sam. 23:1-2) "The rich melody of his (David's) voice ... , echoes from the hills as if responsive to the rejoicing

of the angels' songs in heaven." (CE204) Psalms School (psalms-peace.com).

FREE SHARING CARDS: LifeTalk Radio has beautiful free sharing cards for all occasions with encouraging messages like "God Loves You" and "You Matter to God" and/or Scripture. Share hope and love with others. Order free cards at: LifeTalk.net/sharing-cards.

EMPLOYMENT

Adventist Heritage Ministries is seeking to immediately fill two salaried positions at the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Michigan: site director and administrative assistant. Go to the website adventistheritage.org for details, job descriptions and application forms.

Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska is accepting applications for a computer science and mathematics professor. The individual in this role will teach upper division programming classes and lower division math classes. A PhD in computer science or mathematics is preferred, master's required. Please direct inquiries to Bruce Forbes at BruceForbes@ucollege.edu or apply online at ucollege.edu/employment

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>.



ADVENTIST HISTORICAL MATERIALS NEEDED

Are there historical items in your home in need of preservation? The Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University collects materials for the world church published by Adventists, about Adventists, and against Adventists. Such documentation enables us to remember and narrate our heritage as well as respond to our critics. The Center seeks all kinds of materials, including books and tracts, letters, diaries, manuscripts, unpublished memoirs and biographies, photos, audio-visual materials, and artifacts. In addition to the above-listed materials, we are especially looking for:

- Issues of the *Good Samaritan* newspaper published by James White in Battle Creek from 1859 to 1861
- Items relating to Sojourner Truth and her relationship with Adventism, including the 1881 and 1884 editions of her *Narrative of Sojourner Truth* published in Battle Creek

To donate, email car@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3209.



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CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

MAY

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 6 | Local Church Budget |
| 13 | Disaster & Famine Relief (GC and NAD) |
| 20 | Local Church Budget |
| 27 | Local Conference Advance |



May

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

GENERAL EVENTS

May 5-7: Spring 2023 Graduation

May 7-10: Andrews Research

*Conference: Early Career
Researchers in STEM*

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER EVENTS

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

May 9, 7 p.m.: Andrews Academy
Band & Bells Spring Concert

May 11, 7 p.m.: Andrews Academy
Choral & Orchestra Concert

May 14, 3 p.m.: Lake Michigan
Youth Orchestra Concert

May 16, 7 p.m.: Ruth Murdoch
Elementary School Spring Concert

ILLINOIS

May 29: Memorial Day, Office
Closed

INDIANA

May 19-21: Adventurer Family
Weekend, Timber Ridge Camp

May 26-28: Indiana Academy
Graduation Weekend

LAKE REGION

May 1-5: Teachers Appreciation
Week

May 6: Illiana Youth Federation,
East St. Louis New Jerusalem
Church

May 12-13: Oakwood University
Graduation Weekend

May 20: Michiana Youth
Federation, Camp Wagner

May 27: Health Ministry—Better
Health for You (Virtual)

MICHIGAN

May 5-7: Marriage Commitment
Retreat, Camp Au Sable

May 26-28: GLAA Graduation
Weekend

May 26-28: Hispanic Camp
Meeting, Camp Au Sable

WISCONSIN

May 19-21: Wisconsin Academy
Graduation Weekend

Please verify dates and
times of programs with the
respective sources, as these
events are subject to change.

H A P P Y

Mther's
- DAY -

How Are We to Live?



▲ VIALO WEIS

HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE LEFT ON THIS EARTH? ONLY GOD KNOWS IF IT IS TODAY OR WE LIVE TO MEET JESUS IN THE CLOUDS.

So, how are we to live? As managers of heaven's resources,¹ God requires us to be faithful.² What is faithfulness? Jesus illustrates faithfulness in the parable of the talents³ and in the parable of the nobleman (Luke 19:13-26).

Since we cannot take to heaven all that God has loaned us, as the end nears, how do we know when to return to Him what He has loaned us? The Lord's messenger counsels us, "Houses and lands will be of no use to the saints in the time of trouble, for they will then have to flee before infuriated mobs, and at that time their possessions cannot be disposed of to advance the cause of present truth. I was shown that it is the will of God that the saints should cut loose from every encumbrance before the time of trouble comes, and make a covenant with God

through sacrifice. If they have their property on the altar, and earnestly inquire of God for duty, He will teach them when to dispose of these things. Then they will be free in the time of trouble, and have no clogs to weigh them down."⁴

When that time comes, how will we know if it is God, not Satan telling us to dispose of our assets for the finishing of His work? When God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham knew it was God, not Satan asking him to offer his son. How did Abraham know? Even though Satan was there trying to create doubt,⁵ Abraham knew it was God making the request as he knew God personally, just as we must. And so he obeyed.

Let's make this practical. God comes to me and says, "Vialo, sell your home, cash out your 403(b), sell all your other assets, and put the proceeds into the finishing of My work." By the grace of God, I pray I will obey as promptly as Abraham did. If I am as tight with God as Abraham was, I will obey⁶ and I will "walk by faith, not by sight."⁷

So must we all! Then, by His grace, we will hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant ... Enter into the joy of your [L]ord."⁸ ■

1. Psalm 24:1
2. I Corinthians 4:2
3. Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27
4. Counsels on Stewardship 59, 60
5. Patriarchs and Prophets 148
6. The Desire of Ages 668
7. II Corinthians 5:7
8. Matthew 25:21. Scripture taken from the New King James Version. ©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Vialo Weis Jr. is the stewardship ministries director for Indiana Conference.



Livestreaming With God

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I WALKED INTO THE BEGINNING OF A MEETING AND ANNOUNCED THOSE WORDS, “LET US BEGIN OUR MEETING WITH PRAYER?”



▲ JOHN GRYS

Words. Words are important for what they reveal. And through the years, as God continues to do His work in me, I’ve had to shift those words. Now, I recognize in writing this, I can too easily make what I am about to say as the “right way.” I share this as a fellow sojourner on the path of following the Eternal Jesus. You are looking live at a snapshot of my current way of understanding and practice.

Paul’s words to the church in Thessalonica as he closes his first letter perturbed me for such a long time. As one who grew up in the church, prayer seemed to be a formal way for a) beginning a meeting, b) ending a meeting, c) getting the attention of a noisy class, d) something done where something “sacred” was anticipated, and e) all the above on any given day. So, Paul’s words to a church who needed hope and encouragement (1 Thessalonians 4:18) couldn’t register with my life—“pray continually” (NIV) or “pray without ceasing” (KJV). My understanding grew with the words from Ellen White, “Prayer is the breath of the soul.” (“Prayer,” page 12)

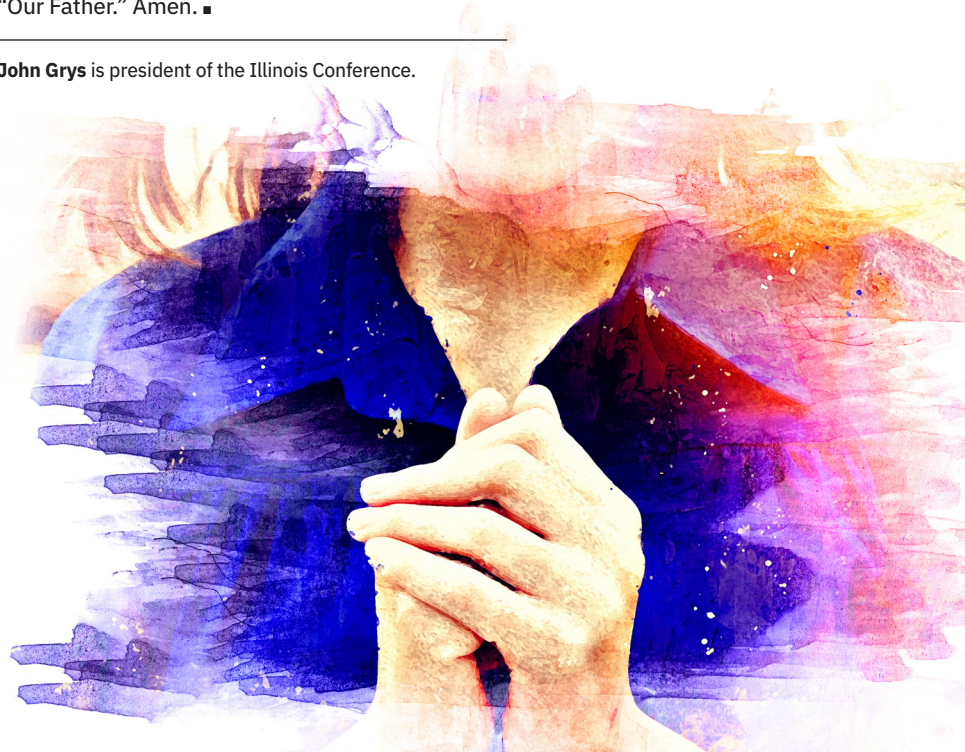
Here is what began to dawn on me. I had fallen into the trap of a rote prayer and a symbolic act and prayer had not been the breath of my soul. When prayer becomes the breath of my soul, it is far more than all of that ... though it may include this. I continue to recognize prayer as a way of being and not a way of doing. Prayer is a livestream connecting dynamically with the Eternal God of the Universe.

So, now, when I walk into a meeting, I’d like to believe we’ve all walked in within the stream of prayer. All we are doing is recognizing this pre-existing prayer life and acknowledging this gathering, for whatever reason, as a way of continuing that prayer stream in a different context. Perhaps it is navigating, discussing, deciding and prepping for

the implementation of that decision. That all occurs within the context of an already-existing prayer stream. Thus, the meeting is a continuation of the prayer journey—just the context has changed. So, more and more I try to begin with a different set of words: “Let us continue with prayer.” Essentially, each of us gathered in that space have come within our own, personal livestreams with God. Now, we acknowledge that as we come together, that livestream all flows into this moment as a community seeking God within the context of our gathering.

All this may sound fine and helpful. I want to conclude by saying that this is a work in progress and necessitates continued growth, understanding and grace—grace streaming from the One who said, “Our Father.” Amen. ■

John Gryns is president of the Illinois Conference.



Set Free

FRANCIS ZABALA'S JOURNEY WITH GOD FELT LIKE A CONSTANT STRUGGLE. THE 21-YEAR-OLD WOULD ROUTINELY LISTEN TO GOSPEL MUSIC AND READ THE BIBLE BUT BEFORE LONG HE'D FALL BACK INTO OLD HABITS. "A FEW STEPS FORWARD, AND THEN A FEW STEPS BACK," HE NOTES WRYLY.

Things finally came to a head Halloween 2021. This was the first time he stepped foot in the Elmhurst Church in Illinois. A family he knew would invite him to a fall festival there later that evening. He told them yes, he'd go, but in the back of his mind he was thinking of a party he would attend instead.

At home that evening, his father invited him to the same fall festival and Francis feigned having a stomach ache. His parents suggested Francis stay home and get some rest.

"As they were backing out of the driveway something told me, *'Don't go to the party, don't go to the party!'*" Francis quickly jumped out of bed, ran out of the house, down the driveway and informed his parents that he had changed his mind and would go with them.

The next morning Francis awoke to the news that there was a shooting at the party he was planning to attend. Two people were killed and a dozen were injured, according to ABC7 Chicago. Francis discovered that his friend who had attended the party was standing next to one of the victims.

"When I found out my heart dropped. That could've been me. That specific moment was when I realized God saved me!"

With a newfound appreciation for life, Francis immediately found himself more involved in church and in the study of God's word.

"I started doing so many activities with the youth that I didn't have time to think about myself, and I didn't have time to think about the outside world," says Francis. "I'm totally fine with that, because I feel like I would've slipped into my old habits."

Realizing the need to grow further spiritually, Francis decided he would go canvassing in Michigan for the summer. However, around that time he received a phone call inviting him to be a counselor at Camp Akita. "I didn't want to go to Camp Akita for fun; I wanted to be where I could grow the most spiritually."

A conversation with his pastor, along with prayer, left him with the impression that God wanted him to be at Camp Akita for the summer.

Admittedly not a big fan of kids, Francis went to Camp Akita with some hesitation. "I didn't feel worthy to be a counselor," he reveals. "I would constantly pray, *'Lord, I need you to show yourself through me so I can be a good counselor to these kids.'*"

When asked to reflect on his time as a camp counselor, Francis replies excitedly, "I felt like I was supposed to be the one that would teach them, but they ended up teaching me so much more. I would do it again 100 times over. That experience alone was just amazing!"

Francis saw up close the hardships his charges were confronting, and yet they maintained a joyful presence. With a more intimate relationship with God, Francis is prayerfully taking stock of his future. "I have this desire and this feeling to do more. I feel like the Lord is just calling me to do something with ministry."

Francis plans on returning to Camp Akita this summer to see what new lessons God has in store for him, and covets your prayers. ■

Elijah Horton is a Chicago-based freelance writer.



Pathfinder Ministry Sparks Search for Truth

FAITH IS THE FULCRUM OF WESLY AND STEPHANIE LUCKADOO'S LIVES. BEFORE CONVERTING TO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM, THE DUO WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CONGREGATION IN HOLLAND, MICHIGAN.

Wesly was a musician in the church's worship band, while Stephanie had her ministry of feeding hungry children in their local community. Their daughter Maleena would occasionally sing with her father during church.

It wouldn't be until Stephanie started working at Tiara Yachts—a boat manufacturer based in Holland—that they would hear about the Adventist Church. Through that connection, Maleena soon joined the Holland Huskies Pathfinder club as a fifth grader. This act set the family on a serious search for the truth about God.

In 2019, one year after joining the Holland Huskies, Maleena participated in the Pathfinder Bible Experience where teams were tested on books of the Bible they committed to memory.

During this particular year, they were studying the book of Luke. Maleena, who was intrigued by what she was learning, started asking her parents questions about the passages she was reading. In turn, the couple posed these questions to their pastor. "His answers were very vague and not what I would say of sound doctrine," remembers Wesly.

This experience provoked the family to begin a year-long reckoning with their beliefs, especially regarding Saturday as the Sabbath. "How had we been deceived for so long?" Stephanie said she wondered. "When it's right in front of you, in the Bible, plain as day, and you trusted and listened to your pastor?"

Unsatisfied, they went back to the Bible and pursued further information about the Adventist Church. Soon afterward, they began studying the Bible with another couple in the Holland church. The Luckadoo

family decided to be baptized in 2020. Maleena was "very determined" that she was going to be baptized on her birthday, May 8. Then, the Coronavirus hit.

Despite the challenges in 2020, Stephanie says that the pandemic turned out to be a personal blessing as it gave them an additional year of Bible study. "We're involved in Sabbath School and we would spend two to three hours in a Sabbath School class. For us, we look at it as God's timing."

A year later, on May 8, 2021, Wesly, Stephanie and Maleena were baptized at the Holland Seventh-day Adventist Church. "The fact that we did it together as a family secured the whole family unit," Stephanie says.

Reflecting on their experience, Wesly says that he desires to share his faith with his colleagues. "I've often asked myself, 'What am I doing here? How am I going to be a light for God?'" Now, he says that he often finds himself sharing stories from his life with his coworkers to encourage them. "I truly believe that it's a scary world if you don't have Jesus in your life."

For Maleena, though, she hopes she can encourage people to take the first step toward deeper commitment—even if it may be the scariest step. "As a young person, going to a new church was kind of scary for me at first. But I realize we have to start somewhere." ■

Do you know any members between the ages of 13-35 who are stepping outside their comfort zone to live out their faith? We'd love to feature them in these pages. Email us at herald@lakeunion.org

"I've often asked myself, 'What am I doing here? How am I going to be a light for God?'"





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