

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

HERALD

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

*"act justly, show mercy &
walk humbly with God."*
- Micah 6:8



**Early Pioneers
AND Civic Engagement**



Dave Sherwin

Many of us write down New Year's resolutions. Normally these resolutions revolve around starting a "clean slate." It may be choosing to set goals such as drinking more water, exercising more often or having a more consistent devotional life. However, it's not always easy to maintain our momentum as life gets chaotic and disrupts our carefully curated plans. It's only fitting to ask for God's guidance as we set forth into this new year.

Our simple prayer for you, dear reader, offered up to our ever-loving Father, is this:

Dear God,

Thank You that You make all things new. Thank You for all You've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things which have reminded us how much we need You and rely on Your presence filling us every single day. We pray for Your Holy Spirit to lead us into the New Year—guiding our every decision and turning our hearts to deeply desire You above all else. We ask for Your help in pursuing You first, above every dream and desire You've placed in our hearts. We ask for that "one thing" — that we may dwell in the house of the Lord and gaze on your beauty all the days of our life (Psalm 27). Thank You for dying to save us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Katie Debbie Felicia

Lake Union HERALD

Official publication of the
Seventh-day Adventist Church/Lake Union Headquarters
lakeunionherald.org Vol. 116, No. 1

THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | 269-473-8244
Publisher..... Ken Denslow, president@lakeunion.org
Editor/Managing Editor..... Debbie Michel, editor@lakeunion.org
Circulation/Back Pages Editor..... circulation@lakeunion.org
Comm. Asst. Director..... Felicia Tonga, felicia.tonga@lakeunion.org
Comm. Specialist..... Katie Fellows, katie.fellows@lakeunion.org
Art Direction/Design..... Robert Mason, masondesign@me.com
Proofreader..... Kaara Harris, kaharris@andrews.edu

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

AdventHealth..... Julie Busch, Julie.Busch@AdventHealth.com
Andrews University..... Gillian Panigot, panigotg@andrews.edu
Illinois..... Nikki Quilatan, adminsecretary@ilcsda.org
Indiana..... Colleen Kelly, ckelly@indysda.org
Lake Region..... JeNeen Lendor, JLendor@lrcsda.com
Michigan..... Andy Im, aim@misda.org
Wisconsin..... Laurella Case, lcase@wi.adventist.org

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | 269-473-8200
President..... Ken Denslow
Secretary..... Elden Ramirez
Treasurer..... Glynn Scott
Vice President..... Carmelo Mercado
Associate Treasurer..... Richard Moore
Associate Treasurer..... Jermaine Jackson
ACSDR.....
ASI..... Carmelo Mercado
Communication..... Debbie Michel
Education..... Ruth Horton
Education Associate..... Nicole Mattson
Education Associate..... Sue Tidwell
Health.....
Information Services..... Sean Parker
Ministerial..... Elden Ramirez
Multiethnic Ministries..... Carmelo Mercado
Public Affairs and Religious Liberty..... Jennifer Gray Woods
Trust Services..... Jermaine Jackson
Women's Ministries..... Jane Harris
Children's, Youth, Young Adults Ministries..... Ron Whitehead

LOCAL CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONS

AdventHealth Great Lakes Region: Thor Thordarson, president/
CEO, 5101 S. Willow Springs Rd., La Grange, IL 60525; 708-245-2211.

Andrews University: John Wesley Taylor V, president, Berrien
Springs, MI 49104-0670; 269-471-7771.

Illinois: John Grys, president; Michael Campos, executive secretary;
Doug Reeves, treasurer; 619 Plainfield Rd., Willowbrook, IL
60527-8438; 630-856-2850.

Indiana: Vic Van Schaik, president; Mark Eaton, secretary/treasurer;
street address: 15205 Westfield Blvd., Carmel, IN 46032; mailing
address: P.O. Box 5000, Westfield, IN 46074; 317-844-6201.

Lake Region: Garth Gabriel, president; Abraham Henry, executive
secretary; Kent M. Nichols, treasurer; 19860 South LaGrange Rd.,
Mokena, IL 60448; 773-846-2661.

Michigan: James Micheff Jr., president; Justin Ringstaff, secretary;
Michael Bernard, treasurer; street address: 5801 W. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing, MI 48917; mailing address: P.O. Box 24187, Lansing, MI
48909; 517-316-1500.

Wisconsin: Titus Naftanaila, president; Amir Gulzar, secretary/
treasurer; street address: N2561 Old Highway 16, Fall River,
WI 53932; mailing address: P.O. Box 100, Fall River, WI 53932;
920-484-6555.

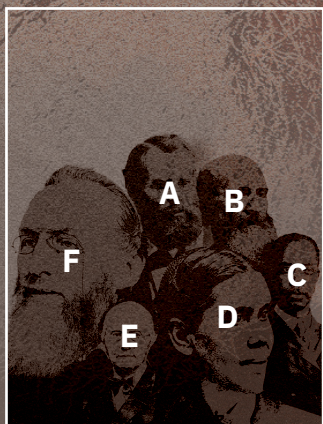
Contributors: Writer guidelines are available online at
<https://www.lakeunionherald.org/contributor-guidelines/>
writer-guidelines.

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index
Member of Associated Church Press

FEATURE CONTENTS

14

Positioning the Church and Protecting Worship



A. J. N. Andrews
B. James White
C. Lewis Sheafe
D. Ellen White
E. Joseph Bates
F. Uriah Smith

ABOUT THE COVER:
ADVENTIST PIONEERS COMPOSITE
BY ELENNIE RAMIREZ

PERSPECTIVES

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| President's Perspective | 4 |
| HIStory | 8 |
| Conexiones | 9 |
| Conversations with God | 40 |

EVANGELISM

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Sharing Our Hope | 10 |
| Telling God's Stories | 12 |
| One Voice | 42, 43 |

LIFESTYLE

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Family Focus | 6 |
| Alive and Well | 7 |

CURRENT MATTERS

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| AdventHealth | 22 |
| Andrews University | 23 |
| News | 24 |
| Mileposts | 34 |
| Classifieds | 35 |
| Announcements | 37 |
| Calendar of Events | 38 |

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

The Lake Union Herald (ISSN 0194-908X) is published monthly (except for January/February, June/July and November/December) by the Lake Union Conference, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs, Michigan, and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription price is \$15. Vol. 116, No. 1. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to: Lake Union Herald, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.

Note: If you are a member of a church in the Lake Union but are not receiving the Lake Union Herald, please request it through your church clerk or local conference secretary.

ADDRESS CORRECTION

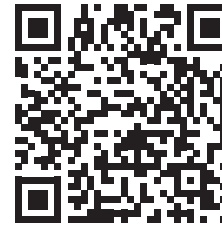
Only paid subscribers should contact the Lake Union Herald office with their address changes. Members should contact their local church clerks directly for all Lake Union Herald address changes. Contact phone numbers and our mailing address are listed below for your convenience. Online submissions can be made at <https://www.lakeunionherald.com/contact>.

Lake Union Herald office: 269-473-8244, Illinois: 630-716-3505, Indiana: 317-844-6201, Lake Region: 773-846-2661, Michigan: 517-316-1552, Wisconsin: 920-484-6555

Members outside the Lake Union may subscribe by sending a check for \$15 (per year) to P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.



READ THE HERALD
ONLINE!



SIGN UP FOR THE HERALD
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX.

Salt of the Earth

THIS ISSUE OF THE LAKE UNION HERALD FEATURES A VERY IMPORTANT PROGRAM OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, THAT OF THE PARL DEPARTMENT. YOU MIGHT ASK, WHAT IS PARL? HERE IS A SHORT ANSWER RIGHT OFF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE PARL WEBSITE:



▲ KEN DENSLOW

*The department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) is part of the global endeavor of the Seventh-day Adventist church to create favorable conditions to share the good news of freedom and to invite all to loving fellowship with God and fellow human beings. Additionally, PARL proactively and diligently works to dispel prejudices against the Adventist church—its identity, message, and mission—by mingling with people, and sharing distinct Adventist insights through peaceful persuasion. Essentially, **PARL works to position the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its services to a standing of credibility, trust, and relevance in the public realm.***

An unusual thing happened at the memorial service of my friend, Daniel Honore, last February. When he died, Pastor Honore was the newly elected president of the Minnesota Conference. But before his untimely death, he had served for many years as the president of the Northeastern Conference based in New York City.

The “unusual” thing is that Bill de Blasio, former mayor of New York City, and Hakeem Jeffries, minority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, were both there in attendance and eulogized Pastor Honore. Now, you may say that these were just political stops for them, but that didn’t seem at all to be the case. They both spoke in highly personal terms about their friend Daniel. They knew him. They told stories about time they had spent together.

Mr. de Blasio in particular shared that most of what he had known about Seventh-day Adventists he had

“learned” from our critics. It wasn’t until he became friends with Daniel Honore that he came to understand who we are as a people. He hasn’t become a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but he has become a friend of the church.

Over the years, some issues of the Lake Union Herald have been focused on PARL but usually it is the Religious Liberty part that is highlighted. In this edition of the Herald, our staff is emphasizing the Public Affairs part – the part that Daniel Honore understood and practiced.

Orlan Johnson, director of the North American Division PARL department, is fond of saying: “As Adventists, we should be making friends before we need them.” Certainly, that is part of the PARL mission. But there is a bigger reason. Jesus Himself calls us to be salt in our world – that is to bring out flavor in our society. We can only do that as we get stirred up and get stirred into involvement in our communities. By God’s grace, I believe we can engage in our communities and become Christ’s salt in the issues of our society that demand biblical and Christian engagement.

Go out and be salt!

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead



Go out and be salt!

they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:13-16 NIV ■

Ken Denslow is president of the Lake Union Conference.

Why Would Anybody Self-harm?



▲ ALINA BALTAZAR

YOU MAY BE WONDERING, “WHAT IS GOING ON WITH TEENAGERS THESE DAYS! WHY WOULD ANYBODY PURPOSEFULLY CUT THEMSELVES?” I KNOW THAT WAS MY FIRST RESPONSE WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT SELF-HARM AMONG TEENAGERS IN THE EARLY PART OF MY CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK CAREER.

It is only getting more prevalent over the last few decades, according to a 2022 study. At first you may think it is a suicide attempt or a way to get attention. Research has examined some possible causes and ways it can be prevented and treated.

Those who self-harm (this includes cutting, burning, and intentionally scratching oneself) are usually doing it to cope with emotional distress. As you know, when you get cut your body reacts in a certain way. People have found that response actually helps to decrease emotional pain or feeling numb. Self-harm is not a mental illness itself, but it is an indication something is wrong emotionally. Half of those who self-harm will attempt suicide at some point if they don't get the help they need, according to a 2021 article in *World Psychiatry*.

There are things research has found that can decrease the chance of self-harm in our youth. Open supportive communication between parents and teens is the most protective thing parents can do to decrease several problematic teenage behaviors. This can be difficult for Christian parents who are concerned that talking about certain things will put ideas into their kids' heads. Trust me, those ideas are already there, even when you think you have protected them from worldly influences.

Be ready for those tough questions. Listen to their perspective. Avoid lecturing! Kids are dealing with things their parents never had to deal with when they were young. Look for opportunities when kids are more open to talk, which gets harder the older they get, but still can happen. Enjoyable family meals and

family worship are a great place for good conversations to happen, but dialogue can happen anytime, like in the car when you are running errands. Do whatever you need to do to keep those lines of communication open.

Other tips for parents and caring adults include:

- Be a good example of healthy coping, though admit you struggle sometimes too.
- Be patient and hopeful. Self-harm can become a habit that is hard to break. It needs to be replaced with a better way to cope. Give them hope they can eventually overcome.
- Remind them God is with them every day of their lives, and that they are not alone. “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20, NIV)

Even Christians struggle with difficult emotions and negative ways to deal with them. God knows the pain we go through in this sinful world. We can pour out our emotions to God. King David was a great example of this in the book of Psalms. It is important to note that kids who won't or can't stop self-harm need professional help like they would for any other more serious physical health condition. There are ways self-harm can be treated.

If you want to learn more, especially if you work with families, here is a link to a resource from General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Family Ministries <https://family.adventist.org/resources/resource-book/2023rb/> ■

Alina Baltazar, PhD, MSW, LMSW-Clinical, CFLE, is a professor of social work and co-associate director of the Institute for the Prevention of Addiction at Andrews University.



Is Caffeine “Brain Food”?

BECAUSE OF ITS STIMULATORY EFFECTS, CAFFEINE HAS BEEN TOUTED AS OFFERING BRAIN HEALTH BENEFITS. IT’S TRUE: CAFFEINE CAN SPEED UP CERTAIN MENTAL PROCESSES AND, OF COURSE, IT CAN INCREASE VIGILANCE, ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE IS FATIGUED.



▲ DAVID DeROSE

However, there are emerging concerns about deleterious effects of caffeine when it comes to long-term brain health, with some newer research raising concerns that caffeine may undermine learning through harmful effects on something called “long-term potentiation.”¹

Although some of these biochemistry insights are new, the tendency of caffeine to impair learning—and hinder the development of new healthy behaviors—is not. The famous Russian scientist, Ivan Pavlov, reportedly dubbed caffeine “bad habit glue.” Like Pavlov, I’ve found ample evidence connecting caffeine and unhealthy habits—both in my patients and in the medical literature.

My most memorable experience occurred when I helped run a series of weeklong residential stop-smoking programs. We didn’t allow any caffeine in our facility and instructed participants to remain caffeine-free when they returned home.

We followed up with the participants in the weeks and months after those programs. We made a startling discovery: All those who remained caffeine-free also stayed nicotine-free. However, many of those who returned to coffee or other caffeinated beverages went back to smoking.²

However, some of the most impressive data linking caffeine to bad habits came from a huge study involving more than 600,000 people.³ When the raw figures were analyzed, the researchers observed: “In age-adjusted analyses, coffee consumption was associated with increased mortality among both men and women.” In other words, when comparing two people of the same age, the one who drinks the most coffee is most likely to die first.

Earlier mortality among coffee drinkers was not surprising when you realize what else the researchers uncovered: The more coffee someone drank, the more likely he or she was to...

- Smoke cigarettes
- Drink more than three alcoholic beverages daily
- Eat more red meat
- Have lower educational attainments
- Neglect to engage in vigorous physical activity
- Consume fewer fruits and vegetables

These evidences of caffeine acting as “bad habit glue” should provide a sobering wake-up call to Seventh-day Adventists. After all, decades ago when God encouraged His people through His prophet to avoid coffee and tea, His rationale never had anything to do with longevity (the common metric used by researchers today). God seems to have been concerned about our Christian walk, and the influence these caffeinated beverages would have on making it more difficult to follow His counsel in other areas.⁴ ■

¹ For example, see Vigne M, Kweon J, et al. Chronic caffeine consumption curbs rTMS-induced plasticity. *Front. Psychiatry*, 22 February 2023.

² DeRose DJ, Braman MA, et al. Alternative and complementary therapies for nicotine addiction [abstract]. *Complementary Health Practice Review* 2000 Fall; 6(1):98.

³ Freedman ND, Park Y, et al. Association of coffee drinking with total and cause-specific mortality. *N Engl J Med*. 17 May 2012.

⁴ For example, see White EG, *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 3, p. 563

David DeRose, MD, MPH is a board-certified specialist in internal medicine and Preventative Medicine. He also pastors the Fort Wayne Church in Indiana. This article is adapted from his book, “The Methuselah Factor: Learn How to Live Sharper, Leaner, Longer and Better—in Thirty Days or Less.”



Imagine the Unimaginable



▲ DENIS KAISER

IMAGINE THE YEARS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO SLAVES IN THE NORTH, THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY WAS NO EGALITARIAN SOCIETY. PREJUDICE, HARASSMENT AND INEQUALITY WERE VERY COMMON.

Now, imagine a Black minister drawing hundreds of interested white people to a meeting. Imagine him building up and organizing churches in mostly white communities. Imagine him chairing regional general conferences of mostly white believers. Imagine that minister ordaining white people to the gospel ministry. This egalitarian spirit was largely unimaginable, even in the North. And yet, it was true. But it is part of a largely forgotten story.¹

Eri L. Barr (1814–1864) had been a Millerite and he believed in the soon second coming of Jesus Christ. Like others, he was disappointed when Jesus did not return on Oct. 22, 1844. He remained true to his Adventist conviction for several years, but it was not until the spring of 1852 that he became a Sabbatarian Adventist. Soon after embracing the Sabbath, he became an itinerant minister. And for the next eight years, he worked in “dozens of towns and settlements in Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire,

and conducted 12 to 20 meetings preaching unfamiliar doctrines throughout New England. In Canaan, Maine, for example, a crowd of 500 people came out to see them at a tent meeting, with baptisms resulting. Besides organizing and chairing numerous general conferences — then held as weekend meetings for believers in the region — Barr also ordained ministers to the gospel ministry, most notably A. C. Bourdeau, the French-speaking pastor-evangelist and pioneer of the Adventist cause in Vermont, Quebec, and parts of Europe. That he was granted the authority to ordain illustrates not only his standing among Sabbatarian Adventists, but also their racial egalitarianism.

The pace of Barr’s itinerant ministry took a toll on his health. He battled tuberculosis during the last three years of his life, and he succumbed to the disease a few days before his 50th birthday, cutting short his impact and legacy. His biographer, Benjamin Baker, estimates that during his eight-year ministry, Barr converted between 150 and 300 people to Sabbatarian Adventism. Considering that there were only 2,000 to 3,000 Sabbatarian Adventists in the late 1850s, it becomes obvious that Barr had a tremendous influence in the growth of the young Sabbath-keeping movement. ■

¹ For more information see Benjamin Baker, “Barr, Eri L. (1814–1864),” *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*, January 29, 2020, accessed September 07, 2023, <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=8CDT>.

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

Obituary Notices.

DIED in Alma, Allegan Co., N. Y., May 16, 1864, of consumption, Bro. E. L. Barr, aged about 51 years. His mind was calm, and he felt that death would be a sweet rest.

He was at the residence of Bro. Daniel Oviatt, where he had the best of care. The writer spoke on the occasion from 2 Tim. iv, 7, 8. N. FULLER.

Photo courtesy of Stanley Hickerson

Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, with brief forays into Canada and Rhode Island. He would partner with eight Sabbatarian ministers, including Frederick Wheeler, Joseph Bates, and John N. Andrews,”¹ all pioneers of the cause.

Had it not been for census records and vital records, we would not have

known the complexion of his skin because, contrary to the customs of the time, Adventists did not care about mentioning the skin color of non-whites. They perceived them as equals.¹

In 1855, Bates and Barr, a white man in his 60s and a black man in his 40s, worked well in tandem

Oremos en todo momento

“OREN EN EL ESPÍRITU EN TODO MOMENTO, CON PETICIONES Y RUEGOS. MANTÉNGANSE ALERTAS Y PERSEVEREN EN ORACIÓN POR TODOS LOS CREYENTES” (EFESIOS 6:18).

El 20 de octubre de 2023 recibimos la triste noticia de que el pastor Maurice Valentine había fallecido a los 63 años de edad. El pastor Valentine sirvió en la Unión del Lago por más de cinco años, primero como secretario, y luego como presidente. En los años que estuvo en la Unión, mi esposa y yo llegamos a conocerlo bien, tanto en su hogar como en proyectos especiales a nivel de Unión, tales como los retiros que se realizaban anualmente entre administradores, y llegamos a sentir un cariño especial por él y su esposa Sharon.

Lo que más me impresionaba del pastor Valentine era que no solo era un buen administrador sino que también era un muy buen pastor que se preocupaba y oraba mucho por los demás. Mi esposa y yo apreciamos mucho sus oraciones, especialmente cuando falleció la madre de mi esposa, y también cuando mi esposa se enfermó en el tiempo de la pandemia. Nunca olvidaré la última vez que lo vimos en la ciudad de Indianápolis. Él, como nuevo vicepresidente de la División Norteamericana, fue para expresar su apoyo por el evento médico, *Pathways to Health*. En esa ocasión, rodeados de miles de personas, inclinó su rostro para orar por nosotros.

El meditar en la vida de este fiel siervo de Dios me lleva a evaluar la manera en que vivimos nosotros. El salmista dice que “*el hombre es como un sopro; sus días son como la sombra que pasa*” (144:4). En mi juventud no pensaba yo que mi tiempo estaba limitado. Es que me sentía fuerte, y como consecuencia me involucraba en muchas actividades y descuidaba ciertas cosas. Sin embargo, he sentido recientemente la necesidad de dar prioridad a lo que es verdaderamente importante.

El libro de Hechos nos dice cuál era el énfasis que mantenían los apóstoles: “la oración y el ministerio de la Palabra” (6:4). Es interesante que los apóstoles no querían dejar de apoyar a los pobres en su medio, de manera que pidieron a otros que hicieran ese trabajo. Los apóstoles estaban conscientes que su tiempo en esta vida era limitado y siguieron el ejemplo de Jesús: no dejaron de orar y predicar.

Estoy muy agradecido por el hermoso ejemplo del pastor Valentine de orar por los demás. Al comenzar este nuevo año deseo animar a los hermanos a que reevalúen sus vidas y pongan un mayor énfasis en la oración. Oremos no solamente por nosotros mismos sino también por nuestras familias, por nuestros pastores, los administradores, y por quienes no conocen la verdad. Oremos para que el mundo vea el amor de Dios reflejado en nuestras vidas. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vice presidente de la Unión del Lago



▲ CARMELO MERCADO





Vacation Bible School for Teens? How a Church Pulled It Off Successfully

“THEY’RE TOO OLD FOR VBS.” “THEY’LL GET BORED DURING THE GAMES AND CRAFTS.” OFTEN, THESE COMMENTS ARE MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF TEEN INCLUSION IN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. BUT AT ONE MICHIGAN CHURCH, THIS COULDN’T BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

The Belleville church, under the leadership of Erin Gordon, has found a creative way to involve teenagers who may experience boredom with some aspects of VBS: community service.

“Community service may not sound exciting,” says Gordon, “but both the teens and the community have been blessed.”

It started four years ago, when Gordon was asked to help lead Belleville’s teen VBS program, which involved taking the group to conduct community service.

Teens Partner Together in Ministry

One of the first things Gordon had to figure out was how much of the main program would involve the teens. The decision was made for everyone to still feel connected to the group. Everyone stayed in the sanctuary to watch and participate in the opening program, sing the songs, and learn the Bible verses.

When the groups dispersed for their stations, the teen groups went outside for their worship thought, which correlated with the main program. Then they piled into vehicles and headed to various locations.

They went to churches to help set up food banks, thrift stores to help organize their clothes, businesses to deliver hand sanitizer and GLOW tracts, community centers to help with gardening, and a homeless shelter to read to children. The group also collaborated with the nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace to deliver beds to children in need.

During the program's first year, 10 teenagers participated.

"It was a blessing to have so many wanting to come to VBS and be willing to do community service," Gordon says.

But the Lord didn't stop there. Belleville's numbers have continued to grow. In summer 2023, there were 28–33 teens participating daily—reading to children, building beds, baking cookies and filling food baskets.

Selah Fox, who participated for the first time this year, says she loved how the youth enjoyed spending time with each other while doing good things for their community. "It's a great way to make new friends, and, at the same time, do something purposeful," Fox says.

"They Just Kept Inviting Friends"

When Gordon reached out to local charities asking for volunteer opportunities, many were astonished at the large size of the group. They asked how she had convinced so many teens to do community service, and Gordon told them, "We didn't. They just keep inviting their friends." Every day, someone brought a new friend. Many of them were not members of the Adventist church. Peyton Anderson, a teen VBS attendee, was happy to minister to the needs of others. "Going to the teen program was a good opportunity to help out the community and get closer to Jesus," says Anderson.

Teens such as Isaac Acosta wished to help other children have positive experiences at VBS, just like he did when he was their age. While serving, the fond memories he had as a child attending VBS came rushing back. "I remembered being so invested in all the lessons I had yet to learn about Jesus and while listening to the Bible stories given by Aunt Stella—it made me think how much I had missed that sensation," he says.

"I just realized the importance that these experiences had on me growing up."

In addition to the VBS blessing the youth and those they helped, it was also an encouragement to the adult volunteers who indicated they are looking forward to returning next year. As Gordon reflected on the VBS program, she recognized the need to use creative and novel methods to engage the youth.

"It is essential to keep our teens involved in the church by reaching them at their level," says Gordon. "Their interests and desires are changing, but that does not mean that church is not for them." ■

Belleville church, with Michigan Conference communication staff



▲ In summer 2023, there were 28–33 teens participating daily in the Belleville Church VBS program—reading to children, building beds, baking cookies and filling food baskets.

Michigan Member Celebrates 109th Birthday

UNTIL JUST A FEW YEARS AGO, ANN BAUER WAS ZIPPING AROUND TOWN IN HER CAR MOST DAYS, RUNNING ERRANDS, SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES. SHE LIVED INDEPENDENTLY IN HER OWN HOME IN BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN, UNTIL A FALL FOUR YEARS AGO AND NOW TAKES UP RESIDENCE AT A LOCAL NURSING FACILITY.

But that hasn't slowed her down. If you were to ask her how she feels she'll tell you she feels great, just like she did when she was in academy.

At her birthday party on Sept. 17, 2023, her daughter Raelene Brower brought her a cake with the numbers 1-0-9 and jokingly told her there weren't enough candles to put on the cake. Ann laughed hysterically and said, "Oh, I guess you're right. And that's too many to blow out!"

People who live 100 years or more aren't rare anymore. A search of the e-Adventist database for Lake Union centenarians reveals a list of about 75 names, most of them women. Among centenarians, 85% are women and 15% are men, according to the New England Centenarian Study based at Boston University. The reasons aren't clear.

An explorer and learner at heart

Ann, who may well be the oldest member in the Lake Union although we couldn't verify this at press time, was born in 1914 in a sod house on the western prairies of North Dakota. Her mother's family had immigrated to the United States from Russia around 1909, seeking freedom and an escape from their belief in an imminent revolution. She is the oldest of five children who grew up on a farm, but

after graduating from high school, she traveled 600 miles to go to college to become a nurse.

In 1940, the day after graduating from nursing school, she married Al Bauer and they lived and worked in North Dakota, British Columbia, Wisconsin and Michigan during their careers, raising four children together.

Ann experienced and survived the Depression, two World Wars, learning to drive when her oldest child turned 16 (they took driver's education and their licensing exams together), and all the marvels of modern technology.

She was one of the first Tupperware dealers in the 1950s, deciding there was more flexibility in direct sales than shift work as a nurse. Over the next 42 years, she was "the Tupperware lady," driving a station wagon and training dealers, as well as being one of the top 25 sales leaders in the United States for many years. Her primary motivation for her career change was flexibility with children at home and being able to pay for Adventist education from first grade through college, which she successfully accomplished!

Always an excuse for a party

Ann's early life was one of hard work and not much fun, so as an adult almost any reason was a



Scan to watch an Adventist Digital Library interview with Ann Bauer after she turned 100.



◀ Ann at her Sept. 17, 2023 birthday party.

◀ Ann Bauer was presented with flowers by former Pioneer Memorial Church pastor Dwight Nelson when she turned 100, in 2014.

good excuse for a party. Her family and friends were recipients of birthday parties, Christmas baking and wrapped presents. Laughter filled her home. She remembered birthdays, anniversaries and other milestone events with cards.

A Berrien Springs resident since 1966, Ann has loved being an involved community member. Some of her favorite traditions are the Fourth of July parade, Camera Club, Garden Club, concerts and traveling with tour groups. If it was happening, she was there.

When Ann and Al were married, the National Park System was in its early stages of development. They shared a goal of visiting as many National Parks as possible during their lifetime. Family vacations with four children usually involved a “side trip” after a work-related convention or time spent camping in a park.

In retirement, Ann and Al spent almost 20 years traveling in the United States and internationally, with travel to local and regional Michigan destinations and to every continent except Antarctica. Before Al’s death in 2006, they enjoyed getaways in their travel trailer, then a small RV for “snow birding,” and meeting friends at various destinations.


Family, friends and faith

Over several decades, the couple hosted high school girls playing in the Wisconsin state basketball tournaments, missionaries on furlough needing a temporary home and then Andrews University international students feeling displaced and far away from anything familiar.

As a deeply spiritual person whose faith has helped her persevere, Ann’s positive outlook on life and a genuine interest in all it has to offer has made her into a “lifelong learner.” Her advice to friends and family over the years has been to keep an upbeat attitude, even if things don’t go their way. “Who says everything is supposed to go your way?” she would ask. “Don’t let it bog you down for too long. Life can be a few minuses; it can’t be plusses all the time. That’s OK. We need those, too, so we appreciate the plusses more.”

A firm believer in a healthy lifestyle, she and her brother started the “120 Club” many years ago. When asked what that was, she said, “Well, based on science, if you take good care of yourself, there’s no reason you can’t live to be 120 years old!” It appears she has almost attained her goal. ■

Raelene Brower, with Herald staff



"He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?"

Micah 6:8

Positioning & Protecting THE Church & Worship

It has been one year since I started working at Lake Union as Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) director. I am blessed to work with your conference's PARL directors this past year and, as you can probably see from their articles in this issue, our discussions on the mission and work of PARL are always engaging.

Yes, part of PARL's mission is to promote and protect religious freedom. As a department, we work to ensure that people can worship freely, and we advocate on behalf of members who may be facing issues of religious discrimination. Religious liberty has been a focus of the Seventh-day Adventist church since its foundation. The issue of freedom to worship is tied to our understanding of the great controversy and our church's eschatology. We understand the importance of safeguarding the principles found in the establishment and free exercise clauses of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. We believe that it is an "inalienable right to believe and to worship God according to conscience, without coercion, restraint, or civil disability, and to practice or to change one's religion and to promulgate it without interference or penalty".¹ Usually this is where many people think the work of PARL begins and ends.

However, another aspect of PARL that we don't focus on as often is our public affairs ministry. This aspect of the ministry is focused on building key relationships in the community so that the Seventh-day Adventist church has a place of credibility, trust and relevance within the public space. The public affairs work challenges us to be involved in our communities, to engage with public officials, and to help the oppressed and marginalized. Here are just a few ways that you can be involved in the public affairs work of PARL.

First, you can support *Liberty* magazine and the ongoing *Liberty* campaign. As the oldest continuously published journal devoted to religious freedom, *Liberty* magazine is one way our church reaches public officials and others in our community to share the importance of freedom of conscience as a fundamental human right. Supporting the campaign is a great opportunity to share the Adventist perspective on current

public policy debates and promote the principle that "the God-given right of religious liberty is best exercised when church and state are separate."²

Second, I invite you to attend our "Adventist Pioneers and Civic Engagement" event taking place in Battle Creek, Michigan, in April 5–6. This two-day, union-wide PARL event will look at how our church's founders viewed the work of civic engagement: How did they see this work as tied to our mission and ministry? And, more importantly, how can we continue to be engaged in the work of PARL as it relates to civic engagement and reaching our communities? I'm hoping many of you will be able to register and join us for this event.

Lastly, I encourage each of you to think of ways to be involved in your community. Maybe this is through volunteer work, joining a local board, or just getting to know your neighbors a little better. Let people see that as Adventists we care; we want to make our communities better by our presence in them. We are all involved in the ministry of PARL: building relationships with our neighbors, coworkers and community at large, representing the God we serve as followers of Christ. ■

¹ NAD Working Policy FL 01 05

² <https://www.religiousliberty.info/liberty-magazine>

Jennifer Gray-Woods is the Lake Union legal counsel, as well as its Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director.



Repudiating THE Principles OF OUR Constitution

Our country has
been repudiating
the principles of
our Constitution for
much of its history.

When I was going to law school at night from 2002-2006, I wondered how the rule of law and our constitutional freedoms would go away in the United States. I knew what the Scriptures as well as Ellen G. White predicted, but I wondered *how*.

After finishing law school, I discovered *how*. One day as I was reading a familiar passage, the answer leaped off the page. White was precisely on point when she wrote, “When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, *our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution* as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5 p. 451; emphasis supplied.)

The rule of law was first established in the United States through the Articles of Confederation. The founders of our country realized those weaknesses could not be remedied by altering them. They went beyond their mandate and drafted a new constitution. As our country went through the process of ratifying the Constitution and then the Bill of Rights, the understanding was that the federal government was to be a government of limited powers, having only those powers spelled out in the Constitution and any subsequent amendments. Thankfully, this understanding was memorialized in writing in the Tenth Amendment, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” Sadly, that has done little good as the Tenth Amendment has largely been ignored.

Please allow me to give you a few examples of how our Constitution is being repudiated.

First, we have the U.S. Department of Education. Previously, it was the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Is there anything in the Constitution or any of its amendments granting power to the federal government to oversee public education in this country? No! So, education should be under the control of the states.

Second, Congress passed The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and President Obama signed it into law in 2010. Again, there is nothing in the Constitution or any of its amendments granting power to the federal government to oversee health care in this country. Chief Justice Roberts found the act constitutional under the taxing power in the Constitution. We were subject to being penalized on our federal income tax returns if we did not have health insurance. However, the penalty which was the basis for Chief Justice Roberts finding the act to be constitutional is not being enforced. That fact is an important constitutional issue that is being ignored. In 2006, Massachusetts enacted the Massachusetts Health Care Reform Law providing for universal health care. Under the Tenth Amendment, the state of Massachusetts had the power to do so, but not the federal government.

Third, numerous presidents have issued executive orders. Executive orders facilitating the carrying out of the law are not problematic as that is the president’s responsibility under the Constitution (see Article II). But when executive orders make law, that is problematic as the law-making function is vested in Congress (see Article I), not the executive branch.

Fourth, we have a Supreme Court that is also willing to make law--we call it legislating from the bench. For example, in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, 590 U.S. ____ (2020), the Supreme Court held that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act does not allow discrimination based on sex. *Bostock* consolidated the cases of two gay men and a transgender female. Sex discrimination under the Civil Rights Act is about discrimination against women, not homosexuality or transgender issues. Congress' work on the Civil Rights Act spanned the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. Because a federal legislator was concerned that the Civil Rights Act was going to become law, this federal legislator proposed a killer amendment affording protection to women to kill it. That killer amendment blew up in the face of its author when it gained support and became law when the Civil Rights Act passed Congress. Again, the law-making function is vested in Congress, not the Supreme Court.

Our country has been repudiating the principles of our Constitution for much of its history. This process has been accelerating since Lincoln's day. As we witness the continuing repudiation of the principles of our Constitution, may that motivate us like never before to be about the task of the gospel commission (see Matthew 28:18-20) that Jesus has given to His disciples of all ages so that we can soon meet Him in the clouds! ■



Vialo Weis Jr., Esq.,
is Public Affairs and
Religious Liberty director
for the Indiana Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists.

Legacy ^{OF OUR} Pioneers IS IT Dead ^{OR} Alive?

As the territory where the Adventist church was organized, the Lake Union has a unique and distinctive legacy as the resident voice of our pioneers. Our pioneers represent courageous voices who boldly proclaimed and personified the gospel. When we consider the contributions of our pioneers, we realize there's a difference between the past and present application of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty ministry.

Consider the actions and strong statements from our pioneers on this issue of slavery. Guided by the Holy Spirit, they spoke truth to power through words and deeds (1 John 3:16-18) in upholding the gospel of Jesus Christ and the three angels' messages.

Check out these insightful facts and quotes from our pioneers:

- John Byington, first General Conference president, was an abolitionist.
- Uriah Smith condemned "white-washed villainy" emanating from the pulpits (*Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald*, June 17, 1862).
- In *Present Truth*, James White labeled those who did not endorse freeing slaves as laggards.
- Ellen White once wrote, "Are we not under even greater obligation to labor for the colored [Black] community than for those who have been highly favored? Who is it that held these people in servitude? Who kept them in ignorance, and pursued a course to debase and brutalize them?... Is there not much due to them from the white people?... Sin rests upon us as a church because we have not made greater effort...Every effort should be made to wipe out the terrible wrong which has been done to them." (MS 6, 1891)
- Joseph Bates described America as, "This land of liberty, this heaven-daring, soul-destroying, slave-holding, neighbor-murdering country." (SDA Encyclopedia, p. 170)

“Shallow understanding from people of goodwill is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.”

It's clear our pioneers, like Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12:32, understood the times and knew what the church should do. Nevertheless, over the decades, the church has shifted in speaking truth to power in words and deeds and was largely silent during segregation, Nazi Germany, women's suffrage, apartheid in South Africa, the Civil Rights Movement, and the aftermath of the death of George Floyd. It seemed the church followed society instead of being the light for society to follow.

Although the church has shifted, you can't ignore the countless numbers of individuals known and unknown who continue to raise their voices in the spirit of our pioneers. For example, during a Lake Region camp meeting, Don Livesay, former Lake Union Conference president, offered a formal apology for past racial discrimination by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Andrea Luxton, former Andrews University president, also issued an apology listing racial atrocities carried out on the university's campus decades ago. Former Pioneer Memorial Church Pastor Dwight Nelson joined a student-led march in support of the message that Black lives matter, too. In Wisconsin, Pastor Stephen Hall proclaimed that Black lives matter, too, using the Reedsburg church signage. Nicholas Miller, former Lake Union PARL director, routinely acknowledged the existence of white privilege. Kevin Burton, Center for Adventist Research director, reminded us that our pioneers were vocal against slavery and racial discrimination. With all this, let's remember that PARL is not just about race. It's about inequality in housing, healthcare, misogyny, education, food insecurity, lack of access to clean water, poverty, and so much more.

It's important we don't change the narrative or engage in revisionist history or disparage Public Affairs and Religious Liberty ministry. It's only fitting the namesake of Andrews University, J.N. Andrews, speaks to this issue of not equating PARL to politics. “The sin [of slavery] is snugly stowed away in a certain package which is labeled ‘politics.’ They deny the right of their fellow men to condemn any of the favorite sins which they placed in this bundle; and they evidently expect that any parcel bearing this label will pass the ...judgment of the great day—without being examined. Should the All-seeing Judge, however, inquire into their connection with this great iniquity, they suppose the following answer will be entirely satisfactory to Him. ‘I am not all the censurable for anything

said or done by me on behalf of slavery; for O Lord, Thou knowest, it was a part of my politics!’ (“Slavery,” *Review and Herald*, Oct. 25, 1864, p. 172, J. N. Andrews)

Nevertheless, there are some who recommend to minorities who visit a state church that they would be more comfortable in a regional church. In addition, some also believe we have regional conferences because of the drums and appear to believe that heaven will be segregated. We also have some viewing all white people as the same, refusing to forgive, and not willing to participate in sincere attempts at reconciliation.

Revered more in death than in life, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. penned this sentiment in his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”: “Shallow understanding from people of goodwill is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.”

In conclusion, it's time for the Lake Union to embrace and represent our early pioneers in the application of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty ministry, as this will determine whether we are alive or dead to the legacy of our pioneers. ■



Edward Woods III is the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Lake Region, as well as the Conference and the Conscience & Justice Council chairperson.

WHY Christian Nationalism Matters

Not long ago I was in a meeting with religious liberty leaders discussing whether to use the term Christian nationalism when addressing the controversial topic in our churches. The group fell short of attaining any consensus, and there were valid points proposed from both sides of the aisle. I suddenly realized I was not alone in my challenge to navigate through various religious liberty concerns. Taking a stand on religious liberty issues today determines how one will be perceived more from an ideological or political standpoint, instead of a biblical point of view.

Whether we use the term or not, the topic of Christian nationalism as it pertains to governments is an important one and needs to be addressed.

Distilling the term to its most essential ingredients, a Christian nationalist government is simply a nation that has determined to be led or governed by Christians and on behalf of Christians. Christian nationalism assumes a positive and direct relationship between church and state and consequently is a threat to the principle of church-state separation and the First Amendment's establishment clause which prohibits the government from favoring one religion over another.

When Christian leaders take the reins of a given government in the interests of a singular religion, it results in the state no longer existing to protect the religious freedom of *all* faiths. This inevitably leads to discrimination against the non-religious or religious minorities by sidestepping or dissolving laws intended to protect a wide array of religious and nonreligious belief systems and values.

The principles of church-state separation were important to our pioneers from the onset of our existence as a church entity. This is partly because Adventists have interpreted Revelation 13 to mean that sometime in the future, a Christian nationalist government, namely the United States, will play a decisive role in the repudiation of religious liberty in this country and eventually the world. The catalyst behind this threat is identified in unambiguous terms—an influential groundswell of professing Christians and Protestant churches will one day persuade congressional and executive leadership in

this country to pass legislation that will culminate in the abrogation of religious liberty and the enforcement of Sunday observance.

Over the past several years, additional narratives detailing how religious liberty will come to an end have entered the fray of Adventist churches across North America. In broad strokes, the narrative can be summarized as follows:

There exists a shadowy network of global elites that aim to establish a singular worldwide totalitarian government at the expense of—or leading to the demise of—national governments and their sovereignty. To achieve these objectives, global players are fabricating and orchestrating crises, events, and measures behind the scenes—examples include the recent pandemic, vaccine- and mask-mandates, and others—intent on gutting countries of their liberties, possessions, and private property, with the intent of establishing a global totalitarian regime. Initiatives such as the Great Reset are framed as a push for power by liberal elites to usher in a new world order. Upon the success of these and other initiatives, the prophecy of Revelation 13 will find its fulfillment.

Several Observations

No one can conclusively argue that the global entities summarized above, and the role of international elites, aren't alluded to in Scripture. One can

It will be Protestant Christians and churches within the United States that will initiate the eschatological cessation of religious liberty in this country, and not the United Nations (UN), the World Economic Forum or secular totalitarianism.



argue that everyone is incorporated in the 10 toenails of Daniel 2 and that atheism/secularism is referenced in the latter portions of Daniel 11. Ultimately the Earth and all its inhabitants will play a role at the end in the broadest sense in the fulfillment of Revelation 13. But it's important to recognize that the land beast of Revelation 13 represents the United States, not international entities, elites or some global regime. It will be Protestant Christians and churches within the United States that will initiate the eschatological cessation of religious liberty in this country, and not the United Nations (UN), the World Economic Forum or secular totalitarianism.

Conclusion

A number of prominent voices are articulating an eschatological narrative that is foreign to what Scripture actually states regarding how the end will play out. This has resulted in confusion, disunity and debates on social media and other media outlets. Unfortunately, many are mistaking political ideology and theories for Adventism and Scripture. This has resulted in misdirected focus, time and energy on peripheral matters that are depleting our limited energies and diverting us from our shared message and mission as Seventh-day Adventists. These matters are consequential.

I get it, we need to strike while the iron is hot and put a stop to the inherent dangers facing Seventh-day Adventists on all fronts. I've heard some share that the pendulum will swing forcefully right because it's currently being stretched far to the left. If that's how things fall into place, I'd argue that that time may be upon us sooner than we think. ■

Andy Im is the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Michigan Conference.

Contemplating Trash AND Religious Liberty

About four years ago my wife and I purchased a home closer to Wisconsin Academy where I pastor; it's in the country with just under eight acres around it. My wife grew up on a family farm in Michigan, so this move got us closer to her ideal. I grew up as a pastor's kid in the Seattle area where we spent roughly half of the first 13 years of my life sitting in traffic while going to school or church, so this moved us closer to my ideal.

Country living in Wisconsin is wonderful. Some of the things making it wonderful include gardening, walking to the back of our property to ice skate on our neighbors' ponds, and often seeing millions of stars at night, while taking care of our animals. However, there are some pitfalls including having to mow a larger yard, dealing with the issues inherent to old farmhouses and old barns and, at least where I live, not getting trash pick-up service. This last fact shocked me when I moved to the country.

In rural Wisconsin you can't get trash pick-up service because they have a free service, paid for by our taxes, where you bring your garbage once a week to a central lot and dump it in a large dumpster provided by the local township. Unfortunately, upon moving to the township of Fountain Prairie, I learned their central trash location was only open from 9:30 a.m. - 1p.m. on Saturdays. This presented an interesting dilemma for me as a Seventh-day Adventist.

At first, I decided to let the dilemma go. I worked out a deal with Wisconsin Academy and Petersen Elementary School to bring my trash and put it in their dumpsters. Two years later, I was loading my trash into my trailer to take to the school and the thought hit me, "This is a religious liberty issue and I have been avoiding it." The thought got worse, "You are the religious liberty director for Wisconsin. What kind of religious liberty director are you if you won't even raise this religious liberty issue with the people you live with?" I thought about

I want to make the case to you that the way Seventh-day Adventists believe in religious liberty demands that we do not disappear because of our convictions, but rather that we stand up and have the conversation.

this idea, prayed about this idea, and the thought grew into a conviction.

The next step was to plot a course of action. I decided to raise my issue politely the next time I went to vote, which seemed appropriate as voting is an equalizing act that demonstrates my willingness to participate in public life. Besides, I had met the lady who runs the voting location and knew that she also happens to be the township clerk. I thought that might be a good place to start.

After voting I explained to her that I am a Seventh-day Adventist minister, which she already knew based on our previous conversations. I noted that as a Seventh-day Adventist, I had an issue taking my trash to the central trash locations on Sabbath. I argued that I personally know at least 15 families attending my church and living in the township. Opening the trash location on a different day for a few hours, even a few times a month, might be very helpful to all of us. Then I mentioned I would personally be willing to show up to open the trash location for others to deliver their trash. She said that she knew several of my church members as friends and they did not have an issue taking their trash on Sabbath. I laughed awkwardly. Despite this she assured me that she would raise the issue at the next township board meeting. I thanked her and left.

Not wanting to push the issue I did not follow up with the clerk. About three months later, I stopped by the township office to pay my property taxes. The clerk and I talked politely and then she asked if I had read the recent township newsletter. I had not. She said, "Thanks to you we are opening the trash service on the first and third Wednesday of every month. There are actually a significant number of people other than Seventh-day Adventists that can't bring their trash on Saturdays because of their work schedule and their desire to take off for weekends particularly in the summer and we didn't know this. Thanks for raising the issue." It took a little while

but about a year after having a simple conversation based on a conviction, a long-standing issue for some Seventh-day Adventists in my area was solved.

The most pressing religious liberty issue for Seventh-day Adventists will continue to be Sabbath observance issues in the workplace. However, in Wisconsin in the past couple years we have also dealt with other issues including vaccination requirements, school-testing issues, and once a minor issue of trash service in Fountain Prairie.

I would encourage each of you to think about life and not pass over the annoyances of compensating for things because you have personal convictions as a Seventh-day Adventist. God calls us to stand for our Biblical convictions despite the consequences. Often living distinctly as a Seventh-day Adventist means that you will not be able to work in some locations, eat or drink certain things, participate in certain activities or act in certain ways. I want to make the case to you that the way Seventh-day Adventists believe in religious liberty demands that we do not disappear because of our convictions, but rather that we stand up and have the conversation. ■

Jonathan Fetrick is the Wisconsin Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director.



Longtime Board Member Honored as Trustee of the Year

FOR THE PAST 16 YEARS, REV. RON HAWKINS, A RETIRED MCDONALD'S EXECUTIVE, HAS HAD A DEEP COMMITMENT TO ADVENTHEALTH'S MISSION OF EXTENDING THE HEALING MINISTRY OF CHRIST. IT'S A MISSION THAT HE PERSONALLY ALIGNS WITH, AS CHRIST HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE GUIDE THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE.



▲ 2023 Trustee of the Year Award Honoree Rev. Ron Hawkins (center) with AdventHealth's executive leadership team, (From L to R) AdventHealth CEO and President Terry Shaw, Senior Executive Vice President Ken Bacon, Hawkins, UChicago Medicine AdventHealth CEO and President Thor Thordarson, and AdventHealth Central Florida CEO Randy Haffn

The mission drew him to serve on the Adventist Midwest Health board of directors since 2011. The board oversees the operations of the four UChicago Medicine AdventHealth hospitals in Bolingbrook, Glendale Heights, Hinsdale and La Grange.

Hawkins began his service to AdventHealth in 2007, when he joined the fundraising committee for the Bolingbrook Hospital Foundation gala event. In 2008, he was named chairman of the foundation's board of directors. He served for two terms on the foundation board through 2014. He was appointed to the Adventist Midwest Health board of directors in 2011 and continues to serve on the board today. In 2013, the

chapel at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Bolingbrook was dedicated in his name. At AdventHealth's Conference on Mission last fall, Hawkins was honored as Board Trustee of the Year.

Hawkins said he was honored and humbled to receive the award. "There are so many people involved with awards that go to one person," he said. "We have a great board, so it's an honor from that standpoint. But I'm just humbled. I don't see myself as anyone special. I'm just a servant of God trying to do God's work."

Hawkins worked at McDonald's for 40 years, starting in 1971 as a crew person behind a restaurant counter while attending

school. Within two years, he became a restaurant manager. He continued to grow in leadership roles, working in every aspect of the business. In 2003, he was promoted to vice president and national ombudsman, the first African American ever to hold this important position. In this role, he acted as a conscience to the McDonald's system, and when there was a need, evaluated the application of policies, procedures and fundamental values to reach equitable solutions with U.S. franchisees and corporate employees.

When he was invited to get involved with AdventHealth, he jumped at the opportunity. "The thing that got me immediately was when I heard AdventHealth's mission was Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ," he said. "My father and his father were pastors, and I was a deacon at that time," says Hawkins, who now serves as a Baptist pastor in Jackson, Tennessee. He adds: "Service is what it's all about, so I figured I would try it out. When you have a mission statement of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, how can you not want to serve?"

What has kept him involved, even in retirement? "A lot of organizations say certain things, but they don't really act in the way the mission is set out," he said. "AdventHealth does. They are unapologetically faith-based in their actions, and that's why I've stuck with them for all these years."

Serving with AdventHealth has been one of the most satisfying experiences of his life, Hawkins said. "It is a personal satisfaction that money cannot buy," he said. "Anytime you can do something that's serving a ministry and a mission like AdventHealth has, that to me – in McDonald's language – is 'the secret sauce.'" ■

Julie Busch is associate vice president, marketing and communications, at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth.



UChicago Medicine

Advent Health



▲ Buller Hall, Andrews University

Andrews Fall 2023 Rankings and Enrollment Report

THIS FALL SEMESTER ON ITS BERRIEN SPRINGS CAMPUS, ANDREWS UNIVERSITY CELEBRATED A STRONG ROUND OF NATIONAL RANKINGS AND A MODEST INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOLLOWING RECENT NATIONWIDE ENROLLMENT CHALLENGES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Rankings

In the 2024 U.S. News Best Colleges rankings, Andrews was the only Adventist university listed among 439 national universities in the ranking of nearly 1,500 colleges and universities. This national university status reflects Andrews' full range of undergraduate majors as well as master's and doctoral degrees and a strong emphasis on research.

In this year's U.S. News rankings, Andrews University was again ranked the #1 most ethnically diverse national university, tying with the University of San Francisco. Andrews was

also tied for #7 among national universities for most international students, with more than 100 countries represented in the current student body.

"From its first days as Battle Creek College in 1874, to today's remarkable, ethnically diverse and international campus, Andrews University has been committed to learning about and changing the world, and to do that in the context of God's kingdom," says John Wesley Taylor V, university president. "These excellent rankings continue to reflect Andrews University's unparalleled strength

in meeting and excelling in this commitment, not just within the system of Adventist education but also in the context of U.S. higher education overall."

Andrews University also did well in Niche.com's 2024 Best Colleges in America rankings, including a placement in the top 15 Christian universities nationwide, and the Wall Street Journal/College Pulse's 2024 America's Best Colleges list.

Enrollment

Andrews University's fall semester census of those enrolled on or through the main campus showed 2,972 students, a 2% increase in enrollment—1,427 undergraduate students and 1,545 graduate students. The freshman class of 272 FTIACs (First Time in Any College) was up 20% while the number of new undergraduate transfer students remained steady. New graduate student enrollment is up 8% over last year.

An additional 204 students are also registered and studying at international campus partners and programs this fall semester, which makes for an overall worldwide Andrews University 2023 fall semester enrollment of 3,176.

Additionally, Andrews University continues to enroll students throughout the year, including those who study through national and international student cohorts in graduate programs. An annual unduplicated headcount, which is released later in the year, best shows overall enrollment at Andrews during a 12-month period.

"Our fall semester enrollment statistics reflect the importance of a strong focus each year in encouraging our undergraduate and graduate students to continue their studies once they've begun, and also the growth in our student populations shows the overall work of our enrollment team and the entire campus community," says Christon Arthur, university provost.

For more information on rankings and enrollment, visit andrews.edu/agenda/64197. ■

Anthony Bosman is associate professor of mathematics and Stephen Payne is special assistant to the president of Andrews University.



World Changers Made Here.



▲ Music was provided by guest organist Guy VanderWagen from Grand Rapids; the Battle Creek Academy Choir lifted their voices in praise to God.

Newly Remodeled Historic Sanctuary Dedicated

RENEW AND REJOICE. THAT WAS THE THEME OF THE BATTLE CREEK TABERNACLE'S DEDICATION OF ITS NEWLY REMODELED SANCTUARY. RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO JESUS AND REJOICE IN WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US.

It had been 45 years since the last renovation of the storied Tabernacle's sanctuary, and it was time for a redo! For several years, the church had discussed lowering and enlarging the platform so it would accommodate large groups, such as choirs and bands. Some funds had been given toward that project. But the carpet was getting stained and worn, the pews were becoming unstable, and the lighting and audio-visual equipment needed to be upgraded. The members wanted the church to glorify God and be a place where they would be comfortable bringing visitors to worship Him. With all these needs in mind, a committee was formed in 2019 to explore remodeling the whole sanctuary and main floor. In early 2022, a capital campaign was begun.

There were three steps to the campaign: (1) remodel the platform, add a bathroom to the main level, add a new sound booth, and purchase new audio-visual equipment; (2) paint and carpet the sanctuary and foyer, and purchase new pews; and (3) repair the exterior front steps and purchase a sound board. Once the capital campaign was well underway, the work began. Church members volunteered many hours demolishing the platform, pulling up the carpet, and removing the pews. The picture behind the platform of the rich young ruler turning away from Jesus, which had been there for over four decades, was taken down. New carpet and pews were installed, walls and trim were painted, the platform was completely remodeled, and a restroom was added off the foyer. The first

two steps of the project were completed by mid-summer 2023.

With such visible evidence of God's leading in the remodeling process, the church leaders decided to have a special thanksgiving and dedication Sabbath. Invitations were sent to members who had moved to other churches and those who had stopped attending church altogether. Former members from around the Lake Union were informed of the special dedication service.

The morning of the dedication service, Sept. 23, 2023, the church sanctuary was full. Members and guests were excited to see the changes. The church looked updated and refreshed. God's presence was felt as we worshiped together that morning!

One of the highlights of the service was the introduction of new stained-glass artwork behind the platform. The congregation had chosen a stained-glass version of "The Rescue," by artist Nathan Greene. Based on Luke 15:4, the picture shows Jesus reaching down to rescue a lost sheep and is backlit by LED lights to emulate a natural window. Greene attended the dedication service and gave a brief history of his painting.

People are More Important Than a Building

Jim Micheff, president of the Michigan Conference, offered a beautiful prayer of dedication, in which He thanked God for His many blessings and dedicated our new sanctuary to His service. In his remarks before the prayer, he reminded the congregation that even though the Tabernacle has a rich history among Seventh-day Adventists, it is not buildings that save people. Buildings facilitate ministry, but "the most important building material of the Battle Creek Tabernacle is not in the walls. It's not even in the [stained glass] picture. Right now, it's in the pews. And that's you," he said to the congregation. He continued, "I want God to take our hearts so that we might be used to draw someone else to Him."

Wayne Johnson, co-chair of the remodeling program, gave a heartfelt thank you to

Photography by Brenda Baker

all the contractors and workers who participated in the project – decorators, painters, carpet installers, wood workers, plumbers, electricians and others. They had all been invited to the dedication service. Several of the workers had asked Johnson questions about Adventist beliefs. As a result of these questions, each worker was given a beautiful, hard-back copy of *The Desire of Ages*. The project manager of the remodel attended the dedication service and later sent Johnson a text in which he said, “I never thought of myself as a tool of God through that project until you spoke of it Saturday. That impacted me. It’s funny the things we see as normal operations speak louder to other people.” Johnson was glad that he had used the opportunity of a rebuilding project to be a witness to the workers.

Tabernacle is Not Just a Name, But a Mission

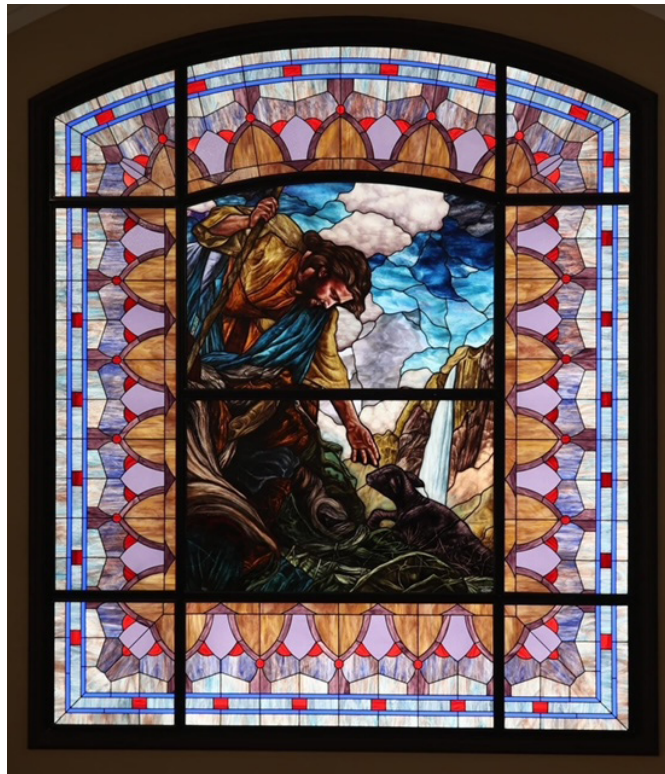
The special guest speaker for the morning was Dwight Nelson, recently retired pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. The title of his sermon was “When Your Name Becomes a Verb, Your Mission Is Complete.” He began by pointing out that the word “tabernacle” has two meanings in the Bible – as a noun in Exodus 40:34, “Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the *tabernacle*,” and as a verb in John 1:14, “And the Word was made flesh and dwelt (or *tabernacled*) with us.”

He continued, “Every time we look at the painting [of Jesus and the lost sheep], we remember that the Maker of all things loves and wants us. . . . He’s not looking for an excuse to throw us out but to draw us in. He wants to tabernacle with us!” Nelson challenged the congregation with these words, “That’s why the Battle Creek Tabernacle exists – because tabernacle is not only a noun; it is also a verb. It is not just your name; it is your *mission*! Not just who you are but what you *do*. Not in here for two hours but for seven days a week out there. . . . You have just met your mission statement. You are a VERB!

You’ve been a noun long enough; become a verb now. Tabernacle all over this city!”

This powerful sermon capped off a service of recommitment, praise and thanksgiving. By God’s grace, the Battle Creek Tabernacle will be both a noun *and* a verb! ■

Charlotte Erickson is a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle.



◀ Stained glass artwork from picture painted by Nathan Greene.



◀ Guest speaker, retired pastor Dwight Nelson preached on the name tabernacle saying, “it is not just your name; it is your mission! Not just who you are but what you do. Not in here for two hours but for seven days a week out there.”



▲ Chicago's Shiloh Pastor John Boston delved deep into his personal testimony and related some of the traumatic experiences of his own life, bringing an emotionally impactful dynamic to his presentations.

“Hope for the Hurting Heart” Evangelistic Series Yields 33 Baptisms

FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, BEREAN TRANSFORMATION CENTER'S (FORMERLY BEREAN SDA CHURCH) PASTOR CLAVAL HUNTER AND HIS MINISTRY TEAM HAVE SOWN INTO THE LIVES OF RESIDENTS OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, THROUGH A VARIETY OF OUTREACH INITIATIVES MINISTERING TO BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN.

For the past three years, Berean Transformation Center's (formerly Berean SDA Church) Pastor Claval Hunter and his ministry team have sowed into the lives of residents of South Bend, Indiana, through a variety of outreach initiatives ministering to both adults and children. The response from community members has been tremendous and a total of 33 souls were baptized in September after the “Hope for the Hurting Heart” evangelistic series led by Chicago's Shiloh Church Pastor John Boston II.

Every second Sabbath, Berean members engage in a compassion outreach in the South Bend community in lieu of a traditional worship service. Fanning out into the neighborhood in blue T-shirts emblazoned with the words, “Here 2 Serve” or “Touch 10K Challenge,” Berean members feed the homeless, visit and pray with community members, lead out in various children's ministries activities and engage in various other felt needs ministries.

“We've built a ministry that is consistent, a ministry that is pouring into the needs of the community, and we've built healthy relationships,” Hunter says. “So, way before the series, it took those types of programs or intentionality to win the hearts of the people.”

And night after night of the series, Boston delved deep into his personal testimony and related some of the traumatic experiences of his own life, bringing an emotionally impactful dynamic to his presentations.

“I have faced some trauma and some of you here today have experienced trauma,” Boston told the crowd on opening night. “But what I want to assure you of tonight is that there is no trauma that God is not aware of and there is no trauma that does not have a healing factor. ... The pain that you've experienced, the hurt, it all has a purpose.”

Hunter says that Boston's approach went beyond a focus on the 2,300-day prophecy or other topics usually addressed at evangelistic

meetings. Rather, his focus was on speaking “to the needs of the people. ... And so, him adding his own story into the messages every night really appealed to the person saying, ‘I was adopted’ or ‘I felt abandoned’ or ‘I went through a traumatic situation, and I wanted to give up.’” Boston's willingness to share his story and be vulnerable “made people feel comfortable to want to listen and be open to the gospel message of Jesus's love,” Hunter added.

Hunter said the message that resonated with the South Bend community was, “Yes, I've been broken but God is making me whole. Yes, I've been perhaps raped and felt ridiculed, but it is God who is comforting my heart. The alcohol wouldn't do it, all of the money in the world or the puppy love that I've been experiencing cannot fill that void. It's only Jesus, His love, His compassion.”

Abraham Henry, vice president for administration for the Lake Region Conference, was present for the final day of the evangelistic series and said he was moved by what he saw.

“Pastor John Boston and Pastor Claval Hunter did a phenomenal job,” Henry said. “Pastor John Boston, we want to thank you for preaching the Word each and every day throughout this meeting. Today, what we saw was something amazing. We saw [many] people give their lives to God, and we are so grateful. We believe that this is going to transform this community and transform lives.”

Hunter said he believes that the many baptisms following the series is evidence that the work he and his ministry team continue to do in the South Bend community is not in vain.

“It's so beautiful to see what the Bible says, ‘You reap what you sow,’” Hunter said. “And with evangelism, if you're not going, and being consistent with it ... you cannot reach” people. “And so, the reason why we are reaping at this time is because we've been going. We've been sowing.” ■

David Pluviose is a master of divinity student at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He also serves as connect pastor at the Berean Transformation Center in South Bend, Indiana.

Detroit Church Car Show Revs Up Community Engagement

DETROITERS ARE ALL ABOUT THEIR CARS. SO, WHILE ATTENTION WAS ON DETROIT DURING THE POPULAR NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW—A FLYING CAR WAS THE TALK OF THE TOWN—ONE LOCAL CHURCH WENT INTO OVERDRIVE TO CAPITALIZE ON THE TIMING.

More than 20 vintage cars and trucks lined the City Temple church parking lot for a community outreach event on Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023. Cars with model years ranging from 1938 to 2022, and in a variety of colors, drew oohs and aahs from dozens of automotive enthusiasts, some making the trek from as far away as Ohio.

But it wasn't just about cars.

"It's all about God," said City Temple member Darryl Brezzell, who steered the effort along with a host of others. "It's fishing for people with a different type of bait, as opposed to tent meetings, 'Countdown to Eternity',

or 'Revelation Seminar'," he said, referencing some of the evangelism series held at the church over the years.

Volunteers also shifted into gear, handing out free Christian books to kids and offering adults free tracts and prayer books.

How It Came Together

To recruit participants, Brezzell visited car shows around the Motor City. His team powered behind the scenes, getting approval to host the event, passing out flyers, planning a food menu for guests, and organizing the lot for the car line-up. In addition, the United

Block Club Council leadership volunteered to help get the word out to other churches and neighbors.

On the day of the car show, revving engines caught everyone's attention. Engines were heard from down the street, as neighbors came to their porch to watch.

"I am enjoying the energy because when I see the cars come out and they rev that engine that gets me excited," said Zelda Solomons, City Temple member. "I love to hear the engines!"

Meanwhile, Diane Brown who lives in the neighborhood, said she enjoyed seeing the cars but was particularly pleased to see Black men gathering for positive events.

Guests walked around the church's parking lot posing for photographs with the distinctive-looking cars, asking about their history, and enjoying the owners' enthusiastic tales of adventures with their car.

Participant Wayne Morrow heard about the car show from a friend and brought his 1977 Cadillac Fleetwood. "One thing I enjoy about the car shows is it gives young people something to do."

Opportunity to 'Find Common Ground'

When Brezzell presented the idea to the church, City Temple pastor and car enthusiast Neville Lendor said he knew this would be a great opportunity to gain traction with the community.

"The same way that cars are different, people are different," Lendor explained. "However, we all find common ground in things that we enjoy the most about cars and people. I believe it is one of the prime examples of the mission of our church to show God's love, share that love and create other lovers of God."

Brezzell said he's willing to put his muscle into making the car show an annual event, if the church is open to the idea. After all, he said, "I think not only is it a good outreach for the community, but it's an in-reach for our church."

Malissa Martin is a Detroit-based freelance writer.



JeNeane Lendor

▲ Cars with model years ranging from 1938 to 2022, and in a variety of colors, drew dozens of automotive enthusiasts, some making the trek from as far away as Ohio.



Photos by Student Yearbook/Newspaper team

▲ From Oct. 5–8, 2023, academy students from around the Lake Union spent time sharing ideas, as well as connecting with God and each other amid a picture-perfect setting at Camp Au Sable.

Student Leaders Deepen Faith and Hone Skills at Union-Wide Retreat

FROM OCT. 5–8, 2023, ACADEMY STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE LAKE UNION SPENT TIME SHARING IDEAS, AS WELL AS CONNECTING WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER AMID A PICTURE-PERFECT SETTING AT CAMP AU SABLE. THE THEME WAS “THIS ONE THING” BASED ON PHILIPPIANS 3:14, WHICH EXPRESSES OUR DESIRE TO LEAVE BEHIND INFLUENCES WHICH HOLD US CAPTIVE AND PRESS TOWARD THE GOAL OF CHRIST JESUS.

Learning Together

Approximately 90 student leaders from seven academies fanned out across the campground for breakout sections geared toward their respective campus roles. During the sessions, students discussed how their own associations were run and brainstormed ideas they could implement at their respective academies. Among these conversations were understanding the mental aspects of being a

student leader, dealing with different personality types, and maintaining strong relations between student officers and other students.

Outside of their sectionals, student leaders had the option to participate in several recreational activities, such as go-karting, horseback riding, basketball matches and canoeing. This was a time when they could interact with other leaders in a fun and enjoyable way.

Andrews University’s enrollment team



also made an appearance at the camp, providing an inspirational Sabbath School and a fun evening program.

Though the main speaker, Wendy Eberhardt, vice president for ministries at the North American Division, couldn’t attend because of illness, three speakers were found to fill in. It rained during half the weekend; but even though students had to travel between buildings and cabins in the rain, none of this dampened the activities.

Speaker Highlights

The week began with Thursday evening and Friday morning worships led by the Lake Union Executive Secretary Elden Ramirez. He told the audience that even though we sin, God will forgive and forget our sins because Jesus’ love covers us. All we’re called to do is accept it.

On Friday evening and Sabbath morning, Tracey Wood, youth director for the North American Division, expounded on the importance of understanding that God believes in us. Through a retelling of his experience as a high school senior, he affirmed that God would make a way for us to serve. “God believes in you,” he said, “and all you need to have is a heart of service.”

Steve Baughman, former Indiana Academy principal and current director of ACE Academy, spoke on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. He told the students they were going to leave on a high, but they need to “feed the blaze. Now is the time to go back to your schools and get to work.”

Communion Service and Testimonies

Student leaders were invited to wash one another's feet in an act of humility and compassion to others and had the opportunity to partake in the bread and wine, symbols of Jesus' body and blood.

During the testimonials segment, one student told of the hardships of constantly moving and how she found a place of belonging and familiarity by joining an Adventist academy. She was able to find her place within the school community, even though her parents were in another country serving in the mission field. Another student spoke of wanting to have a greater feeling of acceptance in God's love. He had accepted Christ but was constantly searching for acceptance from his Creator, finally finding solace through a local pastor and Bible studies.

Participants Reflects

Marelin Gonzalez Adames, Great Lakes Adventist Academy junior class pastor, said she is returning to campus ready to make a difference. “Before, the other two pastors and I wanted to make a change, but we would never actually come up with the necessary steps to get where we wanted to be. Now we're planning to go back and help train the younger class pastors.”

Meanwhile, Elliott Kim, Hinsdale Academy SA president said the leadership camp allowed him to get to know other student leaders as well as circulate fresh ideas.” I felt like our discussions were really positive and encouraged innovative thinking. It was also great to hear about the experiences of other students and staff.” ■

Jacob Capiña leads public relations for Hinsdale Adventist Academy Student Association.

Former Lake Union President Maurice Valentine Dies

VALENTINE MOST RECENTLY SERVED AS GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

ON OCT. 20, 2023, MAURICE R. VALENTINE II, A DEDICATED SERVANT OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, DIED, LEAVING A LEGACY OF UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO HIS FAITH AND AN IMPRESSIVE CAREER OF LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE ADVENTIST CHURCH. HE WAS 63.

Valentine was a general vice president of the General Conference (GC) of Seventh-day Adventists at the time of his death. Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the General Conference, shared, “Pastor Maurice Valentine's death is a tragedy for the world church. He was a very godly leader and an important part of our world church leadership team. Our hearts are broken with this tragic news.”

Valentine began his journey in ministry in 1985, serving as a pastor in various churches across Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska in the United States over 28 years. Valentine's life of servant leadership led him to become the ministerial director of the Mid-America Union Conference from 2006 to 2012, furthering his impact on the church. He was later called to the Central States Conference as assistant to the president, vice president for administration (secretary), and then president.

G. Alexander “Alex” Bryant, president of the North American Division, reflected on his relationship with Valentine, saying, “Maurice and I knew each other for over 40 years through our college life and ministry. Maurice always had a passion for God, his family, and for ministry.” Bryant and Valentine attended Oakwood University together, where they became friends. Later, they had the privilege to serve together as partners in mission for the



Central States Conference. Bryant affirmed Valentine's leadership, stating, “He executed his responsibility with a high degree of excellence and professionalism. He would always find encouraging words to speak to those he met and took the time to listen to them, especially in the darkest moments.”

In September 2017, Valentine's unwavering dedication to the church led him to be called to the Lake Union Conference, where he served a total of six years, first as secretary and later as president. Kenneth Denslow,

president of the Lake Union Conference, shared, “Maurice served the Lake Union Conference faithfully as secretary and then as president. In whatever roles he served, he was always loyal to Christ, the church and its mission. Our hearts are aching over this loss. Our prayers are with Sharon and the family.”

In April 2021, Valentine transitioned to the North American Division (NAD) to serve as vice president for media ministries, where he furthered the church’s mission in a rapidly changing media landscape. Richard Stephenson, associate treasurer of the GC, served with him both at the NAD and the GC, and recalled him as a true visionary for digital media and online evangelism. Stephenson expressed, “I have had the great privilege to work closely with Maurice, and he was a mentor to me in seeking new and creative ways to share Jesus. He shared with me many times his belief that the church must better utilize media and technology to connect and engage with those looking for Jesus. One of the committees that he chaired at the General Conference was Digital Innovation, which seeks to use new and emerging technologies to advance the gospel, a perfect fit for his visionary leadership.” Calling Valentine a spiritual giant, Stephenson continued, “More than all this, he loved his Lord, and his passion was for the church to utilize every method to tell others about Jesus and His life-changing power. A spiritual giant of a man has passed to his rest.”

Contemplating the life of service Valentine led, Wilson encouraged the global church to earnestly pray for his wife, Sharon, and the entire Valentine family. He added, “Our hearts are encouraged by the reassuring fact that Jesus is coming soon!”

Valentine is survived by his wife, Sharon (Livingston) Valentine and their three adult children. His life and contributions to the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be remembered with deep respect and gratitude. ■

Adventist News Network



New Certification Programs Offered at Adventist Institutions, Including Andrews University

THE PANDEMIC HAS BEEN BLAMED FOR A LOT OF THINGS, MOST RIGHTFULLY SO—AND THIS INCLUDES AMERICA’S CRITICAL WORKFORCE SHORTAGE.

Labor force participation rates are at generational lows, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Baby boomers (individuals born 1946-1964) are leaving the workforce at much higher rates (3 million per year, compared to 2 million per year pre-pandemic), and the population is growing at its slowest rate ever.

“Many people quit their jobs during the pandemic, and the deficit is particularly obvious in entry level positions,” comments Stacy Sweeney, SVP of academic operations at Core Education, PBC, and executive lead for the professional workforce development certificate initiative for Adventist higher education in the North American Division.

As an example, Sweeney recalls a time when she had to take her mother to the emergency room of a major hospital system. Once admitted—after waiting for hours before being seen—a full day could go by without her mom being attended to as there were only two patient care techs for over six floors of the hospital.

“It is a very real problem,” she adds.

And it’s a solvable problem. Which is why Core has partnered with seven Adventist institutions* of higher education, including Andrews University, to provide workforce development certificate programs in various high-demand fields.

Since the pandemic, Americans have

expressed a consistent preference for non-degree and skills training options.¹ The certificates offered through this new partnership speak to this trend, as they are non-degree and non-credit.

“These short-term certificates teach skills necessary to be successful in entry-level positions,” Sweeney explains. Programs range in length from 6-33 weeks. “It’s the perfect opportunity for people to upscale their careers, and for employers to upskill their employee base—especially if the pandemic forced employers to promote workers who weren’t quite ready.”

AdventHealth, for example, has put over 300 of their employees through certificate programs so far, with hundreds more enrolled.

Healthcare certificates are by far the most popular of those offered, though there are dozens available in several areas, many of them through Andrews. These include project management, cyber security, EKG technician, health unit coordinator, software development, data science, and healthcare administration, among several others.

“According to our research, the Lake Union region is in need of entry level workers particularly in jobs such as medical assistants, behavior technicians, phlebotomists and patient care technicians,” Sweeney says. All of these certificates are available through Andrews.

The beauty of this program, though, is that students don’t have to be anywhere near Andrews (or any of the other participating schools) to participate. Students are self-directed and can learn online on their own schedule, and if outside connections—such as clinical placements—are needed, Core helps students find what they need in their own home area.

And it’s not just about improving one’s marketability in a particular field; it’s also about mission.

“Through this program, anyone can further their skills in professions which allow them to more fully serve their communities,” Andrea Luxton, associate director for higher education for the NAD, comments. “This can open additional doors for different and greater service.”

The seven participating schools are in discussion about ways they can offer students in the Core programs more directly mission-related courses.

Janine Lim, associate dean for online higher education at Andrews University, sums it up well: “Enabling more people to engage in career-focused training is just one more tool in the belt of those following in Christ’s footsteps as witnesses to and in service of their local communities.” ■

For information about the workforce certification program at Andrews University, visit workforce.andrews.edu, call 877-413-0075, or email workforce@andrews.edu. Special non-profit, zero-based interest loans are available specifically for students, faculty and staff at Adventist colleges and universities. ■

* Participating NAD schools: Andrews University, AdventHealth University, Pacific Union College, Southern Adventist University, Union College, Walla Walla University, Washington Adventist University.

¹Strada Center for Education Consumer Insights Public Viewpoint Surveys, April 15-Oct. 29.

Year-End Reports Highlight Ministry Activities Across the Union

STRONG EMPHASIS ON EVANGELISM; TITHE HIGHER; DISCUSSIONS ON LOOMING PASTORS AND TEACHERS SHORTAGE

ON WEDNESDAY, NOV.15, THE LAKE UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONVENED IN BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN, FOR THE LAST 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 UCHICAGO MEDICINE ADVENTHEALTH.

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

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

Presidents’ Reports

North American Division President G. Alexander Bryant was in attendance and reminded the group of the Division’s focus on the “3Ms” – Multiply (growing through baptisms and church plantings); Media (spreading the gospel in the digital/broadcast sphere); and Mentorship (preparing the next generation for leadership).

The teacher and pastor shortage are areas the union is looking to address, according to **Lake Union** President Ken Denslow. Discussions are underway in terms of how the union can further support students who



▲ From left to right: Carmelo Mercado, multicultural ministry vice president; Elden Ramirez, executive secretary; Ken Denslow, president, and Glynn Scott, treasurer.

incur debt for these careers which generally don't pay very well.

Andrews University President John Wesley Taylor V said mission is going forth, as the university gets ready in 2024 to celebrate 150 years of the founding of Battle Creek College.

- Each week, 540 students gather in 40 student-led groups to deepen their faith.
- The number of student missionaries has doubled since the pandemic drop.
- Some 1,200 students participated in "Change Day" by engaging in 40 service projects across Berrien County.
- The seminary is involved in evangelism around the world and also not too far, in South Bend, Indiana.
- The International Trauma Care Center is intentionally involved in extending the ministry of Jesus.
- The seminary received a Lily endowment grant to train pastors.
- Andrews is ranked the #1 private university and #1 for student experience. (See more on p. 23)

He concluded, "You can go to Andrews and meet the world – 100 countries and 48 states!"

Illinois Conference President John Grys said he is encouraging everyone to follow John 10:10 – live life and live it to the fullest. "As we serve joyfully, we will be a light into our territories." He pointed to these areas of note:

- Ten baptisms resulted from lay-led

evangelistic meetings in the Peoria area.

- The Chicago area continues to see a significant influx of refugees, in addition to the large numbers already there displaced by the war in Ukraine.

Vic Van Schaik, **Indiana Conference** president, said God continues to work in the state.

- Two Haitian congregations were birthed, one with an average of 200 in attendance.
- The Ghanaian church purchased a building.
- INspire Academy, the new online school, launched with 14 students in grades 1 through 8.
- The last-standing Adventist Bookstore Center (ABC) in the Lake Union continues to operate with a part-time supervisor. Randy Griffin had been managing the store but he accepted a call to another position.

Lake Region's President Garth Gabriel reported many bright spots in the four-state conference, including:

- Over 100 baptisms conducted to date.
- Conference is targeting the 18-44-year-old demographic.
- School enrollment is up.
- Efforts to upgrade school and church infrastructure continues.
- Setting aside funds for struggling churches.

On the heels of **Michigan's** constituency session, Jim Micheff said the conference launched a state-wide evangelistic series on

Oct. 2, partnering with Voice of Prophecy's Shaun Boonstra. Seven hundred churches participated and 1,000 non-Adventists attended.

Titus Naftanaila, president of **Wisconsin Conference**, expressed his gratitude to the Lake Union for their support, in areas such as Education or mentorship. "We are here because of you." He continued by saying he is praising God the conference was able to replace three of four treasurers. "We have great individuals who have joined the team." He commented on how pleased he is to see a high level of participation around the state: churches feeding people every week, having Bible studies and interacting with the community. One focus in 2024 is lay evangelism training.

Membership

In the secretariat's report, Executive Secretary Elden Ramirez said the Lake Union membership, as of Sept. 30, 2023, stood at 89,446; baptisms to date were 1,167. Going forward, he said, the plan is to begin tracking local church attendance. (More statistics available in the online version.)

Three retiring pastors were granted emeritus ministerial credentials, which allows them to keep their credentials current. (Retired ministers sometimes serve as chaplains at a local hospital or prison, and may be asked to provide proof of their church credentials.) The pastors receiving emeritus status are: Robert Joseph from Michigan Conference, and Leeroy Coleman and Felix Hurtado, both from Lake Region Conference.

Financials

According to Treasurer Glynn Scott:

- Tithe is \$66.1 million, up 11.28% over September 2022. This increase is due to strong tithe across all five conferences, plus an extraordinary tithe received by Illinois Conference of \$2.6 million.
- Total income is \$8.7 million; ahead of budget \$808,000 due to tithe gain of 11.28% and investment income \$105,000 ahead of budget.
- Total expenses are \$7.5 million; under budget by \$733,000 due to program

expenses year to date lower than budget.

- We have a break-even budget, 12 month ending Dec. 31, 2023.

Multicultural Ministry and ASI

After a very busy year, Multicultural Ministry Vice President Carmelo Mercado said they're in the process of planning next year's events. Save these dates in 2024:

- Sabbath, March 2 – Prayer summit in Detroit.
- Sunday, March 10 – Michigan and Lake Region Conferences teaming up with Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN) for a dental services outreach in the Detroit area.
- April 26-27 – ASI Lake Union Spring Fellowship at the Detroit Metropolitan church, featuring Evangelist Ivor Myers.
- July 12-14 – Hispanic Women's Conference at the Blue Gate Inn in Shipshewana, Indiana.



Near the conclusion of the meeting, Lake Union President Ken Denslow was recognized for his 10 years of serving on the North American Division's Native American and First Nations Ministries advisory group. He was draped over the shoulders with a star quilt, symbolizing honor and respect. ■

Debbie Michel is editor of the Lake Union Herald.

▲ The citation to Denslow read: "You have been a leader and a friend to all of us. Your assistance in furthering the goals of the advisory has been invaluable and your presence and support are going to be sorely missed."



COMING SOON

LAKE UNION REVOLVING FUND GOING PAPERLESS

- ✓ Compatible with any device
- ✓ Track data in real time at your leisure
- ✓ Easy online access to view account details and initiate transactions



*Revolving fund account holders will transition to the new system in 2024, with additional details forthcoming.

MILEPOSTS

BIRTHDAYS



Geraldine “Gerry” Hill celebrated her 100th birthday on Aug. 26, 2023. Friends and family celebrated her milestone on Aug. 6, 2023, at the Gobles Jr. Academy gymnasium in Gobles, Mich. Geraldine has been a member of the Gobles Seventh-day Adventist Church for two years. She has four children: Marge (Lorance) Van Tassel, Allegan, Mich.; Dr. Calvin (Jaime) Hill, Tillamook, Ore.; Brad (Cathy) Hill, Buford, Ga., and Sherrilyn Hill, Lincoln, Neb.; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Gerry was the charge nurse at Berrien General Hospital and worked at Andrews University’s Health Services. Later she taught nursing at Kettering College for 13 years.

Gerry and her husband, Raymond, did two terms of mission service

in the Philippines (1953-1963) and were among the founders of Mountain View College, where Raymond ran the agriculture program. As a registered nurse, Gerry donated her time to giving medical assistance as needed by the community and delivered babies occasionally. She also ran a home-school for her children and other children in the mission compound.



Ruth Evelyn (Minisee) Watkins celebrated her 100th birthday on Oct. 29, 2023, surrounded by friends and family at a Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Brighton, Mich. Ruth has been a member of the Williamston Adventist Church in Williamston, Mich., for 40 plus years.

Ruth was born the second of five children to Raymond and Luella Minisee. In her early years, Ruth loved to play the organ for church service and to entertain guests in her home on Sabbath afternoons. Ruth also loved her dogs

and working in her garden. Ruth was raised on a farm on the west side of Michigan. One of many fond memories is when the congregation her parents belonged to bought a church building from another denomination. Ruth’s father, with his team of horses, moved the building four or five blocks to a new lot and set it in place.

She has three stepchildren: Janet and (John) Wynn of Indianapolis, Ind.; Earl Watkins (deceased), formally of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; and Jesse and (Ofilia) Watkins, of San Diego, Calif.; two step-grandchildren, Andrew Douglas Watkins of Santa Monica, Calif.; and Johnathan Earl Wynn of Indianapolis, Ind.; and three step-great-grandchildren, Langston, Nina, and Elijah Wynn.

OBITUARIES

ASHTON, Ethel L. “Stone,” age 88; born Aug. 5, 1935, in Dorr, Mich.; died Aug. 12, 2023, in Albion, Calif. She was a member of the Fort Wayne Adventist Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. She is survived by her sons, Ned Ashton and Eldon Ashton; daughter, Nadine (Ashton) Schultz; 13 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. A private interment was held Aug. 27, 2023, at the Rosehill Cemetery in Berrien Springs, Mich.

JOHNSON, Gregory A., age 57; born Dec. 9, 1965, in Indianapolis, Ind.; died Oct. 17, 2023, in Evansville, Ind. He was a member of the Evansville Westside Church in Evansville, Ind. He is survived by his wife, Clareen Gobutero; sons, Lucas and Caleb; daughters, Naomi and Lianne; mother, Alice Pemberton; brothers, Kevin Johnson and Jeffrey Johnson;

sister, Ginger Williams; and three grandchildren. Inurnment.

JOHNSON, Richard, age 79; born Jan. 4, 1934, in Caneyville, Ky.; died Mar. 17, 2023, in Evansville, Ind. He was a member of the Evansville Westside Church in Evansville, Ind. He is survived by his wife, Alice Pemberton; sons, Kevin Johnson, Gregory Johnson, and Jeffery Johnson; daughter, Ginger Williams; brother, Millard; sisters, Marjorie and Etchie; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. A funeral service was conducted by Pastor Robert Lloyd with a graveside service in Midway, Ind.

MAGRAY, Douglas K., age 72; born May 28, 1951, in Milwaukee, Wisc.; died July 16, 2023, in Green Bay, Wisc. He was a member of the Green Bay Church in Green Bay, Wisc. He is survived by his wife, Sandra (Cunningham) Magray; daughters, Shelley (Todd) Silverstein and Sherry (Heath) Pierce; sisters, Cheryl Johnson, Maureen Hixon, Denise Groh and Christine Magray; and four grandchildren. A funeral service was conducted by Pastor Stephen Aust in Wisconsin.

SCOTT, Richard Louis, age 83; born Nov. 19, 1939, in Chetek, Wisc.; died May 22, 2023, in Carson City, Mich. He was a member of the Frost Church in Stanton, Mich. He is survived by his wife Maxine Scott; sons, Clifford Scott, William Scott and Joseph Scott; daughters, Rosalie Scott and Dawn (Jordan) Dickens; brothers, John Scott and David (Sue) Scott; sisters, Patsy Howard and Helen (Tom) Mott; several nieces and nephews; 18 grandchildren;

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 front cover.

and seven great-grandchildren. Inurnment was in the Daisy Hill Crematory in Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

WHITEZEL, James “Jim” Robert, age 88; born Nov. 3, 1934, in Chicago, Ill.; died Aug. 1, 2023, in Chicago, Ill. He was a member of the North Shore Church in Chicago, Ill. A funeral service was conducted by Pastor Jonathan Burnett on Aug. 19, 2023, at the Montrose Cemetery in Chicago, Ill.

WILLIAMSON, Samuel H., age 89; born Mar. 7, 1934, in Somerset, Ky.; died Aug. 12, 2023, in Bloomington, Ind. He was a member of the Spencer Adventist Church in Spencer, Ind. He was survived by his son, Bruce (Connie) Williamson; daughter, Mary (William) Games; sister, Helen Barnard; six grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. An interment was conducted by Pastor Samuel Ngala on Aug. 18, 2023, at the Hanover Cemetery in Shelbyville, Ind.

WILLIAMSON, Violet Annabelle “Meyer,” age 89; born Mar. 6, 1934, in Shelbyville, Ind; died Aug. 7, 2023, in Spencer, Ind. She was a member of the Spencer Adventist Church in Spencer, Ind. At the time of her death, she was survived by her husband, Samuel Williamson; her son, Bruce (Connie) Williamson; daughter, Mary (William) Games; brothers, Kenneth Myer and Donald Myer; sisters, Rosmond Owens and Carolyn Crafton; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. An interment was conducted by Pastor Samuel Ngala on Aug. 11, 2023, at the Hanover Cemetery in Shelbyville, Ind.

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

Partner with ASAP Ministries in serving the marginalized and reaching the unreached in Southeast Asia with the wholistic gospel. What you do today can change a life for eternity! To learn more visit asapministries.org. Subscribe to our weekly Mission Matters videos. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube: [asapministries](http://asapministries.org).

Help Wanted: Remnant Publications is seeking a candidate who is mechanically inclined to operate, maintain and troubleshoot printing equipment as needed in the production of religious materials. Must be physically fit and able to lift heavy items. This is not a remote position. Contact 800-423-1319 or jobs@remnantmail.com.

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

FLORIDA LAKESIDE VACATION RENTAL: Affordable, peaceful, spacious. Avoid the beach-town traffic and crowds for your southern getaway, with kayaks and bikes provided. This 3-bedroom home is near lush/tropical Highlands Hammock State Park on quiet,

no-boat-traffic Lake Rachael. The home is available in December, as well as April-October – daily, weekly and monthly options. Car available, as well. Avoid the Airbnb fees and arrange with a new friend in Christ. Text our family for pics and details: 616-827-8616.

EMPLOYMENT

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY Seeks Qualified Applicants: Andrews University is seeking qualified Seventh-day Adventists who may fill open roles in fulfilling our mission to Seek Knowledge, Affirm Faith, and Change the World. If this is of interest to you, please check out our current openings at <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs>.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks candidates for a full-time, tenure-track Ph.D. biochemistry faculty position for our ACS-approved program, starting July 2024. Duties: mentor undergraduate students to excellence in faith-reflective professionalism; teach biochemistry and chemistry courses and labs; champion undergraduate research; promote

an all-inclusive, equitable learning environment. For more information, email chemistry@andrews.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff salaried positions— DHSI community outreach coordinator - Academic Administration (REOPENED), and Customer Service and Print Project Manager – Mailing and Printing Services. For more information, go to sau.catsone.com/careers.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff hourly positions— Housekeeper - Student Housing; housekeeping and maintenance supervisor; carpentry technician; part-time cashier - Village Market; S.A.L.T. outreach coordinator for School of Religion; alarm technician; landscape supervisor. For more information, go to sau.catsone.com/careers.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY School of Nursing seeks a full-time faculty to join a mission-focused team. Teaching responsibilities will be primarily at the undergraduate level. An earned doctorate is preferred. Requisite qualities

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>.

include current RN adult health or ICU clinical experience, successful teaching experience, interest in research, flexibility, and commitment to Adventist nursing education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. To apply, please visit our job board at sau.catsone.com/careers.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time teaching faculty member for the Department of Biology/Allied Health, beginning fall 2024. Ph.D. in Biology who will teach upper and lower division courses and labs. Candidate should be committed to involvement with undergraduate students in the classroom as well as guiding independent student research projects. Additionally, candidate should be a practicing Seventh-day Adventist believing the Biblical record of the creation of life on earth in six literal days. For more details, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time

Associate Vice President for Academic Administration and Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies. Candidate should have a Ph.D. with a minimum of five years of successful full-time graduate teaching experience at the higher education level. Applicant will assume a leadership role in all aspects of graduate education and provide academic, administrative, and strategic direction to Graduate Studies, Online Campus, and the Adult Degree Completion (ADC) Program. For more details, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time engineer teaching faculty member for School of Engineering and Physics in the areas of mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering. The ideal candidate will be proficient in developing and teaching undergraduate engineering courses, including both lecture and laboratory components. Master's degree in mechanical, electrical, or computer engineering or related area required. Doctorate preferred. Prior higher education

teaching experience and/or relevant industry experience preferred. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time faculty in the area of counseling for School of Education/Psychology. A doctoral degree in counselor education from a CACREP-accredited program is required. Doctoral degrees in clinical or counseling psychology from APA-accredited program could be considered if applicant has been employed as full-time faculty member in a counselor education program for a minimum of one full academic year before July 1, 2013. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time program director to launch a new Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program. The ideal candidate will be proficient in managing the CAPTE accreditation process, new program

development, and teaching graduate physical therapy courses as well as clinical practice. In addition, the successful candidate will be committed to mentoring advisees, nurturing student learning both in and out of the classroom, and discipling students in Jesus Christ. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY School of Religion seeks full-time faculty member to begin fall semester 2024. Must be active member of Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing and should have Ph.D. (or be near completion) in New Testament. Positive experience in pastoral ministry and teaching is helpful. Must demonstrate contagious love for Jesus, strong commitment to authority of Scripture, and deep passion for Adventist message and mission. Good people skills and the ability to engage students in a positive, faith-building manner in the classroom are essential. To apply, please visit our job board at sau.catsone.com/careers.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

| | Jan. 5 | Jan. 12 | Jan. 19 | Jan. 26 | Feb. 2 | Feb. 9 | Feb. 16 | Feb. 23 |
|------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| Berrien Springs, Mich. | 5:28 | 5:35 | 5:43 | 5:52 | 6:01 | 6:10 | 6:19 | 6:27 |
| Chicago | 4:33 | 4:40 | 4:48 | 4:57 | 5:06 | 5:15 | 5:24 | 5:33 |
| Detroit | 5:13 | 5:21 | 5:29 | 5:38 | 5:47 | 5:56 | 6:05 | 6:14 |
| Indianapolis | 5:33 | 5:40 | 5:48 | 5:56 | 6:04 | 6:13 | 6:21 | 6:29 |
| La Crosse, Wis. | 4:41 | 4:49 | 4:57 | 5:07 | 5:16 | 5:26 | 5:35 | 5:45 |
| Lansing, Mich. | 5:18 | 5:25 | 5:34 | 5:43 | 5:52 | 6:01 | 6:10 | 6:19 |
| Madison, Wis. | 4:36 | 4:44 | 4:52 | 5:00 | 5:10 | 5:20 | 5:29 | 5:38 |
| Springfield, Ill. | 4:47 | 4:54 | 5:02 | 5:10 | 5:18 | 5:27 | 5:35 | 5:43 |

Data procured from timeanddate.com. Error not exceeding two minutes and generally less than one minute.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time teaching faculty in the School of Business. Candidates should have a graduate degree (minimum). Doctorate in business-related field preferred. Ideal candidates will have successful, professional experience in for-profit companies/organizations. Candidates will bring relevancy to courses through connecting theories, current

events, and real-world experience. Candidates will facilitate learning in alignment with a Christian biblical worldview and Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and values. Ideal candidates will be committed to student learning, engagement, and spiritual well-being. For more information, please visit our job board at sau.catsone.com/careers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Broadview Academy

Graduates: Our 2024 school reunion is: April 26-27, 2024, at the North Aurora Adventist Church, 950 Mooseheart Rd., North Aurora, IL. Let your classmates know. Honor classes: '54,'64,'74,'84,'94,'04. Friday Night Vespers: 7:30 p.m. Sabbath Services: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. All are welcome!

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>.

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

JANUARY

- 6 Local Church Budget
- 13 Religious Liberty* (NAD)
- 20 Local Church Budget
- 27 Local Conference Advance

FEBRUARY

- 3 Local Church Budget
- 10 Adventist Television Ministries Evangelism* (NAD)
- 17 Local Church Budget
- 24 Local Conference Advance

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.

COMPLETE A DEGREE ONLINE

Andrews University
Adult Degree Completion Center

Enrich your faith journey with flexible and fully online Adventist theology classes.

Earn one or more six-class certificates for personal growth and ministry leadership. Credits can count towards an associate or bachelors degree.



- Learn more at www.andrews.edu/go/complete
- Email transcripts and resume to sdestudents@andrews.edu for a FREE study plan.

January & February

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

GENERAL EVENTS

Jan. 24–27: Newmyer Classic Invitational

Feb. 22–24: Music & Worship Conference

Feb. 28–March 2: Choirs & Orchestra
Music Festival

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS

CENTER EVENTS

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

Jan. 14, 6 p.m.: Todd Galberth in concert

Jan. 21, 4 p.m.: Sunday Music Series:
Licorice Stick Brigade

Jan. 27, 8 p.m.: Andrews University Wind
Symphony Winter Concert & SMC Brass
Band

Jan. 28, 7 p.m.: Howard Center Presents:
Canadian Brass

Feb. 3, 8 p.m.: Andrews University
Symphony Orchestra Young Artists
Competition Concert

Feb. 4, 7 p.m.: Howard Center Presents:
Steve Green

Feb. 10, 8 p.m.: Andrews University
Choirs: Chasing Away the Blues

Feb. 24, 6 p.m.: Music & Worship
Conference Concert

Feb. 25, 4 p.m.: Sunday Music Series:
Aleksandra Kemble, flute

ILLINOIS

Jan. 10–20: 10 Days of Prayer, Virtual

Jan. 11–15: Joint Illinois-Wisconsin Youth
Winter Retreat, Camp Wakonda

Jan. 19–21: Pathfinder Area Coordinators
Retreat, Camp Akita

Jan. 27: Area Level Pathfinder Bible
Experience (Northern: Hinsdale Academy
| Southern: TBD)

Jan. 27: Southern Area Mega Weekend,
Location TBD

Feb. 10: Northern Area Pathfinder Synergy,
Location TBD

Feb. 24: Conference Pathfinder Bible
Retreat, Richland Bridge Adventist
Church

INDIANA

Jan. 19–21: Pathfinder Winter Campout,
Timber Ridge Camp

Feb. 23–24: Conference Youth Rally,
Indianapolis Junior Academy

LAKE REGION

Jan. 16: LRC Let's Connect Live! Virtual LRC
Communication Broadcast, LRC YouTube
and Facebook

Jan. 21–26: Youth Week of Prayer
(conference-wide)

Feb. 3: Local Area Pathfinder Bible
Experience (various sites)

Feb. 13: LRC Let's Connect Live! Virtual LRC
Communication Broadcast, LRC YouTube
and Facebook

MICHIGAN

Jan. 12–14: Teen Snow Outing, Camp Au
Sable

Jan. 16–18: ASPIRE Capstone, Camp Au
Sable

Jan. 23: Choir Fest, Great Lakes Adventist
Academy

Jan. 26–28: Father-Son/Man Camp, Camp
Au Sable

Jan. 26–28: Pathfinder Area Coordinators
Retreat, Camp Au Sable

Feb. 2–4: Adventurer District Retreat, Camp
Au Sable

Feb. 3: Local Pathfinder Bible Experience

Feb. 16–19: Center for Adventist Ministry
to Public University Students (CAMPUS)
Winter Retreat, Camp Au Sable

Feb. 23–25: Teen Impact

Feb. 29–Mar. 1: "Rest & Renew" Retreat,
Camp Au Sable

WISCONSIN

Jan. 12–15: Winterfestapalooza Youth
Retreat, Camp Wakonda

Jan. 19–20: Youth Rally, Wisconsin Academy

Jan. 21: Academy Day, Wisconsin Academy

Jan. 26–28: Men's Retreat, Camp Wakonda

Feb. 3: Local Pathfinder Bible Experience
(varies by region)

Feb. 9–11: Pathfinder Winter Retreat, Camp
Wakonda

LAKE UNION

Feb. 16–18: Youth Evangelism Congress,
Chicago



Events listed were scheduled to proceed at press time. Please call ahead or check event websites before making plans to attend.



BE INSPIRED.



Download the brand-new AWR360° app!

Inspiration and a full media library at your fingertips!



Download on the
App Store

ANDROID APP ON
Google play

visit: awr.org/apps



AWR360°
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Adventist World Radio 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Let's Connect!

[awr360](https://www.facebook.com/awr360)

[awr360](https://twitter.com/awr360)

[awr.360](https://www.instagram.com/awr.360)

[awr.org/videos](https://www.youtube.com/awr/videos)

[awr.org/apps](https://www.awr.org/apps)

Patience Through Prayer



▲ PAULETTE TAYLOR

"BUT THOSE WHO WAIT ON THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH; THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS LIKE EAGLES, THEY SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY, THEY SHALL WALK AND NOT FAINT." ISAIAH 40:31 (NKJV)

Are you impatient? Do you feel the need to rush to get things done? Or are you willing to follow Christ's leading and let Him dictate when and how things get done through prayer?

"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer." (Romans 12:12, KJV)

It is very easy to get distracted in this life. The world sends us so much information. Just turn on your TV, computer, tablet, or phone, and *presto*, a wealth of information is at your fingertips. But it just might be that the ease of obtaining this information could be causing an impatient spirit. An attitude of instant-ready everything!

We must remember, as we "taste of the love of God," we also receive His constant blessings, his hand of protection, and the greatest degree of patience we could ever imagine.

We can test God, unknowingly, by our acts of selfishness, being preoccupied with what WE want, unloving, and impatient with ourselves and

others. God's patience has stood the test of time, but we cannot take that precious gift for granted. This Christian journey is not easy. The devil sends challenges every single day. He opens the door to improper thoughts and actions. Or maneuvers us to the wrong places. Anything to distract us from the true mission God has given us, as His children.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Colossians 3:12, NIV)

The Father, Himself, exercised patience as He, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, with genuine love, executed the plan of salvation, which culminated in Christ dying on the cross for our sins. They knew this amazing, sacrificial plan had to run its course to save humanity.

Let us strive, through prayer, to employ a greater degree of patience for each other, and ourselves. The stress we may experience, because of impatience, will begin to fade. There is real joy in patiently waiting on the Lord. So, I encourage you, with God's help and the leading of the Holy Spirit, to "... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1, NIV)

We cannot let the sin of impatience rob us of our place, seated at the feet of Jesus in Glory. I pray God's love will continue to engulf us as we patiently await our Savior's return.

"Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." (Revelation 14:12, KJV) ■

Paulette Taylor is the prayer coordinator for the Indiana Conference.



EARLY PIONEERS **AND** CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

APRIL
5-6
2024

SPEAKERS



Claudia Allen
Outreach &
Communications
Manager, Howard
County, Maryland



Kevin Burton
Director, Center for
Adventist Research,
Andrews University



Michael Campbell
NAD Director of
Archive, Statistics &
Research



Orland Johnson
NAD Director of
Public Affairs and
Religious Liberty



Dwight Nelson
Retired pastor
Pioneer Memorial
Church

**ADVENTIST
HISTORIC
VILLAGE
BATTLE
CREEK**



lakeunionparl.org

Sponsored by Lake Union Public Affairs and Religious Liberty

Think Before You Speak

AS I SAT IN MY ENGLISH CLASS, MY MIND WAS DRAWN TO A POSTER ON THE WALL. IT READ: “THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK. IS IT TRUE? IS IT HELPFUL? IS IT IMPORTANT? IS IT NECESSARY? IS IT KIND?”

This made me think about all the times I said things that weren’t true, helpful, important, necessary or kind. It also made me think of times I’ve been on the receiving end of unkind words.

Many assume that living in a Christian community or attending a Christian school guards us from ill intentions, but the truth is that even within the protective circle of faith, individuals are victims of cyberbullying. While I wish my Christian community could shield me from such wounds, I recognize that raising awareness starts with one voice: mine. To be leaders in our community, we must follow biblical principles.

The Bible, in many instances, offers profound insights into the power of words and the importance of careful speech. Proverbs 18:21 tells us, “Death

and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” This verse highlights the immense potential of our words to bring both life and destruction. Just as words can uplift and inspire, they can also wound and devastate. It reminds us of the responsibility we bear for our speech.

James 1:19 advises us, “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person

be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” This verse teaches us the importance of active listening and measured speech. Often, it’s in our silence and careful consideration that we can find the wisdom to respond thoughtfully rather than react hastily.

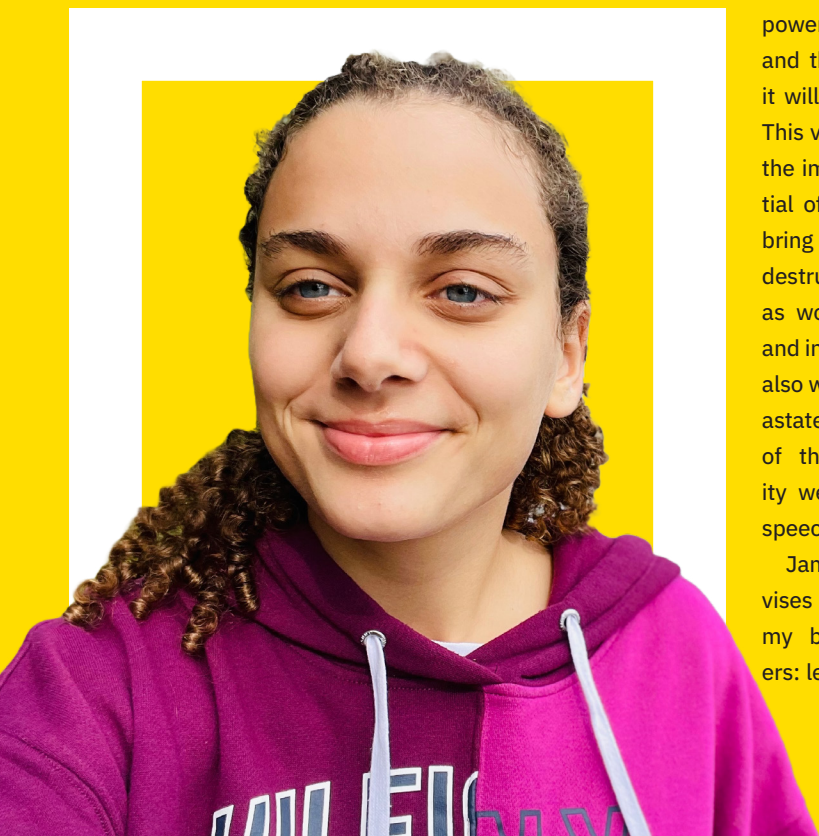
Additionally, Proverbs 15:4 reminds us, “The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.” The gentle, considerate use of language can be a source of healing and renewal, while hurtful words can shatter the spirit and damage relationships irreparably.

Moreover, Matthew 12:36 warns us, “I tell you, on the day of judgment, people will give account for every careless word they speak.” This verse underscores the eternal significance of our words. It encourages us to be vigilant and responsible in our speech, as we will ultimately be held accountable for the impact our words have had on others.

Cyberbullying is a grave issue that wields the power to deeply wound individuals, leaving scars that may never fully heal. This force can ruin friendships, destroy self-esteem, and even lead some to unimaginable acts. The keyboard has become a weapon, and the screen a shield, providing some with the illusion that they can evade the repercussions of their harmful words. But let’s make this clear: Words have power and carry consequences.

It’s crucial to remember that behind every profile picture is a real person with dreams, fears and vulnerabilities. The words we type have the potential to uplift or tear down, and it’s our moral obligation to choose kindness over cruelty, empathy over apathy, and compassion over indifference. ■

Elisabeth Jerončić is a junior at Andrews Academy and this article is adapted from a chapel presentation.



What I Was Missing

I DIDN'T HAVE A "TRADITIONAL" ADVENTIST UPBRINGING. MY CHILDHOOD WAS DECENT. I HAD A MOTHER, A FATHER AND A YOUNGER BROTHER. WE LIVED ON A CUL-DE-SAC LESS THAN A MILE FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND HAD BONFIRES WITH OUR NEIGHBORS.

We attended church on Sunday morning, went shopping afterward, and made it home before the next big football game. I was a Vikings fan through and through. But I had no idea what I was missing.

When I was 13, my parents got divorced. Our family was torn in two. Nevertheless, God still shines His light through the darkness. An older gentleman came into our lives, and he introduced my mom, brother and me to a church that worships on Saturday. I personally had never heard of such a thing, and it was very intriguing. I began to study for myself and question everything I knew about religion. The crazy thing was, it all made sense! So, we went to church on Saturday and began to honor that as a day of rest. However, it wasn't that simple. My entire family is Assembly of God and when I told my dad that I wasn't going to church with him on Sunday anymore, he still required that I go with him. I tried to explain my new beliefs, but he just couldn't see.

Then COVID hit. And you know what? God used the pandemic so that I could keep Sabbath and not be stuck fighting with my dad. Since then, we've come to terms with believing different things. It's still hard being the odd one out at family gatherings and holiday celebrations, but I know that Jesus endured for me, so I can endure for Him.

Later on, my mom, brother and I were invited to an event called camp meeting. Friends from church spread the word to us and let us know that we could pitch a tent on their campsite. We only stayed for a few days, but I can say that it had a lasting impact on me. I was shocked by how many Seventh-day Adventists there were. It was so encouraging

to know that I wasn't the only one out there that believed this way. Soon enough, my brother and I were attending Camp Wakonda's winter retreat in January and working at camp the following summer. God placed such wonderful people in my life that summer—people that I still call friends to this day. I've been able to confide in them through the roughest times. Camp had such an influence on me that I couldn't say no when I was asked to come back the next summer.

Had God not introduced me to the truth, I wouldn't be where I am today. Through learning about the Sabbath, I've become a new person. I have a deeper, stronger relationship with Christ; I've got the best friends anyone could ask for; and I now have my husband who I met at camp. God knows exactly what He's doing, even when it seems like we're in the dark. Trust and obey. His plan is far greater than anything we could ever conjure up in our feeble minds. I thank God for His guidance and for showing me a better way of living. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path," (Psalm 119:105). ■

Alexandra Frey worked at Camp Wakonda the last three summers.





Social Work Be a World Changer



Andrews  University
School of Social Work

Andrews University School of Social Work

- Fully Online MSW Degree
- Evening Classes
- Part-time and Full-time Options
- Trauma-Informed Program with Multiple Focus Areas
- Dual Degrees Available with MDiv, MBA, MPH
- Applications Accepted Year-round