

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

HERALD

AUGUST 2024



5

years after
their baptism at the

**INTERNATIONAL
PATHFINDER
CAMPOREE**

How the Middleton
and Hansel twins are

**BELIEVING THE
PROMISE**



MY JOURNEY IN MEDIA MINISTRY

began with a simple yet profound question from my La Sierra University communication professor and adviser, Dr. Mary Wilson: “What do you want to do with your degree?” At that young age, I was unsure of the specifics, but I knew one thing for certain—I wanted to serve the Lord through media. Nervously, I blurted out, “Uh, media ministry?” Wanting to be more specific, she asked, “And what exactly would you like to do in media ministry?” I recall telling her that I would be delighted to operate a camera or help with editing mission projects. All I knew was that I had a passion for telling stories, and that I wanted to use whatever small gifts or talents I had for the Lord’s work. I had no idea that God would grant me my heart’s desire in a way that would surpass all my expectations.

These past seven years working in the Lake Union communication department have been the adventure of a lifetime. While it is often assumed that working for the church involves only politics and religious dogma, my first-hand experience has been quite different. Yes, by sitting through executive committee meetings and constituency sessions I have learned more deeply

about how the church works together. But I’ve also had the opportunity to chase down stories of so many people who have unselfishly dedicated their life to the Lord’s work, accounts that have left an imprint on my life. I have sat behind the camera, moved to tears by the stories shared of God’s continuous miracles. This experience is a testament to God’s active presence in the Lake Union territory. It is a true privilege to be a small part of the greater picture of what is taking place here. Perhaps what I am most grateful for is that my children witnessed it all right alongside me, which played a pivotal role in showing them the joy of working for the Lord.

As I now turn my focus to my first mission, my family, I pray that God will continue to shine brightly in the Lake Union and that the stories told will continue to touch the hearts and lives of our audience and beyond.

Felicia

Felicia Tonga

Lake Union
HERALD

Official publication of the
Seventh-day Adventist Church/Lake Union Headquarters
lakeunionherald.org Vol. 116, No. 6

THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

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

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

AdventHealth Julie Busch, Julie.Busch@AdventHealth.com
 Andrews University Isabella Koh, koh@andrews.edu
 Illinois Matthew Lucio, mlucio@ilcsda.org
 Indiana Colleen Kelly, ckelly@indysda.org
 Lake Region JeNean Lendor, JLendor@lrcsda.com
 Michigan Andy Im, aim@mysda.org
 Wisconsin Laurella Case, lcase@wi.adventist.org

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

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

LOCAL CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONS

AdventHealth Great Lakes Region: Monica Reed, president/CEO, 5101 S. Willow Springs Rd., La Grange, IL 60525; 708-245-2211.
Andrews University: John Wesley Taylor V, president, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0670; 269-471-7771.
Illinois: John Grys, president; Michael Campos, executive secretary; Doug Reeves, treasurer; 619 Plainfield Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527-8438; 630-716-3560.
Indiana: Vic Van Schaik, president; Mark Eaton, secretary/treasurer; street address: 15205 Westfield Blvd., Carmel, IN 46032; mailing address: P.O. Box 5000, Westfield, IN 46074; 317-844-6201.
Lake Region: Garth Gabriel, president; Abraham Henry, executive secretary; Kent M. Nichols, treasurer; 19860 South LaGrange Rd., Mokena, IL 60448; 773-846-2661.
Michigan: James Micheff Jr., president; Justin Ringstaff, secretary; Michael Bernard, treasurer; street address: 5801 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917; mailing address: P.O. Box 24187, Lansing, MI 48909; 517-316-1500.
Wisconsin: Titus Naftanaila, president; Amir Gulzar, secretary/treasurer; street address: N2561 Old Highway 16, Fall River, WI 53932; mailing address: P.O. Box 100, Fall River, WI 53932; 920-484-6555.

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

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



CONTENTS

FEATURE

16

Keeping the Promise

By Becky St. Clair

ABOUT THE COVER: Twins Jae'Ona and Jae'Bel Middleton along with Landon and Kendahl Hensel are depicted in a drawing by Oriana Fenwick.

PERSPECTIVES

Guest Perspective	4
HIStory	8
Conexiones	9
Conversations with God	39
Ask the Lawyer	40
Partnership with God	41

EVANGELISM

Sharing Our Hope	10
Telling God's Stories	12, 14
One Voice	42
On the Edge	43

LIFESTYLE

Family Focus	6
--------------	---

CURRENT MATTERS

AdventHealth	20
Andrews University	21
News	22
Mileposts	32
Announcements	33
Classifieds	34
Calendar of Events	38

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

The Lake Union Herald (ISSN 0194-908X) is published monthly (except for January/February, June/July and November/December) by the Lake Union Conference, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs, Michigan, and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription price is \$15. Vol. 116, No. 5. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to: Lake Union Herald, P. O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION

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

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

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



READ THE HERALD ONLINE!



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

Promising Youth

You may know Pathfinders is a worldwide youth group for ages 10-15 sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. All youth, regardless of religious persuasion, are encouraged to join this Christian organization where they will develop their character as they grow their mental, physical, social, and spiritual walk with God.



▲ RON WHITEHEAD

Local Pathfinder clubs teach outdoor skills, leadership skills, and Bible knowledge. Activities include community and civic service projects, camping, high adventure activities and trips around their community and the world.

There are over two million Pathfinders around the world, with over 75,000 clubs in 180 countries. Within the Lake Union, there are approximately 8,000 Pathfinders in 265 clubs.

This August 5-11, 2024, 60,000 Pathfinders from over 100 countries will be attending the Believe the Promise International Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming. The Lake Union will bring almost 5,000 Pathfinders from 165 clubs. This quinquennial camporee was hosted within the Lake Union for 20 years, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Now, our Lake Union Pathfinders will travel outside of our territory to meet new Pathfinder friends, experience new activities, learn new skills, see new sights, and best of all, worship with tens of thousands of youths their age from all over the world.

Why is Pathfinders ministry so strong, and growing around the world? I personally believe God has given His special blessing over this ministry to the youth. I believe that children and youth are the most valuable “asset” that we “own” as a faith community. Some would say the most valuable asset is our homes, cars, or bank accounts. Some

would say it is our degrees, jobs, or the committees we sit on and the positions we hold. But I say it is our children, youth and young adults, which makes all other assets pale in comparison.

Some of the most interesting conversations I have ever had were on a plane. I remember a plane ride that allowed me to move to first class for free. On this trip I found myself sitting next to a fellow where we connected right away. I found out that he was a denominational leader in charge of the world-wide mission program for their youth. I told him that I also work with youth within my faith community, and we established trust with each other quickly. I asked him why his denomination invested so much personal and financial resources in their children, youth, and young adults. He quickly replied with passion in his voice, “If we do not invest in our most valuable asset, our youth, we are just one generation away from not existing.”

Wow, what a thought. He is right; if we as a local church do not invest in the lives of this generation right now, we will not have a local church in the future.

Back to Pathfinders. Here is the good news: Every time I see an active club ministry program, I see an active church.

Our children, youth, and young adults are the lifeblood of our local church as we seek to share the



gospel with our communities. Our Pathfinder clubs and those who lead these youth groups are amazing. These leaders take their time, treasure, physical energy and vacations to mentor this generation, so they know just how much God loves them.

The best years for club ministry are in front of us. We have not fully explored all the possibilities of planting new community clubs. We have not fully explored all the possibilities of using this

generation to share the gospel in new and fresh ways in this post-COVID world.

Praise God, He gave us club ministry back in the 1950s. Now, let us pray that we can, with the Holy Spirit, take club ministry to the next level for God's glory! ■

Ron Whitehead is the Lake Union director of youth, young adults and children's ministries.

Fostering a Better Relationship With Our Young People



▲ ROGELIO PAQUINI

Youth ministry has always been a pivotal component of church life, serving as a bridge between generations and fostering spiritual growth among young people. However, the challenges and needs of today's youth are markedly different from those of previous generations.

This article will focus on three critical aspects that modern youth ministry must address: the rising mental health issues among young people, the necessity of trauma-informed care, and the importance of including youth in church leadership and decision-making.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "Globally, it is estimated that 1 in 7 (14%) 10-19-year-olds experience mental health conditions, yet these remain largely unrecognized and untreated."¹ Multiple studies register an increase in rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders among adolescents and young adults over the past decade. Factors such as social media pressures, academic stress, and global uncertainties contribute to this mental health crisis. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these issues, isolating many young people and disrupting their routines and support systems even four years later.

The Rising Tide of Mental Health Issues

Today's youth are experiencing unprecedented levels of mental health issues.



Youth ministries must prioritize mental health in young people by creating a supportive and understanding environment. Creating such an environment involves providing education on mental health issues, destigmatizing mental illness, and offering resources for professional help. Church leaders and pastors should receive training in mental health first aid and tools to help them recognize signs of distress. Additionally, fostering open conversations about mental health within the church can help young people feel less isolated and more supported through their mental struggles.

Healing from Trauma: A Holistic Approach

Trauma is another critical issue that youth ministries must address. Research shows that "62% of

U.S. adolescents ages 13 to 17 years old had been exposed to at least one lifetime traumatic event, and 19% had suffered exposure to three or more traumatic events.”² Many young people today have experienced various forms of trauma, including abuse, neglect, loss, and exposure to violence. Trauma can have profound and long-lasting effects on an individual’s emotional, psychological, and spiritual well-being.

A trauma-informed approach to youth ministry involves understanding the impact of trauma and how to integrate awareness of it into all aspects of ministry. This approach requires creating safe and nurturing environments where young people feel secure and valued. Activities and programs should promote healing and resilience by incorporating self-awareness, therapy, or peer support groups.

Empowering Youth

An effective youth ministry must involve young people in leadership and decision-making processes within the church. Historically, church leadership has often been the domain of older generations, with young people’s voices frequently marginalized. However, involving youth in leadership roles can bring fresh perspectives and energy to the church, fostering a sense of ownership and belonging among young members.

Ellen White earnestly counsels, “Never was there a time when youth of every age and country were needed to do earnestly the work to be done, as now.”³ Empowering youth involves more than just token representation; it requires meaningful inclusion in the planning and implementation of church activities and policies. Young people should be encouraged to take on leadership roles in various church committees and ministries. They should be able to express their ideas and contribute to the entire congregation’s decision-making processes.

Involving youth in church leadership can benefit the ministry through their insights and creativity. Their inclusion also helps young people develop critical leadership skills and a deeper commitment to their faith community. When youth feel their voices are heard and valued, they are more

likely to have a sense of belonging and it increases their chances of staying engaged and actively participating in the church’s life. Fuller Youth Ministry Institute recommends, “When young people are adopted into God’s kingdom as God’s sons and daughters and adopted into the body of Christ and the local church family, youth ministry shifts from ministry for teenagers to ministry with teenagers.”⁴

Conclusion

The landscape of youth ministry is evolving, shaped by our time’s unique challenges and opportunities. Addressing the mental health crisis, adopting trauma-informed practices, and empowering youth through leadership are crucial steps in creating a vibrant and supportive faith community. Churches focusing on these aspects can better support their young members’ spiritual, emotional, and psychological well-being, helping them thrive in their faith and life. Then, youth ministry can become a beacon of hope and healing for the next generation. ■

Rogelio Paquini, DMin, is assistant professor of youth and young adult ministry at the Seventh Day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.



How Far From Home?



▲ DENIS KAISER

Written by Annie R. Smith (1828–1855), this is one of the oldest Adventist hymns found in our hymnal. She was a gifted artist, writer, and editor. During the 3 1/2 years she worked for the *Review and Herald*, she wrote 45 hymns and poems for the *Review* and the *Youth’s Instructor*, leaving a legacy of spiritual beauty. Her story of God’s guidance in her life illustrates His wonderful care for us.

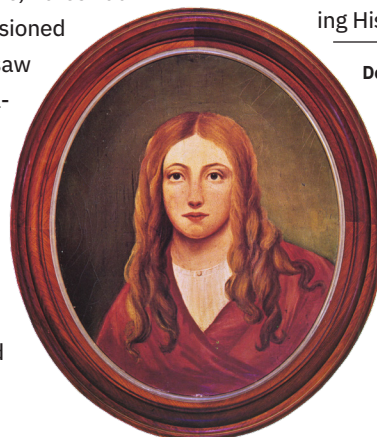
After the Great Disappointment, Annie abandoned her faith and turned to teaching at various schools while studying at Charlestown Female Seminary. In 1850, an eye injury from painting left her vision impaired for eight months, preventing her from securing a desired teaching position. To cope, she turned to writing poetry for magazines. She stayed with friends in Boston and yearned for worldly fame.

Over time, however, her mother, Rebekah Smith, grew increasingly anxious about Annie’s relentless pursuit of success in literature and art, fearing that her daughter was losing sight of matters of spiritual importance. When Joseph Bates, an early Sabbatarian Adventist leader, visited the Smith family in West Wilton, Massachusetts, Rebekah confided her worries to him. Bates listened attentively to her concerns and suggested that his upcoming lectures in Boston could offer Annie the spiritual perspective she was missing. He advised Rebekah to write to her daughter and extend a personal invitation.

The night before the first lecture, Bates had a vivid dream in which he envisioned the lecture he would give. He saw every seat filled except for a solitary chair near the door. After the opening hymn and prayer, Bates opened his Bible to preach when the door creaked open, and a young woman slipped into the last empty chair. That same night, Annie had the very same dream.

Annie set off early for the meeting the next evening but became disoriented on the unfamiliar streets. She finally arrived at the place and walked in at the very moment she had seen in her dream. For both Bates and Annie, the experience felt like a *déjà vu*. He originally intended to speak on a different topic, yet as her arrival reminded him of the dream, he began talking about the heavenly sanctuary. After the lecture, Bates approached Annie with a measured step. “I believe this is Sister Smith’s daughter, of West Wilton,” he said. “I never saw you before, but your countenance looks familiar. I dreamed of seeing you last night.”¹ As Annie recounted her dream to him, both were deeply impressed by this event, believing that God had arranged this meeting and brought them together.

One month after the encounter, Annie sent her first poem, “Fear Not, Little Flock,” to the *Review*, acknowledging her initial reluctance to write on spiritual topics but feeling compelled to fully surrender her skills to God’s work after experiencing His “infinite mercy.”² ■



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

1 W. A. Spalding, “How Providence Prepared the Way,” *Review and Herald*, December 9, 1909, 4.

2 A. R. Smith, “Extracts of Letters,” *Review and Herald*, September 16, 1851, 31.

El Fruto de una Semilla

Cuando yo era pastor de la iglesia de habla inglesa en la ciudad de Fort Wayne, Indiana recibí en el año 1999 una llamada telefónica de una organización que se encargaba de situar a refugiados que habían sido aceptados recientemente como inmigrantes a los Estados Unidos.



▲ CARMELO MERCADO

Esta agencia me informó que había una familia de Myanmar (Burma anteriormente) que deseaba radicarse en Fort Wayne. Yo no estaba enterado de que en esa ciudad ya había muchos refugiados de Myanmar por lo que esta familia tenía conocidos allí. Lo interesante es que la familia se había identificado como adventista, y por esta razón la agencia me llamó a mí para averiguar si nuestra iglesia la recibiría y daría el apoyo que necesitaba.

Le presenté la propuesta a la junta de iglesia; fue aceptada sin demora, y se organizó a una comisión para hacer los preparativos. Por mi parte, investigué algo acerca del comienzo de la obra adventista en Myanmar. Descubrí que la obra comenzó con la llegada de Eric B. Hare y su esposa, misioneros de los Estados Unidos. Esta pareja logró establecer escuelas, clínicas médicas e iglesias, lo cual resultó en la ganancia de muchas almas para Cristo y un gran crecimiento de la obra Adventista en ese país. Desafortunadamente, el gobierno actual persigue hoy a ciertos grupos étnicos como también a los cristianos; como consecuencia, millones de ellos han tenido que huir de su país. Cuando nos llegó la petición para recibir a la familia de Myanmar me enteré de que dicha familia había estado ya varios años en un campamento para refugiados en Tailandia. Tenían la esperanza de que algún día se les permitiera emigrar a nuestro país.

Después de varios meses de preparativos llegó el día en que los recibimos en el aeropuerto. Les dimos una calurosa bienvenida y los llevamos al departamento que habíamos alquilado y alfombrado para ellos. Me alegré mucho al ver la manera en que los miembros de la iglesia aceptaron a los recién llegados como familia en la fe. Recuerdo muy

bien el sábado en que nos acompañaron en el culto por primera vez. Era evidente que a pesar de la diferencia de idiomas se sentían muy felices de poder adorar a Dios, por fin, en un templo adventista.

Han pasado ya más de veinte años desde que llegó esa familia. Con el pasar del tiempo muchas personas provenientes de Myanmar han sido bautizadas y han crecido al punto de ser un grupo que ya tiene su propio pastor. Sus hijos han asistido a nuestras escuelas, academias y hasta universidades adventistas. ¡Imagínense mi alegría al ver que después de tantos años asisten a la iglesia unas noventa personas! Y este grupo de personas se ha unido para ser organizado oficialmente como una compañía de la Asociación de Indiana.

La realidad es que la obra adventista en Myanmar comenzó con misioneros que compartieron su fe. La semilla sembrada por esos misioneros trajo a una familia a los Estados Unidos, y los miembros de esa familia esparcieron más semillas que dieron fruto a una nueva congregación. Vale la pena compartir la semilla de nuestra fe. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago

▼ La nueva congregación, llamada Fort Wayne United Seventh-day Adventist Church, recién organizada por la Asociación de Indiana



Motor City Youth Find Purpose and Family in a Community-Based Pathfinder Club

American International Academy in Inkster, Michigan, based in the suburb of Detroit, is not a Seventh-day Adventist academy. However, both Principal Jeff Wilder and District Superintendent Thomas White are products of Adventist education and club ministry. The two men noticed students slipping through the cracks, getting in trouble at school, or simply struggling with their studies and knew something had to be done.

Drawing upon their memories of Pathfinders, they saw the opportunity to create an uplifting, faith-centered space where students could thrive. As a result, at the beginning of 2020, the wheels for the first community-based Pathfinders Club were set in motion. However, the pandemic thwarted their plans and led to a four-year pause.

Fortunately, God used that time to align planning and leadership to make the Pathfinder Club a reality. In 2023, Sandrew King, executive coordinator for Lake Region Conference youth, young adult and camp ministries, was hired as the school district's community and parent liaison. He would bring kids from the community and connect the community to the school. This made him the perfect person for Superintendent White to approach for the role of Pathfinder director.

However, they soon met a unique challenge: finding a church sponsor. As a rule, Pathfinder clubs are church based. Since Pathfinder ministry is a staple of most Adventist churches, finding one that did not support an existing club proved difficult. After

5 ½ months of dedicated searching, City Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Detroit agreed to serve as a sponsor, and the Inkster Community Nighthawks Pathfinder Club officially shifted into gear.

The goal was simple: Create a community-based Pathfinder club through their charter school, while providing a positive outlet for students to connect with the community, invest in their future and encounter God.

Once the club was established, it began to flourish as an after-school program open to the public. To date, 127 youth are signed up for the ministry and they're participating in a drum corps and touring places such as Camp Au Sable, Andrews University and Oakwood University. "We want the kids to visit these colleges and see what's possible," King said. "We want them to begin to hope and plan for their future."

The club is incredibly active. Three Pathfinders oversee community service activities, which has resulted in involvement in a Memorial Day parade



▲ The goal for the club was simple: Create a community-based Pathfinder club through their charter school, while providing a positive outlet for students to connect with the community, invest in their future and encounter God.

and a community cleanup. Plans are underway to purchase equipment to mow lawns in the summer and shovel snowy walkways in the winter.

Being open to the community, the Nighthawks Pathfinder Club creates a wide reach with a profound impact. However, the club is not immune from challenges. “Many of these kids are below the poverty line,” King says. “We were able to buy some T-shirts but mainly we have to rely on the blessings of the community.”

With the fast-approaching 2024 International Pathfinder Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming, they recognize they don’t have the luxury of much time to raise the necessary funds to attend. They hope congregants and community members alike will help fulfill the students’ dreams of attending this signature faith-building event with 60,000 Pathfinders from around the world.

American International Academy’s motto is “Love, Laugh, Learn” which pairs perfectly with City Temple church’s motto of “Show, Share, Create.” These words create an ethos for Nighthawks

Pathfinder Club, encouraging them to engage with their community in a more meaningful way.

Indeed, many students reference the community they’ve found as a positive influence on them. Corey Royal, a 16-year-old junior at the charter school, says she was inspired to become a Pathfinder, as it allows her “to go out and meet new people and try new things.” Antashia Davis, 15, voices a sentiment shared by several other Pathfinders: “I like the feeling of being part of a family.”

The Inkster Community Nighthawks Pathfinder Club has left an indelible mark on the students, offering them an outlet for other-centered activity and a chance to be the hands and feet of Christ. “We’re trying to minister to the hopelessness of this generation,” King says. And by the looks of it, the Nighthawks Pathfinder Club has succeeded. ■

Nicole Brown-Dominguez is a Chicago-based freelance writer.

“ THE INKSTER COMMUNITY NIGHTHAWKS PATHFINDER CLUB HAS LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON THE STUDENTS, OFFERING THEM AN OUTLET FOR OTHER-CENTERED ACTIVITY AND A CHANCE TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST. ”



▲ The Hayes Hispanic Adventurer Club when it began in 1997.



▲ Rosana, at left, investing her daughter Naomi as a Master Guide in Sept. 2023.

A Mother's Vision Leaves an Impact a Generation Later

In May 1997, Rosana M. Perez was attending the Hayes Hispanic church in Milwaukee. She was concerned that there weren't enough efforts to help her daughters on their spiritual journey. She started talking with her brother in Puerto Rico about Adventurers, and how he had started a club in his church. He was able to send her all the information that he had from the Inter-American Division. With her husband's loving encouragement, she was able to push forward and start the club that would become the very first Adventurers Club in Wisconsin.



◀ The West Milwaukee (formerly Hayes) Hispanic Club at last year's Adventurer Camporee



▲ Early days of the club

First, Rosana spoke with Elder Dale Ziegele, the conference youth director, about her vision for the club, and asked what she needed to do to start it. He was able to point her in the right direction. She didn't speak much English, but she went forward with the plan, because she knew that God was leading her. After speaking with conference leadership, she spoke with her church board, and they supported the idea.

Together with Ivelisse Nuñez, Ever Gomez, and Jenny Gardana as teachers, they started the club. They started with about 15 kids that first year, and five of those were visitors to the church. At this point they really had no idea what they were doing, but they knew that with the help of God, they would pull through. Speaking with one of the teachers who helped Rosana in the beginning, you can see what a beautiful struggle it was at first. Involving the church and the parents was hard initially because they had no idea what the club was. God led the club staff with ideas on how to fundraise money for the different crafts and outings that they were doing.

They did so many different activities to help the kids learn more about the world around them—from visiting sick and elderly church members to taking day trips to the aquarium. They created different crafts—from a small fish to a life-size paper doll—the ideas and outings

seemed endless. Rosana did not stop moving but kept pushing forward with the club. She was the director of the Adventurer Club in Hayes Hispanic church for 15 years. Recently, the Hayes Hispanic church purchased a new building and became the West Milwaukee Hispanic church. Rosana was director for one more year after that, and even though she has stepped down, she is still involved—this time, as a teacher for her grandchildren. Her love for the club and what it stands for is what keeps her there for all the children, especially her grandkids.

One of the missions of the club is to prepare future leaders in our churches. Rosana and Ivelisse have now seen many of their students rise to various positions of leadership in the church: Adventurers and Pathfinders directors, Master Guides, pastors, department heads, coordinators, and more.

Wisconsin Youth Director Zack Payne says, "It is a true blessing and honor to witness a mom's dream of helping her daughters turn into a legacy that 27 years later has grown all over the state of Wisconsin." ■

Naomi Kroneck is a member of the Milwaukee West Hispanic church.

It is a true blessing and honor to witness a mom's dream of helping her daughters turn into a legacy that 27 years later has grown all over the state of Wisconsin.



Stanton Witherspoon



A Mother's Pin Collection Grows into an Impressive Display of Club Ministry History

LaToya Austin's introduction to the world of Pathfinders began through her daughters, who were members of the Pontiac Warriors Pathfinder Club in Michigan. At first, she was just a supportive parent, attending events and helping where she could. But at the 2019 Chosen camporee in Oshkosh, her involvement became more intentional.

As she rode through the sprawling Oshkosh, Wisconsin, camporee grounds on a golf cart beside Lake Region Pathfinder coordinator Robert Jackson Jr., she watched in awe as he greeted nearly everyone they passed. It seemed like every few feet, another young Pathfinder would call out to him, and he would stop, exchanging stories, jokes, and, most importantly, pins.

"Seeing Robert in action that day and how he used pin trading to form bonds was inspiring," she said. "It opened my eyes to the depth and community within Pathfindering."

THE SPARK OF PIN TRADING

"I had no pins to start with and didn't even know how to begin," LaToya laughs. "But Robert guided me. I bought a few pins, and soon I was walking

around, trading and meeting new people. It was amazing."

Pin trading became more than a hobby; it was a way to connect deeply with others. LaToya recalls a particularly memorable trade with a 10-year-old boy from England.

"We kept in touch for years after that camporee. He would tell me about his life in England, and I'd share about Michigan. It was incredible how a simple pin could create such lasting friendships."

BUILDING A COLLECTION

As LaToya delved deeper into pin trading, her collection grew. She now has more than 1,000 pins and had set a goal to collect a pin from each of the North American Division (NAD) conferences.

"I mapped out all the conferences and attended

various tents to find their pins. It was like a treasure hunt," she said. Her collection expanded to include international pins, like the highly coveted Cayman Islands pin, which took her two years to find.

Inspired by her experiences and the rich history she encountered, LaToya decided to start a collection dedicated to Pathfinding in the Lake Region Conference. The idea took shape after attending a camporee in 2022, where she spent hours in the NAD Pathfinder Museum.

"I was thrilled by the displays and wanted to create something similar for our regional conference," she said.

LaToya began by procuring material, reaching out to Johnson, the longest-serving LRC Pathfinder coordinator, until his untimely death in 2020. With his help, and support from the conference, LaToya started curating her collection.

"Brother J, as we called him, had boxes full of old booklets, uniforms, scarves, and patches. It was like discovering a treasure trove," she recalls. "He was the first person to donate items to the museum."

Brother J's influence in the procurement of the historical memorabilia can't be overstated.

"We would get together every week for many months," LaToya shares. "He had old Pathfinder magazines, booklets, camporee booklets, camp meeting events, pictures, and he donated them all. This museum would not be possible without him."

In addition to Robert Johnson Sr., Mrs. Gayle Kimmy, an 86-year-old Master Guide, played a significant role.

"Mrs. Kimmy would meet with me monthly to discuss different topics and provided the history of LRC's first youth directors. She donated her mother's Master Guide uniform, her husband's Missionary Volunteers hat, and her daughter's hat," LaToya shares. "When the museum was open, she was there almost every day to talk to the children as they visited the museum."

The project was a labor of love. LaToya meticulously researched Pathfinder history, sourced rare books from the early 20th century, and organized the artifacts. She bought display cases and printed educational materials. "It took a few months, but by the next camp meeting, we had a substantial exhibit ready," she said.

A "MUSEUM" OF MEMORIES

The display of important club ministries artifacts quickly became beloved by those who visited. The vast pin collection was a major attraction. LaToya strategically placed the collection at the end of the exhibit, encouraging visitors to first learn about the rich history of Pathfinders, once known as Missionary Volunteers.

"Adults would walk through, reminiscing about the old Missionary Volunteer days, singing songs from their youth," LaToya shares. "Seeing their faces light up with memories was incredibly rewarding."

The exhibit also features a map of the United States and Canada, where LaToya has collected patches from nearly every state and region. "When people visit, I ask if they have any patches from places we're missing. It's become a collective effort to complete the map," she said.

PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT AND TEACHING

LaToya's journey with Pathfinders deepened even as her daughters grew older. Her older daughter, Siobhan, and younger daughter, Sinead, both flourished in the club and participated in Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) competitions. "My involvement actually blossomed after my kids left for university," LaToya notes. "I continued with PBE because I have a thirst for knowledge and love the detailed study of the Bible."

In addition to her work with PBE, LaToya pursued her Master Guide certification, which required study of Adventist history. "The museum project helped me fulfill the requirements, and I'll be receiving my Master Guide at the next camporee," she said proudly.

Looking ahead, LaToya envisions a permanent location for the historic artifacts. She also plans to take the collection to various regional and union events, sharing the history and spirit of Pathfinding with a broader audience. "My goal is to help the kids know their history. It's important for them to understand the roots of Pathfinding." ■

Danni Thaw is a freelance writer.

My goal is to help the kids know their history. It's important for them to understand the roots of Pathfinding.





KEEPING THE PROMISE

Two sets of twins were baptized at the 2019 International Pathfinder Camporee. Read about the spiritual journey they've been on for the past five years.

Change is hard. While this may feel trite or understated (or both), it is, as Jane Austen would say, “a truth universally acknowledged.” And yet, there are phases of life which require us to dive into the unknown—some of our own choosing, such as marriage or parenthood, and some thrust upon us, such as divorce or the death of a loved one. Or, for example, high school.

“Everything safe and familiar—a student’s home away from home—has shifted from a single location to a ‘home-room,’ which is just a small piece of their day,” explains Tracy Wood, director for youth and young adult ministry at the North American Division. “There’s a sudden fragmentation or disconnection of their previous stable learning and life environment. This is especially disruptive and disconcerting for those who may not have had a stable home life already.”

The transition to college, Wood says, is even bigger. “You move from a campus you knew corner to corner to a massive college campus which is in some cases an entire city,” he says. “You move away from everyone you know, and you get lost.”

Everything changes in these moments—from emotional experiences to academic expectations to physical environments. And aside from these adjustments, Wood says there is also a significant transition in faith and spiritual life when moving from one phase of life to another.

“Teachers, pastors, youth leaders—all those people who knew and believed in you before are gone,” he explains. “You

have to find new spiritual guides and mentors to do daily life with, and if connecting with a local church group is difficult, you struggle to find your people. That transition is massive.”

There are, however, ways to minimize the inevitable accompanying growing pains which come with the transitions to high school or college. A ValueGenesis study, for example, revealed long ago that young people make significant life and faith decisions in settings which are not their typical everyday experience. This is why spending a week at summer camp or VBS or attending youth retreats or Camporees is invaluable to a young person’s spiritual experience and their future spiritual lives.

This was certainly true for two sets of twins who chose to be baptized at the 2019 Pathfinder Camporee in OshKosh.

“Pathfinders was where we belonged—they were our people,” explains Jae’Ona Middleton, 22.

Jae’Bel Middleton, 22, agrees. “Pathfinders was the place we took our first steps toward understanding our own personal relationships with God,” she says, “so it just felt right to be baptized at Camporee.” Then 17, she also

knew she’d be headed to college soon, and her relationship with God would become more self-motivated. “My parents wouldn’t be there telling me to go to church, we wouldn’t have family worship together—all those familiar regular reminders wouldn’t be present,” she says. “With my baptism, I committed to my own relationship with God, not one based on my parents—or convenience.”

And so, on an overcast day in August 2019, surrounded by hundreds of fellow Pathfinders, parents, directors, pastors, and other church representatives, the Middletons were baptized by Dwayne Duncombe, their pastor at Hyde Park at the time.

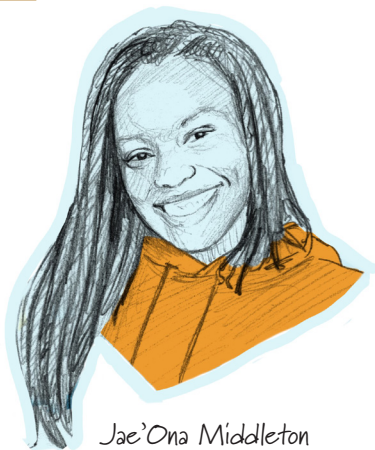
“I have so many examples in front of me who are baptized and who are standing up leading people to the Lord and I want to be part of that,” Jae’Bel commented on the day of her baptism.

Over 94 Lake Union Pathfinders made public declarations of their commitment to Christ during the 2019 camporee, including another set of twins, Kendahl and Landon Hensel, whose family attends Grand Blanc church in Michigan. They were baptized by their pastor, Daniel Ferraz.

BY BECKY ST. CLAIR

Jae'Bel Middleton

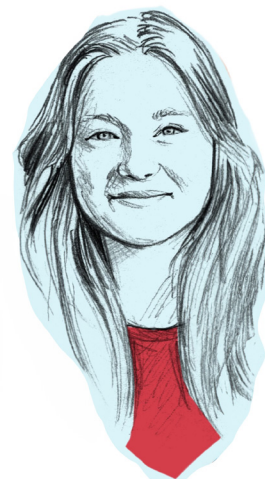
Kendahl Hensel



Jae'Ona Middleton



Landon Hensel



“If we surround ourselves with spiritual people, we’ll drift instead toward broadened minds and deeper faith.”

“When my mom suggested it would be an opportunity to witness to other young Pathfinders, that convinced me,” Kendahl recalls. “I was sure getting baptized was what I wanted, and I wanted to do it at Camporee.”

Landon admits he was nervous about being baptized in front of so many people, but ultimately, he knew it was what he wanted, and he was determined to follow through. The camera he agreed to wear to capture his experience caught Landon breathing, “Whoa!” as he stood at the railing looking out at the crowd of hundreds. As he waded through the water to take his place, the pastor asked Landon, “You doing OK?” to which Landon replied eagerly, “Oh yeah!”

“The most memorable moment of that entire experience was coming up out of the water,” he says, looking back at that experience nearly five years ago. “Coming up, I felt different.”

CHANGES AHEAD

At the time they were baptized, the Hensels were 11; the Middletons 17. For both sets of twins, big transitions were coming within just a couple of years. The Hensels soon headed to Great Lakes Adventist Academy; the Middletons enrolled at Washington Adventist University in Maryland.

Talk about big life changes.

It isn’t always easy to stick to the promises made through baptism, Landon admits, or feel motivated to stay connected.

“This year there have been a lot of distractions, and I realized my priorities weren’t as straight as I thought they

were,” he says. “When I got baptized, I promised God I’d try to be closer to him and keep my daily focus on him, and that’s something I will continue to recommit to.”

Kendahl agrees there have been challenges, but she also finds opportunities to recommit herself to Christ, such as during Week of Prayer at school, which keeps her focus in the right place.

Jae’Bel refers to her relationship with God as “new and personal,” as she works to stay consistent in connecting with him. “I’m discovering my relationship with God is just that—mine—and no one else’s,” she says. “It’s hard to stay consistent with so many distractions, but it is something I am committed to daily. Baptism reminded me to stay focused and consistent despite the different challenges.”

MOVING ON, STAYING CONNECTED

Even as they grapple with the shifts in their faith journeys, both the Middletons and the Hensels have found ways to remain active and involved in their faith communities—habits instilled in them in part through their involvement in Pathfinders.

While at Washington Adventist University, Jae’Bel and Jae’Ona taught kindergarten Sabbath School classes, led prayer circles, and helped with young adult ministries. They participated in praise teams and led prayer at church regularly. When they transferred the following year to Antillean University in Puerto Rico, they helped with the local Pathfinder club, and jumped easily into young adult ministries, helping coordinate, advertise, and cook for regular prayer breakfasts.

“There’s always a need for people to help, so we just filled whatever hole needed filling,” Jae’Bel says.

While home from school on breaks, they were often asked to help with Pathfinder meetings and activities. Home in Chicago this summer, the Middleton twins planned to help with camp meeting, summer camp, and Vacation Bible School.

“Our mom taught us there’s always something to do,” says Jae’Ona. “You just have to look, find a project, and do it. You’ll find purpose and feel good about what you’re doing.”

Landon says that to find the space you’re truly meant to fill in your church, sometimes you have to get uncomfortable. When GLAA visited the Hensels’ home church this year, Landon was asked to give the sermon. Not an up-front person, Landon shared his concerns with his principal. “He told me, ‘The sermon you preach is the sermon *you* need to hear the most,’” Landon recalls. “So, I prayed about it and realized I knew what I needed to say. I was vulnerable and it was uncomfortable, but I realize now that if you stay comfortable, you’ll never push yourself to grow.”

CLUBS LAY THE FOUNDATION

As members of the Grand Blanc Holy Herons Pathfinder Club, the Hensel twins were empowered from a young age to participate not only in the church service, but in the service of the church.

“On Sundays, I was often at the church with my dad, working alongside other Pathfinders and their parents on flooring, drywall, or whatever else needed doing,” Landon says. Kendahl adds their Pathfinder leaders were good at getting the young people of the church involved in more than just picking up the offering.

“It was because of my involvement with Pathfinders that I gave my first sermonette,” she says. “That experience really helped me be more comfortable and willing to do other up-front speaking things. Pathfinders felt like training for doing life on a bigger scale.”

Landon says volunteering on larger projects at church connected him to people in his

church he may not otherwise have interacted with. “I got to know people from different generations,” he says, “and that helped me feel closer to the church.”

Expanding one’s interpersonal circle is something Pathfinders does well. The Hyde Park Constellations Pathfinder Club, of which the Middletons were members, had several non-Adventist members, including Baptists, non-denominational Christians, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and others. “It was a very diverse environment, and it was a really good experience for us,” Jae’Ona says.

The Middletons grew up exploring different churches; their parents took them not only to their home church, but also Asian churches, Hispanic churches, white churches, and African churches.

“We grew up comfortable with diverse worship experiences, diverse faith backgrounds, and diverse cultural traditions, which made it easy for us to get involved in the local church even when we moved to college,” says Jae’Ona.

Being on the other side of Pathfinders—having aged out and moved on to college—has given Jae’Bel a different way to be involved.

“A lot of people read stories in the Bible and think how cool it would be to be a disciple,” she says. “They ask themselves questions like, ‘Would I do what Esther did, or what Ruth did?’ You’re in that position with Pathfinders. You learn how to facilitate other people’s growth—to help them on their journey to discovering who God wants them to be.”

FROM BORROWED TO PERSONAL FAITH

Spiritual guidance and mentorship are based on relationships, so intentionally surrounding ourselves with spiritual people during that transition into high school or college is crucial to keep us from drifting without direction.

“If we surround ourselves with spiritual people, we’ll drift instead toward broadened minds and deeper faith,” Wood comments. But we must explore those opportunities for ourselves to determine where we stand

personally, rather than simply resting on the spiritual laurels of those who have guided us to that point.

The ValueGenesis study refers to this experience as “moving from borrowed faith—the faith of my family and community—to owned faith—my own faith.” Essentially, young people realize they had just been believing what their community believed, and now those assumptions and influences are less influential, and they must figure out where they stand on matters of religion, faith, and spirituality.

“This is not a choice, it’s a phase-of-life journey,” Wood emphasizes. “It’s what happens in your 20s when you come into yourself, as you wonder where you’re going, how you’ll figure that out, and how God fits into the picture. It’s natural.”

And the foundation provided through spiritual experiences throughout one’s early life plays a huge role in how that journey plays out.

“The most powerful thing we can do for our young people is to provide opportunities for those meaningful, memorable moments,” Wood says. Moments like summer camp, Bible retreats, VBS, and Camporee. “At each of these events, what many people refer to as ‘entertainment’ is so much more than that. They are building blocks of a highly impactful spiritual life—things we never forget.”

The theme for the 2024 Pathfinder Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming, is “Believe the Promise.” Some in attendance will choose to do exactly that and will publicly commit their life to Christ through baptism, like the Middletons and the Hensels did five years ago—a decision they did not take lightly, and a promise they haven’t forgotten, despite the twists and turns of life.

“I’m trying to commit my everyday life to God, trying to keep him at the center of whatever I’m doing,” Kendahl says. “Anything I do with God as the focus is infinitely more powerful than what I could do on my own. A lot of the time I don’t keep the promises I’ve made to God, but I know He always keeps His. And that’s what gives me strength to keep trying.”

Becky St. Clair is a freelance writer.

Health Equity Matters

In the U.S., Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women, and their breast cancer mortality rate is 40% higher.

Sadly, these startling statistics are just two examples of a long list of alarming health disparities in our country. Many population groups experience inferior health outcomes and higher disease incidences across a range of health conditions that extend beyond breast cancer and maternal health, including diabetes, hypertension, asthma, obesity, heart disease and cancer. We have long been plagued with a two-tier health care system predicated on the socioeconomics of the patients.

When I began my career as a surgeon, it was important for me to work with a group of providers who pledged to never turn down a patient with a diagnosis of cancer. Over the years I had the privilege of caring for hundreds of uninsured and underinsured patients, witnessing firsthand the heartbreaking hardships they experienced due to lack of early diagnosis and prompt treatment.

Knowing that I wanted to do more in 2020, I took on the role of chief health equity officer with AdventHealth to help transform health care delivery to achieve both equity and excellence.

A Daunting Challenge but Clear Calling

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) defines health equity as the state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to

attain their highest level of health. If we're doing health care well, health equity is another lens we must use to evaluate our work.

At AdventHealth, our mission of "Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ" requires that we deeply understand our patients and their needs — body, mind and spirit. Guided by this mission we are determined to operate as a preeminent, faith-based, consumer-focused clinical care company. To that end, we have made a commitment to ensure that regardless of gender, age, insured status, race or ethnicity, each patient we serve will have equal opportunity to achieve equitable health outcomes. In June 2021, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded AdventHealth a \$2 million grant to support this commitment, and we are building a "Bridge to Health Equity" in the communities we serve through:

- A data-based approach to identifying health disparities
- Collaborating to develop effective interventions
- Identifying our personal biases, shifting mindsets and building inclusiveness

Forging a Better Path Forward

As clinicians and citizens, we all want healthier communities. This cannot occur without achieving greater health equity among our diverse populations.



Courtesy of AdventHealth

▲ Dr. Alric Simmonds

Transformative progress in this space requires courage and commitment. We must all do a better job of listening, learning, measuring, connecting and collaborating. Breaking down health disparities is an essential part of our sacred work. Let's continue this mission-critical duty. ■

Dr. Alric Simmonds is the chief equity officer at AdventHealth.



UChicago Medicine



Andrews University Becomes First Hispanic Serving Institution in Michigan



World Changers Made Here.

Andrews University was recently designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). Currently, Andrews is the first and only school in the state of Michigan to receive such a designation.

In addition to recognizing support and appreciation for the Hispanic students on campus, being a Hispanic-Serving Institution provides Andrews with opportunities to further serve Hispanic students in higher education. It enables the university to apply for grants that can be utilized to increase accessibility to education and support Hispanic students throughout their college careers. The HACU also offers external scholarships, advancement programs, internships and other forms of support to Hispanic students across the country.

“Being an HACU member opens doors for undergraduate and graduate summer internships with the federal government in museums, parks, senate, congress, the IRS, immigration and many more,” says Pedro Navia, chair of the Department of International Languages & Global Studies.

The designation can also benefit faculty members doing research or community projects within the Hispanic community.

Navia, who also serves as the sponsor for the Andrews University Latino Association (AULA), headed the application process for this designation. “The HACU used our fall semester numbers for Hispanics enrolled at both undergraduate and graduate levels, which were between 24%–25% with a steady pattern of continued growth,” he says.

As Andrews continues to hold a ranking as one of the most ethnically diverse campuses in the nation, it is important to recognize the diverse people groups that are represented on campus, both among students and employees. Recent graduate Brandon Alvarez, who served as president of the Andrews University Latino Association during the 2023–24 school year, notes his appreciation for the numerous Hispanic student clubs and religious organizations found in the campus community, such as AULA, Makarios Ministry and Genesis Fellowship. “It really opens up the doors for Hispanic students to get involved and celebrate their origins,” he says.

In addition to clubs and organizations, the university offers several scholarships for students of Hispanic descent. Andrews also recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month, which falls between Sept. 15–Oct. 15 each year. In 2023, the campus community celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month under the theme “Estamos Unidos,” meaning “We Are United.” Programming included church services, vespers services, educational courses, a night market, spirit week activities and a Noche Latina program. Each event honored the diversity within the Andrews University community.

“Andrews has set up so much support for the Hispanic community that resides here,” says senior elementary education major Amanda Orosco, who is of Mexican and Dominican heritage. “From the undergraduate and graduate clubs to even the food served at the cafeteria, I feel my culture is represented on campus, and to me, that is so comforting. It helps me feel like this is a place that I belong.” ■

Sara Hamstra is a University Communication student writer.



▲ Students attended a recent Andrews University Latino Association graduation recognition and stole ceremony.

Jessica Condon



Soccer Tournament Scores with Wisconsin Hispanic Community

The Colby Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted a soccer tournament in partnership with several area businesses with the goal of creating a safe and healthy space for family recreation while minimizing anxiety and depression during the winter.

The tournament was held Jan. 28 through March 31 at the Memorial Hall of Unity with seven adult male teams and two mixed team categories, ages 7 to 10 and 11 to 16, participating.

“Parents were so grateful for the space created for their kids to play during the winter,” said Juan Rivas, pastor of the Colby and Green Bay Hispanic churches. “It helped the adults destress from work and kept their children more active, and away from electronics.”

During the final ceremony at the Colby High School on March 31, the church’s club ministry was involved. “We took advantage of promoting the Adventurer Club, allowing them to register their children,” Rivas stated. “Members wore the Global Youth Day

shirt 2024, ‘Show Up in the Cities,’ with the Adventurer Club’s scarf as part of the community outreach strategy.”

The event was promoted at local businesses and yielded contact with a family of former Adventists. They were unaware there was an Adventist church just 30 minutes from their home. Rivas visited them and the family is now attending the church and participating in Bible studies.

Colby, population 1,350, is a farming community in the heart of Wisconsin famous for its Colby cheese. The 55 members of the Colby Church are actively forging relationships with the Hispanic community, many of them working in factories, construction, agriculture and manufacturing plants. Soccer is a



▲ Parents were so grateful for the space created for their kids to play during the winter,” said Juan Rivas, pastor of the Colby and Green Bay Hispanic churches. “It helped the adults destress from work and kept their children more active, and away from electronics.”

huge sport in their native countries of Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, Columbia and El Salvador.

Several businesses supported the event with sponsorship of items such as uniforms, water, monetary donations or graphic design services. Gratitude was extended to the sponsors: Ever Construction LLC, Caribe Ink and Thread LLC, Peck Roofing Inc, La Weracruzana Mexican Store, Abarrotes La China Mexican Store, Taqueria El Sol, La Norteña Grocery, Partydis, ZB Designs, Fiesta Market LLC, Novedades La Chiquita, Nicolet Bank and Pasito Mexican Store.

“Our members are learning that we are not just a church in the community,” Rivas reported, “but one that works with and for the community.”

Another tournament is planned for January–March 2025. ■

Juan Rivas with Herald staff



▲ The Brownsburg Beacons Pathfinder drum corps has five current members. From left to right: Gloria Damulira, bass; Gianni Tapia, director; Michaela Tima, 6-top; Mark Knecht III, cymbals; and Gabriel Tapia, snare.

Indiana Club Sets the Beat

As Pathfinders from around Indiana Conference gathered at Timber Ridge Camp for the Pathfinders Fair in May, one club was very excited to be there. The Brownsburg Beacons Pathfinder Club would perform their first drum corps routine before all the Pathfinders. Not only was it their first time performing in public, this was the first Pathfinder drum corps in Indiana.

Their journey to playing at the fair began when Youth Director Charlie Thompson notified clubs the conference had purchased drums and was going to make them available to a club. Brownsburg jumped at the chance.

When it was time to find someone to lead their new team, TLT Gianni Tapia volunteered without hesitation. “Drumming has this incredible power to unite people which I first experienced at a leadership weekend where I was first introduced to drum corps,” he said. “Leading the drum corps was about more than just winning a competition; it was about building friendships, growing as musicians, having fun together, and most of all, bringing glory to God. I wanted to create an environment where everyone felt supported and encouraged to do their best.”

Once the team was formed, the Pathfinders took over completely. The only things the

staff had to do was get the drums for practice and then get out of the way. The Pathfinders were highly motivated to succeed.

They were really excited when Pastor Charlie let everyone at the fair know that they were the first drum corps from Indiana.

“When I found out we were the first, I was surprised,” Mark Knecht III said.

“It was a nice opportunity to do something that stood out. After the experience, I felt proud of what we accomplished as a team,” remarked Michaela Tima.

“I was surprised at what we were able to accomplish in such a short time,” said Gabriel Tapia. “I’m very thankful that God made a way for us to play some drums and have some fun with it too.” ■

Mark Knecht Jr. is director of the Brownsburg Beacons Pathfinder Club.



Lake Union Teams Participate at Division Pathfinder Bible Experience

Pathfinder clubs from across the North American Division convened in Greeley, Colorado, on April 20, 2024, to participate in the Division Level Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE).

Among those clubs were 12 teams from the Lake Union who proved their outstanding knowledge of the books of Joshua and Judges.

A Tradition of Faith and Knowledge

Craig Harris, Lake Union PBE coordinator, said it was exciting to witness the Pathfinders journey from area level to conference level to the union level. From there, those who finished in first place, or 90% of the top scorers, went on to the Division level.

Pathfinder Bible Experience has evolved over the years, becoming the official North American Division Pathfinder Bible study program. Teams of six club members immerse themselves in the study of a designated book of the Bible, demonstrating their mastery of Scripture through rigorous testing. The winning teams are extreme students of the Bible and in most cases memorize chapters and, in some cases the entire book(s), as well as the SDA Bible Commentary introduction.

PBE, as it's commonly known, was developed to help Pathfinders and young people meditate and reflect on what the Bible says and how it applies to their lives. It features ideas for application to help Pathfinders use what they study and apply it to their daily experience at home, school and church.

Harris pointed out this isn't a new program, but it's one which goes by a newer name than some might remember. "It's been around for a long time and used to be called Pathfinder Bible Bowl--those of you who are old-timers, you'll remember that," said Harris. "And now it is the Pathfinder Bible Experience, a perfectly named event for our young people diving into the Word of God." ■

At the Division level, the Lake Union teams placed as follows:

Illinois

- Fox Valley Maranatha — Team B — 1st place

Indiana

- Indianapolis Central Falcons — 1st place

- Chapel West Eternal Flame — 2nd place
- Angola Hawks — 2nd place

Lake Region

- Shiloh Trailblazers — 2nd place

Michigan

- Eau Claire Critters — The Zoo — 1st place
- PMC Evergreens — Juniper — 1st place
- Kalamazoo Kampers — PBE and Jam — 1st place
- Ann Arbor Anchors — God is My Judge — 1st place
- Stevensville Challengers 1st place
- Berrien Watchmen — Team Joshua — 1st place
- Berrien Watchmen — Team Judges — 1st place

Lake Union Herald staff



▲ Clockwise from top left: Pioneer Evergreens; Berrien Watchmen—Judges; Ann Arbor Anchors; Shiloh Trailblazers



▲ Clockwise from top left: Eau Claire Critters; Berrien Watchmen-Joshua; Indiana Watchmen; Stevensville Challengers; Kalamazoo Kampers; Indiana Chapel West; Fox Valley Maranatha

NASCAR's Chicago Street Race Showcases AdventHealth, Camporee

When Legacy Motor Club driver Erik Jones pushed the pedal to the metal of his No. 43 Toyota Camry XSE in NASCAR's second annual Chicago Street Race in July, UChicago Medicine AdventHealth and the 2024 International Pathfinder Camporee rode with him.

In a special tribute to the 60,000 campers from around the world who are expected to attend the weeklong Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming, in August, the side of Jones' car featured a decal combining the AdventHealth name and the Camporee's Believe the Promise logo.

The decal highlighted AdventHealth's role as anchor sponsor of the Camporee, UChicago Medicine AdventHealth's role as the official health care provider of the July 7 race, and AdventHealth's sponsoring partnership with the Legacy Motor Club, a professional auto racing club that competes full-time in the NASCAR Cup Series.

"Having the International Pathfinder Camporee decal on Erik's car offered a great opportunity for AdventHealth to connect with Camporee attendees and to fuel their passion and excitement before the event," said Hearly Mayr, director of stakeholder communication at AdventHealth. "Many Pathfinders might not have known about us, our connection to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and our collaboration with the Camporee. This unique opportunity not only brings attention to how we engage in the community but also helps young people start thinking about a career in health care and a life of service to others."

In the weeks leading up to the race, Jones, fellow Legacy Motor Club driver John Hunter Nemechek, and NASCAR Hall of Fame inductee Richard Petty, the club's ambassador,

recorded video messages to Pathfinders, noting AdventHealth's and the Camporee's high profile at the race and inviting Camporee attendees to watch it. The messages were shared on social media.

Two days before the race, a replica of the race car was on display at a special pre-race event at the UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Cancer Institute in Hinsdale, which included local Pathfinders, as well as team members and family. AdventHealth later provided photos from the event for the Camporee website, newsletter and social-media sites.

"This was such a wonderful opportunity to connect Pathfinders to something so important like being present in the community wherever we are," said Mayr.

"We were very excited to see the International Pathfinder Camporee represented on the racecar," said Ron Whitehead, executive director of the International Pathfinder Camporee. "It was a great

opportunity to have the Pathfinders learn more about AdventHealth and how the organization shows up in the communities it serves. And it helped to ramp up the excitement leading up to Camporee taking place just one month after the race."


Through the promotions and communications surrounding the race, "we wanted our Camporee audience to know how excited we are about spending a week with them at the Camporee," Mayr said. "Spotlighting our sponsorship roles also allowed us to convey how important it is to AdventHealth to be involved in and to support the communities we serve."

AdventHealth will offer a variety of activities and honors classes for Pathfinders at the Camporee, including a replica of Jones' race car. Pathfinders will also have the opportunity to consider what a life in health care might look like through the one-of-a-kind, highly interactive experience created by AdventHealth across 11,000 square feet of exhibit space. Among hands-on activities and engaging visuals, Pathfinders will learn about the health care system and its mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ.

"Often when you talk to young people about working in a hospital, they think automatically about physicians or nurses," Mayr said. "We wanted to show that there's so much more they can do and that there's a place in health care for them, their passion and their God-given talents. We are committed to investing in the next generation of health care professionals." ■

AdventHealth Communication





ACADEMY STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR CARING HEARTS

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

The Caring Heart Award is provided to each North American Division-accredited senior academy that has selected an eligible candidate. The award consists of a special scholarship award certificate with a value of \$600,

paid by the Union, and accompanied by a plaque and engraved Bible provided by the NAD Office of Education.

Opposite are the recipients for the 2023-2024 school year:



ANDREWS ACADEMY

Andrews Academy senior **Marco Sciarabba's** faith holds significant importance in his life. Throughout his time at the academy, Marco has actively participated in various leadership roles, including serving as junior class vice president and senior class pastor. He is deeply involved in the spiritual life committee, where he contributes to the school's spiritual aspects. Marco's commitment to service led him to participate in the SOW Safari mission trip to the Dominican Republic in January 2024, an experience that profoundly impacted him by teaching him the value of gratitude and true service. He eagerly anticipates future mission trips where he can continue to serve and connect with others. Marco plans to attend Andrews University and is considering majors in theology and engineering.



BATTLE CREEK ACADEMY

Daniel Sian Pi is a dedicated leader at Battle Creek Academy, having held the offices of student association pastor and religious vice president. He has a heart for music and shares his love for Christ through his musical talent. Daniel is passionate about his service for his church, helping with youth ministry and music programs. After the loss of his father at a young age, Daniel has, without hesitation, cared for his family, especially his younger brother and sister.



GREAT LAKES ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Throughout her four years at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, **Selah Garcia** has allowed Jesus to shine through her. She has a keen eye to see when there is a need – a sad or lonely classmate, an undesirable task that needs to be completed, someone who needs joy – and her compassionate heart drives her to eagerly fill the need. It is not uncommon for her to share uplifting notes, sing to one of “her girls” in the dorm, pray with a classmate, or sit with a friend and just listen. These Christ-like characteristics have helped her be an incredible leader on campus, serving as class pastor her freshman and junior years, and as the public relations officer her sophomore year. During her senior year, Selah has served as the bell choir's “ringleader,” the National Honor Society president, and as the head resident assistant in the dormitory.



GRAND RAPIDS ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Samuel Cruz's calm demeanor, commitment to academic excellence, and love for God have been a positive example to everyone at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy. He has a creative mind and sense of humor that he has injected into many school projects (and to amuse classmates and school staff). Samuel has a strong work ethic and is active in his local church serving as deacon, audiovisual team member, and a staff leader in the Pathfinder club. He has also participated in numerous community outreach activities through school and church, including a mission trip to Peru in 2023. Samuel's consistency and dependability have been a great asset to GRAA and to the Seventh-day Adventist community in Grand Rapids.

HINSDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY



As senior class president and member of the Hinsdale Adventist Academy chapter of the National Honor Society, **Nathan Tessalee** gets much opportunity to showcase being a servant leader. When he interacts with his classmates on class projects, varsity sports teams, orchestra, and choir, he leads from the front by setting the tone of service by maintaining a Christ-centered focus. Nathan, with willful joy, engages in several community-oriented outreach projects ranging from coat-drives for homeless people and refugees in Chicago to collaborative music performances with several Protestant churches in the local area. He is very active at his church, often leading out as deacon or with the church youth and young adults. His humble demeanor is the best evidence that Christ is Nathan's example of true servant-leadership.

INDIANA ACADEMY



Indiana Academy has been positively impacted by the care and compassion of senior **Hsa Eh Law Chaw**. If someone needs help or assistance in any way, Hsa is often not only the first to volunteer, but he has also made it a habit to see a need and start addressing it. This initiative to support and encourage is a hallmark of his character. As a senior resident assistant, Hsa was willing to oversee support and direction for the freshman hall. His consistent mentorship makes a practical difference in the lives of these young men. Additionally, when not helping with some worthy cause, he often spends his time off with his own family and being a mentor and role model to his younger siblings. Hsa is active in numerous musical groups on campus and leads out or is a supportive participant in student engagement activities.

WISCONSIN ACADEMY



Joane Peratta

Omar Garay possesses a strength that enables him to stand firm to his convictions. He is also thoughtful. He regularly asks how teachers and students are doing and offers help if he notices a need. Another example of Omar's character comes from his recent involvement in the Andrews University Newmyer Classic basketball tournament. After the tournament was over, Wisconsin Academy received a call from the parent of one of the students Omar played against. Omar and this other student were opposing centers, and they battled the entire game. Through this high level of competition, the other student and their parent had taken notice of Omar's good sportsmanship, and that parent wanted to commend him.

Compiled by the Lake Union Office of Education.



**ACADEMY
STUDENTS
RECOGNIZED FOR
CARING HEARTS**



▲ Adventist students on secular campuses across the Lake Union received training and resources for ways to connect socially and spiritually with students on their campuses.

Adventist Students on Public University Campuses Receive Training and Support

Dozens of students from public college and university campuses convened for the Lake Union Conference Adventist Christian Fellowship Institute conference held May 5-8, 2024, at the Park Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church in Champaign, Illinois.

“Gathering everyone together so we can connect and support each other is vital in our growth as young believers,” said Adeline Minett, a student at University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. “It reminds us that we are never alone in this walk of faith.”

What happened: Minett and the 32 other attendees heard from a variety of speakers: Josant Barrientos, youth director for the Illinois conference; Leeroy Hernandez, director of the Michigan-based Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students; Steven Walch, pastor of the host church; Andrew Park, president of

Generation. Youth. Christ (GYC); and Joseph Capeles, Public Campus Ministries (PCM) coordinator for the Indiana conference.

Participants also engaged in breakout sessions: Discipling was led by Wisconsin PCM Coordinator Joshua Guerrero, while the topic of care groups was guided by Indiana Conference Pastor Samuel Ngala.

Takeaways: Discipleship is key in expanding the reach of the true message of God’s love. But to disciple others, you need to be one. If you are a true disciple, it’s only natural that you will seek to nurture another’s spiritual journey. Disciples disciple.



Zoom Out: Events such as ACFI are important for youth because in many local churches they *are* the youth. The only youth. Many attendees were open about feeling stifled or unheard in their churches and expressed that they felt ill equipped to inherit future church responsibilities. Events like these are irreplaceable when it comes to the development of the next generation. ■

Adeline Minett is a member of the Hylandale church. This was co-written with Herald staff.

The Herald Earns National “Best of Church Press” Awards

On May 17, 2024, the Lake Union Herald was recognized for its work in a variety of categories at the Associated Church Press “Best of the Church Press” awards held in Chicago, during the organization’s annual convention. Winners in 76 categories — representing 67 organizations and 821 entries — highlighted the best of faith-based journalism produced in 2023.

Every year, the ACP recognizes excellence in religious communication, including newspapers, magazines, newsletters, and websites from multiple denominations across North America. The theme for this year’s convention was “Covering Conflict in a Polarized World,” and the organization awarded communicators for excellence in categories including local reporting, denominational meeting coverage and website design.

The *Herald*, along with several other Adventist publications—including the Canadian Adventist *Messenger*, *NAD NewsPoints*, *Ministry* magazine, and *Spectrum: Journal of the Association of*

Adventist Forums— earned multiple awards.

The *Herald* earned awards in the following categories:

FIRST PLACE

- Biographical profile: “I Choose to Teach” by Beverly Matiko and Emily Gibbs.
- Scholarly article: “Blessed are the Wholemakers” by Ante Jerončić

SECOND PLACE

- Awareness/Advocacy Campaign (social media): “Safeguarding Our Children” by Stanton Witherspoon



THIRD PLACE

- Magazine Cover: “Safeguarding Our Children” by Elenie Ramirez
- Event, Marketing or Brand Awareness (social media): “Happy Sabbath” by Katie Fellows
- Overall excellence/ best in class
 - Social Media Presence by Stanton Witherspoon, Katie Fellows and Felicia Tonga
 - Video Production by Felicia Tonga, Stanton Witherspoon and Andrews University Dept. of Visual Art, Communication and Design

Editor Debbie Michel said, “We don’t do what we do to win awards, but it’s always nice to be recognized. The ACP honor inspires us to remain focused on producing quality journalism in a Christian setting, and by the grace of God we will keep on doing that.” ■

Lake Union Communication

Pentecost 2025 Initiative Voted by the North American Division

The NAD executive committee, in a special session on May 29, 2024, approved Pentecost 2025, a new initiative that includes funding assistance for local church proclamation events.

The initiative draws its name from the Pentecost narrative in Acts 2. Many Christians regard Pentecost as the birthdate of the Christian church. According to the account

in Acts, on that day, the church multiplied in number from 120 to 3,000 believers. Pentecost dramatically impacted the early church and marked the fulfillment of Jesus

Christ’s promise to send the Holy Spirit to empower and guide His disciples.

Pentecost 2025 is an initiative for church leaders and members to seek the Holy Spirit’s power and to mobilize for evangelism with the goal of holding at least 3,000 proclamation events across divisions in 2025. These events, designed to communicate the gospel to various audiences, can include evangelistic series, bible study groups and health resources. Members or leaders approved by their church board can sign up to be part of Pentecost 2025, with the option to apply for startup funds.

“All of us can play a pivotal role in sharing the love of Jesus and the distinctive truths entrusted to us,” said G. Alexander Bryant, NAD

president. “Moving forward with Pentecost 2025 helps us all embrace the mission and proclaim the gospel. This is an opportunity for each member to take the words of Matthew 24:14 to heart.”

The plan is straightforward. Using the rest of 2024 as planning and preparation time, a pastor or lay person is encouraged to take their proposal for a proclamation initiative to their local church board for support. Once the board approves, the person registers for Pentecost 2025 by filling out the form at <https://www.nadadventist.org/>

pentecost2025. There is an option to make a one-time request for up to \$3,000 in financial assistance for the event. Once the local conference designee provides approval, the application passes through the union and then the NAD; and a resource welcome kit is sent to the church. Upon the event’s completion, a report will be submitted to the division.

“Pentecost 2025 is for all Seventh-day Adventist churches across the North American Division. Every member, pastor, teacher, young adult, student, and children is encouraged to



▲ During the North American Division Executive Committee on May 29, 2024, NAD President G. Alexander Bryant reminds those in attendance about the July 1 registration opening for Pentecost 2025, the new initiative voted by the committee.

participate. We are urging total member involvement,” said Calvin Watkins, NAD vice president overseeing evangelism. “And we recognize that the majority of our churches are small and may need ‘seed money’ and

resources that can help them chart the way forward. We hope to provide both to as many as possible. We are together in mission!” ■

North American Division Communication

MILEPOSTS

OBITUARIES

BOOTHBY, Nancy L. (Hill), age 76; born June 8, 1947, in Grand Haven, Mich.; died May 24, 2024, in Kalamazoo, Mich. She was a member of the Paw Paw Seventh-day Adventist Church in Paw Paw, Mich. She is survived by her husband, John Boothby; sons, Mark (Janelle) Boothby, Phillip (Julie) Boothby; brother, Gary Hill; sister, Kimberly Toth; and four grandchildren. A funeral inurnment was conducted by Pastor Ted Toms on May 29, 2024, at the Paw Paw Seventh-day Adventist Church.

CARLSEN, Doris Mae, age 91; born May 15, 1933, in Wichita, Kan.; died June 4, 2024, in Edwardsburg, Mich. She was

a member of the Dowagiac Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dowagiac, Mich. She is survived by her son, Steven (Alma) Carlsen; daughters, Dianna (Paul) Runnals, Cindy (Darryl) Kotanko, Carol (Robert) King; 10 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. A celebration of life was conducted by Pastor Terry Perkins on June 28, 2024, at the Dowagiac Church. Arrangements were entrusted to Clark Chapel and Cremation Services, Dowagiac

HODGE, Cheryl L. (Randall), age 70; born Jan. 14, 1953, in Bemidji, Minn.; died Dec. 13, 2023, in Rochester, Ind. She was a member of the Rochester Seventh-day Adventist Church in Rochester, Ind. She is

survived by stepsons, Richard Hodge, Edward Hodge, George (Kelly) Hodge; brother, Kenton Randall; sister, Marsha Randall; and three step-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Keith Hannah, and inurnment was in IOOF Cemetery, Rochester, Ind.

HODGE, Gary W., age 71; born July 13, 1952, in Osgood, Ind.; died May 13, 2024, in Akron, Ind. He was a member of the Rochester Seventh-day Adventist Church in Rochester, Ind. He is survived by his sons, Richard Hodge, Edward Hodge, George (Kelly) Hodge; sister Judy Blackburn; brother, George Hodge; and three grandchildren, Zoey Hodge, Nivea Hodge, Logan Hodge. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Keith Hannah on May 31, 2024, with a private inurnment.

KINDELL, Irene F. (Busch), age 90; born Nov. 4, 1934, in Glennie, Mich.; died April 3, 2024, in National City, Mich. She was a member of the Glennie Seventh-day Adventist Church in Glennie, Mich. She is survived by her husband, Victor Kindell; and sons, Victor H Kindell II (Eileen Forster), Eugene K Kindell. A memorial was conducted by Pastor Tony Ludwig on April 6, 2024, at the National City Cemetery in National City, Mich.

LEFLER, Delores D. (Friedle), age 74; born June 14, 1949, in Bay City, Mich.; died Dec. 10, 2023, in Elk Rapids, Mich. She was a member of the Traverse City Seventh-day Adventist Church in Traverse City, Mich. She is survived by her husband, Fred G. Lefler; son, Walter (Susan) Lefler; daughter, Lucy (Eric Huber) Lefler; father, Russell D. Friedle; mother,

Lillian McPherson; brothers, Russell D. (Marilyn Myers) Friedle Jr., Robert (Sandra Myers) Friedle; sisters, Darlene (Jim) Love, Kay (Don) Mapes; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. A private inurnment was held June 16, 2024, at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Elk Rapids, Mich.

POTH, Karla S. (Evans), age 69; born Dec. 9, 1954, in Washington, Ind.; died April 10, 2024, in Evansville, Ind. She was a member of

the Huntingburg Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntingburg, Ind. She is survived by her husband, Daniel “Dan” Poth; stepdaughters, Jody (Greg) Meeks, Jennifer (Matt) Klem; father, John C. Evans; mother, Barbara Evans; brother, John “Kent” Buck; and sister, Diana (William) Ross. A funeral service was conducted by Pastor Kamil Metz on April 17, 2024, at the Dale Cemetery in Dale, Ind.

RUMBLE, Gayle J. (Edsell), age 66; born Jan. 17, 1958, in Niles, Mich.; died May 17, 2024, in Saginaw, Mich. She was a member of the Unionville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Unionville, Mich. Survivors include her husband, Timmy A. Rumble; daughter, Lyssa J. (Rumble) Jackson;

father, Billie S. Edsell; mother, Patricia A. (Neal) Edsell; sisters, Marla A. (Ron) Rasmussen, Londa L. (Tim) Bishop; and three grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Fred Calkins and Pastor Ron Rasmussen, and inurnment at Wisner Township Cemetery.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFERENCE

Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that a regular Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® will be held at the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church at 24445 State Road 19, Cicero, Indiana, 46034, on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024, at 10 a.m. Duly accredited delegates and delegates-at-large will be authorized to: receive reports; elect a conference president, secretary-treasurer, departmental directors, a Conference Executive Committee, a Board of Education, a Standing Nominating Committee, and a Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee; enact, amend, or repeal Bylaws and vote recommended changes

to the Constitution for the Indiana Conference and Indiana Academy; and issue credentials and licenses for the ensuing term. Delegates will transact such other business as may properly come before the delegation. Each church will be entitled to one delegate for the church organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof. The organizing committee will meet the same day, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church at 24445 State Road 19, Cicero, Indiana, 46034. The first meeting of the Standing Nominating Committee is scheduled for Sunday, July 14, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the Indiana Conference office. Elder Ken Denslow,

president of the Lake Union Conference, will serve as chair of the nominating committee.

Vic Van Schaik, president
Mark Eaton,
secretary-treasurer

ASSOCIATION

Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that the Indiana Association Regular Meeting will be held in connection with the Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® at the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church at 24445 State Road 19, Cicero, Indiana, 46034, on

Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. The meeting of the Association will be called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a board of directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to restate and amend the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates of the Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® are likewise delegates to the Association meeting.

Vic Van Schaik, president
Vialo Weis, secretary

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>.

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

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

Move With an Award-winning Agency—Apex Moving + Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves for you. Call us for all your relocation needs. Contact Marcy Danté at 800-766-1902, or visit our website: apexmoving.com/adventist.

EMPLOYMENT

Adventist Media Ministries seeks a full-time treasurer in support services to manage the treasury/accounting operations, supervise treasury staff, provide leadership, administration, and assistance in shaping business services to the needs of the media ministries. Includes some travel. Position is located in Riverside, California. For information or to apply, visit <https://www.adventistmediaministries.com/available-positions/>

Adventist Media Ministries seeks a Senior Accountant to work in Support Services and

handle various specialized accounting duties, participate in department cross-training, and assist Treasurer and other accounting staff. Position is full-time (38 hours per week) plus overtime, located in Riverside, CA. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.adventistmediaministries.com/available-positions/>.

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 interests you, please check out our current openings at: andrews.edu/jobs

Union Adventist University seeks qualified candidates for an accountant in Student Accounts. Bachelor's degree required; prior accounting, finance, or collection experience preferred. Responsible for managing all aspects of billing and charges for current and non-current student accounts. Full benefits package including tuition assistance. Visit uau.edu/employment for more details.

Union Adventist University seeks applicants for a University Campus Counselor. This is a full-time, exempt position. Candidates must be licensed to practice. The primary role is

to provide counseling services, educational programming, and group experiences for students. Generous benefits package included. Please see full job description and instructions for application at uau.edu/employment.

Southern Adventist University seeks qualified candidates for the following staff salaried positions—DHSI Retention and Resilience Coordinator (REOPENED) – Academic Support and Retention Services, Mental Health Counselor (LPC)/QEP Manager– Student Development, Disability Services Coordinator – Student Support Services, Chaplain – Office of Ministry and Missions. For more information go to sau.catsone.com/careers

Southern Adventist University seeks qualified candidates for the following staff hourly positions— Automotive Technician – Applied Technology/Southern Auto Care, Lunch Cook/ Supervisor – Village Market Deli, S.A.L.T. Outreach Coordinator for School of Religion, Front of House Manager – Cafeteria/ Food Service, CK2 Shift Supervisor – Food Service, Office Manager – School of Business. 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 disciplining students in Jesus Christ. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit www.southern.edu/jobs

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

Southern Adventist University seeks a full-time engineer teaching faculty member for School of Engineering and Physics in the areas of mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering. The ideal candidate will be proficient in developing and teaching undergraduate engineering courses, including both lecture and laboratory components. Master's degree in

Coming to Village Seventh-day Adventist Church **Sept. 28 to Oct. 5**

Jesus & Wholistic Sexuality

Ministering with Biblical Confidence in an LGBTQ World



Leadership Conference Sept. 30 - Oct. 1

Conference Topics Include

- How to Respond to a Loved One Who's Comes Out
- The Root of Sexual Sin
- Overcoming Pornography
- Conversion vs. Conversion Therapy
- Stages of Victory
- Journey of a Detransitioner
- The Most Hidden Sin of Abortion

Registration and fee required. For more information visit: villagesda.org/identity

Week of Spiritual Emphasis Sept. 28- Oct. 5

Living testimonies & Spirit-filled preaching each evening at 6:00pm.

Visit villagesda.org for more information.

Coming Together Live 4 Oct 3-5

A private closed group for those that are seeking healing from sexual issues and their families looking for comfort community and healing.

Registration and fee required. For more information visit: villagesda.org/identity

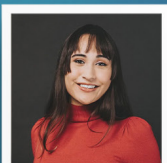
Featured Speakers



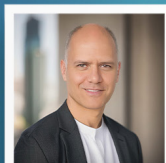
Dr. Julie Hamilton



Dr. James Dotson



Chloe Cole



Pastor Shane Harper



Rawel Moringlane



Beth Kendrick



Melissa Otto

And With: Michael Carducci, Pastor Ron Kelly, and Additional Speakers to be Announced

Sponsored By



Seventh-day
Adventist Church
MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

LOCATION 635 St Joseph Ave, Berrien Springs, MI 49103 **PHONE** (269) 471-7795 **EMAIL** villagesda.church@gmail.com

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>.

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

CORRECTION

Due to an editing error in the news story “Andrews University Student Wins Major Award”, we misstated K-Anthony’s last name. This is the stage name for Kevin Anthony Fowler. We regret the error.

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

AUGUST

- 3 Local Church Budget
- 10 Christian Record Services* (NAD)
- 17 Local Church Budget
- 24 Local Conference Advance
- 31 Local Church Budget



Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Aug. 2	Aug. 9	Aug. 16	Aug. 23	Aug. 30
Berrien Springs, Michigan	9:01	8:53	8:43	8:32	8:21
Chicago	8:06	7:58	7:48	7:37	7:26
Detroit	8:49	8:40	8:30	8:19	8:08
Indianapolis	8:56	8:47	8:38	8:28	8:18
La Crosse, Wisconsin	8:26	8:16	8:06	7:55	7:43
Lansing, Michigan	8:56	8:47	8:37	8:26	8:15
Madison, Wisconsin	8:16	8:07	7:57	7:46	7:34
Springfield, Illinois	8:10	8:01	7:52	7:42	7:31

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

Please send us your Conference, church and school news!

herald@lakeunion.org

news

If you know of a student about to attend or is already at a public university in the Lake Union, you should reach out to the conference representative for help in providing an anchor in the young person’s faith journey.



COME. PREACH THE WORD.

JOIN YOUR PASTOR
ON A SHAREHIM TRIP.



- Grow closer as a team as you share your faith
- Present ten Christ-centered, ready-to-preach sermons
- No preaching experience or Spanish required

YOUR COST

\$499

INCLUDES FLIGHT, HOTEL, AND MEALS

Made possible in part through support from the Lake Union Conference

Upcoming Trips

Trips are exclusively for those ages 18-35 from most conferences. You must come with your local pastor.

2024	
July 10-22	Santo Domingo, D.R.
July 31-Aug 12	Guápiles, Costa Rica
July 31-Aug 12	Panama City, Panama
Aug 14-26	Bogotá, Colombia
Aug 14-26	La Chorrera, Panama
Aug 28-Sep 9	Quibdó, Colombia
Sep 11-23	Havana, Cuba
Sep 18-30	Juliaca, Peru

Sep 18-30	Puerto Maldonado, Peru
Sep 18-30	Quito, Ecuador
Oct 2-14	Chinandega, Nicaragua
Oct 9-21	Holguín, Cuba
Oct 23-Nov 4	San Juan de la Maguana, D.R.
2025	
March 5-17	Jinotepe, Nicaragua
April 9-21	Totonicapán, Guatemala
MORE 2025 DATES COMING SOON	



LEARN MORE AT
sharehim.org



August

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

- Aug. 2-4: Summer Graduation Weekend
- Aug. 18-25: "First Stop" and New Student Orientation
- Aug. 19: First day of school for Ruth Murdoch Elementary and Andrews Academy
- Aug. 25: Registration for University-level students
- Aug. 26: Fall semester begins for University-level schools

ILLINOIS

- Aug. 23: Prayer call, virtual
- Aug. 24: Hispanic convocation, TBD
- Aug. 30-Sept. 1: Empower Club Ministry leadership training, Camp Akita

INDIANA

- Aug. 15: Opening day of elementary schools
- Aug. 18: Opening day at Indiana Academy
- Aug. 24-29: Hispanic evangelistic caravan, multiple locations
- Aug. 30-Sept. 2: Hispanic Camp Meeting, Timber Ridge Camp

LAKE REGION

- Aug. 23: End IT Now Women's ministry conference, virtual
- Aug. 24: End IT Now Women's ministry emphasis, local congregations
- Aug. 30 - Sept. 2: Hispanic Camp Meeting, Camp Wagner

MICHIGAN

- Aug. 16-17: iShare Conference, Great Lakes Adventist Academy
- Aug. 18-21: Bible Boot Camp (Northwoods), Camp Au Sable
- Aug. 18-21: Youth Rush Leadership Retreat, Camp Au Sable
- Aug. 23-25: Adventurer Leadershop, Camp Au Sable

LAKE UNION

- Aug. 5-10: International Pathfinder Camporee, Gillette, Wyoming

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



Watch LIVE local coverage on the Lake Union Herald channels beginning Tues. Aug. 6 at 11 a.m. CST, noon EST, with replay at 7:45 p.m. CST, 8:45 p.m. EST.



Lake Union Herald
YouTube



Lake Union Herald
Facebook

Mission Possible, Through Prayer

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
(Philippians 4:13, NKJV)

There are many things in this world that are not readily possible, such as: easy and legal financial gain; automatic good health; automatically getting straight A's without studying; living in a world that is illness-free, etc. But we can depend on the goodness of God, *all* the time. He has been faithful all our lives, and does not change, ever!

... With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:2, KJV)

God is our salvation, not just sometimes, but at *all* times. Remember the "shadow of that rugged Cross," and how our Lord and Savior defeated death? Yet He died for the sins of this war-torn and wicked world. Thank God He rose again! Thus, granting us the precious gift of Salvation.

For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18, KJV)

There is hope in this life because of God. What would our lives be like without God and the amazing gift of prayer? We have cause to rejoice in Him. He who has been our rock, our shelter and fortress in times of sorrow, despair, and loneliness. Thank God we can come to Him in prayer anytime and anywhere.

The timetable for this Earth's existence continues to wind down. May we gain the unwavering commitment and dedication to prayer as Daniel had. A time is coming when most, if not all things we hold as precious and dear will be gone. All we will have is prayer. Lean on Him in faith as you go to Him in prayer. *The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength in whom I will trust...* (Psalm 18:2, KJV)

"If only I had..." You could finish that sentence in so many ways. But I would add, "If only I had prayed first and waited on God to direct me." *But*

those that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31, KJV)

The possibilities our Lord has graciously placed before us, each day, may make our entrance into Heaven possible. All we need to do is embrace them as He and the Holy Spirit dictate. God does not make it hard, but the power of choice is the challenge.

Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen. (Jude 1:24-25, KJV) ■

Paulette Johnson is the prayer ministry coordinator for Indiana Conference.



▲ PAULETTE JOHNSON



Church Businesses May Have Tax Implications



▲ JENNIFER GRAY WOODS

Are there any tax implications for our church to set up a vegetarian café to serve the community during the week?

Church activities are usually considered tax-exempt. As exempt organizations, churches are not taxed on activities that are related to their charitable, educational, or other exempt purposes. However, if a church is engaged in a trade or business that is not related to the church's exempt purpose, income derived from those activities could be taxable. Income from these activities is subject to the unrelated business income tax (UBIT). Churches will have to pay the UBIT if they earn \$1,000 or more from these unrelated activities. Additionally, if a church earns too much income from unrelated activities it risks losing its tax-exempt status all together.

There are three questions to consider in determining if a church's activities are subject to UBIT:

1. Is the income derived from a trade or business? Trade or business has been broadly defined as any time the sale of goods or the provision of services generates income.
2. Is the church regularly engaged in trade or business? This does not apply to activities that only occur on an infrequent or sporadic basis.

3. Is the activity unrelated to the church's exempt purpose? If a church can show that the activity furthers its tax-exempt purpose, then the income is not considered taxable. However, income used to support an exempt purpose is still subject to UBIT if the activity itself isn't related to the church's exempt purpose.

If the answers to the three questions above are yes, UBIT generally applies. However, there are some exceptions. For example, income derived from labor that is substantially provided by volunteers or by selling donated items are not subject to UBIT. Based on this exception, income from bake sales and thrift shops isn't treated as taxable. Additionally, UBIT doesn't typically apply to income from the rent of real property, such as a church renting its building space, if the property is fully owned (not financed with borrowed money, such as a mortgage), and most of the church's property continues to be used for the church's exempt purposes.

As you can see, determining whether your church's activity is subject to UBIT requires a factual analysis. For example, under the IRS exception if a church rents its parking lot to a third party the income is not considered UBIT since income from rent is excluded from UBIT. However, if a church instead decides to directly charge fees to the public for use of its parking lot during the week this would be subject to UBIT since this activity is not substantially related to the church's tax-exempt purpose and isn't considered rental income.

The bottom line is that churches should be mindful of UBIT when planning fundraisers or other income-generating activities. ■

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



Turning Water into... Gas?

The Bible tells us that Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-12). I believe Jesus can turn water into whatever substance He wants.

When I was younger my parents attended a Sunday morning small-group Bible study at a church member's home. We were new to the Adventist church, and we were building friendships with different members. My fondest memory of going to this member's home was her homemade dinner rolls; they were the best. One Sunday morning we were a little late arriving for the study, but we had a great story to tell.

We packed into our car and were ready to go but the gas indicator said "E." My stepdad thought we would have enough fuel to make it to the Bible study and then we could get gas afterward. But this is not what happened. About halfway to the study we ran out of gas. We pulled over to the side next to an empty, abandoned, trashy lot. There were no houses nearby and we were across the street from a cemetery. We did not have a gas can with us, and we were probably a few miles from the nearest gas station. We got out of the car and started walking through the empty lot in hopes of finding some type of container that we could use to put gas in.

After a few moments my stepdad saw a can that had the letters on the side that were spelled H-E-L-P. It was a gas can that had been there for a while, who knows how long. He thought it was great that we now had a can to use to go and get some gas. But as he picked up the can it had a slow leak at the bottom which spilled into his hand. He thought since it had rained recently the can must have had some water in it. He would simply pour it out, but before he did, he smelled his fingers out of curiosity and lo and behold it was not water, but it was gas! Yes, we put that gas into the car; it was enough to take us to the small-group Bible study and then to a gas station.

It is my belief that Jesus turned that substance in the H-E-L-P can to gas just as we needed. It is my belief that God provides all our needs, and He can

use a variety of ways. God has promised that if we seek Him first then He will take care of our needs in this world (Matthew 6:33). Are you seeking God first in all your activities? Are you asking to help you to make Him first even with your bank account? If not, start today. He will provide! ■

Richard Moore is an associate treasurer for the Lake Union Conference.



▲ RICHARD MOORE



What I Learned About How the Church Works

When I was approached to sit in on the Lake Union executive committee meeting, I accepted without knowing anything about what this group did. Going into the meeting I simply thought I would get the chance to listen to people providing recap-style reports from the previous year. Perhaps I would learn a bit about the financial situation of the Lake Union, but I didn't figure that I would gain much else from it. However, my experience proved to be substantially different than my expectations.

The Lake Union's executive board meeting was so much more than numbers and related reports. While it did include costs, budgets and other types of overviews from our leaders at the Lake Union, it also included chances for the executive members to speak. I heard various members discuss what they've been doing in their own conferences and how God has helped them to make all things work. Some of the stories proved to be very impactful to me.

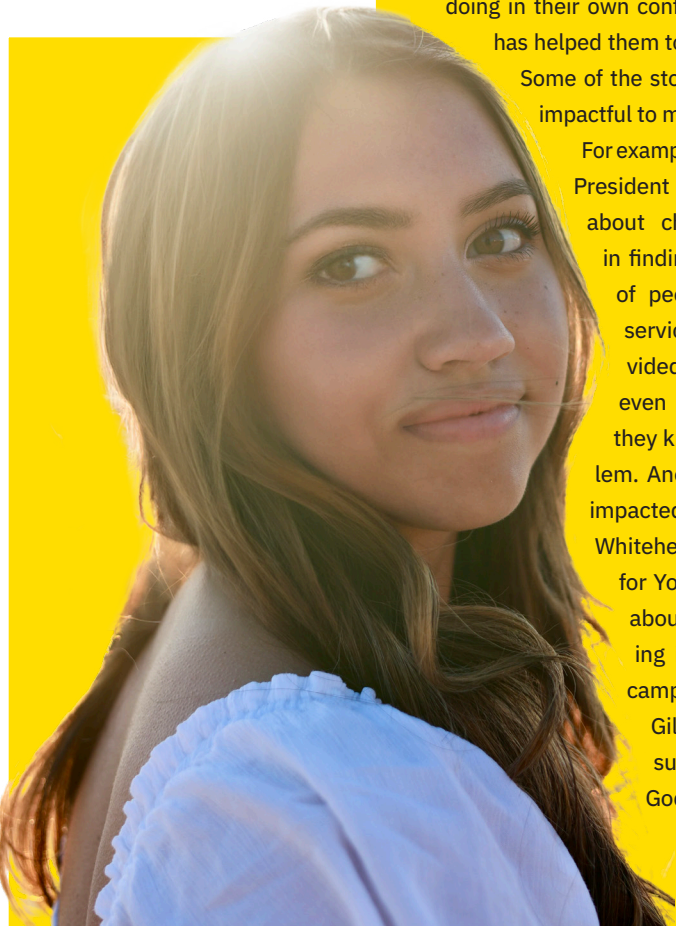
For example, Indiana Conference President Vic Van Schaik spoke about challenges they faced in finding a place for a group of people to hold worship services. God always provided a solution for them, even sometimes before they knew there was a problem. Another major story that impacted me was when Ron Whitehead from the Center for Youth Evangelism spoke about what was happening in preparation for the camporee being held in Gillette, Wyoming, this summer. Once again, God was working and

blessing all those involved. I also thought it was a nice addition to have President Taylor from Andrews University come and talk about what is happening on the nearby university campus. I didn't realize until afterward how much it meant to hear what was going on in all these aspects of our union.

After the meeting ended, I immediately rushed to tell my family and close friends how amazing it was and how much I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It truly was transformative.

Although I grew up in the Adventist church, I didn't get a chance to see all that goes on in the Adventist world, or even just what happens within my own conference. Often, I've found myself wondering what it is that we are doing to progress the church and the mission of God, whether that be in helping others outside or inside the church. I loved that this meeting opened my eyes to a portion of what great things God has helped people in our union accomplish. I think it's wonderful to include the ministry reports from our conferences with the financial and strategy reports. It truly is such a blessing to share our religious experiences with others and hear how God is working in the lives and through the leaders and members of our denomination. ■

Lora Baker just graduated from Andrews Academy and plans to study finance in college. She is a business intern at the Lake Union Conference.



A New Perspective

PROGRAM HELPS CHICAGO BROTHERS CREATE COMMUNITY, FIND PURPOSE

Amid the isolation and social distancing during the pandemic, Jeremy and Joshua Robinson, like so many other youth, craved community. The brothers didn't have to look too far.

Their church, All Nations Fellowship in the Chicago suburb of Downers Grove, launched a discussion-based worship program for youth and young adults to connect on various topics from a biblical perspective.

Jeremy, 22, and Joshua, 21, jumped into planning and organizing the monthly church service—something they saw as an opportunity to help other young adults grow their faith and establish their place in the church. Jeremy believes “having a group of people that listen to you and make space to understand your perspectives, highlights the whole purpose of church.”

Young people have travelled from as far as Wisconsin to hear topics such as Christian living, financial planning, sexuality and sibling relationships. “It’s a place for dialogue on topics we don’t normally hear,” says Jeremy. “It’s a practical way for ministry.”

When the “Perspectives” program began in 2020, Jeremy was a busy student at Northern Illinois University while juggling duties as the church’s pianist. Today he remains involved, while he works as a software engineer. He credits “Perspectives” for having helped with his educational pursuits and career, specifically honing his spiritual gifts of evangelism, administration, faith, and teaching.

“Participating in ‘Perspectives’ has given me a foundation, something to hold onto,” he says. “The Bible talks about a firm foundation and the importance of being grounded in Jesus.”

His brother Joshua has also stayed involved in the ministry. Whether it is participating in the

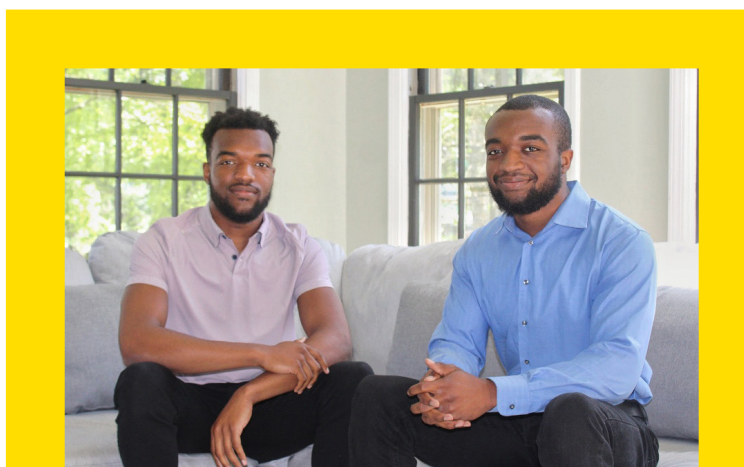
Sabbath service, evangelism, managing various social media accounts, or the “Perspectives” programs, he juggles those commitments with his responsibilities as a fulltime student at Northern Illinois University.

He says his spiritual gifts have been nurtured and he is better able to serve and teach others, including tutoring students in physics. “When you teach others, you also learn to apply the concepts to your own life, so the learning and application aspects of the ‘Perspectives’ program have been very influential,” says Joshua.

Another advantage he has enjoyed is a stronger relationship with his brother. They have been able to collaborate on various presentations along with supporting one another in their respective careers.

The brothers believe it’s important for all churches to understand the critical need to involve cross-generations in cultivating better church environments. According to Joshua, “It’s important for us to promote our dependence on God, and the necessity of a supportive Christian community where youth and young adults’ perspectives are valued.” ■

Jae’Ona Middleton is a member of the Hyde Park Church.



Jae’Ona Middleton

Answer Your Calling

Where do you experience the power of the human spirit? In a helping hand? In the heart of a team? Or in the calling that inspires you to care for others? At AdventHealth, we see the drive and tenacity of the human spirit every day in our 95,000+ dedicated team members. That's why we're ready to care for you with top-tier benefits including:

- Paid Parental Leave
- Student Loan Support
- Career Development
- Retirement Planning
- Pet Benefits
- Paid Time Off from Day One

**AMERICA'S
BEST-IN-STATE
EMPLOYERS**

**Forbes
2023**

POWERED BY STATISTA

Join our team at
[AnswerYourCalling.com](https://www.AnswerYourCalling.com).


AdventHealth