

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

HERALD

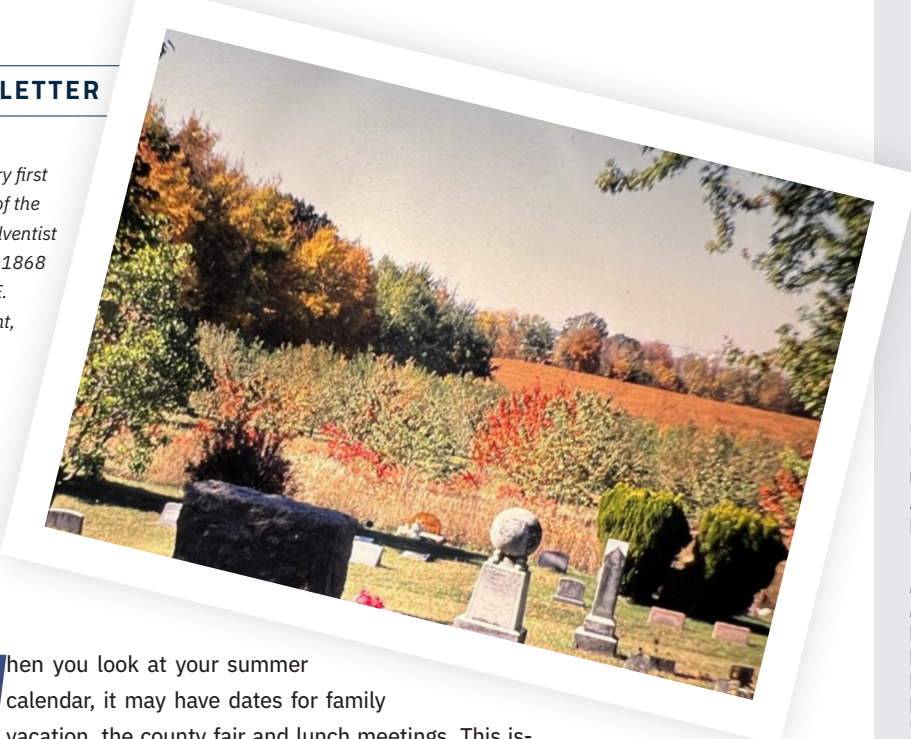
MAY 2024

SUMMER CAMP MEETING

“AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE” WE ARE
“TRUSTING ALL THE WAY” AND “SOWING
SEEDS” FOR GOD’S KINGDOM, SO WE
CAN “RUN THE RACE” WITH OUR GAZE
FIXED TOWARD “THE BLESSED HOPE.”

MICHIGAN | ILLINOIS | LAKE REGION | WISCONSIN | INDIANA

► Site of the very first camp meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, held in 1868 on the farm of E. H. Root in Wright, Michigan.



When you look at your summer calendar, it may have dates for family vacation, the county fair and lunch meetings. This issue of the Herald is produced with the hope you'll consider adding a few more to the list, specifically a camp meeting or two from within the Lake Union territory, and summer camp for your children or grandchildren.

For some of you, this isn't a hard sell. You've come to enjoy the family-style reunions and idyllic settings for young ones to roam relatively free—times perhaps reminiscent of your own carefree childhood.

But for those who have never experienced summer camp or camp meeting, here's a special invitation. You may ask, why should you go to camp meeting? To begin with, there are the powerful preaching and practical seminars. But there's more. This passage published in the "SDA Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists" sums up past experiences and gives further reasoning which still apply today.

"The social and spiritual benefits of camp meeting in Seventh-day Adventist history are incalculable," wrote noted educator A. W. Spalding, in 1949. It provided a "unifying effect" that brought isolated believers together to build up their faith and to encourage collaboration between groups at a time when believers were rather isolated. It also provided a venue to invite still yet others to learn about their faith. Young people could make friendships as "an integrated system of social, recreational, and religious exercises for children, junior youth, and senior youth," providing "activities which are broadly cultural." So, this camp meeting season, come— relax, rekindle your faith, feel revived. Our communication team and others from the Lake Union office are planning to be there and we'd be delighted to meet you!

P.S. We had a little fun piecing together all five themes for our conference camp meetings into this one sentence. Isn't this a powerful goal for all of us to work toward?

"As For Me and My House" we are "Trusting All the Way" and "Sowing Seeds" for God's kingdom, so we can "Run the Race" with our gaze fixed toward "The Blessed Hope."

Debbie



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

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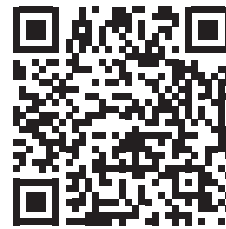
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Come Together

SOME SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS HAVE THE IDEA THAT CAMP MEETINGS ARE UNIQUE TO OUR MOVEMENT. ACTUALLY, NORTH AMERICAN CAMP MEETINGS HAVE THEIR ORIGINS IN THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER AT A TIME WHEN THE POPULATION WAS SPREAD OVER VAST AREAS WITH FEW MINISTERS TO SERVE THE SPARSE POPULATION.

Believers — and the curious — would gather sometimes for weeks on end in portable communities where they would spend hours in Bible study, singing and prayer. These were a key part of the Second Great Awakening both in North America and in Great Britain.

Adventists very early adopted this form of gathering and camp meetings became very much a part of the movement's religious and social fabric. And why not? After all, Scripture says: "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not *forsaking the assembling of ourselves together*, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25; emphasis added)

Some of the excesses and emotionalism that were very much a part of the "camp meeting" experience during the frontier days were set aside by the new Adventist movement. But much of the practice was also carried over into the life of this new denomination.

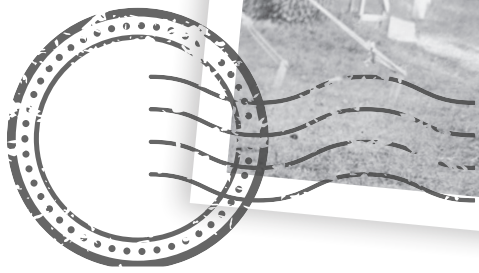
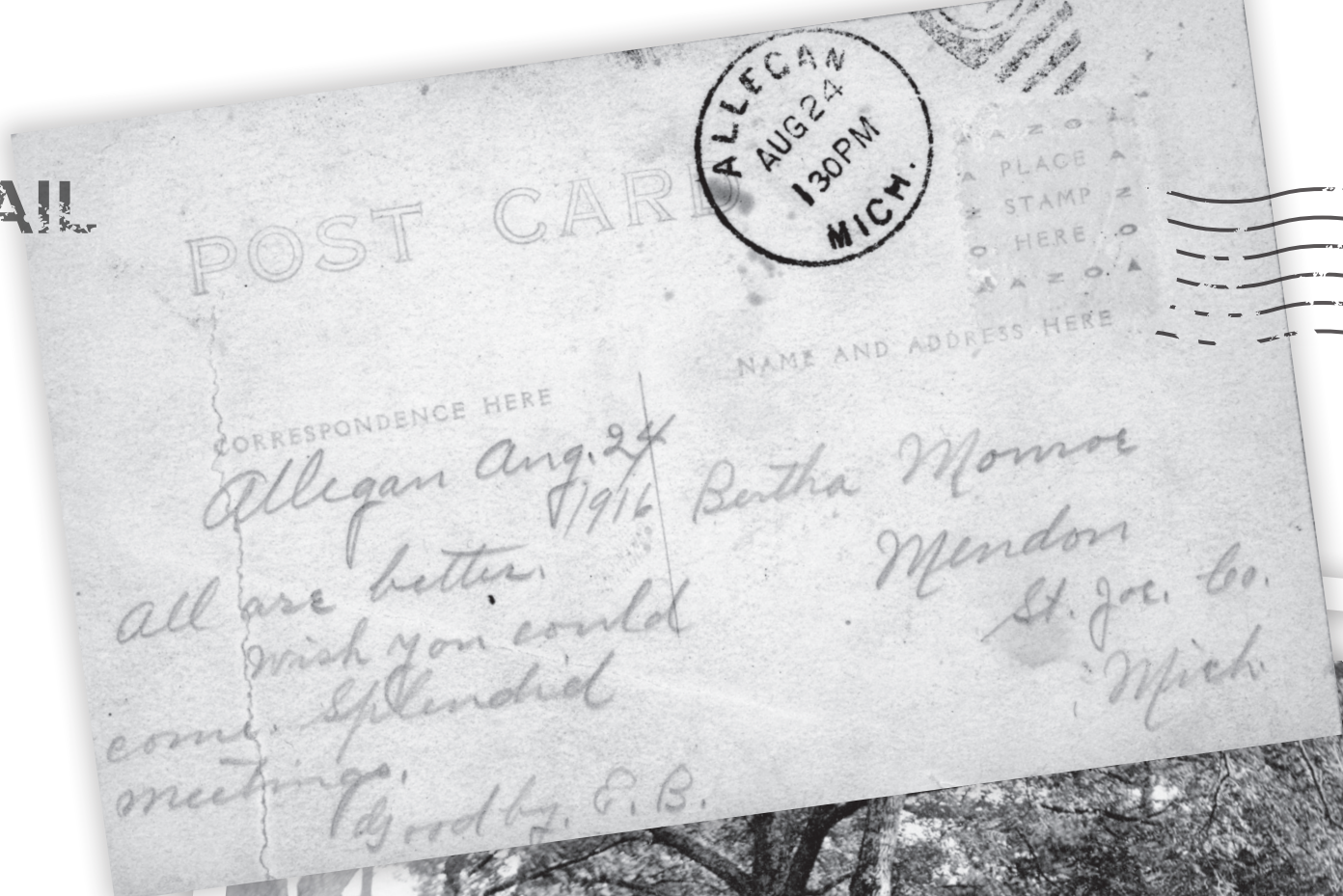
Ellen White wrote quite a bit about camp meetings. In fact, in *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, she devoted over 40 pages to the blessing of camp meetings and how and where to conduct them. In those pages, she covered everything from what to preach to how to drain rainwater from the family tent areas to avoid disease. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 31 – 71)

In that passage one finds mentioned three basic purposes for camp meetings.

- 1. Evangelism.** Clearly, she saw camp meetings having as their primary purpose the spreading of the teaching of the Three Angels' Message. In fact, the entire section is embedded in a chapter entitled "The Evangelistic Work." In pursuit of this main goal of camp meetings, she encouraged the "brethren" to hold smaller gatherings in more places and to move the camp meetings around to "unentered areas" to expose more people to the Truth.
- 2. Revival of the Members.** These gatherings were also to be a time of spiritual refreshment for Adventist attendees. This was an opportunity to set aside busy lives and devote time exclusively to renewing one's walk with Christ.
- 3. Training for Mission.** Throughout the rather short history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, there has been a strong emphasis on the ministry of lay persons. We have, at least in theory, taken a very practical approach to the theology of the priesthood of all believers. Camp meetings, in Ellen White's perspective, were to be a time when church members could be trained to minister in their local context.
- 4. A Time for Prayer.** These gatherings provided an opportunity to gather with fellow believers in earnest prayer. As the disciples gathered in the Upper Room after the Ascension of Jesus, Adventists are called to the work of prayer, understanding that through prayer we too become united and prepared to receive the Holy Spirit. Camp meetings look different today than they



▲ KEN DENSLow



▲ A 1916 Allegan camp meeting postcard. The backside is written to Bertha Davis Monroe. Courtesy Susan Patt.

did when Ellen White wrote these pages. But those four main areas of emphasis mentioned above remain the same. I hope that this summer you will find time to attend one of the dozen camp meetings that will be held throughout the territory of the

Lake Union and be blessed by all that camp meeting has to offer. ■

Ken Denslow is president of the Lake Union Conference.

Navigating Your Teen's Fluctuating Mood



▲ JASMINE FRASER

RECENTLY, I OVERHEARD TWO PARENTS EXPRESSING FRUSTRATIONS WITH THEIR TEENAGERS' UNANNOUNCED MOOD SWINGS AND EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS.

Apparently, these parents couldn't fathom how their cheerful and even-tempered children had morphed into individuals whose moods and emotions seemed to have fluctuating volcanic impact on their relationships.

While there is genuine concern about children's mental-emotional well-being, it is important to note that these characteristics are not unique but are endemic to tweens and teens across the globe. Parenting at any stage comes with different challenges. But for many parents, the tween-teen years can be extremely difficult as they struggle to navigate through their child's webs of tangled emotions that often contribute to the relational instability between them.

Several factors contribute to unstable parent-child relationships during the tween-teen years. These factors are biological, psychological, social, and spiritual and are impacted by hormonal changes, socio-cultural and peer influences, identity search and formation, family dynamics, and stress. Gaps in children's early developmental years, where their needs for love, security, significance, understanding, purpose, and belonging were not adequately met, are also a factor. The tumultuous parent-child relationships during the teen years are also fraught with unaddressed intergenerational trauma transmitted genetically, verbally, and through modeling. In many cases, intergenerational trauma is not visible and is marked by psycho-neurological phenomena that affect the teenager's mental-emotional well-being. Biologically, over or under-production of certain hormones during childhood transition to early adulthood also contributes to teenagers' mood swings and seemingly irrational emotional outbursts.

Yet, despite factors contributing to teenagers' experiences that negatively affect the parent-child relationships, parents can take a proactive approach.

Parents are to be mindful of their responsibility to emulate God. God is keenly attuned to each person, demonstrating compassion and mercy (Psalm 116:1, 2) in every experience. Hence, the admonition to "be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" is a sacred reminder to parents to listen and respond with patience and compassion in difficult moments with their children. Parents emulate God by regulating their emotions, refusing to react, and instead encouraging open communication, inviting children to express feelings and frustrations verbally. It is important for parents to listen attentively to what is said, validate their child's feelings, and offer support. Sometimes parents' support is not readily accepted, but regardless, it must be readily given.

Additionally, parents can encourage teenagers to form and maintain healthy lifestyle habits that contribute to developmental balance (e.g., physical, mental, psychological, social, and spiritual) and well-being. Diet, rest, exercise, service, and connecting with God and others in the family and the community contribute to balance in their overall development and healthier parent-child relationships.

Finally, if mood swings and emotional outbursts persist and interfere with a child's daily functioning, it is important that parents seek godly, professional help. ■

Jasmine Fraser is assistant professor of religious education in the Department of Discipleship & Lifespan Education and director of its Ph.D. program in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.



How to Invest in Healthy Relationships

CRITICISM IS DESTRUCTIVE TO RELATIONSHIPS. MATTHEW 7:1-2 TELLS US THAT WE SHOULD NOT JUDGE UNLESS WE WANT TO BE JUDGED IN THE SAME WAY AND WITH THE SAME HARSHNESS WE JUDGE OTHERS.



▲ BRAD HINMAN

In any relationship, whether it's between partners, parents and children, or work colleagues, unabated criticism will injure the bond that is forming between two or more people. Criticism, in any form in a relationship, is pernicious as it builds over time and results in resentment, distance and indifference in relationships. Soon, the person being consistently criticized begins to shut down verbally, physically, and emotionally to protect themselves from what they begin to perceive as a threat to their sense of self.

Let me be clear, as a licensed marriage and family therapist, I would never suggest that you remain silent when you have something to say to your partner. If your partner has not done what they said they would do, or if they have done something you didn't want them to do, you have every right to say something, set a boundary, and ask for them to do better next time. So, what should you do when you have something to say to your partner that they are not going to like, and will likely interpret as criticism? The solution to criticism being destructive to relationships is not to remain silent: It is to make sure the person you are criticizing knows that you care about them, understand their intent (if you do not know their intent, ask in a non-judgmental way) affirm their value to you, and then criticize them.

I often tell my clients that relationships are like bank accounts. You must make deposits before you can withdraw. Of course, you can make a withdrawal before you make a deposit, but that can cause problems, and may result in the termination of your account (or relationship) if it happens too often.

Deposits to your relationship account may be in the form of quality time spent with this person, words of affirmation, physical touch (holding hands, hugging, etc.) and other things that will result in the relationship growing stronger and elicit positive feelings from your partner. If you do something positive (make a deposit) toward your partner and then give them a gentle, well-thought-out criticism it will be easier when that criticism hits your relationship bank account.

For example, if your partner forgot to take the trash out when you specifically asked them to, and they agreed to, instead of getting mad and yelling at them, you could start with "I know you work hard, and you have a lot on your mind (deposit), but I am confused because I asked you to take the trash out and you said you would, but you didn't (withdrawal)." This allows your partner to explain, and maybe apologize, without getting defensive, rather than trying to ward off a verbal attack. ■

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

Dr. Brad Hinman, LPC, LMFT, AASECT, is a certified sex therapist, director of Hinman Counseling Services, and assistant professor at Andrews University.



Moderation in All Things



▲ DENIS KAISER

A FEW YEARS AGO, AS I WAS READING THROUGH ELLEN G. WHITE’S LETTERS AND MANUSCRIPTS IN THE EARLY 1860S, I OBSERVED THAT SHE FREQUENTLY ADVISED PEOPLE TO “TAX” THEIR ENERGIES BUT ALSO TO AVOID “OVERTAXING” THEM. FURTHER, SHE ADAPTED HER COUNSEL DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

For example, the acclaimed pastor-theologian, J. N. Andrews, was frequently advised by her to avoid overtaxing his brain and to take time for rest and relaxation. She gave the same advice to J. N. Loughborough and Moses Hull, who overtaxed their minds in book study. She also encouraged them to strengthen their relationship with God to receive divine wisdom and guidance for the salvation of souls.¹ On the contrary, others in the *Review and Herald* office were to tax their brains more, thus allowing her husband, James White to tax his brain less and avoid it becoming overcrowded with too many things.² R. F. Cottrell, a well-known minister, disliked manual labor and spent much of his time in indolence and resting. As he had not sufficiently exercised his muscles, he was quickly wearied out. Ellen White advised him to gradually tax his strength, a little more every day, so that he could labor without injury and regain his strength. In contrast to many other ministers, his brain had not been wearied and could tax it more. She encouraged him to engage more in writing and thus convince people of the truth.³

Others were overtaxing their energies and nervous system by too much physical labor, resulting in frequent sickness. Ellen White observed that Hiram Edson had exhausted his physical strength in sacrificing for God’s work, opening him up to questions, doubts, and regret.⁴ She advised her close friends, Ira and Rhoda Abbey, as well as their

children, against too much physical labor that did not leave much time for devotion, prayer, and intellectual improvement.⁵ Similarly, she advised Abram T. Andrews to aid his wife, Mariam L. Andrews, as much as possible in caring for their eight children because they were taxing her patience, wearying her nerves, and making her easily irritable.⁶

After she received her comprehensive health reform vision in June 1863, she became aware of another dimension of the results of overloading ourselves. She noted that when we overtax, overlabor, and weary ourselves much, we may catch a cold and be in danger of contracting more serious diseases. The better our health, the better we can labor for God⁷ In Ellen White’s view, the human body was a wonderful machinery of interconnected parts and overtaxing one part would cause to suffer the entire machinery. ■

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

- 1 Ellen G. White, “For Ministers,” [Summer 1863], Ms 7, 1863.
- 2 Ellen G. White, “Testimony regarding James and Ellen White,” [June 6, 1863], Ms 1, 1863.
- 3 Ellen G. White, “Testimony for the Millgrove [New York] Church,” [Summer 1861], Ms 3, 1861.
- 4 Ellen G. White to the Church in Roosevelt [New York] and Vicinity, Aug 3, 1861, Lt 16, 1861.
- 5 Ellen G. White to Fredrick Wheeler, [Sept. – Nov.] 1861, Lt 20, 1861; Ellen G. White, “Vision for the Abbey Family,” [Nov. 14–22, 1863], Ms 17, 1863.
- 6 Ellen G. White to Friends in Caledonia, Jan. 22, 1861, Lt 22, 1861.
- 7 White, “Testimony regarding James and Ellen White.”



Vale la pena servir

“ENTONCES EL REY DIRÁ A LOS DE SU DERECHA: “VENID, BENDITOS DE MI PADRE, HEREDAD EL REINO PREPARADO PARA VOSOTROS DESDE LA FUNDACIÓN DEL MUNDO, PORQUE TUVE HAMBRE Y ME DISTEIS DE COMER; TUVE SED Y ME DISTEIS DE BEBER; FUI FORASTERO Y ME RECOGISTEIS; ESTUVE DESNUDO Y ME VESTISTEIS; ENFERMO Y ME VISITASTEIS; EN LA CÁRCEL Y FUISTEIS A VERME” (MATEO 25:34-36).



▲ CARMELO MERCADO

En el mes de marzo mi esposa y yo tuvimos el privilegio de servir como voluntarios en una clínica que ofreció servicios dentales, oftalmológicos y médico gratuito por un solo día en la ciudad de Detroit, Michigan. La conferencia de Michigan había hecho un contrato con el ministerio adventista AMÉN para que brindara servicios mayormente dentales en diez de sus iglesias que deseaban ofrecer estos servicios en sus comunidades. Una de las iglesias en Detroit decidió usar los servicios de este ministerio e hizo una invitación a las otras Iglesias Adventistas de la ciudad para que participaran en la organización del evento. Fuimos bendecidos al contar con la participación de las Iglesias de la Conferencia Regional quienes se sumaron a la coordinación del programa. El resultado final fue que más de 200 voluntarios provenientes de treinta iglesias de las dos conferencias participaron y un total de 245 pacientes fueron atendidos.

Ese día pude ver que los pacientes que asistieron se fueron contentos y agradecidos por la atención que recibieron. Es de notar que las personas que asistieron, en su mayoría, un 85%, eran hispanos! Doy gracias a Dios por los pastores y hermanos de las iglesias hispanas en Detroit, por su ayuda al proveer traducción al momento de la registración, también a los dentistas y médicos que estuvieron presentes. Asimismo, agradezco por los voluntarios no hispanos que a pesar de las diferencias de cultura e idioma demostraron un hermoso espíritu de comprensión y compasión en su trato con los pacientes.

En los versículos de Mateo 25 citados al comienzo, nuestro Señor nos indica la importancia de estar atentos para suplir las necesidades de otros. Cristo es muy claro cuando dice que el que ignora las necesidades de los demás no puede entrar en el reino. Conociendo este mandato como algo que es indispensable para el discípulo de Cristo, la Unión del Lago desea apoyar a las iglesias en su ministerio a la comunidad y en la ciudad donde se encuentran. Deseo desafiar a los pastores, ancianos y hermanos de nuestras iglesias a que consideren dentro de sus planes evangelísticos y se pregunten: ¿Cómo puedo servir a mi comunidad en una forma práctica, que supla las necesidades físicas de los demás? No tengo duda alguna que el fruto de esos planes resulte en la salvación de muchos, incluyéndonos a nosotros. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vice presidente de la Unión del Lago.

▼ Actividades misioneras de las iglesias de la ciudad de Detroit



Church Honors Firefighters Who Responded to Tragic Fire

THE BEREAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH HONORED SOUTH BEND FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION TWO WITH A LOCAL HERO AWARD SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024, THANKING THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

The firefighters at Station Two were among the first to respond to the LaPorte Avenue fire that claimed the lives of six children on January 21.

“Amidst our gratitude, our hearts ache for the tragic loss of six precious children,” said Claval Hunter, pastor of the Berean church, also known as the Berean Transformation Center.

“No parent should ever have to endure the pain of losing a child, especially to such a devastating event.”

The award was given in honor of the station’s hardworking crew and their dedication to bettering the surrounding community.

The award ceremony took place inside the station garage, with firefighters noting that it was great to have community members come to them to show their appreciation with a brunch and award plaque.

“It’s always nice to get the community to come into our home; 99% of the time, it’s the other way around. We’re usually entering their home and it’s not for a good reason; somebody’s having a bad day. But in this scenario, we get to welcome them here,” said Battalion Chief Michael Szucs.

The event also gave members a chance to become more educated on the basics of fire safety and what essential needs should be met within a home. “We are committed to taking action,” said Hunter. “We aim to collaborate with first responders, fellow

faith leaders, and organizations to fireproof homes in the city, help educate children in the community about how to avoid home fires and develop an evacuation plan.”

Church leaders and firefighters alike were particularly excited to share safety tips with the children in attendance so they could stay aware of their surroundings.

Berean member and volunteer firefighter David Sedlacek acknowledged the firefighters’ dedication. “Their heart is to serve and to make the community safe. Please appreciate them and say thank you to them,” he said.

In a follow-up interview, Hunter concluded that as Christians, it’s essential for our church to take these kinds of action because “we believe in the value of loving our neighbors as ourselves (see Luke 10:27).” He further stated, “Our faith calls us to actively demonstrate compassion and support for our community, especially in times of tragedy and need. By serving and honoring our first responders and working to prevent future tragedies like the house fire, we’re living out the teachings of Christ and embodying the principle of caring for others as He did (see Matthew 9:35-38; and 25:37-40). It’s not just about what we believe, but how we put those beliefs into action to make a positive impact in the lives of those around us.” ■

Reprinted from ABC57 news site, with Herald staff.



Community Gathers to Pray for Shooting Victims

DOZENS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS GATHERED FOR A NIGHT OF PRAYER FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024, AT A GRAND CROSSING CHURCH FOLLOWING A MASS SHOOTING THAT KILLED TWO PEOPLE ONLY BLOCKS AWAY ON FEB. 26.

Ald. William Hall (6th) and Pastor John Boston led prayers for the community and families of victims of violence during the event at Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church, 7000 S. Michigan Ave.

"We're gathering tonight to calm the ward, people are concerned, people are afraid so we're turning to our faith," Hall said. "Tonight is a night of both faith and action."

The service was dedicated to the families of the two men, both innocent bystanders, shot and killed during an attack Monday afternoon in the 7100 block of South State Street.

Boston who was present when the lifeless body of one of the victims was removed from the scene later said the vigil "represented a radical response to a very violent tragedy. Prayer and worship are incredible opportunities to ignite hope and courage when these types of painful experiences occur in our community."

Simon Willie Brown Sr., 59, and Jon Rucker, 47, were fatally shot. Brown, wounded in the abdomen, died shortly after. Rucker was shot in the head and died Wednesday.

Brown's son, Simon Willie Brown Jr., sat in the front pew during the service. He's grateful for the community's support.

"We've been getting a lot of love," Brown said. "I haven't felt alone since everything happened. ... I've been getting a lot of support from my family and my friends and now the community and the church. I'm just so grateful for everything."

Instead of turning to one another during difficult times, many people isolate themselves when

community support is most important.

"Our goal is for people to leave this moment wanting to stay connected with each other like we used to do," Hall said. "We used to check in on each other but now we see more isolation and when things are isolated and people are not communicating and caring it leaves room for crime and mayhem."

Brown's niece, Aisha Miles, says she's shocked at the community support since her uncle's passing.

"People have been really showing up," Miles said. "My uncle was a dynamite man, and I can see him all around in all of this."

Claudette Guthrie, 64, who lives in Chatham, attended the service to show support for the families of the shooting victims.

"The murders, the crime, it needs to be brought down and the only way we can do that is by doing this, by bringing our support," Guthrie said. "We need to bring the South Side together."

Shiloh opened its doors to the families to host the funerals. The Brown family accepted the offer and Shiloh members provided the repast meal for 200 people. "This is church to me," said Pastor Boston. "We are not called to gather; we are called to GO. I'm grateful to be a part of a faith community that is working to fight violence and hopelessness with prayer, service and the promises found in knowing Jesus and making Him known." ■

Republished with permission from the March 2, 2024 Chicago Sun-Times.



Church Tackles Hunger With Food Distribution

A WEST MICHIGAN CHURCH IS HELPING THOSE IN NEED BY DISTRIBUTING SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD BOXES TO THE COMMUNITY.

Rain or shine, members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Centerville hand out these food boxes the second Tuesday of every month.

The Southwest Michigan Food Bank provides the food boxes, while the church distributes them to community members in need.

“Times are getting a little tough, well, more than a little tough for some people,” said David Hess, who is an elder at the church. “The price of everything has gone up, and sometimes your money just doesn’t stretch from month to month. We’re just helping out in the interim to make sure they got food for their children, for themselves. It’s a wonderful thing that we’re able to do.”

Hess added that the church has been doing this for about four years, and the leftovers from each event are donated to the homeless and domestic assault shelters in the area.

How it started: When Liz Roberts joined the Adventist church 22 years ago, she fell in love with the outreach aspect of Pathfinders and became involved. Right before Thanksgiving, members would pass out paper bags in the community asking for donations of non-perishable items and the items picked up the next weekend.

But as time went on, she wanted the church to do even more for the community. “I’d come up with some other ideas and offer them up to the board and we never really settled on anything,” Roberts recalled.

After years of prayers, they finally started the fresh food distribution partnership with the Southwest Michigan food bank. Church members would refer families in need and then they began getting referrals from the Michigan Department of Human and Health Services.

How It Works: Volunteers help bag bulk items and put evangelistic GLOW tracts in each box. When the cars pull in, two adult volunteers walk around to each car, get contact information and how many people live in their household. There’s also one youth or a Pathfinder or an Adventurer who goes out with the adults and marks on the car windshield with a chalk crayon how many boxes are going to be picked up. They distribute 175 boxes of food each month.

Roberts, who serves as the church’s community services director, said the food distribution has increased the church’s visibility. “For years when someone asked me where do you go to church, I would say, ‘Oh, I go to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Centerville. They would look at me like, ‘Where’s that? What kind of church is that?’ Now when somebody asks, they’re like, ‘Oh, where the fresh food distribution site is?’

“It’s just a great opportunity for us to be able to share our love for our community just like Jesus shared his love for his community when he was here on earth going from city to city preaching, feeding and healing. The outpouring of support from our community and the non-Adventist people who attend the fresh food distribution has been amazing.” ■

Republished from WWMT News, with Herald staff



A Friend In Deed

AFTER RETIRING FROM GTE/VERIZON, RICH KRAJNIAK AND HIS WIFE JAN RETURNED TO THEIR HOMETOWN OF ALPENA, MICHIGAN.

But it didn't take them long to get busy. For about 40 years, Rich served in personal ministry at his church and reached the conclusion that as Christians, we not only need to be active in our church but in our community as well.

Not quite sure exactly what to do, he started checking volunteer opportunities in Alpena. One day, something caught his eye in The Alpena News. It was an opportunity to drive cancer patients from their homes to treatment.

A support group for local cancer patients was started in Alpena by Judy Burns 27 years ago; Judy's daughter had been diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer. Feeling very scared and alone, Judy turned to the community for support and found none. She then turned to state health boards and found no help there. She promised her daughter Dawn, who did pass away, that no one in Alpena would ever again have to deal with cancer alone. Along with some others, Judy formed Friends Together.

Rich started to drive for Friends Together approximately 10 years ago, transporting cancer patients from their homes to the MyMichigan Cancer Center. This task provided Rich an opportunity to encourage and even to befriend some of those individuals. After several years of driving, he gained a deep appreciation of how sensitive and unpredictable life is and how suddenly it can change. In December 2023, Rich himself was diagnosed with prostate cancer. The uncertainty of going through testing, consultations to identify the certain type of cancer, and discussing treatment options, can be overwhelming.

Friends Together provides transportation and support groups to those dealing with cancer. One of the support groups, called Men Like Us, gets together once a week to encourage and support one

another. Rich is planning on being in that group himself for support and hoping to be in a position where he might be supportive to others.

Friends Together relies on fundraising efforts and donations to support their work. To recognize and appreciate the support they get in the community, they place a logo of the individual support group on the back of their vans and their banner billboard for at least a month.

Rich is proud to be part of a volunteer group helping people when life is difficult and uncertain. He recognizes that Friends Together is identified as a support group but he sees it as a ministry and an answer to what Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

The Alpena Seventh-day Adventist Church is pleased to financially and physically support an outreach group that serves the community in a time of need. ■

Jan Krajniak is a member of the Alpena Church.



Jan and Rich Krajniak ►

ILLINOIS CAMP MEETING

TRUSTING ALL THE WAY

*We are
Stronger
Together*

Wherever we may be on the journey with Jesus, as with any relationship, trust remains the bedrock for that pilgrimage. Come and explore with us how trust shapes the journey even as we face such uncertain times. Throughout Scriptures so often there is much reference to faith. The Hall of Faith chapter in the book of Hebrews remains a constant. We will look at a few of those characters to learn about how their journey with God inspires us in our journey with Him who is the same today, yesterday and tomorrow.

As those who attend these yearly gatherings know, this is a time to be reminded of what matters most and to come together for encouragement, fellowship, and to discover more about how our lives can grow with the “grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). This yearly gathering designed for the whole family serves as a rich source of refreshment. It is a time to get away from the routines of life to dig deep into His word. The seminars are

designed for us to consider those things we cannot see... which is why trust remains so central to the journey.

Finally, by reflecting upon some of the lives in that chapter, we are reminded that they did not have it all together. At times, they did not demonstrate high degrees of trust and reliance upon God. And yet, the trajectory of their lives is remembered by Paul as people of faith. So, if you don't have your life all altogether, come. If you have forgotten the deeper levels of trust in Jesus, come. If your trust in the midst of life's challenges seems weaker lately, come. If that which surrounds you clouds the One who is near you, come.

How do we want to be remembered? What legacy do we want to leave behind? Can we even dream of being in that hall with those who have gone before?

Come...let us worship together! ■

John Gry is Illinois Conference president.

SPEAKERS



▲ John Gry



▲ Jaime Jorge



▲ Nestor Soriano



▲ Andrew Tompkins



**CAMP MEETING
JULY 17-20, 2024**

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



INDIANA CAMP MEETING

THE BLESSED HOPE

*We are
Stronger
Together*

The programming for this year's Indiana Camp Meeting on the campus of Indiana Academy is designed to encourage you as we await His return. Beginning with the opening service on Monday evening, June 3, presentations will highlight prayer, personal stewardship, outreach training, family life, healthful living, and specific messages about the second coming of Jesus.

Our prayer is that you will be encouraged in your personal walk with Jesus as we prepare to meet Him, who is indeed our Blessed Hope.

Children's programming, designed for toddlers through teens, will provide enriching Bible presentations and plenty of recreation and fellowship. Additionally, family-fun activities will be scheduled for each day.

On Sabbath, June 1, our Hispanic single-day camp meeting called Día de la Hermandad (Fraternity Day) will take place in the Indiana Academy gymnasium. Our second annual one-day Haitian gathering will again be held at the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sabbath, June 8. This year will also include meetings for young adults on Friday evening, June 7, and Sabbath morning, June 8. Another feature for the weekend of June 7 and 8 will be inspiring music provided by the King's Heralds.

We look forward to sharing this special week with you and your family. Why not invite friends and fellow church members to join you for this special gathering? ■

Vic Van Schaik is the president of Indiana Conference.

SPEAKERS



▲ Alex Rodriguez



▲ Shawn Bostra



▲ Carlton Byrd



▲ César and Carolann De León



▲ David DeRose



▲ Janet Salazar



▲ The King's Heralds



▲ Rosa Stacey



▲ Rudy Salazar



▲ Vic Van Schaik



CAMP MEETING JUNE 3-8, 2024

Indiana Academy,
24815 State Rte 19,
Cicero, IN 46034
317-844-6201





LAKE REGION CONFERENCE
CAMP MEETING

SOWING SEEDS

Righteousness,
Faith &
Mercy

Lake Region Conference will embark upon a 10-day encampment, beginning Friday, June 21 through Saturday, June 29. We are looking forward to inspiring worship programs, uplifting concerts and wonderful fellowship on the historic grounds of Camp Wagner in Cassopolis, Michigan. The theme for this year is “Sowing Seeds,” which is drawn from Hosea 10:12, “Sow to yourself in righteousness, reap in mercy, and break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.”

Whether attendees are staying for just a few days or for the entire 10 days, we look forward to having programs and events for all ages that will sow seeds into their spiritual lives for now and eternity.

Sabbath, June 22 Speaker

Michelle Hill pastors the Pembroke and Midland Heights Seventh-day Adventist churches and is the prayer and women’s ministries director of the Bermuda Conference. Pastor Hill is a member of the North American women’s ministry advisory, the Atlantic Union women’s ministry advisory committee, and, until 2021, a member of the North American Division pastoral advisory committee. Michelle Hill is married to Dwayne Hill, who serves alongside her as an elder.

Friday, June 27 Ordination Speaker

A native of Liberia, T. Ron Weegar is senior pastor of the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Pastor Weegar began his ministry in the South

SPEAKERS



▲ Michelle Hill



▲ Ron Weegar



▲ Henry Wright

Central Conference where he pastored in the Eastern Tennessee and Mississippi Gulf Coast areas. Evangelism and soul winning are the life blood of his ministry. His testimony after losing his sight due to glaucoma is “I may have lost my sight, but I have not lost my vision.

Sabbath, June 28 Speaker

Henry Wright has served as a minister, professor, church administrator, family counselor, and radio and TV host. During Pastor Wright’s almost 54 years of ministry, he has received more than 50 awards and recognition for pastoral leadership, preaching, and evangelism. Since 1995 he has been an adjunct professor in homiletics at Washington Adventist University. Administratively, he has served as president of Allegheny West Conference, as executive secretary of the Columbia Union Conference, and as director of education for Home Health Inc. ■

Garth Gabriel is president of the Lake Region Conference.



**CAMP MEETING
JUNE 21-29, 2024**

**HISPANIC CAMP MEETING
SEPT. 1 - 4, 2024**

Camp Wagner, 19088 Brownsville St.,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
president@lrcsda.com
www.lrcsda.com



AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE

*We are
Stronger
Together*

In Joshua 24, the passage describes a pivotal moment when Joshua gathers all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, reminding them of their history and how God has guided and provided for Israel in the past and present. In verse 15, Joshua concludes his appeal by urging the Israelites to choose faithfulness to God, while also declaring where his and his family's loyalties lie, stating, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Our conference president, Jim Micheff, will open camp meeting with his message Friday evening. Our main speaker for the first Sabbath through Sunday night will be John Wesley Taylor V, president of Andrews University. Each morning of camp meeting will begin with an early morning worship by Steve Wohlberg, the speaker and director for White Horse Media.

Our speaker for the mid-morning meeting will be Dwain Esmond, associate director of the Ellen G. White Estate. Eric Walsh, a physician and health care administrator, will

be the main speaker on Monday and Tuesday evening. Mark Finley will be the evening speaker from Wednesday evening through Sabbath evening to close out camp meeting.

Our prayer and desire are that camp meeting will be a spiritual blessing to each one. As we devote a few days to seek the Lord together, may the hearts of old and young be encouraged and strengthened in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Our Hispanic Camp Meeting will take place at Camp Au Sable May 24-26 and our Upper Peninsula Camp Meeting will take place at Camp Sagola Sept. 6-8.

Please visit the Michigan Conference website for more information: www.misda.org. ■

Justin Ringstaff is executive secretary for the Michigan Conference.



SPEAKERS



▲ Dwain Esmond



▲ Mark Finley



▲ Jim Micheff



▲ Eric Walsh



▲ John Wesley Taylor V



▲ Steve Wohlberg



CAMP MEETING JUNE 14-22

Great Lakes Adventist Academy,
7477 Academy Rd.,
Cedar Lake, MI 48813

campmeeting@misda.org
517-316-1512



WISCONSIN CAMP MEETING

RUN THE RACE!

*We are
Stronger
Together*

For many years, Wisconsin Camp Meeting has been an excellent opportunity for fellowship, worship, and discipleship at beautiful Camp Wakonda.

The Bible frequently uses athletic metaphors to illustrate the Christian journey, inspiring generations of believers to follow a disciplined, self-controlled, and persevering path to achieve spiritual goals bestowed by God.

That's why this year's theme "Run the Race!" is meant to encourage us to run our race by following the heroes of faith, as stated in Hebrews 12:1-2:

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Our camp meeting will feature sermons from Elden Ramirez, who is currently serving as the executive secretary of Lake Union; Titus Naftanaila, president of the Wisconsin

Conference; Richie Halversen, director of Church Growth & Revitalization in the Southern Union; and Shawn Boonstra, speaker/director for the Voice of Prophecy. Each speaker will share their perspective on the spiritual journey, either walking with God or running the Christian race.

During mid-week, there will be several speakers, including Craig Carr, Mid-America ministerial director; César and Carolann De León, Family Ministries directors of the North American Division; Amanda Anguish, licensed marriage and family therapist; and Jennifer Gray Woods, legal counsel and director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty at the Lake Union.

A range of events, including a concert by Annette Campbell, a baptism and ordination ceremony, our annual 5k Run/Walk (Hallelujah Hustle), as well as other training events and seminars, will also take place during Wisconsin camp meeting 2024. We look forward to seeing you there! ■

Titus Naftanaila is president of Wisconsin Conference.

SPEAKERS



▲ Craig Carr



▲ Shawn Bootra



▲ César and Carolann De León



▲ Richie Halversen



▲ Titus Naftanaila



▲ Elden Ramirez



▲ Jennifer Woods

CAMP MEETING JUNE 14-22, 2024

Camp Wakonda, W8368 County Rd. E,
Oxford, WI 53952
Camp: 608-296-2126
Conference: 920-484-6555





Summer Experiences

AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

This summer, Andrews University presents two summer programs that provide opportunities for participants to grow academically, spiritually and socially.



**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY
SUMMER CAMP/THE CRAYON BOX
CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER**

JUNE 10—AUG. 9, 2024

Andrews University, 8975 M-139, Berrien Springs, MI 49104
<https://www.andrews.edu/services/crayonbox/summercamp/crayonbox@andrews.edu>

269-471-3350

**EXPLORE ANDREWS:
EARLY COLLEGE
EXPERIENCE**

JULY 28—AUG. 16

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

<https://www.andrews.edu/exploreandrews/earlycollege/>
explore@andrews.edu
269-471-3382

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SUMMER CAMP/THE CRAYON BOX CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER

Andrews University Summer Camp and The Crayon Box are offering an educational day camp experience for children entering grades one to seven. The program will be held on the Andrews University campus, where children will be divided into two locations based on their grade. Each day will include team-building activities, worship and a camp council, where children will be encouraged to take ownership over the day's educational activities.

Every week will include a new theme for campers to explore. "A camp favorite is our Michigan Tasting, where we taste Michigan-made foods including grape juice from a local vineyard, corn flakes, locally grown blueberries and Eggo waffles," says Kristy Conklin, camp director. Each week will also include a special spotlight event, such as visiting an alligator sanctuary, learning from the local fire department or hosting an art show/cafe. The camp will be held from 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, with before-camp and after-camp care available.

EXPLORE ANDREWS: EARLY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

The Andrews University Early College Experience is an in-person summer program for rising high school juniors and seniors as well as incoming freshmen. The initiative is part of the Explore Andrews program, designed to help students find a desired academic plan and career and life goals through intentional support and personal advising.

"Come join us for three weeks of learning and fun on the campus of Andrews University. Each student will take one 3-credit hour college course in addition to participating in seminars, activities and local travel," says Aaron Moushon, assistant dean for Undergraduate Education and Explore Andrews Program director. "Students can choose from one of the following general education courses: College Writing, World Civilizations, Communication Skills and Scripture."

Applications are open now. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2024. More information can be found on the Explore Andrews website. ■





ILLINOIS SUMMER CAMP

Camp Akita



SUMMER CAMP DATES

Cub Camp: June 16-23

Junior Camp: June 16-23

Tween Camp: June 23-30

Teen + Specialty Camp: June 30-July 7

Family Camp: July 7-14

CAMP AKITA

1684 Knox Rd. 1200 N,
Gilson, IL 61436

www.campakita.com

youthdept@ilcsda.org

309-876-2060

SACRED SPACE

Each time I make that left turn onto our camp property and pass the welcome sign that bears our name, I am immediately reminded that I am entering holy ground. It's not because of the activities we offer, or the beautiful buildings that litter the campus, but wholly because of the presence of the Holy Spirit moving in the lives of everyone who finds themselves here. Akita has been and will continue to be a beloved space for our campers, but it has also been a transformative haven for the passionate and dedicated staff that serve our kids. Each summer, young adults from diverse backgrounds converge at Camp Akita, drawn by a shared commitment to create a space where lifelong bonds can be formed and encounters with Jesus can be experienced--and the impact has been profound.

For the staff, their summer camp journey is often more than just a summer job; it becomes a catalyst for their personal and spiritual development. Through service, they can cultivate resilience, empathy, and leadership skills while forging lasting friendships. Camp Akita has become a sacred space where their hearts are molded, their spirits are lifted, and their lives are forever impacted by the wonder-working power of Jesus.

Now, I could tell you more, but you should hear it from them. Our former programming director, Devaney Ross, shares below how camp has impacted her:

“At Camp Akita, I feel like it is almost impossible to leave without friendships and memories that last a lifetime. In my five years of working at Camp Akita, one impactful memory that comes to mind took place the first year I worked at Akita. It was the Friday night of Teen Week, which has remained my favorite part of the week. When I heard the true and genuine worship coming from those teens, it was such a beautiful sight to see it moved me to tears. Just to see how much God had moved throughout the week, to be with those kids from Sunday when they arrived and to see how much they love to worship God was honestly so incredible. Coming into this experience, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I wasn't from the area and had only been to a summer camp once (and honestly, didn't love it), so I didn't know what to expect out of this summer. But God surprised me in so many ways, he placed people in my life that have become family, and I was able to grow and learn so much from that experience; but hearing those kids sing was so much more than just an experience, it reintroduced me to what true worship felt like. And I will never forget that feeling. Working at camp is so fulfilling in so many ways, but two things that always kept me coming back to Camp Akita was the family that I gained, and the God encounters that I experienced.” ■

Stacey DePluzer is the associate youth director for the Illinois Conference.

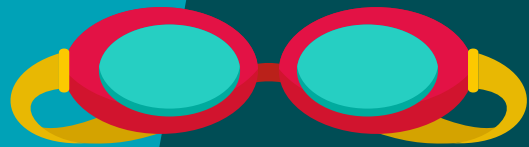
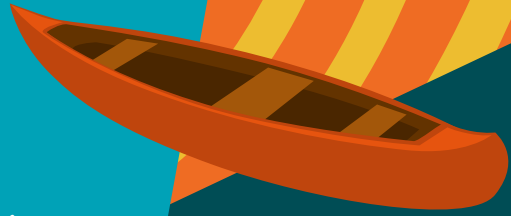




INDIANA SUMMER CAMP

Timber Ridge Camp

Two are better than one...
If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 NIV).



SUMMER CAMP DATES

- Camp Staff Pre-week: June 6-11
- Single Moms & Kids: June 12-16
- Camp for the Blind: June 16-23
- Cub Camp (ages 7-10): June 23-30
- Junior Camp (ages 10-13): June 30-July 7
- Tween Camp (ages 13-15): July 7-14
- Teen Camp (ages 15-17): July 14-21
- Family Camp (all ages): July 21-28

TIMBER RIDGE CAMP

1674 Timber Ridge Rd.,
Spencer, IN 47460
trcampermail@gmail.com
812-829-2507

SEVENTEEN YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

We met in fourth grade. Back then, navigating through public school proved to be a challenge for both of us. Genuine friendships seemed difficult to come by. Despite that, when we met, we both hit it off right away and became fast friends. Spending hours at each other's houses, we started doing everything together. Eventually, Darling extended an invitation for me to join her and her family at church. To be honest, I was nervous at first. Up until then I had only ever experienced Catholic services so the idea of stepping into an Adventist church felt like a leap. Nevertheless, our church attendance ended up being more of a way for us to have fun than truly grow spiritually. Although Darling had grown up Adventist, I knew little about the core beliefs of the church.

As we started to get more involved in church activities, we found the opportunity to go to Timber Ridge Camp. We went there for three summers and let me tell you, it was one of the best experiences and greatest blessings. Amidst the beauty of nature, we discovered newfound courage to explore, try new activities, and form friendships. The camp staff, including Pastor Charlie, Ray, guest speaker Pastor Steve, and more, helped foster an environment where we could grow, leaving a positive impact on us as campers. At the end of our second summer at Timber Ridge Camp, after a week of drawing closer to God, we enjoyed a night out under the stars as Pastor Charlie delivered a powerful message and made a call for people to come forward. After encouraging one another, we decided to step up and walk to the front together filled with determination and faith.

Little did we know that moment of resolve would be captured in a photograph, serving as a reminder of our decision that night. Fast forward some time and we ended up going to Indiana Academy where we found the tools to grow more spiritually (a heartfelt thank you to our Bible teacher, Mr. Reichert). Later, we found a home in the Carmel church, which remains one of the most supportive and uplifting church families we've known.

Then, at the age of 15, I made the life-changing decision to get baptized by Pastor Alex Rodriguez. It was that moment when I became the first Adventist in my family. I then shared our Advent message with my family. Now, at the age of 24, my mom is getting baptized. Who would have thought that a simple friendship could lead to such profound personal transformations, not only in my life but in Darling's life as well? From Timber Ridge Camp to Indiana Academy to Carmel, God has continued to lead us together and individually. After 17 years of friendship, we are still working every day to stay on the path God has set out for us. ■

Amaris Corona Torres is a member of the Carmel Church.

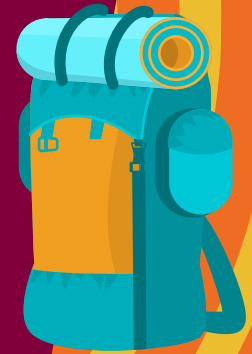


▲ Amaris and Darling with Pastor Charlie in 2014.



MICHIGAN SUMMER CAMP

Camps Au Sable & Sagola



CAMP AU SABLE

2590 Camp Au Sable Drive
Grayling, MI 49738

www.campausable.org

jgrove@misda.org

989-348-5491

CAMP AU SABLE DATES

Adventure Camp (ages 8-10): June 11-16 (starts on a Tuesday)

Junior Camp (ages 10-13): June 16-23

Tween Camp (ages 12-14): June 23-30

Teen Camp (ages 14-17): June 30-July 7

Family Camp I: July 7-14

Family Camp II: July 14-21

Family Camp III: July 21-28



SEEING AND BELIEVING

Like many camp staff, one of my prayers throughout this summer was to see God at work. I believe that the mission of summer camp is to plant seeds in the heart and not necessarily to see immediate results. However, throughout the summer, my prayer was answered again and again. As a counselor, I especially prayed that this request would be answered in the context of the girls staying in my cabin. And again, God answered that prayer.

From the moment I first mentioned evening worship on Sunday afternoon, one of my girls made it clear to me that she was completely uninterested. That evening as we gathered for line-call she continued to push back. Throughout the week her attitude did not improve. She loved camp-- in fact, she was staying two weeks-- but each morning and evening she always had a reason not to go to worship.

Friday morning, we struggled as usual, however as the camp pastor wrapped up his worship that morning he finished with an appeal. As he opened an invitation to come to the front, to my surprise, she was the first to jump up! As she began to hurry forward, she suddenly rushed back and began to anxiously tell me how she did not own a Bible.

That evening as we got ready for bed, I took her aside and gave her a Bible of her own. As I watched her jump up and down hugging her Bible asking again and again if it was really hers, I knew that God had given me an opportunity to see Him at work.

The following week, although she was staying in a different cabin, she would find me every morning and excitedly tell me all about the story she had read in her Bible that morning! Through so many answered prayers, God uses Camp Au Sable to change lives for eternity. ■

Sylvia Fiess is a student at Southern Adventist University where she is a psychology major.

CAMP SAGOLA

DATES

Junior Camp (ages 8-12):
July 14-21

Teen Camp (ages 13-17):
July 21-28

CAMP SAGOLA

2885 State Hwy. M-69
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

campsagola@gmail.com
313-333-6129 (call or text)



WISCONSIN SUMMER CAMP

Camp Wakonda

FIRST AID



CAMP WAKONDA DATES

Cub Camp (ages 7-9): June 23-28

Blind Camp (all ages): June 23-28

Tween Camp (ages 10-12): June 30-July 5

Teen Camp (ages 13-16): July 7-12

Family Camp (all ages): July 14-21

Hispanic Family Camp (all ages): July 21-28

CAMP WAKONDA

W8368 County Hwy E,
Oxford, WI 53952

wakonda.org/camp

920-609-0483

JUST BREATHE, AND LET GOD

Camp Wakonda has always been my home away from home--you could almost say that I was born there. I have spent countless summers coming to camp and having the best time of my life (even though the weeks would go by too fast, and before I knew it, it was time to leave). Camp always was about getting closer to God, and I even got baptized here! Camp was a place I could open up and be myself and I made so many memories here. Now this year was different but in a good way.

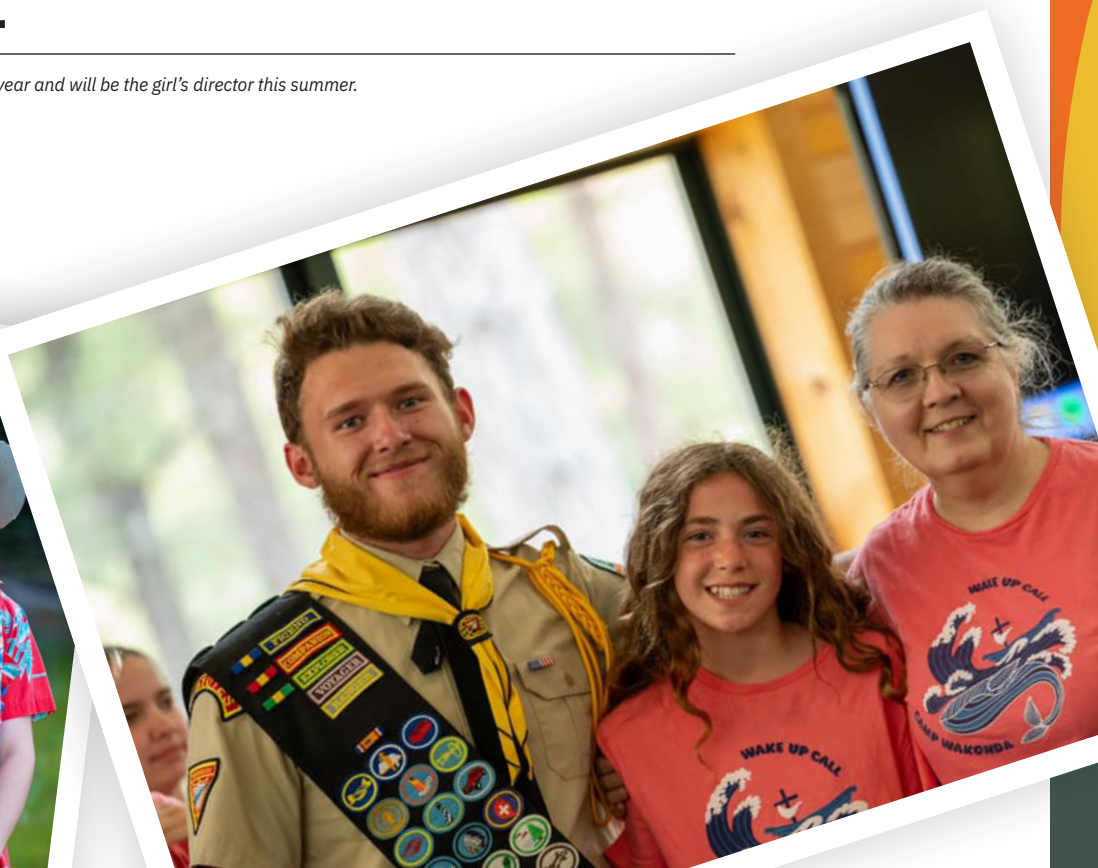
I started my first year working at Camp Wakonda and it was an eye opener. I didn't know what to expect, since I had never been a counselor before, and I wasn't sure if I was going to be good enough. Fast forward to the second week of camp and I figured out quickly that I would be needing God's guidance. When my girls arrived for the week, I knew my patience was going to be tested and I needed to be ready. Throughout the week I thought I wasn't good enough and I asked God for His help. At times it still felt hopeless. One of the last nights we had a call for baptism and half of my cabin wrote that they wanted to get baptized, and the others wanted to learn more about Jesus.

I was in shock. My cabin at the beginning of the week seemed to hardly have a spiritual thought, and now baptism! It was an amazing turn of events that had taken place. Even though I was struggling and discouraged, I still made an impact that changed these girls' lives, and it never would have happened if I didn't have God's guidance. Camp is such a special place and so many wonderful and amazing experiences happen here. As a counselor, I learned so much more about how God is there for me even when times are rough. He helps you in your battles and gives you the strength and wisdom to handle hard situations.

My time at camp also forced me to really reflect and move past all my worries about how I'm going to move forward with my life. Before camp started, I had no clue what path I needed to be on--which sparked fear in me. However, after camp, my eyes were opened to new possibilities after I let go of those worries and left it in God's hands. So, an encouragement I would relay to anyone reading this is to lean on God even when you think you have it all figured out. Because God has his own path for you, and it's been set for a while.

So just breathe and let God. ■

Hannah Bergeon was a counselor last year and will be the girl's director this summer.



Nursing Offers Multiple Paths for Achieving Sense of Purpose

AILEEN FAJARDO COMES FROM A FAMILY OF NURSES. GROWING UP, HER MOTHER AND THREE AUNTS WORKED AS NURSES. WHEN SHE ENROLLED IN PREREQUISITE NURSING COURSES DURING COLLEGE AND VOLUNTEERED AT A HOSPITAL SYSTEM WHERE HER MOTHER WORKED, FAJARDO BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND THE SENSE OF PURPOSE THAT A NURSING CAREER CAN PROVIDE.

Now, after 12 years as a nurse, Fajardo can't see herself doing anything else.

Fajardo feels a strong sense of purpose in her current role as assistant nurse manager in the medical-surgical unit at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth LaGrange. Her job, which she called "the in-between," involves managing five staff nurses and two or three patient-care technicians in the 24-bed unit, while caring directly for patients whenever necessary. "If we're really busy, I jump in, care for them and interact with them, which I've always enjoyed," she said.

Fajardo's role has also allowed her to become involved in policymaking at the hospital. She serves as co-chair of the hospital's Professional Nursing Practice Committee and championed a nurse well-being initiative launched in 2023 to combat burnout and reverse attrition caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. "I feel like I can make a bigger difference for my staff and our nurses overall while not being too far from the bedside," Fajardo said.

The well-being initiative seeks to create a better environment by identifying and addressing stressors that negatively affect nurses' well-being. Last summer, medical-surgical nurses completed an online survey focused on six well-being categories: quality of life, meaning in work, work/life

integration, likelihood of burnout, severe fatigue and risk of suicidal thoughts.

The results have enabled Fajardo and other nursing leaders to pinpoint workflow issues that cause nursing stress. To resolve these issues, they collaborate with leaders of hospital departments whose workflows intersect with nursing. Already, they have started to see some improvements.

Additionally, nurses are provided resources for help with specific issues after completing the survey and receive both overall and category-by-category well-being scores. They can retake the survey every month or every few months, track their scores and compare them against averages.

Fajardo, who is married and has two young children, shares how her own well-being scores were eye-opening. "I didn't realize how bad my work-life balance was," she said. But with the support of her managers, she has taken steps to improve her overall well-being.

Fajardo was heartened to see other nurses and leaders doing the same. "It has been nice to see that people actually have been using the information they've received to do something about it – and that the whole organization is backing us up on this, too." ■

Julie Busch, associate vice president, marketing and communications at AdventHealth in Great Lakes Region



UChicago Medicine AdventHealth

▲ Aileen Fajardo, MSN, RN, championed a nurse well-being initiative at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth La Grange.

“I feel like I can make a bigger difference for my staff and our nurses overall while not being too far from the bedside.”



School of Architecture & Interior Design Introduces New Offerings



World Changers Made Here.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN (SAID) IS CREATING VITAL NEW PATHS FOR CREATIVE STUDENTS WITH A NEW ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE COMING FOR THE 2024–2025 ACADEMIC YEAR, ALONG WITH THE ADDITION OF AN INTERIOR DESIGN MINOR TO COMPLEMENT THE BACHELOR OF INTERIOR DESIGN (BID).

“I’m excited by this expansion to our interior design program,” says Jessica Perry, assistant professor of interior design. “In harmony with the architecture curriculum, we are dedicated to promoting the ways in which interior design can contribute to whole human health. We teach how to be good stewards of the environment through design decisions. We encourage students to create spaces that promote wellness.”

At the heart of the program is the four-year BID, a degree that features comprehensive training, including:

- Curating interior spaces people love by enriching the way people live within them
- Encouraging a person’s wellbeing and health via uplifting and enlivening design solutions
- Utilizing sustainable practices for the sourcing of materials and the methods of installing them
- Effectively incorporating design principles and theories in design solutions
- Dynamically communicating design via verbal, written and visual means
- Completing real-world design work via hands-on experiences in SAID’s state-of-the-art workshop
- Mastering technical skills including hand drafting, computer-aided drafting, building information modeling (BIM) and digital representation and rendering

The new two-year associate degree is a lightened version of the BID program that provides students with a foundation to launch a career in the interior design field. With a focus on the technical skills sought by employers, associate degree students will be prepared to seek entry-level jobs upon graduation. Because the new associate degree is aligned with the existing BID program, associate degree students can also continue in the BID degree track upon graduation.

“Non-traditional degree-seeking students may find the new certificate program an attractive alternative to further their education,” Perry says. “This program consists of just four

classes and could be completed in as little as two semesters. Certificate students could seek employment in fields relating to interior design upon completion of the program.”

Andrews University’s architecture program was the first, and remains the only, English-language bachelor’s and master’s degree-granting program in Adventist higher education. It is also one of only a few faith-based universities in the nation to hold National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB) accreditation. The program is ranked #4 in Michigan, #23 in the Midwest and in the top 25% nationally by Architecture-Colleges.com.

The School of Architecture & Interior Design remains deeply committed to its mission to promote stewardship, rigorous scholarship and creative problem-solving, all for the glory of God.

Interested students may visit the interior design program’s website (<https://www.andrews.edu/said/interior-design>) or contact Rachel Rechichar, recruiter for the School of Architecture & Interior Design, at rechichar@andrews.edu for additional information. ■

Andrews University Office of University Communication



▲ The School of Architecture and Interior Design at Andrews University.



All photos by JeNeane Lendorf

▲ Pontiac Southside Elder Betty Yancey, Lake Region Health Ministries Director Christina Wells and Michigan Conference Assistant Literature Director Seth Roberts were part of the literature, medical and counseling teams

Two Conferences Team Up to Provide Medical and Dental Care in Detroit

ONE GENTLEMAN EXPRESSED HIS JOY THROUGH AN INTERPRETER AS HE WAS NO LONGER EXPERIENCING EXCRUCIATING TOOTH PAIN. ANOTHER PATIENT ACCOMPANYING HIS SON FOR DENTAL CARE DECIDED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MEDICAL SCREENING AND DISCOVERED HIS BLOOD PRESSURE WAS DANGEROUSLY HIGH.

These are two of the hundreds of stories emerging from the joint Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN), Lake Region and Michigan conferences free medical and dental clinic held at the Johnson Recreation Center in Detroit on Sunday, March 10, 2024. The wildly successful event offering whole-person health care showcased what happens when churches cross conference lines and work together.

For the last several years, the Lake Union has encouraged Detroit pastors and laypeople of both conferences to dialogue and pray together in a variety of ways. “The AMEN Dental Medical Clinic took us a step further from discussion to action,” said Carmelo

Mercado, Lake Union vice president and the union’s representative for these health initiatives. “What impressed me the most on this day was the unity of action and spirit that the Detroit area volunteers provided. I could see many people smiling, thankful for the privilege to serve, and patients expressing great appreciation for the help that they needed.”

HOW IT CAME TOGETHER

The idea for the clinic began more than a year ago when Michigan Conference contacted AMEN to support 10 of their churches in utilizing dental and medical services. Detroit Northwest Church voted to hold a dental medical clinic in the city and invite all

churches in the Motor City area of the Lake Region and Michigan conferences to partner with them.

A committee was formed, comprised of pastors and laypeople of both conferences, with Toria Turner, Detroit City Temple health ministries leader, serving as chairperson. The committee worked closely with Nicole Braxton, director of AMEN, to ensure the clinic would be a blessing for the patients looking for help.

Turner is the community engagement coordinator for Detroit in maternal child health, a position she has held for the last five years. Before this she worked at the Detroit Children’s Hospital. No stranger to organizational management, she and the rest of the team worked to secure the venue for the free clinic.

The biggest hurdle was finding the hundreds of volunteers and medical professionals needed to pull off an event of this magnitude. Turner leaned on her connections and reached out to schools such as Wayne County Community College, University of Detroit Mercy and Henry Ford Community College, to recruit dental hygienists, nurses, dentists, and opticians. Wendell Lawrence, a dentist based in Southfield, Michigan, and AMEN Dental Coordinator Randy Griffin reached out to their network of dentists. However, a week before the event there was concern: There weren’t enough dentists.

HINGED ON PRAYER

Months before, simultaneous planning was underway for a joint prayer conference organized by City Temple Associate Pastor Tricia Wynn Payne. It would feature presentations by Lake Region Executive Secretary Abraham Henry, Michigan Conference President Jim Micheff and Lake Union President Ken Denslow.

On the day of the prayer conference, Turner said it was a moving sight “to see so many people from the Lake Union and Michigan conferences having prayer for our city, for the volunteers, for all of us.” She added the joint

fellowship was even more “beautiful,” since for many this was their first time meeting in person after months of planning on ZOOM calls.

Both Mercado and Turner said this is a model to follow going forward. “Anytime we go into something so large we should have a prayer conference,” said Turner. “Having all that positivity in the same room—eating together, signing together, reading the word—is so powerful.”

In the end, over 200 volunteers and professionals met the needs of 300 people in the community. Turner said this experience taught her what it means to walk by faith. “God is in control, and He loves all of His people. Those that need help and healing, He will look after them. We just have to put it into His hands.”

Mercado said that he prays “a seed for the desire of constant engagement between churches will take place and that many people in the city will ultimately accept the blessed hope that God desires for all cultures and backgrounds to have.”

WHAT’S NEXT

Organizers are hoping the community doesn’t leave with the impression this is the end of their care. On Sunday, March 17, at Conant Gardens Church, patients and community members were invited to attend health seminars, organized by Lake Region’s health ministries director Christina Wells. Various Lake Region churches will hold seminars focusing on maternal health or mental health. Some of the participating dentists have also offered for patients to come to their offices for free follow up care and other services.

View more photos online at www.flickr.com/photos/lakeunionherald ■

Debbie Michel, *Lake Union Herald* editor, with **Carmelo Mercado**, *Lake Union* general vice president and *Multicultural Ministries* director.



▲ Clockwise from top: Nicole Braxton (clinic director), Randy Griffin (dental director), Toria Turner (assistant clinic director); in the triage area, patients were organized by their need for medical, dental or vision exams; Leona Stanton, Stacey Narita and Teddi Garland, members of the triage team for the clinic; Eric Bell Sr. (pastor, Detroit Burns SDA Church) and Betty Yancey (Sharon Inkster SDA Church) assist at the literature station; chiropractors Dr. Brittany Daniels and Dr. Herman Glass gave free exams and evaluations for attendees

◀ Dr. Darrel Smith gives an eye exam to a clinic attendee.



New Associate Joins Illinois Youth Department

THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE WELCOMES ROBERTO GONZALEZ AS THE NEW ASSOCIATE YOUTH DIRECTOR FOCUSING ON YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY AND PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY, EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2024.

Roberto was born in Geneva, Switzerland, where he lived until age 12. He then moved with his family to Spain where they are originally from. He has worked with youth at academy and church level, as well as senior pastor and youth/associate pastor in both English-speaking and Spanish congregations, for the conferences of Michigan, Florida and Potomac and most recently as the associate youth pastor of the Manassas Church in Virginia.

Roberto has a passion for young people. He enjoys seeing the energy and talents of young people and loves helping them decide

to follow Jesus and work for Him.

“I am blessed for the opportunity to be able to continue my ministry working with a great team of leaders to reach, prepare and empower our youth to finish the mission we have been called to do,” said Roberto.

He is married to Valeria Cruz-Gonzalez and together they have two young daughters, Rebecca and Michelle.

We look forward to having Roberto and Valeria join our conference family and in seeing what God will do through their ministry. ■

-Illinois Conference Communication

Lake Union Reports Place Spotlight on Mission Going Forward

ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024, THE LAKE UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONVENED IN BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN FOR THE FIRST 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.

North American Division Vice President for Multilingual Ministries Minner Labrador Jr. was a special guest, and he discussed the booming refugee and immigrant populations across the Division.

HIGHLIGHTS

President's Report

Lake Union President Ken Denslow unveiled a joint project with the South Peruvian



All photos by Katie Fellows

▲ Lake Union President Ken Denslow unveiled a joint project with the South Peruvian Union. This comes on the heels of a January 2024 trip to Peru with the conference leadership, Lake Union officers, the president of Andrews University and dean of the seminary.

Union. This comes on the heels of a January 2024 trip to Peru with the conference leadership, Lake Union officers, the president of Andrews University and dean of the seminary.

- Peruvians are successful evangelists and can share their evangelistic plan. They have an amazing media ministry and can serve as a model for us. They can send evangelists to our cities with large Hispanic populations. They can help us develop lay training programs. We can learn from the way the work is conducted there in South America.
- We can help with building through Maranatha International. We can have mission trips and AdventHealth sponsored clinics. Our seminary can develop an exchange student program.
- Proposing building parsonages. Pastors earn only \$200 a month and so cannot afford to rent on the open market. Their parsonages, made from earth and other organic matter, are crumbling. We would like to help fund the cost of new 1,400 sq. ft. Homes; it costs just \$31,000 to build one.

MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

- Lake Union Vice President Carmelo Mercado updated committee members on the prayer conference held March 3 in the Detroit-area. One hundred and twenty

people from Michigan and Lake Region conferences convened for prayer before the dental clinic.

- Recruitment for the joint dental clinic to be held Sunday, March 10 in Detroit, exceeded expectation, with 16 dentists and 180 volunteers signed up.
- He further shared about the Hispanic work going forward in the Lake Union. Tithe from this ethnic group of 12,800 members is \$8.6 million.
- A division-wide initiative called “Growing Together” is underway for reaching second generation Hispanics. One pastor from each of our conferences participated in a training program to formulate best practices for older and younger generations and work together intentionally.
- A strategic plan designed to grow the Andrews University Hispanic student population is in place. One area requiring special attention is financing for students wanting to study but facing financial barriers. The plan is to engage Hispanic alumni to inaugurate a scholarship fund.
- Support for Esperanza TV is another area of emphasis. Pastors and lay leaders are being encouraged to utilize digital evangelism in their outreach.
- Division VP Labrador announced information on a vote taken at the division’s

year-end meeting to move funding for emerging and immigrant groups to the unions so they can manage those funds, with the local conference leadership.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Executive secretary Elden Ramirez delivered membership numbers on the state of the union, showing continued growth. In 2022, membership stood at 88,972 and in 2023, there was an uptick to 89,538.

The following ordination requests were approved:

- Thomas Clark, Samuel Ngala and Anthony Nix from Indiana Conference
- Giancarlo de Miranda and Paul Ratsara from Michigan Conference
- Carlton Mouzon from Wisconsin Conference
- Emeritus Ministerial Credential was voted for retired pastor Derral Reeve of Michigan Conference.
- An advisory group to support Andrews University’s theology and education departments was voted.
- “Pentecost 2025” is a NAD initiative to boost public evangelism in churches, companies and groups. Funding will become available to our churches.

LAKE UNION TREASURER GLYNN SCOTT DELIVERED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Tithe is \$95.2 million, up 9.72% over December 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 \$12.7 million, ahead of budget \$1.5 million due to actual tithe at 109% versus budget at 95%; also, investment income was \$320,000 ahead of budget.
- Total expenses \$10.8 million, under budget by \$571,000 due to program expenses being lower than budget.
- Our operating gain for 2023 was \$1.9 million.



▲ Carmelo Mercado, Lake Union General Vice President and Multicultural Ministries director, delivers his report at the March 2024 Executive Committee.



▲ Monica Reed, president and chief executive officer for UChicago Medicine AdventHealth, was introduced as the newest member of the executive committee.

- With the strong financial performance of 2023, our executive committee voted \$575,000 as special appropriations back to the local conferences in 2024.

Andrews University President John

Wesley Taylor V:

- “We have outstanding academics, amazing student experiences, a beautiful campus but faith is the heart of it all. The spiritual nurturing of our students isn’t just an added benefit of an Adventist Education—it’s the reason for our very existence and we’re committed to that.”
- This spring semester, eight students led out in the week of prayer and the theme was “Activate”—activating your spiritual

life. They spoke about their involvement in missions here and around the world. Emphasis was also placed on involvement in canvassing plus participation in summer camp ministry.

- A faith engagement study of all Adventist colleges and universities in North America revealed 89% of Andrews students are affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, compared to 77% at other institutions. The percentage of students declaring at the end of their first year that they were more committed to the beliefs and values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was 64%, compared to 48% at other places.

- The National Center for Educational Statistics compared the institution with 31 other institutions (other denominations) of the same size, and Andrews’ tuition was \$4,000 less. The retention rate between a student’s first and second year was 82%, compared to 77%. Graduation rates for Black and Hispanic students were higher than other institutions.
- Andrews is now recognized as an Hispanic-Serving Institution since at least 25% of the student body identifies as Hispanic. This opens new financial opportunities for Hispanic students through government grants and subsidies.
- This year marks 150 years since J.N. Andrews and his two children set out as missionaries. This was the beginning of missions in the Seventh-day Adventist church. We are also celebrating 150 years of Battle Creek College, which is now Andrews University. Go to www.andrews.edu/150 for yearlong events listing, plus archival photos and video.
- Beginning May 2024, Lamson Hall will undergo a major renovation. The women’s dormitory was erected in 1947, and an addition made in 1967, yet not much has changed. We invite the Lake Union’s help in providing funds and/or dedicating time and skills to partner with Maranatha Volunteer International in making a difference in students’ lives. More information is available on at www.andrews.edu

UChicago Medicine AdventHealth

President Monica Reed Introduced

As CEO, Dr. Reed is responsible for overseeing the strategic development and growth of UChicago Medicine AdventHealth, which includes four hospitals in Bolingbrook, Glendale Heights, Hinsdale and La Grange, and more than 50 sites of care. She began her role on Feb. Read more about her appointment in the April 2024 Herald.

You can find more photos from the executive committee meeting at www.flickr.com/photos/lakeunionherald/albums ■

Debbie Michel is editor of the Lake Union Herald.



▲ *Your Story Hour* hosts and some of the cast celebrate YSH's second birthday.

“Your Story Hour” Ministry Celebrates 75 Years

IN MARCH 2024, THE BELOVED MICHIGAN-BASED RADIO PROGRAM “YOUR STORY HOUR” TURNED 75 YEARS OLD.

What started as a half-hour story time aired on a single radio station (WHFB in Benton Harbor, Michigan) for the first time on March 27, 1949, is now a weekly program broadcast on thousands of radio stations around the world. The team at “Your Story Hour” can simply say, “The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad.” (Psalm 126:3)

“Your Story Hour” (YSH) produces a 30-minute nondenominational Christian radio program. The family-friendly audio dramas tell inspirational stories based on the Bible, historical heroes, missionaries, modern-day miracles, and modern-day adventures that teach Biblical values and positive character traits. YSH programs are distinguished by their high-quality acting, music and sound effects. You can listen to the programs for free on the radio, on YouTube and on the Your Story Hour website.

Listeners might be surprised to know that in the beginning, the ministry wasn’t designed for radio at all. Stanley Hill, the

founder of “Your Story Hour,” along with a small group of other people, had the idea to get children off the streets on Saturday afternoons by starting a story hour above the Eau Claire Fire Station. Soon, children were flocking to the fire station every week to hear Bible and character-building stories.

When H. M. S. Richards, founder of the “Voice of Prophecy” radio ministry, heard about the story hour, he had a revolutionary idea: “Your program should be on the air. We ought to have a radio program for children.” Wouldn’t that be wonderful? But how could a group of lay people with no radio experience produce a weekly program? God had the answer. He led Virgil Isles—a student at Emmanuel Missionary College, now Andrews University—to offer to write the scripts and produce the programs. Soon, the very first recording studio for YSH was in the basement of the Isles’ home.

From these humble beginnings, YSH began to grow. The studio moved from the Isles’

basement in Berrien Springs, to the back of a barbershop, to a converted garage, to a factory in Medina, Ohio, and finally in the 1980s, to its current location in downtown Berrien Springs (which used to be a dairy). The broadcast grew from one radio station to two, to five, to 20, then hundreds and thousands. Recording equipment progressed from records to tape recorders, to reel-to-reel recorders, to high quality digital recording. The ministry expanded from the English program to add both Spanish and Russian programs. Each of these changes brought financial obstacles that left the ministry wondering whether progress would be possible. However, each time God would speak to the hearts of generous donors—many of whom would make personal sacrifices to keep the ministry afloat—and He would provide the funds for the ministry to grow.

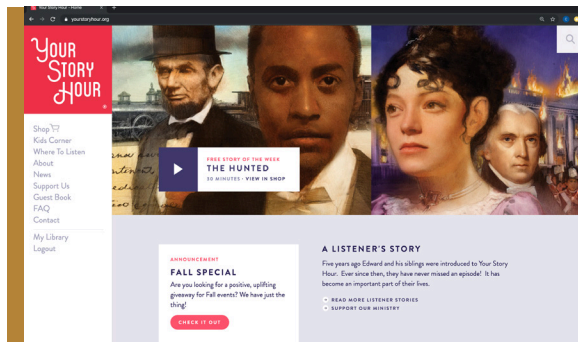
Over the years, God has provided personnel for the ministry in the same way. Recently, YSH was praying for the right people to fill some very big shoes: those of producer, scriptwriter, and Aunt and Uncle radio hosts. Over the course of a couple short years, Fred Meseraull (YSH producer for 40+ years), Elaine Trumbo-Roberts (scriptwriter of more than 150 YSH scripts), and Chet Damron (radio host Uncle Dan from 1996 to 2017) needed to pass the baton. Without faith, it might have seemed impossible to fill those roles. Thankfully, God provided just the right people with just the right skills to carry the mission forward. The newest additions to the YSH



▲ *Current host Nicole Buckhanan, Carole Pezet and Jon Clayburn*



▲ Some of the first cast members at radio station WHFB, Benton Harbor, MI



▲ YSH's website where you can hear free weekly YSH stories.

family are Nicole Buchanan (Aunt Nikki) and Jon Clayburn (Uncle Jon), who joined Carole Pezet (Aunt Carole) as beloved radio hosts.

YSH's history is full of miracles. Every year since the first broadcast, God has provided the funds and people that YSH needs. "Your Story Hour" truly is God's ministry. The nonprofit organization—YSH is solely funded by donor contributions—is currently praying for the means and ability to produce new stories in Spanish, and for wisdom and direction in reaching a greater audience in today's world of media

addiction and rapidly-changing technology.

Recent studies have shown that the average American watches 2 ½ hours of television each day and spends 2 ½ hours on social media each day. That's a lot of time! Unsurprisingly, all this screen time has been shown to have a negative impact on individuals and society: increasing obesity, depression and anxiety, isolation, fear of missing out, low self-esteem, and self-absorption. Additionally, long hours of screen time can have a profound negative impact on children,

hindering their development, language, and reasoning skills.

"Your Story Hour" offers an alternative source of entertainment, inviting children and adults to use their vast imaginations to paint pictures in their minds as they listen to stories of heroes and heroines who exhibit values like faith, courage, responsibility, diligence, and more. The stories are a great way to keep children entertained while doing chores, sitting in the car for commutes and road trips, getting ready for bedtime, and group or personal quiet time. Though the classic stories are timeless and still beloved by listeners, YSH is dedicated to producing new stories to keep reaching new generations of children. The ministry is looking in faith to another 75 years of God's blessings!

To access FREE weekly stories, visit: <https://www.yourstoryhour.org/listen-for-free> ■

Caralin Griggs is vice president and scriptwriter for Your Story Hour.

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MILEPOSTS

OBITUARIES

BROWN, Luana (Wolcott), age 89; born Nov. 22, 1934, in Fairbault, Minn.; died Feb. 11, 2024, in San Jose, Calif. She was a member of the Oakhurst Adventist Church in Oakhurst, Calif. She is survived by her husband, Herman Brown; son, Donald (Rhonda Mack) Brown; daughter, Rhonda (Daryl) Huff; brother, Deane Wolcott; sister, Linda Garlick; and two grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Pete McCleod on April 6, 2024, at the Oakhurst Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oakhurst, Calif.

BAARTZ, Laurie L. (Combs), age 68; born Aug. 29, 1955, in Yuma, Ariz.; died Jan. 27, 2024, in Milwaukee, Wisc. She was a member of the Portage Seventh-day Adventist Church in Portage, Wisc. She is survived by her son, Beau Baartz; daughters, Jodie (Kent) Maloney and Kerrie (Richard) Evert; mother, Leah Combs; sister, Kay (John) Herold; and six grandchildren. A funeral service was conducted by Pastor Stephen Aust on Feb. 5, 2024, with interment in the Cole-Fuller Cemetery in Portage, Wisc.

JOHNSON, Clara "Nellie" N., age 101; born July 21, 1922, in

Paducah, Ky.; died Jan. 1, 2024, in Battle Creek, Mich. She was a member of the Urbandale Advent Church in Battle Creek, Mich. She is survived by her son, Harold (Loriann) Johnson; daughters, Patricia (Forest) Walter and Barbara (Rodney) Hyde; nine grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. A funeral service was conducted by Pastor Philip Lee, and interment was held at the Bedford Cemetery in Bedford, Mich.

MARSH, Harold V., age 97; born November 17, 1926, in Bethel, Wisconsin; died December 7, 2023, in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He is survived by his sons, Dan Victor Marsh, Lon Harold Marsh; daughters, Judy Marie Hamel, Cindy Sue Hornick; sister, Norma Marsh Sheffield; 7 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren; 3 step-grandchildren; and 5 step-great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor William Fagel, and inurnment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

MCPHERSON, Julia B. (Martin), age 98; born September 14,

1925, in Deford, Michigan; died February 28, 2024, in Klamath Falls, Oregon. She was a member of the Klamath Falls Adventist Church in Klamath Falls, Oregon. She is survived by her sons Jamie McPherson, Tim (Wendy) McPherson; daughter, Deborah

(Russ) Ashdon; 8 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be conducted by Pastor Jim Osborne on June 29, 2024, at 3 p.m. (PDT), at the Klamath Falls Adventist Church in Oregon, with private inurnment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOBLES JR. ACADEMY

REUNION: All former and present students, teachers, and church members are invited to attend GJA's 90th Anniversary Celebration, which will be held **May 31 and June 1**, beginning with vespers Friday at 7 p.m. and concluding with Sabbath evening vespers. For more details, check our Facebook page, Gobles Junior Academy. For further questions or to register for Sabbath lunch, please call Bert Carrion at 269-650-2036. The school address is 32110 Sixth Ave., Gobles, Michigan.

"YE' OLDE" CEDAR LAKE

ACADEMY REUNION will be held **June 7-9, 2024**, for the alumni and schoolmates of 1974 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. The Honor classes this year include: 1954, 1964, and 1974. Details will be sent by either mail or e-mail to all alumni we have correct addresses. You may contact GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181 or <http://www.glaa.net>.

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

MAY

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- 11 Disaster & Famine Relief* (GC and NAD)
- 18 Local Church Budget
- 25 Local Conference Advance

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

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

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K-8 near Cookeville, Tennessee, with Forest School, Stream and Cave on 30 Acres, Music Program, Friendly Church, Pathfinder and Adventurer

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IT IS WRITTEN ANNOUNCES A NEW VBS PROGRAM, Flight 3:16. During Flight 3:16, children will visit five countries as they prepare for the ultimate destination—Heaven! Flight 3:16 is a complete VBS kit that includes supplies for 14 children. Learn more at iiw.us/flight316u or call 888-664-5573.

ADVENTIST HERITAGE & AMERICAN HISTORY TOUR OF NEW ENGLAND (Sept. 1-8, 2024): Dr. Brian Strayer will be your tour guide. Visiting sites such as Hiram Edson's home, William Miller Farm, Sturbridge Village, Boston & much more. Departing & returning from Anderson, Ind. For additional information or to reserve your spot, call or text Jesse Landess 765-722-0644.

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: andrews.edu/jobs

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST

UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff salaried positions: Adventure Program Director (School of Health and Kinesiology), MSW Program Manager and Field Coordinator (School of Social Work), International Student Services Coordinator (Admissions), Mental Health Counselor (Student Support Services). For more information, go to sau.catsone.com/careers

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST

UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff hourly positions: Automotive Technician, Lunch Cook/Supervisor (Village Market Deli), Carpentry Technician, S.A.L.T. Outreach Coordinator for School of Religion, Alarm Technician, Landscape Supervisor. For more information, please visit sau.catsone.com/careers

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

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST

UNIVERSITY School of Nursing seeks a full-time Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner faculty member to join a mission-focused team. Responsibilities at the graduate level may PMHNP didactic courses, clinical oversight, and advisement. An earned doctorate is preferred. Requisite qualities include successful teaching experience, a strong PMHNP clinical background, flexibility, teamwork, and commitment to Adventist nursing education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For more information, please visit sau.catsone.com/careers.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST

UNIVERSITY School of Nursing seeks a full-time faculty member to join a mission-focused team. Teaching responsibilities will be primarily at the undergraduate level and focused on community health. An earned doctorate is preferred. Requisite qualities include successful teaching experience, a strong clinical background in community, flexibility, and commitment to Adventist nursing education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For more information, please visit sau.catsone.com/careers.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST

UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time teaching faculty member in

the School of Journalism and Communication. Master's degree in Communication, or a sub-field of Communication, required (Ph.D. preferred). The successful candidate will have teaching and/or industry experience (preferably both) and be able to teach a variety of courses in digital and social media, communication, writing, public speaking, and/or photography. Candidate must be capable of inspiring students, have a strong commitment to Christ, and will be a strong team player. For more information, please visit sau.catsone.com/careers.

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 www.southern.edu/jobs

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time teaching faculty member in information technology. Subject areas include computer networking, systems administration, cybersecurity, and

web development. The ideal candidate will be proficient in developing and teaching undergraduate IT courses, including both lecture and laboratory components. 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 more information, please visit sau.catsone.com/careers.

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.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time faculty member in the area of Psychology for the School of Education, Psychology, and Counseling. A doctoral degree in psychology or a related field is required. Emphasis in research

and measurement or experimental psychology is preferred. Candidate must have 3+ years of experience in applied, clinical, or teaching psychology. The ideal candidate would be proficient in the area of Research Methods and Applied Statistics for the Social Sciences. For more information, please visit sau.catsone.com/careers.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time faculty member 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 www.southern.edu/jobs

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time teaching faculty member in the Department of Applied Technology, specifically in the area of Construction

Management. Master's degree in construction management-related field is required. The successful candidate will demonstrate competency in the varied trade areas relevant to course content and, ideally, have experience in commercial construction. Candidate must be capable of mentoring university students and have a strong commitment to Christ. For more information, please visit sau.catsone.com/careers.

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 www.southern.edu/jobs

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 www.lakeunionherald.org/advertising/classifieds to either print and fill in your ad or submit and pay through our online portal. 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>.

May

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

GENERAL EVENTS

May 4-6: Spring 2024 Graduation

May 13-15: Andrews Research Conference

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.

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

May 9, 7 p.m.: Andrews Academy Orchestra &
Choir Spring Concert

May 12, 3 p.m.: Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra

May 14, 7 p.m.: Ruth Murdoch Elementary School
Spring Instrumental Concert

May 21, 7 p.m.: Ruth Murdoch Elementary School
Vocal Spring Concert

ILLINOIS

May 18: Adventurer Family Camp, Camp Akita

May 23: Hinsdale Adventist Academy
Graduation

INDIANA

May 3-5: Pathfinder Fair, Timber Ridge Camp

May 10-12: Family Life Retreat, Timber Ridge
Camp

May 17-19: Adventurer Family Weekend,
Timber Ridge Camp

May 24-26: Indiana Academy Graduation
Weekend

LAKE REGION

May 17-19: Young Adult Retreat, Bair Bible
Camp, Jones, Michigan

May 19: Motor City Men Connect, TBA

MICHIGAN

May 3-5: Marriage Commitment Retreat, Camp
Au Sable

May 5: Empower Literature Ministries Workshop,
Michigan Conference Office

May 5: Sabbath School Workshop, Michigan
Conference Office

May 10-12: Pathfinder Fair, Northwoods, Camp
Au Sable

May 19: Adventurer Fun Day, Northwoods,
Camp Au Sable

May 24-26: Great Lakes Adventist Academy
Graduation Weekend

May 24-26: Hispanic Camp Meeting, Camp Au
Sable

WISCONSIN

May 10-12: Pathfinder Fair, Camp Wakonda

May 24-26: Wisconsin Academy Graduation
Weekend

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



Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Berrien Springs, Michigan	8:46	8:54	9:01	9:08	9:13
Chicago	7:51	7:59	8:06	8:13	8:18
Detroit	8:34	8:42	8:49	8:56	9:02
Indianapolis	8:41	8:48	8:54	9:01	9:06
La Crosse, Wisconsin	8:10	8:18	8:26	8:33	8:39
Lansing, Michigan	8:41	8:49	8:56	9:03	9:09
Madison, Wisconsin	8:01	8:09	8:16	8:23	8:29
Springfield, Illinois	7:55	8:02	8:08	8:15	8:20

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

Meet Me Under the Stars

IT WAS ONE OF THOSE BEAUTIFUL CLOUDLESS NIGHTS. THE HEAT OF THE JUNE DAY WAS NOW A COOL NIGHT'S GENTLE BREEZE. AS I SILENTLY WALKED PAST THE LINE OF SMALL CABINS AND PARKED MOTOR HOMES, ONLY A FEW SOFT VOICES WERE HEARD COMING FROM BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. IT WAS AFTER CURFEW ON SATURDAY NIGHT AT CAMP WAKONDA.



▲ LESA BUDD

Camp meeting had started the night before. Now the first Sabbath was over—a day filled with smiles, powerful Spirit-filled meetings, family, friends and food.

My husband, Greg, and I were the conference prayer coordinators and therefore in charge of the early morning prayer and share time starting at 6 a.m. It was informal but many people came at that early hour with blankets in hand to share how God was blessing in their life or in their church or in their community. Our prayer times together seems to always produce a miracle before camp meeting was over, which only our group recognized for what it truly was: an answer to prayer. One such miracle took place in Austria, as we prayed in Wisconsin.

The next morning was my time to lead out and I needed to talk with God alone. I wanted to stand under the stars I knew were there, if only I could get to the ballfield for a clear view. The camp's majestic tall pines blocked a lot of the sky. When I reached the edge of the campground, I stopped and stared. I was not disappointed. Suddenly I felt a kinship to Abraham when God called him to come out of his tent and count the stars if he were able (Gen. 15:5). His seeds would be as numerous as the stars.

I was one of those tiny little faraway specks of light in that vast black sea that Abraham saw. That same Creator God was still up there ruling the universe and now He wanted to commune with me.

I suddenly felt very small yet very loved and important in His eyes. I was not standing there alone. I did not have to speak. Our hearts seem to be one.

A heartwarming smile came over me as I asked Him what He would like me to share with His little early morning praying family. Again, I wasn't disappointed.

This year at camp meeting, or whenever and wherever you are, answer His call to your heart, to meet Him out under the stars. Your name is on one of those stars. You won't be disappointed. ■

Lesa Budd is the Wisconsin Conference prayer coordinator.



End-Time Stewardship



▲ VIALO WEIS JR.

FOR SOME TIME NOW, WE AS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® CHRISTIANS HAVE LIVED IN THE END OF TIME. AS WE SEE COSMIC BIRTH PAINS ACCELERATING AND INTENSIFYING ALL AROUND US, WHAT SHOULD OUR END-TIME STEWARDSHIP LOOK LIKE?

First, have we recognized that we are only stewards, not owners of the assets in our hands? The Psalmist reminds us in Psalm 24:1 that the earth and everything in it, including us, belongs to God. We have documents showing that we are legal owners of assets. Despite that, these assets are not ours, they are God's. We are only stewards, managers, or caretakers of God's assets. Since all we have is God's, are we seeking His will regarding how He wants us to manage His assets in our hands?

Second, do we realize what God expects of us in the handling of His assets? The apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 4:2 that God requires us to be faithful stewards. Did you notice what Paul did not say? He wrote nothing about us being successful. God requires us to faithfully manage His

assets. What does faithful stewardship look like? I believe the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 is Exhibit A of what constitutes faithfulness. The first two servants took what was given to them and used them in such a way that there was a significant increase in those assets. The third servant only buried what he was given. The first two servants were found faithful while the third was found unfaithful.

Third, when should we invest God's assets in our hands in the finishing of His work? The Lord's Messenger warns us in *Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 59-60, that in the time of trouble, the assets in our hands cannot be used to advance God's work. But, if we have made a "covenant with God through sacrifice," we have our "property on the altar," and we earnestly seek His guidance, He will tell us when to invest His assets in our hands for the finishing of His work. When God tells me to sell my home and personal property, close out my retirement account, sell my motor vehicles, and close out my bank account, and invest the money from these assets in the finishing of His work, I pray I will obey as promptly as Abraham did when God told him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. That will happen only if I am close to God like Abraham was. There are only two treasuries into which I can invest God's assets, His treasury and Satan's treasury. By the grace of God, I hope to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (see Matthew 25:23 KJV)! How about you? God could speak no sweeter words to us! ■

Vialo Weis Jr. is the Indiana Conference Stewardship ministries director.



Politics in the Pews and Pulpit: Do's and Dont's

I HAVE BEEN HEARING A LOT OF POLITICAL TALK RECENTLY AT CHURCH; EVEN THE PASTOR HAS BEEN MAKING STATEMENTS FROM THE PULPIT DISPARAGING CERTAIN CANDIDATES AND GIVING HIS OPINION ON POLITICAL ISSUES. SHOULD THE CHURCH BE ENGAGED IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY LIKE THIS?



▲ JENNIFER GRAY WOODS

Ready or not, political campaign season is upon us. As individuals we have a right to engage in the issues facing our society and a civic duty to participate in our democratic process through casting our vote for ballot issues and the candidates of our choice.

However, during this season, churches and other 501(c)(3) religious organizations should be careful not to engage in activities that could impact their non-profit status. The Internal Revenue Service has placed restrictions on what kinds of activities churches and other 501(c)(3) organizations can participate in. As a rule, 501(c)(3) organizations are not allowed to participate or intervene in a political campaign either on behalf of a political candidate or to oppose a candidate. An organization that violates this restriction could end up losing their tax-exempt status.

Activities that could be considered participation or intervention include publishing or distributing remarks opposing or endorsing a candidate or making verbal statements either on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate.

Given that this prohibition against political campaigning is broad, pastors and others should refrain from endorsing candidates or disparaging political parties while at the pulpit, leading out in prayer meeting, in church bulletins, on social media, or other church communication channels.

Many churches and other religious organizations have violated the prohibition against political campaign activities, especially around election years.

The IRS has revoked the tax-exempt status of religious organizations for political campaign activities in the past.

However, this does not mean that churches can't be involved in the political process. Federal law doesn't limit a church from engaging in nonpartisan speech or conduct. This means that churches can encourage their congregations to vote and can also provide information to help inform their members and others about political matters. Activities that churches and religious organizations can engage in include:

- Providing individuals with nonpartisan information about upcoming issues in an election.
- Inviting candidates to come speak, if all candidates on the ballot are allowed an equal opportunity to participate.
- Organizing voter registration drives.

The key to engaging in these activities is that the activity must be conducted in a way that is nonpartisan. Keeping these considerations in mind hopefully our churches will be able to navigate this and future political seasons in compliance with IRS requirements. ■

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

For Such a Time as This

WHILE RETRIEVING THE MAIL ONE ORDINARY DAY IN 2017, SOMETHING CAUGHT MY EYE ON THE BACK OF A MAGAZINE—A BRIGHTLY-COLORED ADVERTISEMENT FOR A NEW KIDS' PROGRAM CALLED DISCOVERY MOUNTAIN.

Intrigued, I told my mom, and our family began listening to it. From the very first episode, I was hooked. I loved it so much I wanted to be involved somehow. Seemingly impossible then, I had no idea what adventures were in store.

I contacted Discovery Mountain to express my interest. They responded that they wouldn't need voice actors for 9-12 months. I accepted it and moved on. But after meeting Miss Jean (Boonstra) at Wisconsin camp meeting, she emailed saying they had an audition soon. I emailed back, disappointedly declining because I was unavailable on that date. Surprisingly, Miss Jean replied that they could audition me separately. I was thrilled about the opportunity, and the audition went smoothly.

However, I became less hopeful as time passed, until I woke from a peculiar dream one Wednesday morning. I had no recollection of it; I just knew in the dream I had gotten the part. I felt impressed that, "Today, I will find out whether or not I will get the part, and the answer will be yes." As the day

passed uneventfully, so did my memory of both the dream and the impression.

After reading an acceptance letter from Discovery Mountain the next morning, I suddenly recalled my dream. The email came late the previous night, so it actually did arrive on Wednesday. Shaking my head in amazement, I exclaimed, "Wow, God! If my calculations are correct, You're pretty amazing!"

I had been cast to play the role of Haddie (Hadassah) Bellamy, a modern-day Esther. Fascinatingly, I found the story of Esther popping up everywhere in my life. From radio programs

to songs, to memorizing Esther and Daniel for Pathfinder Bible Experience, Mordecai's message, "for such a time as this," was ubiquitous in my life.

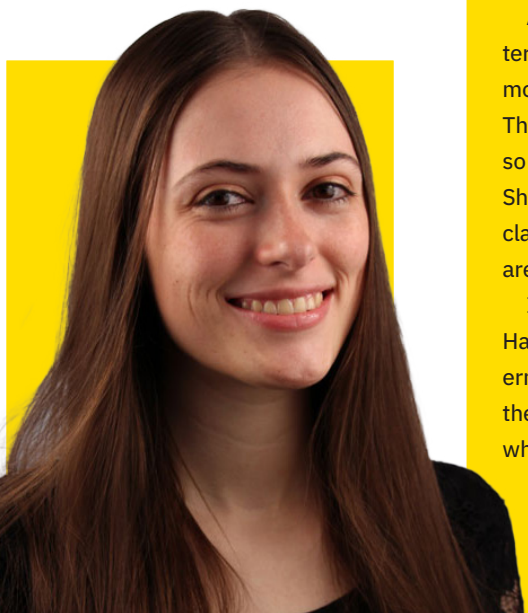
Soon my mom and I were aboard a plane bound for our destination, Loveland, Colorado, Voice of Prophecy's Headquarters which is Discovery Mountain's parent ministry. As we gained altitude, the anticipation and apprehensiveness also rose. Why was I, an ordinary girl, chosen to voice Haddie? What if I couldn't do it or the other actors didn't like the idea of a newcomer? Worries clouded my mind as I gazed at the scattered clouds outside my window.

The recording week went amazingly well, creating lasting memories and fortifying my faith through answered prayers and unexpected surprises. As different actors befriended me, Discovery Mountain started to feel like one big family.

In 2019, Miss Jean cast Haddie in some mini episodes. I was unable to return to Loveland, so the program director, Doug, with my sister assisting, made it possible to record from my home studio. With much prayer, online searching, and perseverance, I became one of the first to record remotely, which became a necessity for Discovery Mountain in 2020.

In 2021, I had the privilege of writing a mini episode for Discovery Mountain entitled "Adopted," which officially aired in November 2022. Now, six years after my journey with Discovery Mountain began, I still look back in amazement at how God used an ordinary girl like me to encourage so many people's faith, just like Esther of old. God's not done using ordinary people to do extraordinary things "for such a time as this." ■

Anna Foll is a member of the Watertown Seventh-day Adventist Church and writer for the Wakonda Wednesday blog.



Message to Our Young People

DEAR YOUNG PERSON,

WE'VE PUT OFF WRITING THIS LETTER FOR MANY YEARS. WE WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT SENDING IT SOONER, BUT WE ALWAYS HAD THE USUAL EXCUSES: TOO BUSY, AND GENERALLY DISTRACTED BY OTHER THINGS.

We apologize for not taking just a few minutes to tell you how much we love you and how proud we are of you. We have watched you for many years while you have been growing up and we have always thought that you are such a quality person.

We saw you many Sabbaths with new clothes. You girls looked so pretty and boys you looked so handsome, but we never said anything to you. Whenever you had special music or read the scripture and prayed, we were always impressed with your ability to do such an outstanding job. We often talked about how we thought you added so much to our church family. We talked about it, but we didn't tell you. For that we are sorry.

When you graduated from 8th grade, you all looked so radiant and happy. Our church family is so blessed to have each of you in our church.

And then one Sabbath you weren't here with us. We missed you and someone said that you had gone away to the Academy.

We've seen you several times since then and we've heard how successful you are in school. We're so proud of you! We just wish we had told you long ago. We should have been telling you how much we love you. But we were always too busy, and of course, we thought someone else would surely do it. When someone told your parents we hadn't seen you for a long time, they said that you come home regularly but don't go to church with them anymore.

We are so sorry that we didn't say anything all those years. We should have been hugging, e-mailing, texting or contacting you somehow. We didn't

and now we regret it. We're asking your forgiveness for caring but not showing it. We love you and we're proud of you!

Sincerely,

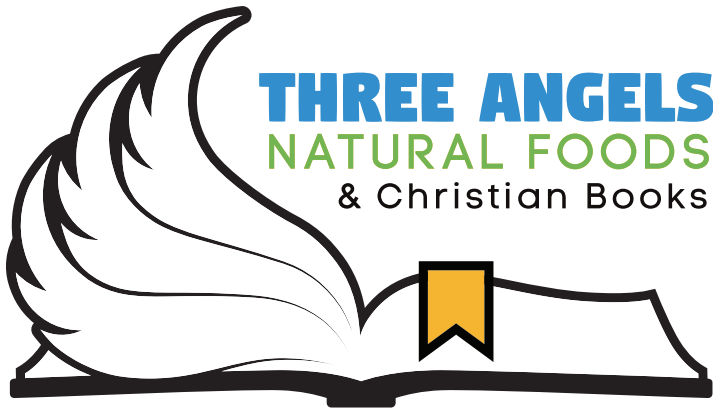
The church who loves you but didn't tell you!

P.S. We're so thankful that we can see your little brother and sister in church each week. We promise we will tell them how much we love them and how proud we are of them.■

Neal VanderWaal writes from Battle Creek, Michigan, where he spent many years as a teacher-turned-realtor.

▼ Neal with his granddaughter Elise





COUPON

Coupon with case price discounts will be available camp meeting week at the ABC. *Must have the coupon to receive the discount.*

\$15 off 3 cases
\$50 off 5 cases

LOMA LINDA PRODUCTS ONLY

INDIANA CAMP MEETING JUNE 3-8, 2024

TUE	Cookbooks & Health Books Sale	10% off Regular Price
WED	Spirit of Prophecy Sale	10% off Mrs. White's writings \$5 & Up
THU	Glow Tracks & Pocket Signs	10% off all day
	Sidewalk Sale – Used Books	12 pm – 5:30 pm
FRI	Senior's Day (60+)	10% off Books, Bibles, & Gift Items
	Children's Books & Felts Sale	10% off Regular Price (Bibles Excluded)

INDIANA CAMP MEETING STORE HRS

Sunday	June 2	12:00 pm - 5:30 pm
M-Th	June 3-6	9:00 am – 7:00 pm
M-Th evenings	June 3-6	8:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Friday	June 7	9:00 am – 5:30 pm
Sabbath	June 8	9:30 pm – 11:00 pm
Sunday	June 9	9:00 am – 3:00 pm

MICHIGAN CAMP MEETING JUNE 14-22, 2024

MON	Children's Books & Felts	10% off Regular Price (Bible Excluded)
TUE	Cookbooks & Health Books Sale	10% off Regular Price
WED	Spirit of Prophecy Sale	10% off Mrs. White's writings \$5 & Up
THU	Glow Tracks & Pocket Signs	10% off all day
FRI	Senior's Day (60+)	10% off Books, Bibles, & Gift Items

MICHIGAN CAMP MEETING STORE HRS

Friday	June 14	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Sabbath	June 15	9:30 pm - 11:00 pm
Sunday Sale	June 16	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Sun-Th	June 16-20	9:00 am – 7:00 pm
Sun-Th evenings	June 16-20	8:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Friday	June 21	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sabbath	June 22	9:30 pm – 11:00 pm

WISCONSIN CAMP MEETING JUNE 14-22, 2024

MON	Children's Books & Felts	10% off Regular Price (Bibles Excluded)
TUE	Cookbooks & Health Books Sale	10% off Regular Price
WED	Spirit of Prophecy Sale	10% off Mrs. White's writings \$5 & Up
THU	Glow Tracks & Pocket Signs	10% off all day
FRI	Senior's Day (60+)	10% off Books, Bibles, & Gift Items

LIGHTHOUSE CAMP MEETING STORE HRS

Friday	June 14	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Sabbath	June 15	9:30 pm - 11:00 pm
Sunday Sale	June 16	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Sun-Th	June 16-20	9:00 am – 5:30 pm
Sun-Th evenings	June 16-20	9:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Friday	June 21	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sabbath	June 22	9:00 pm – 11:00 pm