

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

HERALD

AUGUST 2023

HOW ARE WE
PROTECTING
OUR CHILDREN?



Some years ago, students in a media law and ethics class I was teaching were discussing the Catholic church and its coverup of clergy abuse in the city of Boston. Discussions turned to the Adventist church, and I was admittedly surprised to hear their skepticism that the Adventist church wasn't any better. Really? Relatively new to this denomination, I had no evidence to the contrary.

Fast-forward to May 2023, a case in one of our conferences would paint a different picture. There was credible evidence that a pastor had inappropriate contact with a minor he met on a mission trip. The conference wasted no time in firing the pastor and took steps to revoke his credentials and make sure he will never again work for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

As it turns out, months before this case came to light, we were planning to devote space to addressing how to safeguard our children from predators, a topic triggered by a brave family stepping forward to share the harrowing account of sexual abuse their children suffered at the hands of a trusted family member (see page 12).

We felt this was a good time to remind you of resources to make sure children are kept safe. The Lake Union launched Project Safe Church (projectsafechurch.org) and a key aspect of this project is that it facilitates anonymous reporting of claims of abuse and misconduct against church employees, as well as official volunteers. Relatedly, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a system in place to protect church members against possible abuse (nadadventist.org/asv). Those over 18 who are voted to serve within our churches or organizations, and those who are employed by the church and working with children and youth, are asked to complete a criminal background check and child protection training every three years.

Children are a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3) and, as His people, we pray that when you read the articles you will be filled with the sense that we need to honor and treasure His most dear and precious gifts. In so doing, we value the Imago Dei that our God has hand stamped into these young ones for whom heaven counts us as protectors, instructors and caretakers.

Debbie

Debbie Michel

Lake Union HERALD

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

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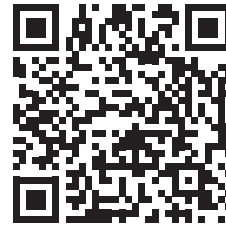
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God's Story vs Trauma's Story

TRAUMA HAS A WAY OF INSERTING ITSELF INTO THE NARRATIVES OF PEOPLE EARLY AND OFTEN. ACCORDING TO TRAUMA EXPERTS, TRAUMA IS AN EMOTIONAL RESPONSE TO AN EXPERIENCE PERCEIVED BY AN INDIVIDUAL AS PHYSICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY OVERWHELMING. ONE ALSO PERCEIVES THEMSELVES AS POWERLESS TO CHANGE IT.



▲ BEVERLY SEDLACEK

With those two elements in play, being overwhelmed and without agency to change, trauma shatters how we view life moving forward. Our stories get transformed. We may begin to describe ourselves in terms of trauma—feeling overwhelmed and helpless to change anything about our lives. We begin to embody the trauma as belonging to our core identity.

As I reflected on my experiences of trauma, I saw how my view of life changed. I learned very early that I had to manage on my own. At age 3, an uncle molested me, and at age 5, my parents left me on a street corner alone as a joke. I became pregnant at age 13 and delivered a child without family support at age 14. The history of abuse and becoming such a young teenage mother suggested that I would be a statistic by not completing school and having more children out of wedlock. Indeed, according to statistics, experts projected my life would be bleak.

But God ... after I had my son, I became an Adventist. I learned not only that there was life outside of the inner-city projects but also outside of Cleveland, Ohio. Indeed, the books I read in school and the young people I met in the church pointed me to another world that I wanted to be a part of.

Although my trauma experiences went undressed, I completed high school and college, seeing education as a meaningful way to achieve significance and success. I wanted to continue pursuing education but put mine on hold because I wanted my son, Eric, to have a Christian education. I worked hard to make that happen. He went through Christian schools from kindergarten through college.

I loved to study Scripture and found Isaiah, chapters 40–45, to be some of my favorites. However, there was a pesky verse that I could not make sense of. Isaiah 43:4 says, “Since you are precious and special in my sight, and I love you, I will hand over people in place of you, nations in place of your life.” The word “precious” was a word I could not comprehend experientially. Although I never defined myself as a trauma survivor, I could not see myself as precious. My ability to see myself as precious or unique was shattered. I viewed my experiences as events that *defined* me rather than *shaped* me.

Through a series of God-ordained events, I met my husband David, who God used to transform my vision and no longer limit me to a trauma survivor but to understand that my story has been changed from telling a trauma narrative to telling God's

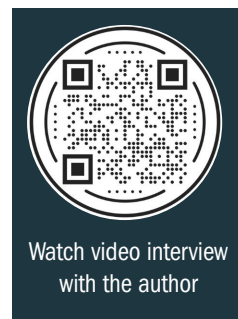


story about who I am: extravagantly loved, cared for and precious.

The good news of the gospel and what God wants us to experience is that we may live our stories severed from trauma's narrative—hopeless, defective, overwhelmed and without agency. We are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. Instead of defining ourselves by trauma experiences, we can tell our stories of

who we are defined by God's lens of love. That's fantastic news! ■

Beverly Sedlacek received her doctorate in nursing practice from Andrews University, with an expertise in psychiatric nursing. She maintains a thriving private counseling practice in Berrien Springs, counseling hurting people in the areas of trauma, addiction, abuse, relationship difficulties and emotional problems. Along with her husband David, she serves as family ministries director for the Lake Region Conference.



Safeguarding Our Children from Abuse



▲ DAVID SEDLACEK

CHILDREN ARE A TREASURE ENTRUSTED TO US BY THE LORD (PSALM 17:14). FOR THIS REASON, PARENTS ARE TO LOVE, EMPOWER AND PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN.

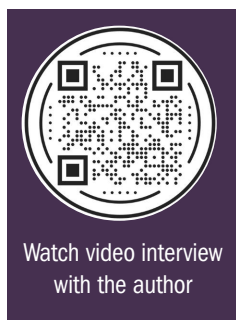
This may sound like a simple task, but in this age of uncertainty and complexity it can be a daunting task. Many parents have the best of intentions and would never knowingly abuse or neglect their children or expose them to such exploitation from others. And yet, the Center for Disease Control reports that “at least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse or neglect in the past year in the United States. This is likely an underestimate because many cases are unreported. In 2020, 1,750 children died of abuse and neglect in the United States.” Child abuse includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Neglect is also included and is the failure to meet a child’s basic physical and emotional needs.

Safeguarding our children from abuse and neglect is a major focus of true, loving, Christian parenting. Deuteronomy 5:9 instructs us that the iniquity of the parents is visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation. What this means practically is that whatever issues a parent does not address get passed along to their children. Our natural tendency is to try to bury our pain or to medicate it as a way of making ourselves feel better. However, research on childhood trauma is clear that this avoidance results in chronic physical illness, emotional dysfunction and self-destructive behaviors including addictions (Felitti, et. al.). Therefore, the best gift that parents can give their children is to break the cycle of abuse by addressing their own issues.

Because we tend to parent the same way that we were parented, it is important that parents be intentional about learning about healthy parenting. There are many misconceptions, for example,

about what constitutes healthy discipline of children. Some parents are hypervigilant about protecting their children from abuse. They may become what is called “helicopter parents.” They try to control every aspect of their child’s life, and this is generally done not with evil intent but out of fear of what may become of their child if they, as parents, don’t manage their lives. Ideally, children will be taught how to make healthy decisions for themselves. The best way to safeguard our children is to love them so well that they will feel safe coming to us to talk about whatever is happening in their lives. So many feel shame about what has happened that they suffer silently and endure the abuse they have suffered without getting the help they need. Churches can play a positive role by holding educational events related to healthy parenting. This might include issues such as the potential dangers of unregulated social media, teaching children healthy boundaries, and what constitutes healthy relationships with peers as well as with adults. ■

David Sedlacek is a former professor of family ministry and discipleship at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.



Donating Blood May Save Your Own Life

BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS CONTINUE TO BE IN HIGH DEMAND IN MEDICAL SETTINGS. AS MANY AS ONE IN SEVEN PEOPLE ENTERING A HOSPITAL REQUIRES BLOOD. BLOOD AND ITS COMPONENTS ARE COMMONLY NEEDED IN SETTINGS THAT INCLUDE TRAUMA, CARDIOVASCULAR AND ORTHOPEDIC SURGERIES, BURN TREATMENT, ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION, AND BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTS.



▲ DAVID DEROSE

All told, more than 15 million pints of blood are transfused in the U.S. each year. Congratulations if you are already helping address this very real need. Whether it be through assisting with blood drives or personally donating, your efforts are truly appreciated. However, if you have neither joined the ranks of regular blood donors, nor been involved with conducting blood drives in your community—you may be overlooking an important health-giving practice. Emerging research suggests that regular blood donation may decrease your own risk of a variety of conditions including high blood pressure, heart disease, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's.

Consider the following: Berlin-based researcher Sundrela Kamhieh-Milz and colleagues studied 146 people with elevated blood pressures who donated blood four times over the course of a year. The blood donors logged striking benefits: their systolic readings (the upper blood pressure value) dropped an average of 12.2 points while their diastolic reading fell 6.9 points. To put this in perspective, this is roughly double the blood pressure lowering seen with a standard 25 mg dose of one of the most established blood pressure medications known as hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ).

Regular blood donation may also protect your body from the dangers of *too much iron*. Surprised? Although iron is necessary for life, excessive amounts are linked to poorer blood fluidity as well

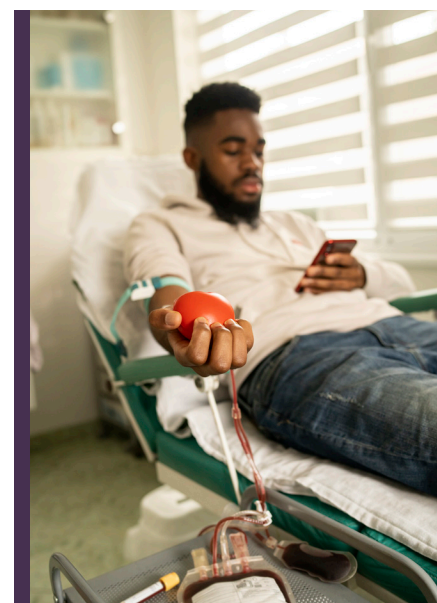
as increased oxidation in the body. Consequently, higher whole-body iron levels (commonly reflected by a measurement called “serum ferritin”) have been linked to a variety of cardiovascular conditions. These include heart attacks as well as high blood pressure disorders of pregnancy like preeclampsia. There is growing evidence that excess iron may also play a role in dementia—with suggestions that regular blood donation might decrease one's risk of Alzheimer's disease.

The emerging evidence seems clear. Blood donation is not only an act of compassion, it may save your own life as well. If you are not already a donor, why not join this compassionate group soon?

Scientific references can be found in my book from which this article is adapted, “The Methuselah Factor: Learn How to Live Sharper, Leaner, Longer and Better—in Thirty Days or Less.”

For more on this topic, watch my short video: “Benefits of Donating Blood” at TimelessHealingInsights.org/donateblood or enroll in our new free 30-day lifestyle program, a 7-minute-per-day video series called Performance Boost 30 that goes through The Methuselah Factor book in short daily installments, at TimelessHealingInsights.org/Boost. ■

David DeRose, MD, MPH, is a board-certified specialist in both internal medicine and preventive medicine. He also holds a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University and pastors the Fort Wayne First Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



From Personal Hardship to Compassionate Service



▲ DENIS KAISER

PERSONAL NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES MAY PREPARE US TO HELP THOSE IN LIKE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE STORY OF JACOB BERNARD PENNER (1894–1985) IS A WONDERFUL ILLUSTRATION OF THAT PRINCIPLE.¹

Born into a Seventh-day Adventist family in the Northern Caucasus region in Russia, he experienced hardships early in life. He lost his mother and his father at the ages of 7 and 13 respectively, leaving him and his two younger sisters orphaned. The sermons of able ministers helped him focus on Jesus and he was baptized at the age of 16. Nearly two years later he traveled to Friedensau, Germany, to be trained as a minister.

At the outbreak of World War I in 1914 he was arrested and taken to a prisoner-of-war camp because, although being of German descent, he was technically a Russian citizen. Initial repression for his unwillingness to work on the Sabbath and to eat pork gave way when the commanding general realized that Penner and other Russian Germans did not constitute a threat. Shortly afterward they were released. Since he was not a German citizen, the German military authorities did not draft him into the military and he was free to take the place of church workers who had been drafted, allowing him to minister to church members in East Germany.

Jacob's sisters had immigrated to the U.S. in 1913 and after the war they called him to join them in this country. For the next two decades he served the Greater New York Conference as a pastor and evangelist, and then for 20 years as editor of German-language periodicals at the Pacific Press Publishing Association in Brookfield, Illinois.

His own experiences of bereavement, affliction and hardship sensitized him to the needs

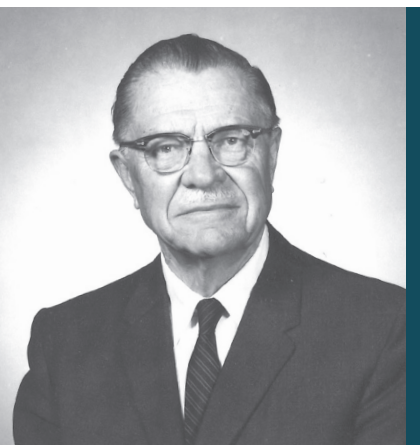
of others. From 1932–1933, when a terrible human-made famine killed millions of people in the Soviet Union, particularly among ethnic Ukrainians, Jacob and his wife Martha organized a relief network to provide food and clothing to relatives, church members and church workers in that region. A decade later, Jacob corresponded with and evangelized German prisoners of war in the United States. After World War II he and his wife collected clothes, food and German religious books for people in Germany to relieve their suffering in the post-war period.

Jacob said about his wife, "My good wife did most of the work because she loved to work for needy people. Her whole life was filled with love and care for others; remember, her name was Martha." In total, they sent about 200 packages of books and 600 packages of clothes and food.

They spent their last years in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where they were buried at Rose Hill Cemetery. Our personal experiences may sensitize us to those in need and equip us to engage in Jesus' ministry of sharing the gospel and helping the poor.

1. For more information, see Denis Kaiser, "Penner, Jacob Bernard (1894–1985)," *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*, Jan. 29, 2020, accessed April 07, 2023, <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=4AGK>.

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



▲ Jacob Bernard Penner

Lo que Dios Pide de Nosotros: Paciencia, Compasión y Amor

“TODOS NECESITAMOS SEMBRAR PACIENCIA, COMPASIÓN Y AMOR... AQUÍ EN LA TIERRA NOS ESTAMOS EDUCANDO PARA EL CIELO. TODO LO DEBEMOS A LA GRACIA GRATUITA Y SOBERANA. EN EL PACTO, LA GRACIA ORDENÓ NUESTRA ADOPCIÓN. EN EL SALVADOR, LA GRACIA EFECTUÓ NUESTRA REDENCIÓN, NUESTRA REGENERACIÓN Y NUESTRA ADOPCIÓN PARA SER COHEREDEROS CON CRISTO. REVELEMOS ESTA GRACIA A OTROS” (JOYAS DE LOS TESTIMONIOS, T. 2, P. 506).



▲ CARMELO MERCADO

Cuando Cristo comenzó su ministerio en el Medio Oriente el Imperio Romano dominaba el mundo con mucha eficiencia y crueldad. Muchos de los que gobernaban en el mundo político y el religioso eran corruptos y se aprovechaban de la gente común. La mayoría de la gente no sabía leer, de manera que para aprender acerca de la Palabra de Dios dependían de la lectura de la Torah en la sinagoga. Desafortunadamente muchas de las predicaciones eran mensajes negativos llenos de condenación. Los judíos no se trataban con los gentiles y los samaritanos, y como resultado el odio entre ellos era muy común.

Cuando Cristo comenzó a predicar, su ministerio cumplió la promesa de Isaías 9:2: “El pueblo que habita en la oscuridad ha visto una gran luz, sobre los que vivían en densas tinieblas la luz ha resplandecido”. Cristo tenía una misión y se dedicó a cumplirla con todas sus fuerzas. De acuerdo con Mateo 9, nuestro Señor Jesús enseñaba en las sinagogas, pero no con mensajes negativos sino con un mensaje de esperanza. Mateo nos dice también que Cristo sanaba “toda enfermedad y toda dolencia”. Al leer esto, me pregunto: ¿Por qué se dedicó Cristo a trabajar con tanto empeño? La respuesta se encuentra en Mateo 9:36: “Al ver a las multitudes, **tuvo compasión**

de ellas, porque estaban agobiadas y desamparadas, como oveja sin pastor”.

Lo que motivaba a Cristo a “trabajar sin cesar” era su **compasión** por las personas que buscaban luz en medio de la oscuridad. La palabra compasión significa sentir el dolor de otros con el deseo de prestar ayuda. Nuestro Dios es un Dios que no solo se compadece pero que también trata de aliviar. Lo que Cristo y los discípulos hicieron fue algo diferente y extraordinario en su tiempo, y las multitudes respondieron aceptando la gracia de Dios en sus vidas

Lo que el mundo necesita hoy es ver a un pueblo lleno de la compasión de Cristo. Estamos rodeados de muchos que están en las tinieblas y sin dirección en la vida. Nos rodean también personas que necesitan sanidad tanto en lo físico como lo emocional y espiritual. Dios nos ha dado un mensaje maravilloso, pero no es suficiente saberlo. Sigamos el ejemplo y espíritu de Cristo. Aceptemos el llamado de Dios de sembrar las buenas nuevas de salvación con paciencia, compasión y amor. Mi deseo es que cada uno de nosotros nos comprometamos a orar y trabajar con la misma compasión de nuestro Señor Jesús. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago



Letters from Joliet

INITIATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INMATES TO EXPERIENCE GOD

MY EXPERIENCE IN PRISON MINISTRIES BEGAN BACK IN 2017 WHEN I READ AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY PROJECT STEPS TO CHRIST ABOUT A WOMAN WHO WAS SENDING CARDS TO INDIVIDUALS IN CUSTODY. I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, “I CAN DO THAT.”

The main obstacle was getting a list of individuals to send cards to. I contacted Stateville Correctional Center, which is located just a few miles from my church, the Joliet Seventh-day Adventist Church, about an hour south of Chicago. I had been passing

that prison on my way to church school and church since 1969, not giving much thought to the people behind those high walls. Feeling impressed by the Holy Spirit, I moved forward and called the prison.

I was transferred to Chaplain Adamson, who

▼ VICKI FUNK

Sandra Mendez



promptly told me to send him a proposal of what I would like to do. I told him that all I needed was a list of men I could send cards to. He told me to email him a proposal. After the phone call, feeling somewhat baffled by his request, I began to reach out to others for some ideas. I was referred to Jason Bradley at 3ABN, who gave me the name of Lemuel Vega with Christmas Behind Bars. Not familiar with that organization, I contacted him to find out how he could help. Little did I realize at that point how involved Lemuel Vega was with prison ministries.

On April 19, I met in person with the prison's senior chaplain, George Adamson, to discuss sharing the gospel with individuals in custody at Stateville Correction Center in Illinois. I must tell you that this was an amazing meeting, showing how God opens doors for His work to go forward.

I had previously sent Chaplain Adamson a list of the things that I wanted to do for the inmates, and he approved almost every one of them. Here are three of the requests that were approved: (1) Through the ministry Christmas Behind Bars, provide each inmate with a bag that includes items such as the book "Steps to Christ," free Bible Study correspondence, and food; (2) Provide books, snacks, paper, pencils and other items; (3) Directly correspond with inmates through birthday and Christmas cards, etc. Chaplain Adamson asked me how many inmates I would like to correspond with, and for some reason I said 500. It must have been the Holy Spirit, for clearly, I do not know what I was thinking!

During my meeting with the chaplain, he was asked if we could provide a religious program for the inmates. He stated he had no openings at that time, however he looked at me and said, "I want you to do a Bible study on Daniel and Revelation, starting in June or August." Me? What else could I say but yes! As I left the prison that day, my faith was so encouraged seeing how the Lord was opening the doors to minister to these men.

The Joliet Seventh-day Adventist Church had just completed a Daniel and Revelation Seminar for the public. During this time, Pastor Adrian Amarandei had asked me to participate in conducting the seminar. Little did I know that God was already preparing me to teach this same series at Stateville.

On Sept. 7, 2018, I began my Bible study on Daniel and Revelation with about 30 men. As time went on, I noticed that some men would stop attending, and others would come. I believe that before that class was over, I handed out over 100 Bible study sets, magazines, books and other materials. During the classes they would ask me questions on other doctrines, Bible texts and my beliefs.

I continued to teach at Stateville, covering other books of the Bible, including Ezekiel and then moving on to Romans, until COVID-19 hit. But once again God has opened the door for me to re-enter and teach the men behind those walls. This has been a wonderful opportunity for witnessing. Through the ministry of Christmas Behind Bars we have been able to deliver gift bags to the men at Stateville every year since 2018, as well as other prisons in Illinois. Our goal is to deliver gift bags to every prison in Illinois. So far, with God's blessings, we have been able to deliver gift bags to 13 correctional facilities in Illinois.

Even during the pandemic, church members sent out over 300 cards and religious materials. My list of individuals has grown to over 550 men. We continue to let these men know they have not been forgotten and that God loves them. We not only send out cards, but at least once a year we mail literature and cards for them to request Bible studies.

With this ministry, God is moving on the hearts of these men. Several have requested free Bible studies, Bibles and other religious materials, and expressed a desire to be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I receive letters weekly with their expressions of appreciation, and even tithe and offerings for the church. Never did I think I would be the one who God would use to reach those behind prison walls and yet He had been preparing me for this ministry before I even knew it.

I want to give special thanks to the members of the Joliet Seventh-day Adventist Church and others who have donated their time and funds for this ministry, and appreciation for the dedication of Christmas Behind Bars, who has been instrumental in delivering gift bags to several correctional facilities across the State of Illinois. ■

Vicki Funk is outreach coordinator for the Joliet Seventh-day Adventist Church.

HOPE AFTER DARKNESS

CONFRONTING THE UNSPEAKABLE

By Lynn Stone

Sexual abuse is a dark and secretive sin. There is a pandemic of sexual abuse right in our own backyards, but it is mostly hidden, mainly because it is painful to learn about and confront. Almost every family has been touched by it in some way or another. It can come from strangers or a trusted person already in your life—a one-time event or grooming done over a longer period. Often this trusted person is in your family, church, school or neighborhood and exercises some power or control in your life. Both scenarios have the potential to change your life forever. Being sexually abused by an individual you know often brings extra baggage carried in a completely different way.

However, there is good news. It is called prevention. We can educate and equip people to protect children and provide them with a safe place to come to. There is hope of a world where sexual abuse is abolished. To get there we need to unmask the problem. Voice the secrets. And most of all expose the abusers.

Join me in this endeavor as I share our family's story.

Photography and design by **Elennie Ramirez**



▲ Lynn and Troy Stone with their daughter.

In October 2019, I assisted our church at an event to encourage members to become involved with non-profit organizations in our community. While there I helped staff a table for Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). Most of their material was education for prevention of sexual abuse in children. I was intrigued by the handouts, so I brought some home. A few nights later we gathered in our basement as a family, to go through the children's part. This was just intended to be educational for our children. There was no way in the world one of them had been sexually abused. I remember it as if it was yesterday. When the explanation of good touch and bad touch began it wasn't uncomfortable at all. I was thankful for the materials' help to say things I had wanted to say for years, but just never knew how. Everything had been well received to this point. I prompted with a question I, of course, knew the answer to, "Has anyone ever had a bad touch?" To my utter horror, one of our girls raised her hand. We sat in disbelief and confusion for a moment but finished the discussion. Afterward, my husband Troy and I pulled that child aside to inquire where her answer came from.

After a short, poorly done investigation, we came away even more confused. She immediately named Uncle Scott as the one who had done the bad touch. The timeframe was two years earlier when she stayed overnight at their house while we were in the hospital with a newborn.

Scott was married to Troy's sister, Mindy. Our two families enjoyed spending as much time together as possible. When it came time to choose a family for our children to be willed to, the easy choice was Scott and Mindy. Scott had abused one of our children? How could that be? Surely it was an accident? He was just picking you up to play and accidentally did that, right? At that moment, our 6-year-old child knew we did not believe her. The relief of telling this secret after so long must have felt amazing, only to have us assure her it couldn't have happened. She back-pedaled and agreed it was an accident, or maybe even a dream. We talked to a few of our other children, and they confirmed that nothing had ever

happened to them. It was all just a weird mess we didn't want to think about ever again. Scott was such a nice guy. He loved our family. He would never hurt anyone. Especially one of our younger children. Why would he ever have been attracted to a 4-year-old child? Troy and I decided we wouldn't completely dismiss the conversation though. We would put up more barriers to protect our children. No more sleepovers and keep our children in view while around Scott.



Then came July 4, 2020.

That morning our youngest child developed a fever, so I stayed home while Troy took the rest of our children to Scott and Mindy's house to celebrate the holiday with a swimming party and meal. That was the last day anyone in our family ever spent time with Scott and Mindy's family again. Troy and the children came back that evening with stories of the day's fun, food and conversations. Monday morning came and Troy headed off to work. The children decided to swim after lunch. After putting on her swimsuit another one of our girls came running into the living room saying, "Mom, Scott was inappropriate again!"

That statement got my full attention, and I asked her to explain. She described Scott being inappropriate with her in the pool during their visit on July 4, two days earlier, and that Daddy had also been in the pool helping the little kids. She then told me she thought something bad happened to her other sister again as well. I knew in that instant we had been wrong. Our kids had never been safe. I immediately went to talk to her sister, who nine months before had told us of a bad touch. I asked her what had happened at the pool. "Nothing," was her reply. I begged her to tell me the truth. She replied with the worst words I have ever heard in my 40 years of life ... "I already told you." My heart was pierced, this was the time to truly listen to her and believe her. She described the abuse with tears running down her face. I thanked her for trusting me again with the information. I immediately called Troy, explaining what little details I knew. He had been in the pool the whole time but never saw anything? How could that be?

“ We were not sure, but we knew we had to believe the girls this time. ”

Troy suggested talking to his dad, a former cop who also did private investigation work. After awkward chitchat with his mom and dad, I began relating the details I had heard from our girls just an hour or two before. They shook their heads, even cried a few tears and agreed Scott needed help if this was true. I told them of the conversation from nine months before and insisted there was no way this wasn't truth. We called Mindy to join us and shared what we knew. She called Scott to come over immediately, but before he arrived, I asked her if there was anything we needed to know. She was very upset but explained there was something in his past that included a two-year-old girl and that at times she had been concerned about their own daughters. At this point she said to her parents, “You both knew this.” We realized this was a family secret.

Scott arrived but denied all of it when confronted, using his tears to change the atmosphere in the room. Everyone pleaded with him to tell the truth, but he stuck to his story of playing a game that must have been misunderstood. At this point the focus in the room shifted to me. Had I talked the girls into saying something happened when it didn't? I knew it was time for me to leave. That was the last time I ever saw or talked to any of them again in a family type of way. The confusion over what had just happened was heavy for us on the ride home. We had gone to a safe place for help and left feeling blamed. Is this how our daughter had felt nine months before?

Troy talked to the girls separately when we arrived back home. They explained to him the exact same story they had told me. He apologized that this had happened, hugged them and told them he believed them. We didn't realize at this point how much our lives were going to change forever. The next morning Troy called his dad again, asking him to speak as an investigator not a father. His dad explained that Scott probably “got his hand caught in the cookie jar but would never do it again.” It was now time for Troy to be the Christian man he was and forgive Scott. He said, “Things are different when it is family. Your girls are fine. They will get over this. If you bring it to court, you will surely cause more trauma upon them.” Was that true? We didn't know what would happen if we brought this to the attention of law enforcement. The decision at that point had to

be Troy's and it weighed upon him like a boulder. Providentially, some close friends pointed us in the direction of a family who had been through something similar years before. We met with this family before the day was over. The father said something that struck a chord with Troy, “No one can rate the trauma from any abuse. Who can say what those girls have been through, how they feel and how they will be in the future? You standing up for them, believing them and fighting for them is your duty as a father.” I was so thankful for men willing to stand against evil, even within the boundaries of their own families.

First thing the next morning, Troy called the police department and scheduled an appointment. There are many ways people report sexual abuse or are reported on. Often victims call the CAC to ask for a forensic interview. Others are called by Child Protective Services (CPS) if the child tells a teacher or counselor, and they report it to CPS. I know a mom who called 911 and was told the police would show up at her house. I'm not sure which avenue is best but am thankful for the way our story played out.

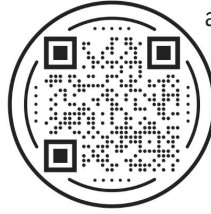


The detective, Michael, was someone we knew and that helped. He interviewed us on July 8 for almost three hours about every detail and conversation we could remember. To our amazement, he wasn't shocked about anything. He had been doing this type of work for 20 years, in over 1,000 cases, and the stories all had a similar flow. Michael used words like abuse, perpetrator, grooming, 1st and 2nd degree, victims, interviews, arrests, jail and judges. What world were we about to embark on? We would soon take our next steps into a scary, uncharted future. He closed the interview by making an appoint-

Watch video interview with the author

ment for our children at the CAC for their forensic interviews. How do you prepare your children for a forensic interview? We were asking our traumatized children to tell a stranger about their unspeakable abuse. We told them they needed to be brave, tell the truth to whatever questions were asked, and that we loved and believed them. From our first visit to the CAC, we were surrounded by professionals who took us seriously, advocated for our girls and showed nothing but kindness and compassion. The interviews went well, and the team recommended medical evaluations of both girls. Michael called us by the end of the day to tell us he had a warrant for Scott's arrest.

On the morning of July 19, 2020, two weeks since the girls had disclosed the sexual abuse to us, Scott was interviewed but admitted to nothing. When confronted about any history of abusing children he said that information was supposed to be suppressed, and he needed a lawyer to talk any further. Michael booked him in the jail for the night and moved on to interview Mindy. He was met outside Mindy's house by Scott's mom. Michael asked her about Scott's past problems



and his bond was set at \$25,000. He returned home 24 hours after entering the jail. Our girls' medical appointments took place three days later. During our initial meeting with the nurse, we learned a lot about signs of anxiety. She explained that some kids may tell everything at disclosure, some may give details slowly, and some may never tell the whole story.

Each child's visit alone with the doctor was important, especially for our state. Doctors are the only people, other than sometimes the parents, who can retell the child's testimony in a court setting. In the end, her need to gather the information validated for us that their disclosure was the same. Even with detailed explanations and care taken to answer every question, the medical exams were very stressful. The doctor focused on how healthy their bodies were and assured each of them that no matter how they were hurt their bodies were normal. Troy and I met with the medical team and reviewed the results, which included recommendations for counseling and weight management. The girls' first day of counseling was Aug. 11, 2020. Both girls loved their counselor from day one.

The nights were almost always heavy and long. The separation anxiety became almost unmanageable. The girls played but were always watching where we were and what we were doing. They seemed to carry a weight of guilt and fear of the unknown that no child should ever have to carry. One quiet summer day the police showed up in our driveway with a subpoena to appear in court. Scott had decided to exercise his right to a preliminary hearing. Preliminary hearings are often waived as a right of the defendant but in our case, Scott used it as his right to have one. It would force our girls to testify and see if they could handle being on the stand. If they broke down and cried, couldn't tell their story, then the case would be over. It was a gamble Scott decided to take. That night we called on our prayer warriors. There was nothing we could do. If God wanted our case to go on, He needed to speak through our girls, they just needed to be willing. They both showed impossible strength at the preliminary hearing on Sept. 2, 2020. We weren't allowed in the courtroom, but our son witnessed it all. He was broken to the core by what took place. Watching his tiny sisters point out their abuser and describe the unspeakable things he did to them. Then the defense cross examination trying to confuse and manipulate them to mess up their story. All for the right of the defendant? It was a day we hoped would never happen again to anyone. The judge ruled mostly in our favor. We were headed forward to trial. If all went well, Scott would soon be behind bars for 25 years. We



with this type of offense. She volunteered dates, affected families, and that he pled guilty and received court counseling at the age of 14. Mindy was still defensive, insisting that Scott didn't do this. Scott was arraigned the next morning

left the courthouse with a trial date set for November 2020 which was eventually delayed until the following November! It was only with the help of our counselors that we were able to press on during that year. Many court motions were filed before the trial began. We wanted to use his past victims to help our case. They wanted to use my past sexual abuse and many other attempts to destroy our credibility. In the end none of those were allowed. Just our girls against their abuser.

On July 4, 2021, I wrote the following words in my journal:

Today our country celebrates the fight for freedom in the United States of America. For our family this day represents another fight for freedom. Freedom from sexual abuse and its effects on victims, survivors and their family and friends. One year ago today, our children went off to a holiday party and our lives have never been the same. We have learned so many things since that day.

- *Evil can exist in your own family.*
- *Just keeping your children near you or within sight doesn't keep them safe.*
- *Abusers abuse children right in front of their parents.*
- *Grooming is a real-life term.*
- *Children don't just scream and tell right away when being-sexually abused.*
- *Children sometimes never tell.*
- *If they are strong enough to tell and are not believed, they-oftentimes never tell again.*

These hard truths are ones every parent or caregiver needs to know. We learned the hard way. My voice will not stop educating parents about uncomfortable topics no one wants to talk about. The statistics are heart wrenching, and the only cure is talking to our children AND keeping them safe from potential situations. That is where we failed. We believed if we just kept them close, never spent a night away from them, watched them at the park and loved them so much they wouldn't fall prey to sexual abuse. While that is a good start, we need to be talking to our children also.

- *Children need to know their body parts and their true names.*
- *They need to know what parts are private.*



- *They need to know acceptable reasons why their privates would be looked at or touched.*
- *They need to know that anyone else, young or old, should never be looking, touching or sharing their private parts.*
- *They need to know safe people they can talk to.*
- *They need to know they will be believed.*

... Today our family fights for our children's safety, the safety of our extended family, the safety of our community and ultimately the safety of our country and world. ... Only our true Justice System in Heaven will prevail, and our Ultimate Judge will bring complete peace. But for now, we have the freedom to fight this wretched evil called sexual abuse.

The trial finally took place Nov. 2–5, 2021. The verdict was Guilty. We had won. Our family and community will be safer. Scott was taken to prison and will spend the next 25 years behind bars. He went still proclaiming his innocence. We know the Lord is near to all who call on Him in TRUTH!

Lynn Stone is a home educating mother to 11 children, ages 4-25. She is a passionate advocate, speaker and writer with regard to sexual abuse prevention. She believes we can be a voice for those who live in silence and ultimately stop child sexual abuse through education and truth.



HELP THEM!

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM ABUSE

The sacredness of children is a common theme throughout scripture. We are taught that “children are a gift from the Lord” (Psalm 127:3), and that the “kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14). God sets children apart as unique and valuable individuals. In addition, we are warned that a person would be better off if “a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones” (Luke 17:2). Again, there are clear and heavy repercussions when precious treasures are not cared for. Yet in the US, where over 60% of the population is Christian, according to the Pew Research, it is estimated that 1 of every 7 children (anyone under the age of 18) has experienced abuse or neglect in the past year (www.cdc.gov).

The focus of this article is on safeguarding our children. We’ll discuss what abuse is, why this topic is needed, possible warning signs, and some techniques and resources to help keep kids and teens safe. While we will share many resources with you, just reading this article will not help prevent abuse. The way to effect change is to share this information with others, to change our policies and structures to make abuse less likely, and to hold others accountable for their actions. So, we are asking that you not only read this article, but take a step (or two) to do something in your church or community to advance this work. As His children, we must be the city on the hill that cannot be hidden, giving light to everyone in the house (Matthew 5:14) to prevent abuse and to help those who have suffered, so they can recover from it.

by Melissa Ponce-Rodas

Design by Elennie Ramirez

What are child abuse and neglect?

The bible warns us not to harm children, but what exactly is harm? According to the Center for Disease Control, child abuse and neglect are “any act or series of acts of commission or omission by a parent, caregiver, or another person in custodial role that results in harm, or threat of harm to a child” as well as a “preventable act.” It is important to note that this definition includes both things we do (acts of commission) and things we neglect to do (acts of omission). The people responsible for children are not just parents, but can be caregivers or anyone who takes care of children (e.g. grandparents, siblings, school teachers, Sabbath school teachers, Pathfinder or Adventurer staff, camp counselors and others). Because of this, anyone and everyone who works with children needs to know what abuse and neglect are, how they can prevent it, and how to intervene if they find out about it. The definition states either the threat of harm, or harm itself must follow. Harm can happen in many ways, but the main types are the following:

- **Physical abuse** *is the intentional use of physical force that can result in physical injury. Examples include hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or other shows of force against a child.*
- **Sexual abuse** *involves pressuring or forcing a child to engage in sexual acts. It includes behaviors such as fondling, penetration, and exposing a child to other sexual activities. Please see CDC's Preventing Child Sexual Abuse webpage for more information.*
- **Emotional abuse** *refers to behaviors that harm a child's self-worth or emotional well-being. Examples include name-calling, shaming, rejecting, withholding love, and threatening.*
- **Neglect** *is the failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. These needs include housing, food, clothing, education, access to medical care, and having feelings validated and appropriately responded to. (<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/fast-fact.html>)*

All of these are happening in our communities, in our churches, and even in our homes. Some children experience multiple types of abuse. While this information can be hard to process at times, we need to know that this is the result of living in a sin-filled world. The good news, however, is that much of this can be prevented, and interventions can help children (and adults) heal.

Action opportunity: Educate others! How many people in your congregation, school, or club know what child abuse is? You could choose child abuse as your topic for End It Now Day, the violence prevention day of emphasis that our church sponsors. Find local training opportunities - check with your local school district, your local child and family services department, advocacy center, or a psychologist or social worker you may know.

Educate children about their bodies and safety

We are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14), yet most of us (adults and children) don't know all of our body parts. We often study nature as God's creation, but we sometimes forget that humans are His crowning design. Not knowing enough about our divine design, and not teaching it to our children, is actually a risk factor for abuse. I can't tell you how many times I am told that “things happen down there” or “my flower is itchy” or “he touched my weewee or cookie.” Most professionals agree, based on the research there is, that children who can name their genitals and private parts are less likely to be abused and more likely to report it if something happens. Recently, Goldfarb and Lieberman conducted a meta-analysis reviewing three decades of research on sexual education programs, and found that early, consistent education efforts protect against various types of abuse. That is promising news! The article also says that education works best when it happens in multiple areas, such as school and home. Again, if parents aren't comfortable naming body parts or differentiating between good and bad touch, kids can't learn what they aren't taught. Let's work on our own education, and then share it with our children. God's design is amazing and nothing to be ashamed of.

We need to remember that anyone can be abused. Male or female, young or older, any religion, nationality, developmental stage – anyone. Abusers look for opportunity. So, we must protect all of our children. The rates for both males and females are almost the same now, for all types of abuse. One of the worst sexual abuse stories a social worker shared with me was of a 3-4 year old boy who had been so severely abused by his grandfather, that he needed a colostomy bag before the age of 5. I was told that story over 15 years ago, and it had happened 30 years before that. Children with special needs or disabilities are at greater risk for abuse. Adolescents are also at higher risk of sexual abuse and sex trafficking. This is why we must educate all of our children... not just once, but throughout their lives about their amazing bodies, and how to keep them safe or get help if they need it.

Action opportunity: Find an advocacy center, teacher, psychologist or social worker who can teach kids about their bodies. Make it an annual celebration at your church or school. Have posters in the bathroom with the correct names and pictures of private body areas. Remember, education needs to be ongoing.

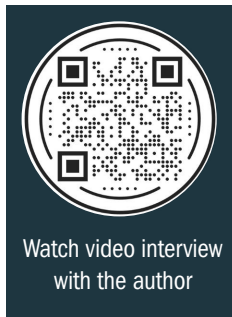


Unsplash Photo by: Jaroslav Devia

Who are the abusers?

While researchers have tried for decades to find a “profile” of who is more likely to abuse, the reality is that it can be anyone. For child abuse, the abuser is usually someone the child knows, and someone who has access to the child. Yes, sometimes it is a stranger, but more than 65% of the time, the abuser is someone the child already knows and has a relationship with.

While the abuser is often an adult, we are seeing an increase in child-aged abusers. Therefore, in order to protect our children, we need to know everyone who is around them and anyone who may have access to them – whether in private or in public (e.g., playgrounds, swimming pools, camps). Children should always be supervised by an adult. Doors should be left open whenever possible. Anyone who works with children, should have a background check. This protects both the children, and those who work with them. Currently, the NAD uses Sterling Volunteers both to educate about abuse, as well as to run a background check. Check with your local church about their use of this system. Knowing our children are among the most vulnerable, yet also the most precious, we need to be willing to take this step to safeguard them.



Action opportunity: Who in your children’s ministries has had this assessment? It should include children’s ministry leaders, club volunteers, school volunteers and anyone who works with children. While this is not a perfect system, it has lowered rates of abuse since the policies have been instituted. Check with your department leaders and encourage this step.

Grooming

While all abuse tends to escalate from smaller offenses to bigger ones, sexual abuse often starts with “grooming” or “manipulative behaviors that the abuser uses to gain access to a potential victim, coerce them to agree to the abuse, and reduce the risk of being caught” (<https://www.rainn.org/news/grooming-know-warning-signs>). A common progression of grooming is outlined as:

- *Victim selection: Abusers often observe possible victims and select them based on ease of access to them or their perceived vulnerability.*
- *Gaining access and isolating the victim: Abusers will attempt to physically or emotionally separate a victim from those protecting them and often seek out positions in which they have contact with minors.*
- *Trust development and keeping secrets: Abusers attempt to gain trust of a potential victim through gifts, attention, sharing “secrets” and other means to make them feel that they have a caring relationship and to train them to keep the relationship secret.*
- *Desensitization to touch and discussion of sexual topics: Abusers will often start to touch a victim in ways that appear harmless, such as hugging, wrestling and tickling, and later escalate to increasingly more sexual contact, such as massages or showering together. Abusers may also show the victim pornography or discuss sexual topics with them, to introduce the idea of sexual contact.*
- *Attempt by abusers to make their behavior seem natural, to avoid raising suspicions. For teens, who may be closer in age to the abuser, it can be particularly hard to recognize tactics used in grooming. Be alert for signs that your teen has a relationship with an adult that includes secrecy, undue influence or control, or pushes personal boundaries. (<https://www.rainn.org/news/grooming-know-warning-signs>)*

Grooming can happen in person and online, to both children and adults. It is a technique used to gain access and trust, to keep the abuse a “secret” and allow continued access to the child. Knowing the progression and warning signs, can help us prevent and intervene early.

The effects

People who have been abused (as children or as adults), are more likely to have physical problems (such as high blood pressure and heart attacks) as well as mental health problems (such as depression, anxiety and suicide attempts). Our Designer knows that we are meant to be cherished, not harmed. We need to continue to learn about abuse, educate others, enact better policies to deal with abusers, and create safe spaces for our children to grow and thrive.

Melissa Ponce-Rodas is an assistant professor of psychology at Andrews University. She and her husband, Segundo, have twin boys, Samuel and Jonathan. Her research and advocacy revolve around the intersections of religion and domestic violence.

There is help

To learn more, or if you or someone you know needs help, you can contact these agencies:

In an emergency, you should always call 911.

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline 24/7: (1-800) 4-A-Child or (1-800) 422-4453

RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network): (800) 656-HOPE End It Now: Adventists Say No To Violence www.enditnow.org

Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 1-800-800-5556

Illinois Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 1-800-252-2873

Michigan Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 1-855-444-3911 Wisconsin: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/reportabuse>

Echo Tech Shares a Sweet Treat to Uplift Colleagues



A FEW YEARS AGO, DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, LEANN BUTZ NOTICED HER CO-WORKERS WERE STRUGGLING. “WE WERE GOING THROUGH SHUTDOWN, AND I SAW A NURSE WAS HAVING A REALLY HARD TIME,” SAID BUTZ, WHO IS LEAD ECHO TECH AT UCHICAGO MEDICINE ADVENTHEALTH GLENOAKS. SHE REMEMBERED HAVING SOME CHOCOLATE IN HER LOCKER AND ASKED THE NURSE IF A PIECE OF CANDY MIGHT HELP. IT DID.

Since then, she has been a fixture at the hospital, sharing a sweet treat every week because, “Everybody can use a piece of candy.”

Her routine has grown. Now she spends a couple of hours on Wednesdays after her shift ends handing out some candy in an effort to ensure all her colleagues throughout the hospital get their sweet treat. She also sometimes offers candy to hospital visitors and, after checking with their nurse, to patients.

“I chose Wednesday because it’s the middle of the week. I go to every department and give them a piece of candy after my shift, and over time it became a two-hour process. So, my husband decided we needed something bigger.”

She started carrying her candy in a plastic shoebox covered in hearts. But as her giving increased, she found she had to keep refilling the box. So, she upgraded her delivery system.

“My husband bought me this wonderful white cart with a drawer. He even went to a signage company and had a sign made for me that says, ‘Candy Crash Cart,’” said Butz.

Butz has learned what kind of treats her coworkers like, and she tries to stock their favorites. She pays for the candy herself—often 50 pounds of candy at a time. She believes the smiles she receives are worth every cent.

“It’s the smiles that you get from people,” Butz said. “It warms your heart and soul when you see how strong God’s presence is here. And

if I can help spread a little bit of joy once in a while with chocolate, it’s worth it.”

This method of giving back has continued to help her as the pandemic recedes. “It’s just a wonderful way of being able to connect with other people,” she said. “Just being able to stop by and check in with people to see what is going on in their life and see how I can help them out.”

“Leann has a heart of gold,” said Ann Girard, director of cardiology and Butz’s supervisor. “I wasn’t surprised when she came to me with this idea. She wants to do the best for herself and the people around her. She’s an absolutely amazing individual. She makes everybody feel like family and that is what we’re about.”

Butz enjoys talking and catching up with people as she hands out candy and has built many new friendships. “It’s a social time. I stop and see how people are doing. I have met a lot of people,” she said.

She thinks of it as a way of giving back to all the people who work at the hospital helping others.

“These people are so selfless. They take such great care of these patients, and I am thankful for every one of them.” ■

Julie Busch is associate vice president of marketing and communication at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth.



▲ Leanne Butz with her “Candy Crash Cart,” which she uses to deliver candy to her colleagues and visitors at the hospital every Wednesday after her shift.

Andrews University Opens Shalom House

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE FOR PREVENTION OF ADDICTIONS (IPA) AND INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TRAUMA EDUCATION & CARE NOW SHARE A COMBINED LOCATION—SHALOM HOUSE.

Shalom House was previously office space for the Institute for Prevention of Addictions, which conducts research focused on the extent and causes of the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs, as well as other addictions and health risk behaviors.

As Duane McBride, director of IPA, saw the development of the International Center for Trauma Education & Care within the School of Social Work, he was moved to offer space to the Center, which provides trauma-informed education and care and facilitates long-term healing from trauma. McBride saw a combined workspace as an opportunity to create further synergy of ideas in the shared purpose of supporting the hurting as God calls His people to do.

McBride says, "We overlap with the International Center for Trauma Education & Care in many ways because trauma is a major cause of addiction in health risk behaviors. We're very happy to partner with the Center in our work."

The IPA offices were prepared for renovation during Andrews University's Change Day 2022. Then, with support from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Andrews University and other generous donors, the space was redesigned to house

offices for both employees and student interns and provide a place for meetings, small group trainings, and writing and research.

In late spring 2023, Shalom House was dedicated during a special program and open house. A newly remodeled wall displays the verse, "I am come that they might have life and they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Shalom House staff are working on programs to help facilitate prevention of addictions and an understanding of long-term, faith-based healing from trauma. The North American Division's Adventist Recovery Ministry will also be hosted within the Shalom House structure. Websites continue to be developed and updated with resources and learning opportunities for anyone seeking more information or support.

The Shalom House specifically serves Andrews University students, too, providing trainings, consultations and, for those who have been through trauma, further coping skills. During "Care Café" events, students experience therapeutic art, journaling and regulation stations for the use of sensory tools such as weighted shawls, fidget tools and olfactory inclusion.

The house was intentionally decorated in



▲ The opening of the Shalom House.

colors and with nature themes to help with stress reduction. Due to its more remote location on campus, numerous birds and other wildlife can be observed through the windows. In the future, the Shalom House team hopes to create intentional areas around the house for people to be in nature as well as a lab space on the lower level to train students and others in sand tray therapy, sensory tools and play therapy.

Ingrid Slikkers, executive director of the International Center for Trauma Education & Care, says, "Having this beautiful space to work from will allow our team to further create ways to promote understanding, hope and healing on campus and in wider communities, and we are so grateful." ■

Compiled by **Gillian Panigot**, communication manager & FOCUS editor, University Communication





Body, mind and spirit ... healing and wholeness

THE BIBLICAL VIEWS ON DISEASE AND HEALING KEEP HOPE AND SALVATION IN THE PICTURE. PHYSICAL CURE WILL OCCUR FROM TIME TO TIME. WHAT WE ARE ASSURED IS THAT WE CAN HAVE WHOLENESS IN OUR BROKENNESS.

“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.” Here John confirms that physical well-being and spirituality are inextricably linked. He had witnessed the activities of Jesus involving the whole person. Perhaps, as John walked on the seashore of Patmos, he relived the indescribable fellowship of an early-morning breakfast prepared by the nail-pierced hands of his Savior. He may further have reminisced, with tender recollection, Jesus’ empathetic attention to detail after raising Jairus’ daughter from the dead, and when the Bread of Life “told them to give her something to eat.” He would never forget the miraculous feeding of thousands, where Jesus again revealed His concern for people’s physical well-being.

Jesus’ involvement with the whole person is described in the opening paragraphs of “The Ministry of Healing:” “Our Lord Jesus Christ came to this world as the unwearied servant of man’s necessity. He ‘took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses,’ that He might minister to every need of humanity (Matthew 8:17). The burden of wretchedness and sin He came to remove. It was His mission to bring to men complete restoration; He came to give them health and peace and perfection of character.”

Jesus spent much time healing the sick. Matthew reports: “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.” The Great Physician practiced

and demonstrated the spirituality of health and blended healing, teaching, praying and preaching. Our Savior pressed on, saying, “... we must do the works of Him Who sent Me.”

The healings performed by Jesus addressed body, mind, and spirit. He healed not only physical maladies but addressed forgiveness of sin and relief from guilt; this was especially seen in the healing of the paralytic let down through the roof. He affirmed faith and even the motives that brought the needy one to Him. He advised changes in life values and admonished those whom He healed to turn away from sin.

Jesus emphasized the importance of wholeness. He recognized the vital interaction of body, mind, and spirit. It was only toward the latter quarter of the twentieth century that the World Health Organization said that the definition of health is not only the absence of physical disease, but that mental and emotional well-being are essential to wellness too. This is an emphasis reflected in the Old Testament: “... fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all His decrees and commands ... and so that you may enjoy long life.”

The lens of Jesus’ ministry brings biblical teaching on disease and healing into clear and sharp focus. Jesus rebuked those who judged others; He contradicted the disciples’ hypothesis of cause and effect. He related acts of healing to forgiveness of sin and the exercise of faith. He very directly relates healing, faith and wholeness and performed healing miracles even on the Sabbath, as the Creator and the Redeemer. He confirmed that we are wholistic beings despite our inevitable brokenness during this life’s journey.

Visit andrews.edu/go/wholistic for information on the upcoming “Conference on Wholistic Healing: Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities for the Church” on the campus of Andrews University, Oct. 12–14, 2023. ■

Peter N. Landless, MB, BCh, MMed, FCP(SA), FACC, FASNC, Director, General Conference Adventist Health Ministries



Lewis Church Feeds Tornado Victims

AN F3 TORNADO STRUCK THE SMALL TOWN OF SULLIVAN, INDIANA, ON MARCH 31, 2023, IN THE DARK OF NIGHT. OVER 200 HOMES WERE LEVELED OR DESTROYED IN A MATTER OF MINUTES. THREE PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES, AND FAMILIES WERE DEVASTATED. THE TOWNSFOLK RESPONDED WITH LOVE AND A DESIRE TO HELP.

Many agencies came to the town to assist in various ways. The Salvation Army was one of those agencies. They undertook the feeding of rescue workers and first responders. Families with no place to go were also fed.

The Lewis Seventh-day Adventist Church and other churches were asked to help the Salvation Army in feeding these people. The Lewis Church fed 300 people on Sabbath, April 8. It was a “fish and loaves” experience as only 125 people were expected. Praise God for helping us show His love by ministering to others in such trying times. ■

Pam Dowell is the communication leader at the Lewis Church.

Southern Illinois School Commemorates 50 Years

STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND WELL-WISHERS MARKED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARION ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL DURING A TWO-DAY HOMECOMING

At the joint program with the Marion Adventist Church, former students, alumni, staff and pastors were recognized. Additionally, the program featured stories about the school's modest beginnings led by members who were supportive of Adventist Christian education.

On Sabbath, Pastor John Martin, who helped build the first dedicated building for a school, spoke for the divine service. Former pastors Jerrett and Gail Brown, Dale and Carol Barnhurst, John and Billie Martin and former teachers Marian Brazzell and Becky Anderson were in attendance. The pastors and teachers, along with former school board chair, Kerry Wilcut, and current chair, Marietta Kellum, were honored during the service.

Three generations of one family participated in the service, the youngest of whom is a current student.

Vision for a School Where Children Are Taught By the Lord

One of the founding members, Kay Kelton, shared the history of the school. She spoke of the first building where classes were held at the medical cabin at Little Grassy Lake Camp, some 30 miles from Marion. This would last just one year, 1972–1973, as families wanted to be closer to the town of Marion. Kay and her husband owned a structure that he was going to use to raise catfish, and as the story goes: “The children asked their dad, ‘What do you think of selling this property to the church for the school?’” Kay explained. “He said, ‘Yes,’ so the decision was made to remodel the

building for a school. And we had a school there for four years.”

In 1977, the school moved to the east of Marion on Crabtree School Road, enlarging that location in 1981, and, finally, on Valentine's Day 2000 moved to its current location, debt-free, when an additional building was attached to the Marion church.

The school has weathered many changes over the past 50 years, including the death of one teacher, closure for one year, and several changes in location. During each phase, the church family has strongly supported the school, and with God's guidance continued educating the children. ■

Jean Valdenegro is the principal/teacher at the Marion Adventist Christian School.



▲ Pastors and teachers and chairpersons honored for their service.



▲ Students and staff play “Jesus Loves Me” on tone chimes.

State-of-the-art School Library Opens in South Side Chicago

THE PANDEMIC HIGHLIGHTED A MAJOR PROBLEM IN CHICAGO'S SOUTH SIDE. MANY HOUSEHOLDS DID NOT HAVE INTERNET AT HOME OR HAVE ACCESS TO DIGITAL DEVICES SUCH AS A COMPUTER OR TABLETS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY PROBLEMATIC IN A SOCIETY THAT'S BECOMING RAPIDLY TECH-CENTERED, MAKING DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESS NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE IN MODERN LIFE.

Shiloh Church leaders began looking for solutions to help tackle the digital disparity. "There was no space like this to address these needs in the entire South Side," noted John Boston, senior pastor of the Shiloh Church, located in the heart of this historic section of Chicago.

Blessed with a large building—albeit 100 years old and in need of renovation—they soon saw the potential in a defunct library that would require stripping and rebuilding from the ground up.

They reached out to the Lake Region Conference and the Effie McHenry Foundation, and both gave substantial donations. Effie McHenry, a well-known educator and gifted administrator in the Chicago Public School system, had been a member of Shiloh before her death last August. More help came from corporate sponsors who donated considerable goods and services. Not to be outmatched, church members, school alumni and others volunteered to make the major upgrade possible. "Little became much when we placed it in the Master's hand," Boston said.

Seven months after plans were made to move forward, the multisensory innovation library and teachers' lounge was dedicated on May 30, 2023. The welcoming space includes classrooms with video conferencing capabilities, a workstation for Adobe digital editing, computer-aided design (CAD)

software for 3D printing, and even a custom-built saltwater aquarium.

"This is a testament to what can be done when we collaborate with the Holy Spirit and solve problems in our community," said Boston.

But this is just the beginning. He added, "This site will be one of the most digitally advanced that serves the South Side, and the end goal is to point future innovators to the Savior, the Master Builder."

Debbie Michel is editor of the Lake Union Herald.



▲ The ribbon-cutting for the state-of-the-art innovation library and teacher's lounge at the Chicago Seventh-day Adventist Christian School, operated by the Shiloh Church, was held on May 30, 2023. From left to right: Shiloh Church Associate Pastor James Doggett Jr., Lake Region Executive Secretary Abraham Henry, Lake Region President Garth Gabriel and Shiloh Senior Pastor John Boston.



Stanton Witherspoon

▲ Seventh and 8th graders from Ruth Murdoch Elementary School in Berrien Springs, Michigan, were responsible for much of the planning and production. From May 12–21, they set up, preached, greeted, prayed, ran the livestream, took photos, led the praise and worship, and more.

Ten Years of “The Tent”

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS EMBRACE AND SHARE THEIR FAITH

FOR 10 DAYS IN MAY, STUDENTS FROM RUTH MURDOCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BERRIEN SPRINGS SPEARHEADED A SERIES OF EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS IN A LARGE TENT ON THE CAMPUS OF ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.

This year was the tenth time The Tent, as it's known, was held. This year's theme was “This is Our Faith.” It was led by 7th and 8th graders who were responsible for much of the planning and production. From May 12–21, they set up, preached, greeted, prayed, ran the livestream, took photos and more.

Preachers Made It Personal

Losa Poua, an eighth grader, was one of the 12 speakers and she decided to talk about body issues. “I struggled, and sometimes still do struggle, with loving and accepting my body.”

By sharing, however, she felt God speaking to her. I definitely feel like I've found something that I want to continue to do, but only if God is with me as I go,” she said.

Another eighth-grader, Briana Skinner, said she asked God to give her a topic that would help others and help her at the same

time. “I thought maybe I would preach on forgiveness or patience,” she said. “Little did I know that God would choose a topic that I had been struggling with for a long time. I am glad that God chose the topic of the End Times for me, as it really helped my relationship with Christ.”

Baptisms

Every year decisions for Jesus are made, and this year was no different. Ten baptisms were lined up but two more were added as the days went by. There were also 38 decisions made by students to live for Christ.

Gadi Igaso, another one of the preachers, also decided to get baptized. Her mother flew in from Papua New Guinea and she was baptized by an uncle who told the audience about Gadi's journey to this point, which included losing her dad to COVID.

Her decision for baptism marked a turning point. The eighth grader had been having second thoughts about whether to take the stage to preach but after her baptism she realized, “I wasn't fighting the battle alone.”

Students Wrote Their Own Music

Each year The Tent has a specific theme and this year for the first time students wrote the theme song. The songwriting process was done through a mini course called “Intro to Worship Leading: Leading through Writing,” which was taught by seminary student Peter Flores.

“Songwriting is a creative process, so students were given a theme and encouraged to come up with lyrics they were proud of,” said Flores.

The lyrics took two weeks to complete and every student either wrote or inspired the writing of lyrics. The students also helped to create the melody. “I helped facilitate,” Flores said, “but the heavy lifting was done by the inspiration of the students.”

History of The Tent

God has really worked through Ben Martin, Pioneer Memorial Church associate pastor, in the founding of The Tent. Ten years ago, as a seminary student, he was helping at Ruth Murdoch teaching Bible and witnessed the students getting deeper and deeper into studying the Word. But he also noticed something troubling.



▲ Gadi Igaso was baptized the day before she preached.



▲ Ben Martin baptizes Keila Bowerman

“At Ruth Murdoch, there are lots of people asking questions like, ‘Would you like to get baptized,’ and ‘Would you like to choose Jesus?’ But who is asking the kids who go to public schools? Nobody’s even asked them. So there are lots [of students] in the community who nobody is asking.”

The idea of an evangelistic series to reach students outside the Adventist schools came to him while sitting in a seminary class.

“I immediately realized that this would be a terrible idea because it was going to be a lot of work,” he said. But he persisted and approached the Ruth Murdoch junior high teachers who acknowledged the amount of work but said, “Let’s do it!”

As he looks back, he reflected: “I couldn’t imagine that we thought this would still be going 10 years later, but I think it is an awesome opportunity for kids not only to think through what they believe and share it with others but also to find ways to get involved with ministry. I think it is incredible for all kinds of leadership.”

When asked what The Tent meant to him, Pastor Ben concluded that it’s evident that God has faithfully been at work. “I think it is a powerful reminder that God can use absolutely everyone and anyone who is willing. Seeing Him work through junior high students and seeing Him show up year after year and night after night is just a powerful reminder of His willingness to work with us when we give Him that opportunity.” ■

Briauna Skinner is an incoming freshman at Andrews Academy. She enjoys reading, writing and baking. Her dream is to become a writer.

Mixed Reports from Lake Union Business Meeting

EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGES;
RECORD TITHE, MEMBERSHIP GROWTH CONTINUES

ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, THE LAKE UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONVENED IN BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN, FOR THE SECOND OF THREE MEETINGS HELD ANNUALLY.

The 37-member committee includes representatives from the five conferences who are tasked with helping to develop and direct the work of the church in the Great Lakes region. Members include local conference administrators, church employees, lay leaders, as well as the presidents of Andrews University and AdventHealth Great Lakes.

As president of the Lake Union, Ken Denslow chairs the meeting, which is focused on the day-to-day work, as well as long-term strategies for fulfilling the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

HIGHLIGHTS

Education Challenges, Strong Pathfinder Performances

One of the main focuses of the union for the next several years is school enrollment. As such, North American Division Vice President for Education Arne Nielsen was present to shed light on enrollment trends in the division. He said enrollment is almost back to pre-COVID levels.

Today, there are fewer schools but more students, and the reason is because there aren’t enough teachers. Smaller schools have closed, and some teachers went to larger schools.

More specific stats are available at v1.adventisteducation.org/stat.

A discussion ensued on how to address the teacher shortage. Nielsen said more studies are being done, but one factor is that COVID has taken a toll on teachers’ emotional wellbeing.

Youth Director Ron Whitehead spoke of Newsweek magazine naming Camp Akita and Camp Au Sable as two of the best summer camps.

Additionally, the Division-level Pathfinder Bible Experience hosted 16 teams from the Lake Union. The Stevensville Church put forth three teams who placed first, a first at the Division PBE. “The congregation invested in them, and we see amazing returns,” said Whitehead.

Dental clinics are back, starting with one in each conference. Randy will oversee the on-site clinics but since he is now busy running the Indiana ABC, Carmelo Mercado has accepted the role of planning the clinics.

Successful ASI Gathering

General Vice President Carmelo Mercado reported on the recent ASI Lake Union gathering featuring Neil Nedley and the new leadership voted. More than \$15,000 was raised for Karen refugees, Weimar Institute and FARMSTEW ministry.

Growth and Risks for AdventHealth Great Lakes

President Thor Thordarson says he is focused on making sure the U. Chicago AdventHealth partnership is working. Many things are going well, including high ratings and growth in market share. However, there are areas of risk, such as high turnover due to the heavy workload.



▲ Lake Union President Ken Denslow presents a gift to Andrews University President Andrea Luxton for her seven years of service on the Lake Union executive committee.

Andrews University Deeply Embedded in the Mission of the Church

Andrea Luxton said she was grateful for the last seven years leading Andrews University and will move on to a role at the North American Division as VP for Education, focusing on higher learning.

The University is involved in the WAUS radio station, Center for Youth Evangelism, Center for Adventist Research, Adventist Digital Library (puts all of Adventist material online), Horn Archaeological Museum, Andrews University Press, International Center for Trauma Education & Care (trained about 4,000 people in the last year), Center for Prevention of Addictions, Global Leadership Center and Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship. “We are a university day-to-day, but deeply embedded in the mission of the church,” said Luxton.

While enrollment is looking stronger than it did for years, there are headwinds. Luxton

noted, “K-12 education is the most stressful career. The second most stressful is higher education.” The reason for this is, “Children have been dealing with so much and it’s coming into the classroom, and it makes the job so much more stressful.”

She added that the average tenure of a university president is now three years, when it used to be between 7–10 years.

Growth in Membership

As of the end of March 2023:
Membership stands at 89,080
240 baptisms recorded between January and March 2023

Candidates Voted for Ordination

Lake Region

Jimmy Lee Atkins, Evanston, Illinois
James Dogette Jr., young adult director
Alexander Cody Miller, conference evangelist who is finishing up at the Seminary
Kent M. Nichols, conference treasurer



Photos by Katie Fellows

▲ **Top:** AdventHealth Great Lakes Region President Thor Thordarson discusses the challenges and opportunities facing the health system.

Middle: Illinois Conference President John Grys (with scarf) listens to a report.

Bottom: Lake Union administrators administrators Ken Denslow (standing); left - Elden Ramirez, executive secretary; right - Glynn Scott, treasurer

Tithe Continues Its Record Climb

Tithe \$22.7 million, up 16.71 percent over March 2022, with one less Sabbath in 2023 vs 2022. This increase is due to extraordinary tithe of \$2.6 million received by the Illinois Conference.

Total income \$2.8 million, ahead of budget by \$298,000 due to tithe gain of 16.71 percent and other income \$45,000 greater than budget.

Total expenses \$2.7 million, under budget by \$277,000 due to program expenses year-to-date lower than budget.

Operating gain is \$185,000. ■

Debbie Michel is editor of the Lake Union Herald

ACADEMY STUDENTS RECOGNIZED WITH **CARING HEART** AWARD



The Lake Union and North American Division's Office of Education believe that teaching young people to be actively involved in witnessing and service activities is central to the educational goals of the school and the mission of the church. For this reason, the secondary student Caring Heart Award for Christian Service has been established to give recognition to those students who have demonstrated a personal commitment to active service and witnessing activities.

The Caring Heart Award is provided to each North American Division-accredited senior academy that has selected an eligible candidate. The award consists of a special scholarship award certificate with a value of \$500, paid by the Union, and accompanied by a plaque and engraved Bible provided by the NAD Office of Education.

Below are the recipients for the 2022–2023 school year.



Nate Miller
ANDREWS ACADEMY

Nate Miller is an avid pianist, writer and leader. He traveled to southern Texas for a school mission trip and helped people rehabilitate their homes, as well as planned and implemented a Vacation Bible School for the neighborhood children. Ministry through music has been a personal favorite of his. He often played the piano for various church praise teams, vespers and the occasional concert. As Student Association president during the 2022–23 school year, he was a strong believer and participant in the idea of servant leadership. He demonstrated this by being a leader within the school, but as a friend first and foremost.



Micah Bateman
BATTLE CREEK ACADEMY

Micah Bateman has an ever-present smile, warm laugh and happy disposition that causes him to stand above the rest. He could often be found at the school volunteering to do the last clean up or setting up for another event, long after everyone else was gone. His gentleness and amiableness allowed him to make friends easily and was a constant example of the gentleness of Jesus. He made a difference in his caring leadership: loading a bus, hauling band equipment, setting up the gym chairs or carrying luggage for those in need. His support of the school's community service and class/senior mission projects has been noteworthy.



Jason Kahari
GRAND RAPIDS ACADEMY

Jason Kahari has served as a student leader at Grand Rapids since his freshman year. As the Student Association pastor during the 2022–23 school year, he showed that he was a living example of Christian charity, leadership and commitment to his school and local church. He was engaged in SA activities, regularly leading praise worship for high school chapels, and was actively involved in the school's music program. Yet, his involvement was not limited to school activities. He was also willing to serve his Grand Rapids Central Church community in whatever capacity he



Cin (Muanpi) Mung
INDIANA ACADEMY

Although **Cin (Muanpi) Mung** waited to enroll at Indiana Academy until his senior year, he made a lasting impact on his classmates, faculty and staff. His selfless and caring attitude made him an ideal role model and tutor in the men's dormitory. He listened compassionately, supported others emotionally and academically, and patiently mentored the younger residents. He exemplified a loving Christ-like character and inspired those around him to follow his lead as a servant leader.



Alina Sorensen
GREAT LAKES ADVENTIST
ACADEMY

Alina Sorensen is a true servant leader. She was always seeking ways to be a blessing to others and to spread joy around the campus and beyond. Alina sought out those who were having a bad day and it was not uncommon to see her sitting with and laughing with a different person every day. She often used her violin to bring a smile to someone's face. Alina was voted Student Association pastor and served the campus well in her pastoral role, caring for the staff and students. In addition to leading by example, she was a blessing to the religion department by carefully planning the school-wide Bible Camp.



LiAnn Ombao
HINSDALE ADVENTIST
ACADEMY

If you should meet **LiAnn (Kyra) Ombao**, you would first notice her warm and friendly smile. She is actively involved in her church, community and academy. She has been a strong spiritual leader in the praise teams at her church and the school. She was also a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Association and loves to serve with a cheerful heart. She leads out as team captain in sports and demonstrates deep care and support for her teammates. Even when there are setbacks, she exemplifies a positive attitude, grit and the ability to push forward without complaining. One of her most remarkable traits is that Kyra is unashamed to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.



William Ramos
WISCONSIN ACADEMY

When you first meet **William Ramos**, two things are immediately apparent: he has a kind soul and he is sincerely in love with God. During William's two years at Wisconsin Academy, he established a reputation as a thoughtful, spiritual and caring young man. He quietly observed and regularly took time to check in with his schoolmates. William didn't have a singular friend group, instead choosing to interact with everyone. During this last year, he served as the Student Association spiritual vice president and used the position to listen to his fellow students when they had spiritual questions or simply needed an empathetic ear.



Cheri Corder

New campaign seeks to raise awareness of sexual abuse

“SEXUAL ABUSE IS ALWAYS HARMFUL,” EXPLAINS ANN HAMEL, PHD, IN THE 2023 ENDITNOW® MATERIAL, “BUT WHEN IT IS PERPETRATED BY SOMEONE CLAIMING TO FOLLOW JESUS, IT IS EVEN MORE DAMAGING.”

This is because there is now the automatic additional layer of spiritual abuse. When the abuse is by a Christian *leader*, the damage is obviously even greater.”

Enditnow® is the General Conference’s initiative addressing abuse. Every year, material on some aspect of abuse is sent to churches around the world and churches are encouraged to present that material to their congregations on the fourth Sabbath of August. The Women’s Ministries leaders receive material which they can adapt for both a sermon and a workshop. This year, in addition to the written resources, there are videos of both the sermon and the workshop. They are geared to being used on a Sabbath in a local church setting, but they may also be used at other times and in other contexts such as faculty meetings in schools.

While Ann Hamel and Cheri Corder co-authored the material for both sessions, Corder presents the sermon and Hamel presents the workshop.

The sermon is titled **“Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing, When those who claim to be followers of Jesus harm others.”** It provides an overview of sexual abuse when it is perpetrated by members and especially leaders in the church. The material includes seven true examples to help illustrate the concepts shared and looks at how abuse can happen, the impact of abuse, and how we can respond to it. There is a special message at the end for those who have been victims.

“Sarah’s Diary: She thought it was love” is the workshop portion. Based on a case study of one of her former clients, Hamel shares the story of a 14-year-old girl who was seduced

into a long-term sexual relationship with her church school principal. Fifteen of “Sarah’s” diary entries tell the story to show how it can happen, why she didn’t tell, and more. In the video, Hamel introduces the story, provides commentary on it, and gives the audience questions to consider and discuss. The story itself is told through an actress’s reading of the diary entries, accompanied by still photos of another actress depicting Sarah’s thoughts and reactions as the story develops. Discussion guidelines are also available.

It’s a difficult topic, but one we *must* address. Check with your church’s Women’s Ministries leader to see when these presentations will be offered in your church. To access the resources directly, go to enditnow.org or women.adventist.org.

Ann Hamel, PhD, is a psychologist with the International Service Employee Support Team of the General Conference. She specializes in traumatology and is a board-certified expert in traumatic stress.

Cheri Corder is the former director of women’s, family and health ministries, along with Adventist Community Services, for the Oregon Conference, and the retired missionary care coordinator for Adventist Frontier Missions.

MILEPOSTS

ANNIVERSARY



Chester and Charlotte Stuart celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary at home with two of their daughters in Chicago, Illinois. They have been members of the Shiloh Adventist Church in Chicago for over 65 years. They were married on Sunday, June 8, 1958, in Chicago by Pastor Eric Dillelt. Chester worked clearing disposal and retired in 1999. Charlotte ran the school lunchroom at Shiloh Academy for over 30 years.

Their family includes Shawna (James) Campbell, Harvest, Alabama; Sonja Stuart, Chicago; Cynthia (Winston) Dixon, Chicago; Chester (Jackie) Stuart, Chicago; and three grandchildren.

OBITUARIES

BACON, Della (Kalbes) L., age 92; born Feb. 2, 1931, in Bagley, Wisconsin; died April 24, 2023, in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. She

was a member of the Clearwater Lake Adventist Church in Eagle River, Wisconsin. She is survived by her sons, Jeffrey (Barbara); Bruce; Randy (Lisa); Stevan; Carl (Brenda); David (Cynthia); brother, James Kalbes; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. A funeral service was conducted by her friend, Al Goodrich; graveside service was at the Clearwater Lake Cemetery in Eagle River, Wisconsin.

HEYDLAUFF, Margaret "Meg" (Moore) L., age 83; born May 31, 1939, in Ann Arbor, Michigan; died April 25, 2023, in Sebring, Florida. She was a member of the Bunker Hill Adventist Church in Stockbridge, Michigan. She is survived by her husband, Jerald "Jerry" Haydlauff; daughter, Susan Cassar; sister, Martha "Tudy", Maralyn "Tiny", Marion; two grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted on June 25, 2023, and private graveside service at the Salem Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery in Grass Lake, Michigan. A celebration of life was hosted by her husband, Jerry, and daughter, Susan.

JAESCHKE, Vernon "Vern" R., age 88; born Sept. 15, 1934, in Tomahawk, Wisconsin; died Feb. 13, 2023, in Wausau, Wisconsin. He was a member of the Tomahawk Adventist Church in Wisconsin. He is survived

by his wife, Shirley "Shirl" E. (Kottke) Jaeschke; daughters, Lori L Jaeschke (Conrad) Waagen, Karen R Jaeschke (Jonathan) Perlberg; brother, Donald Jaeschke; sisters, Ardis Jaeschke (Doug) Kraner, Vera Jaeschke (Don) Antisdell; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Tom Michalski on Feb. 26, 2023, in Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

LESPINASSE, Luigi Fritz, age 66; born Oct. 24, 1956, in Port-Prince, Haiti; died Mar. 25, 2023, in Chicago. He was a member of the North Shore Adventist Church in Chicago. He is survived by his son, Michael Lespinasse; daughter, Laura Lespinasse; brothers, Dimitri (MaryAnn) Lespinasse, Samuel (Jojo) Lespinasse; sisters, Ingrid (Milan) Lespinasse, Krkljus Lespinasse, Ludmilla (Tom) Lespinasse Lane. A funeral service was conducted by Pastor Jonathan Burnett on April 7, 2023, with Pastor Lamont Taylor officiating the committal; graveside service at the Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago.

SAYRUN, Anna Carolyn, age 88; born Feb. 26, 1933, in Lexington, Kentucky; died Nov. 13, 2021, in Chicago, Illinois. She was a member of the North Shore Adventist Church in Chicago. She is survived by her daughter,

Nushet Sayrun; and two grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Jonathan Burnett on Dec. 4, 2021, with a private inurnment at the Caring Cremations facility in Chicago.

SHERWIN, Neal Lee, age 93; born Oct. 13, 1929, in Battle Creek, Michigan; died Feb. 20, 2023, in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He was a member of the Delton Adventist Church in Delton, Michigan. Survivors include his son, David (Jane) Sherwin; daughter, Linda (Dan) Thompson; foster daughter, Audrey (Doug) Claussen; stepchildren, Bethany Cannon, Katherine Hudson, Glenn (Christine) Downs, Kenneth Downs; sister, Lavonne Peak; sister-in-law, Kay Sherwin; grandchildren, Rachelle (Brenton) Offenback, Jonathan (Evaine) Thompson, Brent (Laura) Sherwin, Brittany (Harold) Chelchowski, Crystal and Kimberly Cannon, Katrina Hudson, Jennifer, Jonathan Claussen; and great-grandchildren, Kayleigh, Emma, Jake, Jenna, Noah, Jonah and Mikayla. A memorial service was held May 27, 2023, at the Stevensville Adventist Church in Stevensville, Michigan.

ZAPPIA, Mary (Abruzzino), age 100; born April 5, 1922, in Chicago; died Jan. 28, 2023, in

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.

Lawton, Michigan. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She is survived by her son, Frank (Kay) Zappia. A funeral service was conducted by

Pastor Dennis Page and co-officiated with Pastor Ron Kelly on Feb. 3, 2023, with a graveside service at the Mission Hills Cemetery in Niles, Michigan.



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CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

AUGUST

- 5 Local Church Budget
- 12 Christian Record Services (NAD)
- 19 Local Church Budget
- 26 Local Conference Advance



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, Michigan, Sept. 24, 2023, with the first meeting called at 9 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 p.m. at the Cedar Lake Church.

The Battle Creek Tabernacle in Battle Creek, Michigan, invites you to join us as we dedicate our newly remodeled sanctuary and main floor of the church. The dedication ceremony will take place on Sept. 23, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. The theme for the dedication is "Renew and Rejoice," as in renewing our commitment to Jesus and rejoicing in what He has done for us. Special speaker for the morning service will be Dwight Nelson, recently retired pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University. We especially encourage former members to worship with us and see the changes that have been made. The church is located at 264 West Michigan Avenue in Battle Creek.

Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend October 6-7, 2023 All alumni, former faculty and staff are invited to attend "Let's Gather Together" Alumni Weekend. Sunnydale Adventist Academy, 6818 Audrain Rd 9139, Centralia, MO 65240 For more information, please contact alumni@sunnydale.org or 573-682-2164 x200.

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>.

Jesus & Wholistic Sexuality

**Conference
8-19**

ce Topics Include

Expect When a Loved
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August

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

August 4-6: Summer Graduation Weekend
August 16: First day of school, Andrews Academy
August 20-27: "First Stop" and New Student Orientation
August 21: First day of school, Ruth Murdoch Elementary School
August 27: Registration for University-level students
August 28: Fall semester begins for University-level schools.

ILLINOIS

August 11-13: Hispanic Camp Meeting, Camp Akita
August 18-20: Campus Leadership Training, Location TBA

INDIANA

August 14: First day of school, Indiana Academy
August 16: First day of school, Elementary

LAKE REGION

August 26: enditnow Emphasis Day
August 26: Illiana-area Prison Ministry Emphasis Day

MICHIGAN

August 13-16: Youth Rush iShare Retreat, Camp Au Sable

WISCONSIN

August 2-6: Hispanic Camp Meeting, Camp Wakonda
August 10-12: Hmong Camp Meeting, Location TBA

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

August 2-5: ASI National Convention (Kansas City, Missouri)
August 7-10: NAD Teacher's Convention (Phoenix, Arizona)

CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT

Union College seeks applicants for a boiler plant operator. This is a full-time position. This role is responsible for the operation and repair of HV/AC systems, transmission lines and associated controls. See full job descriptions and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment or contact Paul Jenks at paul.jenks@ucollege.edu.

Union College, Lincoln NE, is seeking applicants for two positions: Electrician and General Maintenance. Both are full-time, non-exempt positions with generous benefits package and health care. Please see full job descriptions and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment. Direct inquiries to Paul Jenks at paul.jenks@ucollege.edu.

Pacific Union College is seeking faculty positions for the 2023–2024 academic year in the areas of history and music. Major duties include the responsibilities of assessment, planning, development and implementation of classroom experiences and course objectives. We desire those who will be committed to a collaborative working environment, as well as those who possess dedication in furthering the goals of excellence in student success and critical thinking skills. Most importantly, we desire those interested in bringing students closer to Christ by nurturing

the whole person and embracing concepts for lifelong learning. If you are interested, please contact Human Resources at HR@puc.edu or call 707-965-6231.

Private Ob-Gyn office in Downers Grove, Illinois, seeking reliable, friendly MA/Nursing assistant for part-time work (4–8 p.m., 3–4 days/week or two 12-hour days). No weekend or Sabbath hours ever. Good computer and people skills required. Contact Gloria Kim: gloriaehk@gmail.com

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ADVENTIST HISTORICAL MATERIALS NEEDED:

Are there historical items in your home? The Center for Adventist Research preserves letters, diaries, manuscripts, photos, audio-visual materials, and artifacts. To donate, email car@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3209.

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>.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Aug. 4	Aug. 11	Aug. 18	Aug. 25
Berrien Springs, Michigan	9:00	8:51	8:41	8:30
Chicago, Illinois	8:05	7:56	7:46	7:35
Detroit, Michigan	8:48	8:39	8:28	8:17
Indianapolis, Indiana	8:54	8:46	8:36	8:26
La Crosse, Wisconsin	8:24	8:15	8:04	7:52
Lansing, Michigan	8:55	8:45	8:35	8:24
Madison, Wisconsin	8:15	8:05	7:55	7:44
Springfield, Illinois	8:08	8:00	7:50	7:40

All times are eastern daylight time and were accessed at timeanddate.com

Facing Workplace Issues

Editor's note: Our office frequently receives questions on legal matters of concern to our members. This new column is intended as general information on some of the frequently asked questions, and does not take the place of legal advice.

Q: ARE THERE ANY CHURCH POLICY OR LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS CHURCHES SHOULD CONSIDER BEFORE ALLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO VOLUNTEER IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES PROGRAMS?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church engages in several children-focused ministries, such as Sabbath School programs, Vacation Bible Schools, Pathfinders and Adventurers, and summer camps. Because so many of our ministries are geared toward children it is important for us to have policies and practices in place to protect the children we are trying to reach.

In a perfect world, all our churches would be safe spaces where we wouldn't have to worry about individuals wanting to hurt or harm our most precious gifts from God; however, we know there are some individuals who will try to target churches as a place with easy access to children and vulnerable groups. With this in mind, we have a responsibility, both legally and more importantly morally, to protect the children who come to learn about Jesus and engage in our church ministries.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church requires that anyone "involved in work with children must meet Church and legal standards and requirements, such as background checks or certification."¹ Churches are encouraged to establish a child protection plan with policies and procedures to safeguard children. These policies should include:

- Requiring that all volunteers undergo a vetting and screening process, and if required by law or the local conference, conducting background checks.
- Implementing a six-month waiting period before anyone new to a congregation can begin volunteering with children's ministry programs.

- Requiring that at least two adults are always present in a room when children's ministries are taking place and that doors are kept open.
- Implementing check-in/check-out procedures, including having parents provide information indicating who is authorized to pick up their child(ren).
- Requiring regular safety training to go over the expectations and rules volunteers need to know when interacting with children. Those working with children should also be trained on child abuse and reporting requirements, which can differ depending on jurisdiction.

Your conference and union are here as a resource and can help guide you regarding local legal requirements or conference-specific policies for individuals working with children. We have been entrusted with providing a safe space for our children and this requires us to be proactive in establishing safeguards for their protection as we engage in ministry.

For additional information about child protection plans and volunteer screening please visit the Adventist Risk Management Child Protection resources page: <https://adventistrisk.org/en-US/Safety-Resources/Topics/Child-Protection> ■

1. *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*, 20th Edition, page 95

Jennifer Gray Woods is the lawyer for the Lake Union Conference, as well as the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director.



▲ JENNIFER GRAY WOODS



Seventh-day
Adventist® Church

Do All The Good You Can!



▲ BILL OCHS

ALTHOUGH THE TRUE SOURCE OF THE FOLLOWING QUOTE IS DEBATED, IT IS FREQUENTLY CREDITED TO JOHN WESLEY, THE LEADER OF THE METHODIST MOVEMENT: “DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN, BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN, IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN, IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN, AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN, TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN, AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.”

You may be surprised to learn that there is an entire webpage dedicated to debating whether John Wesley is the originator of this quote.¹ One individual reacted to all the comments on the matter by saying, “While you all quibble about who said it, God bless the people who have lived by it for years.”² I say amen! Whether or not John Wesley wrote this phrase, it still has a lovely guiding principle. It simply means that actions matter. Doing good matters!

In April I was visiting with Linda, a member of the Tomahawk Church in northern Wisconsin. During our discussion, I asked her what she was doing now that she was retired. She said with a big smile that she likes to knit hats for the school kids, so I asked to see some of her work. She walked into the living room and opened four boxes that were on the floor. In front of me was displayed a wide variety of winter hats for boys and girls. Each hat looks unique and fun, and is customized with a pin, a patch or a button. When Linda finishes knitting the hats, a couple of her church friends help by taking the hats to nearby elementary schools.

Linda discovered that some of the kids at the school didn’t have a hat or frequently lose theirs, so she met a need, using a talent that she had. So far, she has given out 100 hats and she has more to give out next year. When I found out what Linda and her friends were doing, I couldn’t stop thinking about what John Wesley had said, “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can ...”

Wasn’t John Wesley only echoing the words of the Apostle Paul when he said, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap

a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people ...” Galatians 6:9–10

This is just what Linda and so many other members of God’s family are doing: making a difference by doing good. What would happen if more of us found ways to do good in our community and in our churches? What a difference we would make if we *looked* for opportunities to do good for the people around us! ■

¹ <https://kevinmwatson.com/2013/04/29/wesley-didnt-say-it-do-all-the-good-you-can-by-all-the-means-you-can/>

² Sandra Young: *Ibid*; July 29, 2016

Bill Ochs is the Planned Giving and Trust Services director for the Wisconsin Conference.



The Master's Touch

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE WILL DIRECT YOUR PATHS. PROVERBS 3: 5,6

God has us here, at this time in history, for a reason—to do His will. Whether that is leaving footprints of Him/His word in our conversations with neighbors or co-workers or family members. Talking about the richness of His love and how He has brought us out of whatever situation or difficulty we were or are experiencing.

Some years ago, I received an urgent “stop what you’re doing” call from one of our daughters. She told me one of her dear friends from high school was very, very upset and depressed, and was considering committing suicide. I was at work, but immediately stopped what I was doing and began praying for her. This dire situation required immediate Divine intervention and a multitude of prayers. I made contact with our senior pastor who immediately prayed with me for her. He was preparing to leave for a special interdenominational prayer breakfast, and with my permission he promised to lift up that young woman with the other pastors. I am happy to report that the Master heard all the

prayers, stepped in, and He and the Holy Spirit did what they do so excellently, saving that young woman’s life. Praise God! Yes, prayer changes everything!

We should not wait for the uncertainties of this life to be the determining factor that directs our path. The Master is only a prayer away. He will provide the focus, direction and strength for our journey. But we should not wait to seek Him last—but to seek Him first.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

That’s what a relationship with the Master is all about. That continual communication bringing dynamic energy to our actions because we have experienced the Master’s touch in our life.

And like Enoch, we’ll be walking and talking with our very best friend ... all the way to Glory! ■

Paulette Taylor is the prayer ministry coordinator for the Indiana Conference.



▲ PAULETTE TAYLOR



Worship Over Worry

I BEGAN THIS YEAR WITH A RESOLUTION: DON'T WORRY SO MUCH. I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT I MADE IT THROUGH JANUARY WITH A PRETTY HEALTHY OUTLOOK ON LIFE, BUT THINGS TOOK A DRASTIC TURN DOWNHILL IN FEBRUARY.



Adeline Minett

I was back to feeling low. A single idea became a spiral of possibilities and I often dwelled on a specific thought, getting lost in doubt and anxiety. I was depressed.

My mom noticed the change and she suggested I read a chapter in "Steps to Christ." It encouraged me more than I expected because it made me see that I wasn't alone.

What I read made me realize worry weakens us as effective servants of God. When anxieties press in all around us, the Devil takes advantage. Satan knows we're most vulnerable when our minds are in turmoil. He offers us a way out of the unrest, when really, it's just a well-set trap.

We're weak because worry makes us lose sight of our Savior. You can't focus on things that make you worry while saying you trust in Jesus. Christ is our hope and strength. He asks that you give all your cares to Him and tells you not to worry or be afraid.

When we are weighed down with anxiety it shows, making Christianity look tainted and

unappealing, especially to non-Christians. If you're placing your complete trust in God, it should be visible in the way you look and act. You shouldn't let worry hold dominion over your life, because ultimately it can influence your eternity.

We are called to be light bearers, not doubters. Our saved status should show on our faces. Worry snatches away that feeling of finding salvation, because we're not thinking about the price Jesus paid to wipe away our sins. We're doubting our worth and think we still have a debt to pay.

Your past should not define your future and your yesterday should not turn today into a regret. We feel discouraged while brooding over prior mistakes, but this dims the present truth of our salvation.

Worry makes us think thoughts like "what if." What if I'm too broken? What if no one loves me? What if I hadn't done that bad thing? What if that bad thing hadn't happened to me? These are all valid uncertainties, but they shouldn't rule our lives.

So, what's one remedy?

Worship makes us think thoughts like "I know." I know my Savior lives. I know He has a future planned for me, and He uses all things for good. These are thoughts that are free of doubt, free of worry. Jesus is the one person we can count on in this world.

Let's fight worry with worship. ■

Adeline Minett is a young writer based in Wisconsin. She spends most of her days listening to music and brainstorming new things to create with the same 26 letters of the alphabet. At an early age, God gave her the passion for words and she wants to use the gift to make heaven a beautifully crowded place.

Despite All Odds

WHILE CIANGPI WAS GROWING UP IN HER TOWN IN BURMA, THERE WERE MANY DAYS WHEN THEY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH FOOD FOR HER FAMILY.

She lived in a house made with walls of bamboo mats, so it was not very stable—especially when there were storms. When it rained, the roof leaked. She remembers having to share an umbrella with her sister just to stay dry inside. She depicted how the walls in their house had little holes in them so when the sun rose, light would shine through. Despite the multiple difficulties she and her family had to go through, she can see how God had a plan for her life.

After moving to the United States in 2019, she learned English and had to figure out how to continue her education. Even though she was 18 and had finished high school in Burma, she was not ready for college in the United States. “People said I was too old and too late for high school,” she said. “They thought I should just start working to help my family financially.” However, none of this would discourage her from pursuing her goal and she sought to obtain a U.S. high school diploma.

In February 2023 she applied for the Abe Lincoln Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis scholarship, which is awarded to students who have overcome unimaginable hardships to assist them in reaching their goals. She prayed to God that no matter what happened, she would be a witness for Him.

There are 23 high schools in Indiana’s Marion County and a student was nominated from each school. Of those 23 students, only four would receive top awards. She was eventually chosen for fourth place and received a \$5,000 college scholarship. “Just to be selected from my school was a privilege, but to win fourth place was a miracle,” she said. “While I don’t want accolades, I do want to thank God for the privilege to be recognized and receive a scholarship for university.”

Her dream is to be a successful businessperson and to do philanthropy work. Specifically, she wants to help people from her village in Burma, as they would benefit immensely by receiving food, education and access to medical clinics. CiangPi enjoys helping people but feels she needs a concrete educational foundation so she can help them more efficiently. The 22-year-old recently graduated from high school and begins studies at Indiana University Bloomington this fall.

CiangPi wants others to know that Jesus is truly a good friend and that He has a plan for your life, too. “We can never change how merciful God is to us. The person who you are will never change how merciful He is. God is faithful!” ■

Written by CiangPi and edited by incoming Andrews University freshman Christiana Michel.

“We can never change how merciful God is to us. The person who you are will never change how merciful He is. God is faithful!”

◀ *Man Ciang, also known as CiangPi, received a scholarship from the Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis.*





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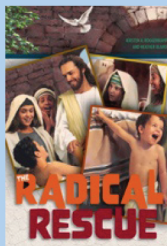
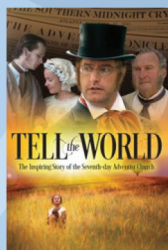
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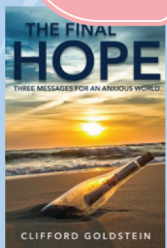
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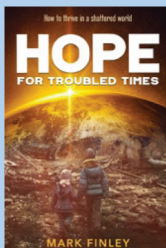
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