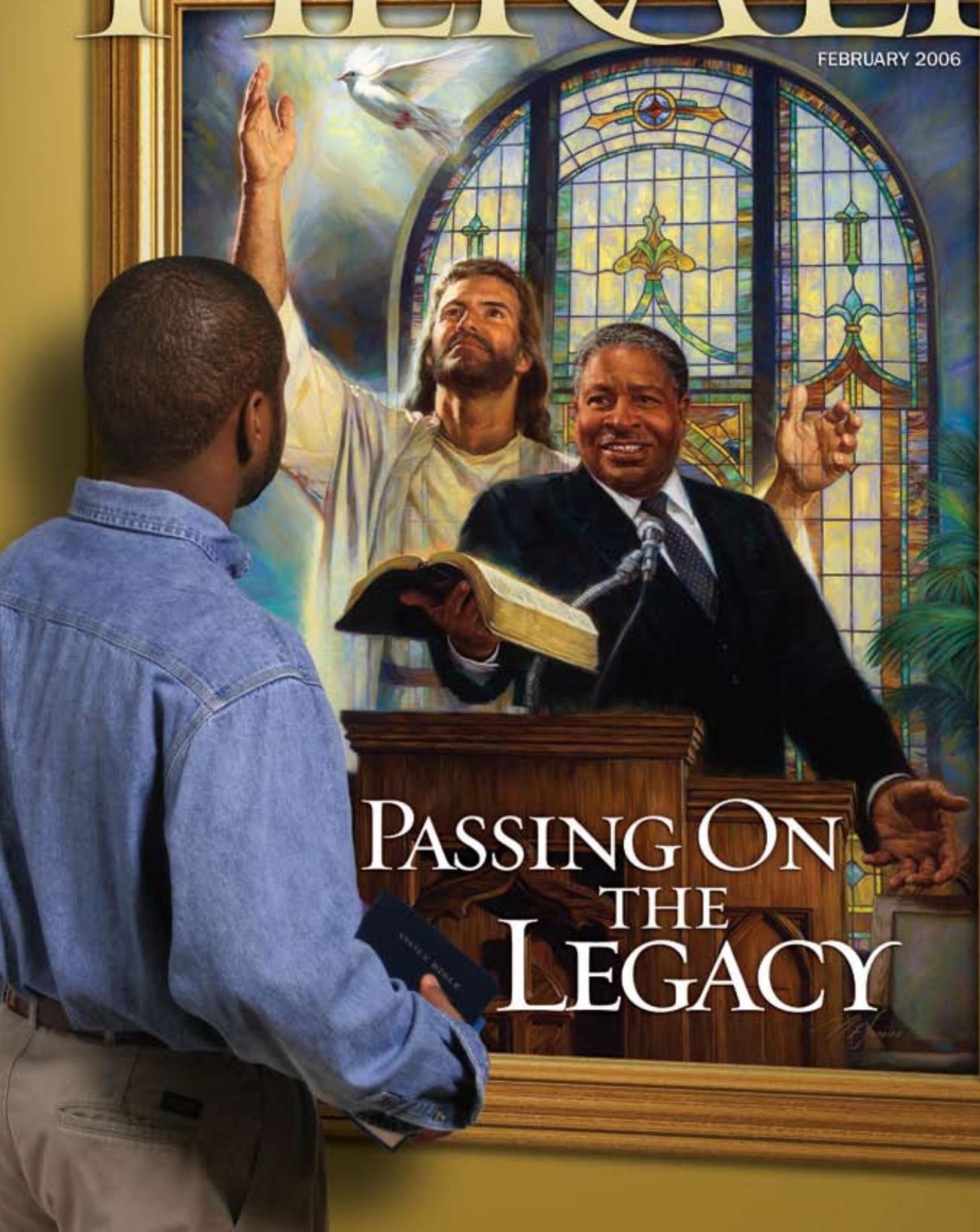


Lake Union HERALD

FEBRUARY 2006



PASSING ON
THE
LEGACY

The Church of TODAY

"Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment" (Eccl. 11:9 NIV).

Someone has said that youth is wasted on the young. Some folk are forever casting doubt upon the value of youth. When I was a youngster growing up in the church, we were called "The Church of Tomorrow." Our value was always placed some time in the future.

Here, in the Lake Union, we value our youth as "The Church of Today!" Our youth constantly take mission trips to build schools, churches, and to share the gospel message. They excitedly surge into action to bring relief from suffering when tragedies like Hurricane Katrina or a tsunami wreak havoc with our lives.

I am much encouraged every time we launch some evangelistic thrust in this territory. The youth are always at the forefront to receive training, and to conduct meetings. Maybe they don't know enough to be afraid. Maybe they are so short on experience they do not recognize when something is impossible, and they go out and do it. Or maybe they are just running away from boredom.

No, I've got another theory: I believe our youth, reared in Christian homes, and many educated in our elementary schools, academies, and colleges, are aware God has a claim on their lives. As our text so graphically points out, you can follow your heart and your eyes, but ultimately God will judge us on our activities.

The vast majority of our youth have been taught this fact and have had it modeled for them. Therefore, they are good citizens now, not tomorrow. They are good members now, not at some future date. They are the church now, and I believe we should give them more and more responsibility, and more and more opportunities to lead and gain experience.

Jesus is coming soon. We all believe it, but it will be much quicker with an army of youth rightly trained to finish the work. Let's continue to partner with these young people who have the energy, the enthusiasm, and the faith. We "old folks" have the wisdom. Be sure you share it with them.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Indiana October 22, 2005, was a day of celebration at the Bedford Church; three persons publicly offered their lives to Jesus in baptism. Each saw firsthand God's leading in their lives, and all three started attending church regularly after the satellite downlink evangelistic meetings by Doug Batchelor in March 2005.

Vicki Chastain learned about the Adventist church from her husband, Vernon, when they married 25 years ago in West Virginia. However, her husband did not attend church and she preferred attending the church of her childhood. The Chastains recently moved to Bedford to be near Vernon's mother, Eleanor. Their relationship, similar to the biblical account of Ruth and Naomi, became stronger and sweeter as time passed. Vicki was impressed with her mother-in-law's lifestyle and wanted to know more about it. That is why she accepted the invitation to go to church with her for the *NET 2005* evangelistic series. She was so impressed by what she learned that at the end of the series she accepted an invitation for baptism. Fernando Ortiz, Bedford pastor, started Bible studies with Vicki and her son, Trenton. The studies helped them develop their faith and knowledge in the Lord. Vicki is a quiet, soft-spoken lady and smiles with radiant joy as she tells of her love for Jesus.



From left: Fernando Ortiz, pastor; Trenton Chastain; Vicki Chastain; and Shirley Bidgood

Trenton Chastain joined his mother, Vicki, in her decision for baptism. Before this, he learned many things about God from his grandmother. He also enjoyed being part of

the local Pathfinder club. Trenton is a high-school sophomore who enjoys tinkering with electrical motors and mechanics, and he looks forward to using his talents in Brazil next year on a mission trip. He wants to become a licensed electrician when he finishes school. Trenton's decision to follow Jesus has been tested since he started Bible studies with the pastor. Even though Trenton has dealt with peer pressure at school, and Sabbath-keeping at work, he is committed to being ready for Jesus' soon coming.

Shirley Bidgood was also baptized October 22. Her parents provided her with unforgettable Sabbath-keeping memories as a child. Through the years she sporadically attended church, but was often too busy with the cares of life. Now, she knows the Lord was always there. Shirley recently experienced a miracle of healing. After open heart surgery three years ago, she feared the possibility of another surgery when the doctor found a blockage in her heart in September. On a Friday after her stress test, the doctor asked her to return on Monday for a heart catheterization. Shirley asked the church to pray for her. The next Monday the doctor checked her and declared the blockage was no longer there! No need for the catheterization! Even though she must be cautious with her health, she is known by her great-grandchildren as the "grandma who plays!" And she vivaciously witnesses to all who will listen.

Following the baptism, the pastor made an appeal to the congregation. To everyone's joy, nine individuals came forward, openly pledging their commitment to the Lord and indicating their desire for baptism! The Lord is coming soon and He is gathering His people! We praise God for the miracles He is doing in Bedford!

Donna Hansen, Bedford Church communication leader

Michigan **Angela Dunlop** attended Sabbath school and church as a child at the Boyne City Seventh-day Adventist Church. During her elementary and middle school years she attended the local public school, distinguishing herself as a young basketball player. As she approached high school she was encouraged by coaches to play for the local high school team. Despite the pressure to be a team player, she expressed a desire to attend Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA). With the financial support of her local church and family, she spent her freshmen year at GLAA.

Angela's family prayed for many years that she would desire baptism. Their prayers were answered as a result of the spring week of prayer at GLAA. As Angela listened



From left: Mickey Mallory, pastor, and Angela Dunlop

to the sermons and music, her heart was touched and she went forward to ask for baptism. After studying with Mickey Mallory, Cedar Lake Church pastor, she was baptized on April 30, 2005, at the Cedar Lake Church. Family members from Boyne City traveled to GLAA to witness the event and to hear Angela give a heartfelt testimony to her classmates.

When she returned home for summer vacation, she was welcomed into membership by the Boyne City Church. The church appreciates her youthful enthusiasm, and is grateful for the Adventist educational staff dedicated to influencing lives for the Lord. Angela is once again at GLAA to continue her studies and spiritual growth.

Danni Sherwood, Boyne City Church correspondent

Michigan In 1995, my parent's neighbor told them about a new television station he had discovered. One day, while he was scanning the channels, he found Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN). He told my parents the television station's programming was not like the regular television he was used to watching because the station had more traditional gospel music. He said the messages presented by the speakers seemed to come straight from the Bible.

This was at a time when we were not worshipping at any church. The congregation of the church we had attended

was split, and its organization was in turmoil. Thus, we decided to meet as a small group at my parent's home each Sunday morning.

As my husband, **Mick Maul**, and I (**Joy Maul**) began watching 3ABN on a daily basis, we discovered that what we believed as truth could not be found in the Bible. We had a spiritual foundation from another denomination, but the new truths we learned on television day by day changed our hearts and minds.

Next, we watched 3ABN on Sunday morning for our worship service. After a few weeks, I told my son's friend what I had learned about the seventh-day Sabbath and other doctrines. The friend told us there was a Seventh-day Adventist congregation meeting in the Lutheran church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he attended. He found out the times of their services for us, and we were there the next Sabbath.



From left: Mick Maul, Joy Maul, and Cora Bussis

We have continued to worship there each Sabbath since. I think the church's name is very appropriate—Three Angels Fellowship. Soon my husband, Mick, and my parents, joined me in worshipping there.

Unfortunately, my dad passed away a few months later, but the good news is Mick and I, and my mother, **Cora Bussis**, were all baptized the next spring. Without 3ABN, we would not have found the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or the wonderful truths we now know from the Bible. We now host a small Bible study group in our home on Monday nights. Two who have been studying with us are now baptized members of our church!

Joy Maul with Bruce Babienco, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent

Lessons Learned in the Hurricane's Rubble

STUDENTS FOREGO THANKSGIVING BREAK TO HELP VICTIMS

BY LUIS BELTRE JR.

The coastal town of Waveland, Mississippi, population 10,000, was wiped off the map by Hurricane Katrina. Families still search rubble for remains of homes and businesses. Indiana Academy (IA) invited young men and women, with hearts full of love and a desire to serve people in need, to Waveland during Thanksgiving break. Working through the Center for Youth Evangelism, the students embarked on a life-changing journey.

Upon reaching Waveland, students were quickly oriented and directed by well-trained college students and graduates who painted a clear picture of daily schedules, work options to choose, and cautions to be aware of.

Students soon faced the realities of the destruction and life lessons through the process of helping others. Their first lesson came when they removed debris at Tommy and Ruth's house. There, they were welcomed with smiles instead of the sad, stressed-out faces they expected. Malcolm Niggel quickly realized: "My experience here in Waveland has been life changing. It made me realize earthly things don't really matter, but the gift of God really matters, His salvation." People like Tommy and Ruth nearly lost it all, but their faith in God and His love was unshaken.

Another lesson occurred when we realized we came to give, but ended up receiving. Caitlyn Chism participated in debris removal at J.E.'s house. He offered pizza to those who helped. Caitlyn said, "I have noticed that everybody effected by the hurricane gave us encouragement while they said that we gave them hope and encouragement." Katie Ferguson added, "Pictures and movie clips cannot compare to the actual devastation of this part of the U.S. The people I interacted with have been an inspiration to me. They are positive, polite, and give all that they have left to give."

Another lesson was the importance of hope for the future in the midst of loss. Sabrina Topp observed, "I kept thinking, how could these people lose so much and still sur-

vive, and only recently have I been able to answer that question—hope. That's the key—hope in God, family, and the rest of the world."

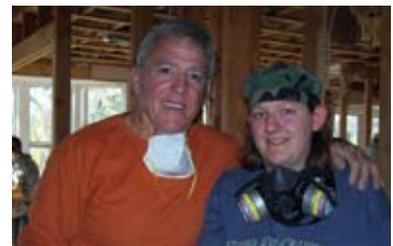
The final lesson came at Sandra's home, a lady who accumulated many books, furniture, and other things during her life. After a nearly 30-foot surge flooded her house and a massive tree broke through her ceiling, not many things were left undamaged. Surprisingly enough, Sandra was still very attached to the things the students considered useless and garbage. Like Sandra, the students were reminded they often find themselves focusing on the worthless things of life when they desperately need to focus more on Jesus and His priceless gift of life.

One couple survived the hurricane in a boat. They made multiple promises to God as the winds and waves crashed against their boat, and God saved them. Now this couple feels obligated to God for making good on all those promises. I said in my heart, "Yes!"

God even uses hurricanes to lead His people back to Him if need be. God also brought the mission team closer to Him by leading us close to those in need.



Chris Akinsana helped clear debris from Tommy's home.



J.E., a homeowner, really appreciated the help of Caitlyn Chism and other IA students.



From left: Malcolm Niggel and Katie Ferguson forfeited Thanksgiving break to help hurricane victims.



Luis Beltre Jr. is the chaplain at Indiana Academy.



Joy Beyond Description in Peru

BY RAMONA TRUBEY

As a child, I was fascinated by mission stories about Fernando Stahl, Peru Indians, and the floating islands, but I never dreamed I would ever see those places. As we sat on the reed bunch benches in the Adventist church on that island and listened to the people sing and tell their history, our hearts were touched. One of my fellow workers said, "It made the whole trip worthwhile."

I was on my tenth Maranatha trip with the Cicero (Indiana) Church. I was accustomed to the sights, smells, and sounds of "south of the border" countries, but the grandeur of the Andes mountains where we worked was beyond what I had ever seen.

Working in the little town of Taraco, at an elevation of 12,660 feet, proved a challenge for our group. One team member had to fly to Lima to work for the week, three other members passed out the day we arrived, and still others went to bed regularly for a day or two because of headache, nausea, dizziness, and weakness.

We stayed in the dorms at the Adventist university near Juliaca and shared one bathroom in the girls' dorm with the students. Because there was no heat, we welcomed the heavily-woven blankets on each bed and the alpaca sweaters and blankets sold in the market places.



Orville Ortiz (former Indiana Academy business manager) translated for the local pastor who thanked the American workers for the new church and school.



Choir members prepared to sing in the new church.



We enjoyed meeting Peruvian church members.

In spite of the obstacles faced, by Friday evening the church we came to build was completed. The school our church committed to build on their own was also completed early Sunday morning. The people's joy, expressed by hugs, kisses, and tears, was beyond description.

How do you reach the people of Peru with the gospel story? You take along a medical team—a doctor, nurses, and translators—and treat physical needs first, then minister to their spiritual needs as they ask. David Bolin, a physician, and his medical team ministered to about 150 patients a day.

One little boy sneaked past the line of waiting patients holding his belly, which caused him great pain.

His mother was located

and told he needed to go to the hospital. She said that was impossible because of no money or insurance. The next day Debbie Ashley and Melody Hoover hunted down the little boy and took him to the hospital and paid for his visit and care. They were informed he did not need surgery, but was full of parasites. They paid for the prescribed medicines and took the little boy home. Do you forget an experience like that?

Yes, it is good to be home, but my horizons have been expanded a little farther, my love broadened, and my heart touched a little more with the needs and pleas of yet more people in the world. I understand a little more why Jesus told us to "Go ye into all the world."

Ramona Trubey is a Cicero Church correspondent.





FAMILY TIES

Shortchanging GIRLS

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Girls with healthy self-esteem have an appropriate sense of their potential, their competence, and their innate value as individuals. However, in study after study, girls and women are less likely to feel those things than men and boys. Should that be any surprise? We continue to live in a culture ambivalent toward female achievement, proficiency, independence, and the right to a full and equal life.

I am most comfortable defining self-esteem as coming from three sources: 1) how one views herself, her performance in areas in which success is important to her, who she sees when she looks in the mirror—her self-respect; 2) how she believes she is perceived by significant others, such as parents, teachers, or peers—her self-image; and 3) her self-worth, which is based on her innate value as an individual, her license to take up space in the world, her right to be heard and to express the full spectrum of human emotions—her value to God.

Middle school is the beginning of the transition from girlhood to womanhood and, not coincidentally, the time of greatest self-esteem loss. Peggy Orenstein found that at the moment of that transformation girls learn in a new and profound way that boys are central in every aspect of the culture.¹

Although in her study girls were consistently articulate, insightful, happy, and successful throughout their eighth grade, Orenstein was astonished that they repeatedly dismissed their academic triumphs but willingly embraced their failures. About a third of the girls she studied had suffered a bout of bulimia, carried burdens from their parents' unhappy marriages, and were afraid to call attention to themselves. One girl was afraid to even cough in class.

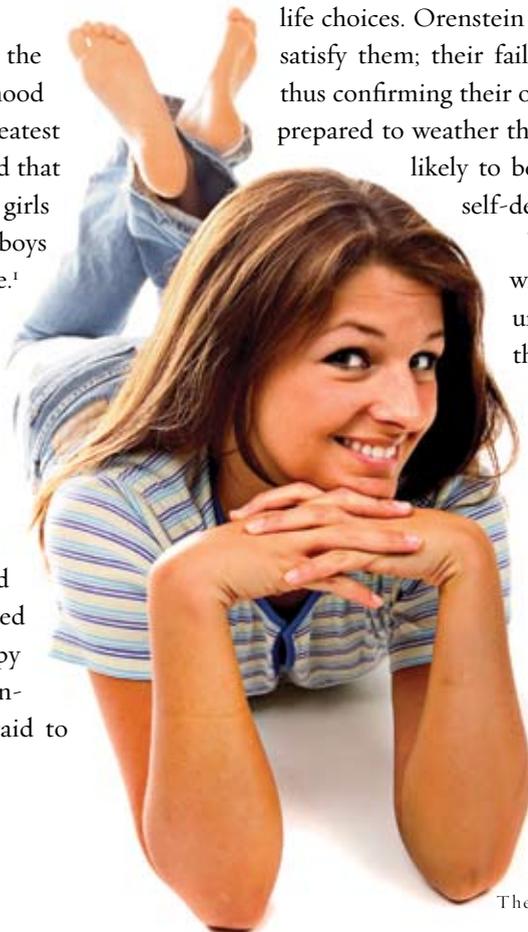
It is interesting to note that African-American girls are more likely to retain a positive overall self-esteem during adolescence and are twice as likely to report feeling “pretty good at a lot of things,” maintaining a stronger sense of both personal and family importance. What we are telling our girls individually, and as a culture, has a significant impact.

Without a strong sense of self, girls enter adulthood at a deficit. They are less able to fulfill their potential, less willing to take on challenges, and less willing to explore new life choices. Orenstein suggests their successes will not satisfy them; their failures will be more catastrophic, thus confirming their own self-doubt. They will be less prepared to weather the storms of adult life, and more likely to become depressed, hopeless, and self-destructive.

We must look more carefully at what we are telling our girls, often unconsciously and subtly, about their value and worth to us—the wider community—and to God.

Susan Murray is an associate professor of family studies who teaches behavioral science and social work at Andrews University. She is a certified family life educator and licensed marriage and family therapist.

1. Peggy Orenstein's bestselling book, *Schoolgirls: Young Women, Self-Esteem and the Confidence Gap*, is the classic study of teenage girls and self-esteem. Now Orenstein uses the same interviewing and reporting skills to examine the lives of women in their 20s, 30s, and 40s in her newest book, *Flux*.



Bright lights are essential to combat winter blues.

Beating Winter **BLUES**

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Keep a daily journal of good things that happen to you.

Each year as the days get shorter and colder, and the period of sunlight diminishes, 15 million Americans become challenged by the condition known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). This disorder is characterized by depression, excessive hours sleeping, lack of motivation, social withdrawal, overeating, and weight gain. Since women are four times more likely to report SAD than men, a hormonal cause is suggested. In a recent study, three to five percent of children were found with the disorder.

Persons suffering from SAD tend to eat more carbohydrates in the winter. Chocolates, sweets, and carbohydrate-rich meals may give people with SAD the perception of quick energy. However, an excessive use of simple carbohydrates may pump insulin levels high and push fat production into overdrive. Overeating should be avoided since it can make for a morbid disposition. Adequate sources of omega-3 and folic acid in the diet are important, since deficiencies of these nutrients are associated with depression.

SAD sufferers may have real difficulty motivating themselves to do ordinary things such as exercise, due to low energy levels. However, regular aerobic exercise improves emotional well-being with the release of brain endorphins. Outdoor exercise such as brisk walking has a significant anti-depressant effect on the mind, and helps prevent winter weight gain. Finding a friend to exercise with may be a valuable means to maintain the exercise regime.

In the fight against depression, getting adequate sleep, avoiding fatigue, and managing stress are all important strategies. Bright lights in the home and the work place are essential for those strug-

gling with the winter blues. In addition, getting a massage, watching a comedy, and regularly reflecting upon the blessings received over the past year by keeping a journal are all important strategies. Taking a winter vacation in Florida may be another great way to combat the winter blues.

High levels of social support can cushion the effects of depression. Having the support and friendship of others with SAD may be beneficial since they can share devices and strategies they have found helpful. Unfortunately, depressed people tend to withdraw socially. A recent study found that the happiest students with the fewest signs of depression had the strongest ties to friends and family, and that they were committed to spending quality time with them.

Clinical trials have revealed that St. John's Wort is a safe and effective treatment for mild to moderate depression and anxiety. For effectiveness, the herb must be taken for at least one to two months. In contrast to antidepressants such as Prozac and Zoloft, St. John's Wort produces no side effects when taken in recommended dosage levels.

Winston J. Craig is professor of nutrition at Andrews University.

EXTREME GRACE

GOD'S Irrational Pleasure

BY DICK DUERKSEN



The author's first grandchild, Griffyn Kapao, lives "too far away" in Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Long, long ago, before there were cell phones and when digital referred to toes and fingers, we received a letter from *Insight* magazine asking us to write an article about why so many young Adventist couples were deciding not to have children. Brenda and I had been married for nearly six years, and had no plans for adding to our two-person family. Yes, we had cats.

We agreed to the invitation, and began canvassing our childless married friends. Before long we had six or seven excellent reasons for not having kids. Like...

- ▶ We are close to the end of time and it would not be fair to bring children into the world just as the Time of Trouble begins.
- ▶ We are working at an Adventist college and have chosen to adopt the children of other families rather than have our own. This way, we can do a much better job of "serving the needs of others."
- ▶ Good stewardship demands we plan our finances carefully, and spend wisely for God's kingdom. If we are to serve to the fullest extent of our calling, we will not have adequate funds to raise children. Especially in these, the Last Days.
- ▶ Having children is selfish. Caring for children who have been abandoned by others is selfless service, as commanded by God.

There were more reasons, each carefully crafted and backed up with Scripture and quotes from Ellen White. Each woven into a leak-proof rationale for remaining childless.

We sent the article to *Insight*, and waited.

When the envelope arrived, it was a simple rejection note from the associate editor. "Your article is too convincing," she wrote. "We cannot use it."

We were devastated, especially since we worked so hard at being convincing! So we wrote back. "You got what you asked for and must use it. Have someone with four or five kids write the other side of the issue and call the entire issue, 'To Parent, or Not To Parent.' People will love it!"

They agreed, commissioned a parent author, and sent a check.

When the magazine arrived we read "To Parent" first. It was an emotion-filled treatise about how wonderful it is to have your young son stumble across the room to you with peanut butter and jam all over his face. Proud of our well-crafted arguments, we made fun of the author and tried to hide the fact that Brenda was now seven months pregnant.

That was 30 years, and three children, ago. They're the lights of our lives, scattered around the world. One ministers as a teacher, another as the Internet ad manager for a newspaper, and another as mother of our first grandchild.

He, by the way, is crawling across the kitchen toward Grandma, jelly-faced and eager for another of her famous hugs. The love on her face is as wide as God's Eden smile!

Ah, parenting is such irrational pleasure!

Dick Duerksen is an associate vice president for mission development at Florida Hospital.



God Chose YOUNG PEOPLE

BY GARY BURNS

Our new members may be interested to know the Seventh-day Adventist Church was started by young people as a movement within traditional protestant churches. These young women and men, in their teens and early twenties, were attracted to the teachings of William Miller, who discovered the Bible taught a literal and soon return of Jesus Christ to rescue His followers from a sin-cursed world that was about to end.

Many of these young enthusiasts, dismissed from their churches for accepting the Bible over denominational traditions, banded together with the Bible only as their sole rule of faith and doctrine. They continued meeting to pray and study, and looked for innovative and creative ways to share with others. They began an unprecedented, monumental publishing work.



Students at Mount Vernon Academy gave their principal, David Daniels, a blessing at a recent teen prayer conference.

As the movement spread across the northeastern United States, some suggested they organize into an official church denomination. Many resisted for fear they would lose the ability to adjust to new light from Scripture as it was revealed by the Holy Spirit. They wanted to avoid becoming like so many denominations that preceded them. One of the foremost in this opposition was our first General Conference president, James White, who reluctantly agreed with the organizational plans under certain conditions. Unfortunately, in the 150 years that have transpired, a number of his fears have been realized.

There is a new movement within the Adventist Church that many sense is the movement of God and a return to the kind of relationship He enjoyed with our founding young people. (The word “fathers” is an inaccurate and misleading word to refer to our founders who were young women and men.) It is a movement once again among our young people

and, quite frankly, it’s a bit scary. Our young people are taking us out of our comfort zone with their radical discipleship to Jesus. It is born in the context of this generation’s need for intimacy and connectedness, a sense of belonging, peace, stability, a quest for personal identity, an encounter with power, and a longing for purpose and meaning, all of which are found in discipleship to Jesus. This

generation craves a spiritual life based on relationship.

We witnessed it at Wawoka Woods, Oklahoma, in 1995, at the birth of what has become the teen prayer movement. It is reminiscent of the spiritual revival phenomenon on our college campuses that took place during the early 70s and has now developed into the Seven Signs discipleship movement. Young disciples involved in innovative worship, ministry, evangelism, and mission are stretching our imaginations and our resources.

Throughout history it appears God chooses young people whenever He is up to something big, radical, and earthshaking. Maybe it is time we learned the Basic 101 lesson God has been trying to teach us all along—we must take on the characteristics of the young, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director and *Lake Union Herald* editor.

GONE... But Not Forgotten

FRIENDS FORM MINISTRY TO LOCATE
DISCOURAGED ALUMNI

BY ROCKY ALDRICH AND DIANE THURBER

In June 2005, Rocky Aldrich and Mike Carpenter, two former classmates at Grand Ledge Academy, organized Alumni Ministries to reach those who “fell through the cracks” after leaving Adventist schools. Rocky and Mike want to reach classmates no longer involved in church. Their mission is to assure these individuals they are significant, and inform them someone cares and prays for them.

Jari Morgan was their first contact. Rocky inquired about Jari, his former Grand Ledge Academy roommate, for over three years. He discovered Jari lived homeless so Rocky drove three hours and Mike traveled twelve hours to Detroit to search for him.

They found Jari, known as the “window man” on the streets because he washes windows for various businesses. Jari was thrilled to see Rocky and Mike and soon recounted the events of his life. The friends sat in a tire garage, and Jari shared a poem he carries in his wallet and played a few songs he wrote with his guitar.

Jari was greatly impressed his classmates cared enough to look him up and spend time with him. Even though it was September, Jari said, “This is my best Christmas present ever!” He continued, “I wish someone would have come to see me long before this.” Jari’s friends encouraged him to locate a rehab program and he has since graduated. He is now faced with decisions about his future. Jari hopes his story will help someone else.

Rocky also talked with classmates in Mancelona, Grand Rapids, Flint, Grand Ledge, Lansing, Washington, D.C., North Carolina, Kansas, and Georgia from five academies. Each one he spoke with doesn’t attend an Adventist church any more. They echoed similar questions and frustrations. Messages received in school seemed con-



Rocky Aldrich (left) discovered his former Grand Ledge Academy roommate, Jari Morgan, living homeless in Detroit.



Jari Morgan washes windows for Detroit businesses.

tradictory. “True or not, that was their perception,” Rocky says.

The question Rocky often hears is, “Why did they have those rules?” Former classmates wrestle with this and have found no one to provide answers. Rocky says the bitterness, and often anger, accompanies almost every conversation. His classmates say some teachers seemed more interested, at times, in what they wore, ate, drank, and how they entertained themselves than preparing them for college or nurturing a Christian lifestyle.

Rocky doesn’t want to place blame on academy leaders or teachers as he helps former classmates. He says, “All of us can make our own decisions, and continue to make choices every day.” But Rocky would like to see his church reach out to those who used to be among us. He believes many more would begin to come back if someone would just show an interest. Rocky encourages alumni and even former teachers to contact students to let them know you care. In some cases, he says an apology may be in order if mistakes were made.

Rocky and Mike have experienced appreciation shown by those they contact. They feel their job is to sow the seed; the Holy Spirit will do the rest. If you would like more information, contact Rocky by e-mail: aldrichr@arenaceastern.org.

Rocky Aldrich is the superintendent of Arenac Eastern Schools in Twining, Michigan, and Diane Thurber is the *Lake Union Herald* managing editor.



¿Qué es el amor?

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Esposos, amad a vuestras esposas, así como también Cristo amó a la iglesia y se entregó a sí mismo por ella” (Efe. 5:25).

Nunca olvidaré esa visita que hice en noviembre de 1980. Estaba comenzando el trabajo como pastor en mi primer distrito, cuando me notificaron de mi asociación acerca de una familia que había visto nuestro programa de televisión “It Is Written” y quería recibir más información de la Biblia. Al llegar, los esposos me recibieron muy bien y aceptaron el ofrecimiento de tomar estudios bíblicos. Fui a mi auto para recoger las hojas de estudio y cuando regresé vi por primera vez a la hija mayor, Rosanne. Siendo soltero, sentí en ese momento un impulso mayor de darles los estudios. Gracias a Dios al pasar un año ellos tomaron la decisión de bautizarse y cuatro años más tarde, Rosanne y yo tomamos la decisión de casarnos.

Cuando tomamos los votos matrimoniales no nos imaginamos los desafíos que íbamos a afrontar juntos. Los primeros años fueron tiempos de mucho ajuste, tratando de acomodarnos a nuestras diferencias de personalidad y crianza. Rosanne tuvo un ajuste mayor que hacer al percatarse más plenamente lo que involucraba el trabajo que yo llevaba como pastor, lo que le asignaba a ella automáticamente el cargo de “esposa de pastor”.



Los jóvenes hispanos Gabriel Rodríguez, Jeannette Anaya, Celia Anaya y Milton Coronado al asistir a un seminario de matrimonios en South Bend, Indiana.

Pero gracias a Dios superamos esos tiempos de ajustes y en junio de este año vamos a cumplir veinte años de casados. Al pensar en qué fue lo que nos ayudó a mantenernos unidos, mi esposa y yo descubrimos por lo menos cuatro razones principales:

1. Al casarnos nos dimos cuenta que Dios en su providencia nos había guiado para ser esposos desde nuestro primer encuentro y pusimos como prioridad que absolutamente nada nos podrá separar del plan de Dios.

2. Siempre tratamos de mantener la comunicación abierta, orando juntos y buscando el tiempo para comunicar sobre lo que está pasando en nuestras vidas.

3. Regularmente buscamos oportunidades de crecer en nuestro matrimonio, asistiendo a seminarios de matrimonios y recibiendo consejos de expertos en relaciones familiares.

4. Tratamos de poner en primer lugar el bienestar del otro, más que nuestro propio bien. El

ejemplo que nos inspira a hacer esto es Jesús, quien “amó a la iglesia y se entregó a sí mismo por ella” (Efesios 5:25).

En este mes dedicado al amor quiero amonestar a los enamorados (especialmente a los casados, recién casados o a los que tienen planes de casarse) que vayamos a la verdadera fuente de amor para así poder demostrar al mundo el amor que Cristo tiene para nosotros.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente general de la Unión del Lago.



Lake Union Youth Ministry

BY GARY BURNS

The Lake Union is fortunate to have an abundance of resources and expertise available through the youth ministries department. Our coordinator is Ron Whitehead, who also is the Center for Youth Evangelism executive director, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary youth ministry assistant professor, Andrews University assistant to the president for spiritual life, and International Camporee executive director.



Ron Whitehead

Youth ministry activities include the 2005 Pathfinder evangelism trip to Ghana, West Africa, with 49 evangelists distributing 500,000 pieces of literature. Through their ministry, led by the Holy Spirit, over 700 people were baptized. Following Hurricane Katrina, hundreds of

Each October, Pathfinder leadership training is held at the Union office. Each spring, music and worship training takes place on the Andrews University campus. The National Pathfinder Bible Achievement Awards (Bible Bowls) are an annual event. Twice each year, youth ministries hosts



Alaina Elder, a Pathfinder who went to Ghana, held one of the children who came to the evangelistic meetings.

Lake Union youth and young adults responded through organized efforts that will continue until June 2006. For information on how you can participate, visit website: www.cywecare.org.

Lake Union youth ministries also provides Union Pathfinder camporees. The coordinator for the next event is Terry Dodge, Michigan Conference Pathfinder director. For information,

a youth advisory for youth directors to come together for prayer and to coordinate plans for the Lake Union.

The most effective annual youth evangelism events in the



Lake Union We Care volunteer teams helped with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

contact him by e-mail at: tdodge@misda.org; or call (517) 316-1500.

Training events provided by youth ministries include Giraffe University, a special leadership training event designed for high school youth leadership. For more information, contact Jeff Warda at (269) 471-8380 or (800) Youth2U.

Lake Union are the summer camp programs. The Lake Union has a presence at each summer camp and gives support to the camping staff and the camp program. This past summer there were over 600 decisions for baptism and over 700 decisions for Christ through our summer camp programs.

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director and *Lake Union Herald* editor.

Energy Prayer Task Force Pornography Student Missions Drug Use
 Eating Disorders Creativity
EXCITING TIMES
CHALLENGING TIMES
YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE LAKE UNION
 BY RON WHITEHEAD

EXCITING TIMES

If ever there was a time when Adventist youth and young adults are seeking hope, assurance, involvement, and purpose for their lives, it is today.

Never before in Earth's history has a generation of Lake Union Conference Adventist youth been more motivated, trained, and resourced to share Jesus than this one. A few examples are:



YOUTH ARE MISSION MINDED

- ▶ Student Missionaries—One year of international service
- ▶ Short Term International—One to three weeks of service
- ▶ Task Force Missionaries—One year of domestic service
- ▶ Short Term Domestic—One to three weeks of service

Never before has an Adventist generation raised more money to travel so often to share the gospel. This is a gen-

eration who wants to “experience their faith” not just “talk about their faith.” Have you ever seen a young person come back to your church after a mission trip and say, “That was a waste of time and money?” No! You hear quite the opposite. Often they say, “Let me tell you how God used me,” and “When can we go again?”

It is important for the Lake Union Conference to maintain a strong international and domestic mission emphasis. Would it not be a worthy goal to challenge ourselves to make sure every young person in the Lake Union has at least one opportunity to join a mission trip?



YOUTH ARE SPIRITUALLY MINDED

- ▶ Prayer is important.
- ▶ Christian music is important.
- ▶ Worship is important.
- ▶ Outreach evangelism is important.

It is very exciting to see individuals and groups of Adventist senior youth and young adults take more ownership for spiritual growth. Within the Lake Union Conference they have organized their own spiritual growth opportunities through prayer, worship, music, and outreach evangelism. Today's spiritually-minded young persons are not waiting for the church to hand them entertainment programming. They are seeking involvement in the local church that goes way beyond entertainment. They are seeking deep relationships, meaningful church involvement, and purpose for their lives. What they seek is a reason to be an Adventist Christian that includes, but goes beyond, doctrine.

It is important for the Lake Union Conference to encourage a strong support system to build up local church youth and young adult ministry. Let all members in the Lake Union Conference challenge themselves to provide a friendly and "safe harbor" church environment for "our" youth.



YOUTH HAVE UNIQUE GIFTS

- ▶ They have leadership and organizational skills.
- ▶ They have speaking abilities way beyond their years.
- ▶ They have extra energy and creativity.
- ▶ They have a holy boldness or calling on their lives.

Have you ever noticed that the secular world trusts and values youth and young adults more than the church does sometimes? A few examples:

The other day a twenty-something professional computer security software engineer said to me, "Pastor Ron, five days a week my employer trusts me to secure hundreds of millions of dollars over the Internet. But I was just told by my church that they cannot give me a key to the church to help me run youth programming. Explain this to me."

Or, another recent example offered by a high school student, "Pastor Ron, when will my church give me something important to do? I want to hold a public series of meetings but they told me there was no money. Then, they told me the church calendar was too full. Then, they told me a professional evangelist was coming. I am beginning to wonder if my church needs me."

The Lake Union Conference of churches needs every young person and young adult. We need their bold visions for ministry. We need their energy. We need their creativity. We need their leadership and organizational skills. The bottom line is—local churches, with their local conference, with the Lake Union Conference, need to take more time in prayer with strategic planning to make sure every young person is used to their maximum potential. Let there be no "child" left behind when Jesus returns.

CHALLENGING TIMES

If ever there was a time when Adventist youth and young adults were under extreme attack from the dark side, it is today.

Never before in Earth's history has the evil one had more influence over a generation than this one. A few examples:

MEDIA INFLUENCES

- ▶ Film/Movies
- ▶ Television/Values/Pop Culture
- ▶ Music/Dance
- ▶ Spiritualism

FAMILY CHALLENGES

- ▶ Divorce
- ▶ Time for Family Worship
- ▶ Money/Materialism
- ▶ Abuse

INTERNET CHALLENGES

- ▶ Pornography
- ▶ Gaming
- ▶ Gambling
- ▶ Chat Rooms

HEALTH CHALLENGES

- ▶ Pre-Marital Sex
- ▶ Illegal Drugs/Alcohol
- ▶ Homosexuality
- ▶ Eating Disorders

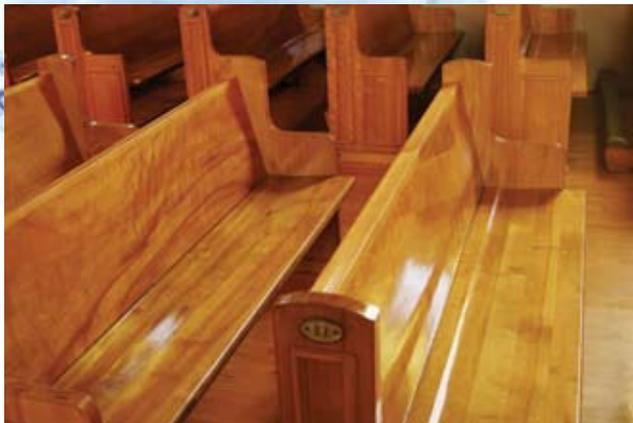
ENTERTAINMENT CHALLENGES

- ▶ Clubbing
- ▶ Fashion/Dress/Modesty
- ▶ Fantasy Novels

Satan's list to compromise and then destroy our youth and young adults in the 21st century goes on and on. And, if we are not careful, we can become discouraged and feel like giving up; but we are not quitters. We serve a victorious God. We can do all things through His strength. He gives us hope.

But, it is important to look at the facts. As reported this past summer at the St. Louis General Conference Session by Jan Paulsen, "You have thirty-five to forty percent of the number baptized who are leaving the church" (*Adventist World*, December, 2005). The percentage of loss for our youth and young adults is even greater ... most suspect.

If the Adventist Church was a public company, trading on the New York Stock Exchange, and you were a stockholder of this company called The Adventist Church, see how you would react to this make-believe story.



Let's say at a recent annual shareholder's meeting the board chairperson reported that over 51 percent of your company's customers were leaving after age 17. Would the stockholders react by a moment of silence, then continue their business as usual?

Or, if this story really took place in the public world, could you visualize stockholders all stirred up, wanting an-

swers for the loss of such important customers? Could you visualize the chairperson calling special committees to address this topic? Could you see the chairperson calling for the company's resources to be reassigned for research and development of new programs and products to hold these important customers?



The stockholders are you and me—members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The chairpersons are also you and me. We are the leaders in our local churches. We sit on church boards and committees. We have influence where our personal offerings go and where church assets are spent. We are the church.

There is a phrase many physical education instructors use to motivate students to exercise—Use Them, or Lose Them. "Let not the youth be ignored," Ellen White counsels us. "Let them share in the labor and responsibility. Let them feel that they have a part to act in helping and blessing others" (*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 435).

The best days are ahead for Lake Union Conference youth ministry because this union values its youth and young adults. We are blessed with many effective ministries now, but we seek more effective ministry opportunities in the future.

Let us all pray and work for the salvation of "our," or is it "His" youth. As local church leaders make plans for 2006, let us pray for new and more effective ways to involve the youth and young adults in ministry.

If you have input and/or suggestions to make youth ministry in the Lake Union Conference more effective, contact Ron Whitehead, Lake Union Conference youth ministry coordinator, by cell phone: (269) 208-1344; by home phone: (269) 473-1516; or by e-mail: PastorRon@andrews.edu.

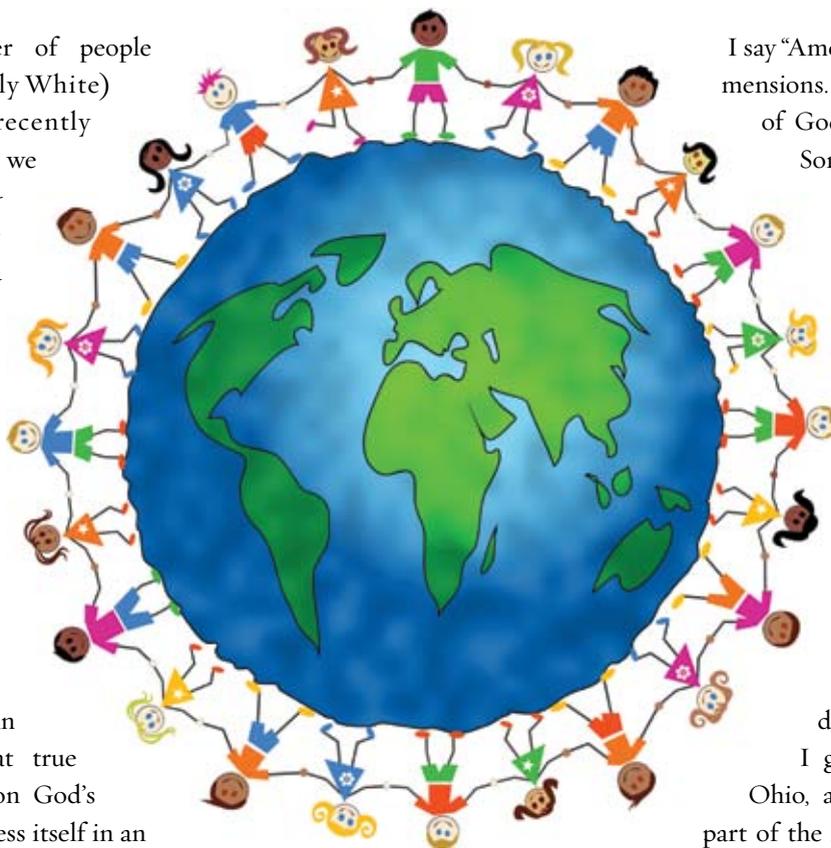
Ron Whitehead is the Lake Union Conference youth ministry coordinator.

Love's Kaleidoscope

WHY REGIONAL CONFERENCES?

BY GARY BURNS

A number of people (mostly White) have recently suggested to me that we discontinue the practice of having regional conferences. To a person they have expressed personal attitudes of love and acceptance, and cited biblical principles that call for unity and condemn divisions. I believe they truly long for what Christ prayed for as recorded in John 17. They insist that true Christianity, based on God's love, would not express itself in an organization that has separate conferences for Blacks. They imply, if they don't outright declare, that any in leadership who tolerate or endorse such a "division" in the church is unchristian. I also suspect the church they imagine and desire to see become a reality is limited by their own experience and preferences and would unwittingly exclude many from a place at the table.



I say "Amen!" to love in all its dimensions. I say "Yes!" to the love of God as expressed in His Son. I want to love as He loves and live with all His children in perfect harmony. And so, although I applaud their desire and motivation, I cannot fully endorse their position or methodology, because God's love is not limited to one expression. Love bends and adjusts to accommodate differences.

I grew up in southwest Ohio, and was very much a part of the Allegheny West Conference family. Although the inequities were numerous and glaring, I gained so much by

experiencing the dimension of faith expressed in Black culture. Likewise, I have gained from experiencing the diversity of culture and expressions of faith around the world in England, France, Germany, Austria, Denmark, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Romania, India, Thai-



This 1970s-era photo is of the Dale Wright Memorial Church congregation in Germantown, Ohio. As a boy, Gary Burns gained so much by experiencing the dimension of faith expressed by members of the Black culture who worshiped there with him.

land, The Philippines, New Zealand, Guyana, Honduras, Colombia, Venezuela, The Dominican Republic, and Mexico. I worshiped with the Lakota people of South Dakota and the British in St. Paul's Cathedral, the Maury in New

Diversity in unity is inclusion without uniformity. It denies the spirit of exclusion while celebrating the unique contributions of differences. It welcomes and seeks association without demanding conformation.

By learning to appreciate unique perspectives and contributions, by seeing God do His work from different perspectives, by opening our hearts to accept and understand, we can be united in Christ while affirming, applauding, encouraging, and assisting one another in multiple expressions.

Zealand, and the Gypsies of Romania, the Davis Indians in Guyana, and the surfers in California. Each experience was enriching and contributed to my understanding of the love of God and how vast and diverse His creative work is. I experienced an incredible sense of unity in the rich diversity of expressions, customs, languages, and styles.

Our regional conferences began in 1945 when it became evident the leadership of the church was not being sensitive to, or cognizant of, the specific needs of a subculture within the body of Christ. A similar situation existed in the early church. We read in Acts 6, as the church began to grow and included a population of Greeks within the primarily

Hebraic church, the Lord directed the apostles to appoint leaders from among them to care for their specific needs because they had been overlooked. Although there may have been some misguided members with traces of malice in their hearts, for the most part, I suspect it was due to a different orientation that resulted in inadvertent negligence. I find it to be similar in many race-related issues in the church today.

Recognizing the sins of prejudice, bigotry, and pride are present in us all, we need to be broken at the foot of the cross and receive the cleansing and healing that can only

of the Lake Region Conference. I enjoy and appreciate the variety, and affirm the value and legitimacy of each expression. This kind of love is a new dimension, a new level of love that is so much higher and richer than a love that can only function in a climate of uniformity.

If a conference is forced to exist because its members are excluded, rejected, and unwelcome, or because its members refuse to associate with those of another kind, then it is the product of a sin cancer that must be eradicated. But if a conference exists to give added focus to serve people in a way that is meaningful and useful to them for the purpose

Our church must be united in doing whatever it takes to introduce people to Jesus—united in Christ, united in purpose, united in a love that causes the world to wonder at its rich and colorful kaleidoscope of expressions.

come from Jesus. We need to accept the new heart He wants to give us so we can love as He loved, and be moved with compassion as He was moved while affirming each other—including our differences.

I suspect many of us who are accused of being racists are in fact simply ignorant. Our views are limited by our lack of experiences, making us blind to our offenses. Our “loving” acts are understood as glaring statements of racism, prejudice, and bigotry to many. By learning to appreciate unique perspectives and contributions, by seeing God do His work from different perspectives, by opening our hearts to accept and understand, we can be united in Christ while affirming, applauding, encouraging, and assisting one another in multiple expressions.

A few Sabbaths ago my wife and I worshiped at the Fil-Am Church two blocks from our house in Berrien Springs. Tomorrow, we will worship with a group from India who meet once a month to celebrate the dimension of God that is uniquely expressed in their culture. On Sunday, I will be in Chicago at the Shiloh Church, meeting with the delegates

of advancing the kingdom and expanding its reach, then it is a direct fulfillment of the gospel commission in Matthew 28, while at the same time, it is an answer to Christ’s prayer for unity in John 17. Our church must be united in doing whatever it takes to introduce people to Jesus—united in Christ, united in purpose, united in a love that causes the world to wonder at its rich and colorful kaleidoscope of expressions.

One day, the regional conferences may outlive their original purpose. They may pick up new initiatives to advance the kingdom of God in different ways, or they and other conferences may cease to exist altogether. Whatever the case, I will applaud, support, and join in the efforts to reach every man, woman, boy and girl for Christ. I will seek to learn, to understand, and to appreciate the different dimensions, colors, languages, traditions, and expressions of God’s image in all of us by choosing to be inclusive, adventurous, and vulnerable. I choose to love.

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director and *Lake Union Herald* editor.

Trial to Triumph

BY BENJAMIN BAKER

The meeting room of the Chicago Stevens Hotel had standing room only. It was late in the day. The delegates had engaged in hours of rigorous discussion and passionate speeches. Still, obstacles and difficulties faced the attendees at every turn.

Now the room was still. Every eye focused on the speaker standing at the microphone. This was the moment that everyone had been waiting for.

“Mr. Chairman, I move that we accept the president’s recommendation for the creation of Black conferences in the Seventh-day Adventist Church as previously outlined,” the speaker announced in a clarion pitch.

“Is there a second?” the chairman responded.

Several throughout the room intoned their seconds to the motion.

The chairman went on. “Discussion?”

“All those in favor say aye.”

Scores of ayes could be heard around the room.

“Any opposed, the same sign.”

“The ayes have it!” It was unanimous.

For a millisecond all was quiet. Then a nervous applause broke out. A new era had dawned in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Following World War II, thousands of battle-weary soldiers of all races were returning home in search of jobs, opportunities, and a new life. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, like the nation in general, had come to recognize the dilemma of race relations as a major issue needing attention; nevertheless, no significant breakthroughs had been realized. In many ways the church lagged behind the nation in the move toward racial equality.

As the nation seemed ready to face its problems, the Adventist Church seemed determined to maintain the status quo. Denominational leadership positions remained virtually inaccessible to Black people. People of African descent were still discouraged from worshipping in most White con-

gregations. Church institutions and facilities remained essentially segregated. Enrollment in White Adventist schools was still virtually unheard of for Black children and youth.



First Black presidents

In the years following Edson White’s ministry, missionary outreach toward Blacks in the South had slowed to a crawl. Other denominations were far more active in their outreach efforts and humanitarian and education work for Blacks in the South. In fact, in certain areas of the church there were whispers of the influence of White extremist groups.

Voices urging change in the Adventist Church—appeals for increased racial equality and inclusiveness—had been heard and ignored for decades. But the cruel and unnecessary death of Lucy Byard could not be ignored. This incident was the catalyst that brought the race relations conflict

in the Adventist Church to a head. (Lucy Byard was a long-time Seventh-day Adventist from Brooklyn, New York, who was refused treatment at Washington Adventist Hospital because she was of African descent. On the brink of death, she and her husband made their way by taxi to Howard University's Freedman Hospital where she died of pneumonia.) No person with a modicum of dignity could sit idly by and let events continue to unfold as they were.

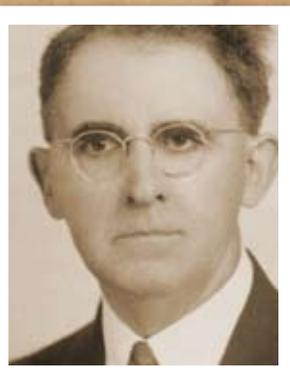
Dedicated Black Adventists formed groups to study how to effect positive change, to better realize Christ's commission to take the gospel to all the world. When they met, there was dialogue, debate, strategy, and prayer. Foremost on the agenda was the challenge of finding ways for the church to relate positively to the oppressed and disenfranchised while maintaining its God-given mission to the world.

The concept of Black-administered conferences began to gain real momentum. It was increasingly seen as a way for the Black Adventist work to progress, to allow for shared governance, and to provide opportunities for leadership growth and development.

So following the Byard tragedy, Black-administered conferences became more appealing, more viable. Black lay persons and leaders petitioned General Conference president James L. McElhany to take action and form conferences that would be led by Blacks in order to progress the work for Blacks more aggressively.

McElhany came to believe that finding a way to assist Black Adventists was a moral issue. Clearly, he had to do something to remedy the situation. McElhany was sensitive and sympathetic to the plight of Black Adventists. He had posited earlier that Black conferences appeared to be one of the major ways Blacks could receive fair treatment to prosper the work among their people.

In 1944, in an unprecedented move, McElhany agreed to address the issue of race relations in the church and the organization of Black conferences at the upcoming General



In 1944, in an unprecedented move, James L. McElhany, then General Conference president, agreed to address the issue of race relations in the church and the organization of Black conferences at the upcoming General Conference Spring Council. McElhany was sensitive and sympathetic to the plight of Black Adventists.

Conference Spring Council. In preparation for the meeting to be held in Chicago, Illinois, the General Conference Committee voted to invite leading Black leaders to attend. As the date approached, the church waited in anticipation.

April 8, 1944, the date for the beginning of Spring Council, finally arrived. From the outset of the council the atmosphere was tense. For hours Black and White denominational leaders discussed the topic of Black-administered conferences and debated the general concept. The decision about Black conferences was to be made the next day when the president addressed the assembly. A vote would be taken.

The next morning, when it was time for McElhany to preside over the session, he was not present. Consternation and confusion permeated the session. The atmosphere grew tense, marked by low whispers and perplexed looks. McElhany was nowhere in sight. He had been stricken with sickness and lay in bed in his hotel room.

One of Black Adventism's premier leaders, George Peters, took the initiative to visit the president. Peters entered the room, escorted by a nurse who was tending the president. Peters sat in a chair next to the president's bed, a prayer for wisdom still in his heart.

"Elder McElhany, the meeting has started. We need you out there. I know that you are sick, but I believe God will give you strength to make the session and present your address," Peters urged gently. After further urgings, the president made his decision. Standing to his feet and grasping the Black leader's hand, the two instantly knew a prayer for wisdom and strength was in order, so both of them fell to their knees.

Once in the hall, McElhany carefully walked to the podium. He valiantly shook off illness and fatigue as he spoke his convictions bravely and powerfully. After McElhany's address, other prominent leaders stood up to speak in favor of the creation of Black conferences. The council attendees

continued to dialogue about the rationale for Black conferences, articulating the following reasons: a) the unique needs of Black Seventh-day Adventists, b) to neutralize racism, c) to facilitate integration, d) to give a governance voice, and e) to improve effectiveness in evangelism.

A motion was made to accept the president's recommendation. The idea was God-inspired, and met with widespread acceptance. The council unanimously voted that Black conferences be established with this pronouncement:

"Whereas, the present development of the work among the Colored people in North America has resulted, under the signal blessing of God, in the establishment of some 233 churches with some 17,000 members; and whereas it appears that a different plan of organization of our Colored membership would bring further great advance in soul-winning endeavors; therefore we recommend, that in unions where the Colored constituency is considered by the union conference committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant, Colored conferences be organized."

The Blacks present were not permitted to vote, so it was especially amazing that the idea was put into existence the way it was.

Of ancient Israel we read, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Cor. 10:11). This verse is representative of Paul's constant lessons to his churches, and he appealed to the



George E. Peters

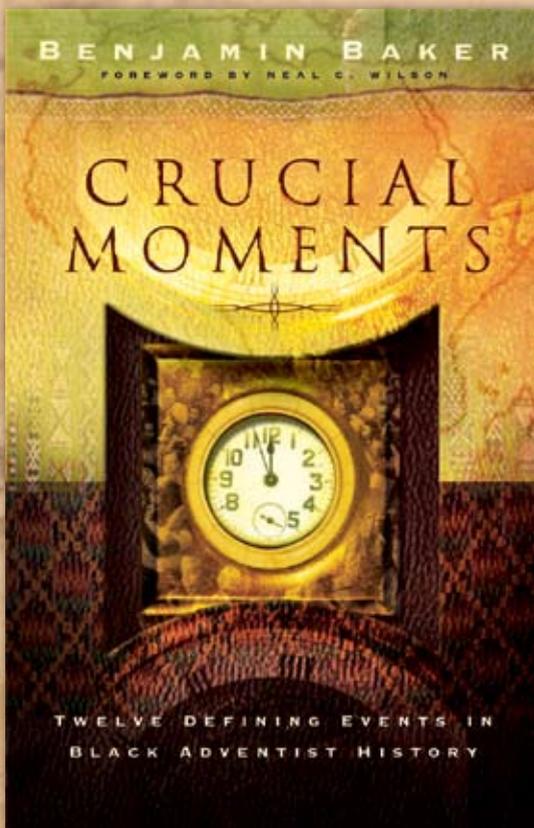
experience of their ancestors. Peter did the same thing, as did John, Jude, Stephen, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. These instruction-filled stories spoke poignantly to the fledgling Christian church and gave them encouragement, counsel, and warning.

The similarities between ancient Israel and African-Americans are provocative. Both were enslaved for 400 years and subjected to extreme humiliation and forced toil. Both were enslaved in lands foreign to

them. Both groups endured the rigors of slavery through their faith in God. Inspiration reveals that God expressly and personally freed both groups.

History is invaluable to us for several reasons. First, it makes us aware of the character and experiences of our ancestors: their strengths and weaknesses, triumphs and defeats. Second,

it gives us insight as to the nature of the world and of humanity. Third, it provides focus and instruction for the future. Last, but most important, it shows us that we serve a God who is intimately involved in the affairs of people. This is especially true of Seventh-day Adventist history. In these chapters we see a God who is active. In each narrative, divine Providence can be seen guiding and directing both events and people behind the scenes. We realize that Jehovah works through men and women like us, irrespective of their faults, idiosyncrasies, and broken promises. Ultimately, God's will must be done.



Benjamin Baker teaches at Kettering College of Medical Arts. This article is an abridged excerpt from *Crucial Moments: Twelve Defining Events in Black Adventist History*, Review & Herald Publishing Association (2005). Used with permission.



Peer Review: On Track with Mission

Adventist Midwest Health (AMH) is a Christian healthcare leader committed to partnering with physicians and the community to provide whole-person care and promote wellness.

Every two years, AMH undergoes a Mission Peer Review to see how closely it is following its mission statement, goals, and objectives, and meeting the spiritual and emotional needs of its patients, visitors, employees, and the wider community.

In June 2005, the Mission Peer Review was conducted by team leader Benjamin Reaves, Adventist Health System vice president for ministries and mission; Connie Hamilton, Florida Hospital vice president; Michael Schultz, Park Ridge (Ill.) Hospital chief executive officer; and Art Slagle, Park Ridge Hospital chaplain.

In their report, the reviewers noted:

“It was quite evident that the senior leadership’s enthusiasm for mission and a spiritual presence was not only evident but also very contagious within the middle management group.”

“The regional pastoral team is to be recognized and commended for their ministry to patients and employees. There is good team spirit and diversity in make up.”



The Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital spiritual life committee formed a brigade to load food collected by employees for a community food drive.



Tricia Treft, chaplain, anoints the hands of nurses during the annual Blessing of the Hands ceremony at AMH facilities during Hospital Week.

“The decision to implement the *Spiritual Ambassador* program two years ago is a significant achievement and seems to be building momentum throughout the region.”

“The system-wide events that are planned throughout the year certainly deserve recognition, such as the Adventist St. Thomas Hospice and *Still Missed* memorial services for the community, volunteer training, and *National Day of Prayer* activities with community participation.”

The reviewers commended AMH for the inclusion of Adventist in the names of the region hospitals and services, a change that occurred in Nov. 2004.

According to John Rapp, AMH regional executive director of ministries and mission, the reviewers were pleased to see spiritual life plans for each department throughout the region. In providing examples, Rapp said, “Some employees in human resources have regular devotionals with a chaplain and a very active spiritual

ambassador who brings the department together for prayer during times of need. Another department funded placing Bibles in all the rooms on their unit. Many departments throughout the region were represented on the Ghana mission trip that AMH participated in this year.”

In a multicultural work environment, it helps to understand the mission and build team spirit. AMH uses a booklet distributed at orientation for new employees and a DVD for physicians (presented at



Jill Hinrichs, Adventist St. Thomas Hospice bereavement coordinator, denotes names on a community display for a Tree of Remembrance in Hinsdale.

credentialing orientation) to lay the foundation for the ministry of AMH. Rapp explained, “In a very diverse culture with competing agendas and different faith commitments, these tools remind us that AMH hospitals and ancillary care functions are doing healthcare as an expression of God’s love for each and every person. That is to say, we are not hospitals that have a ministries and mission department, but rather a spiritual/religious institution that happens to be in the work of healing. It is through the healing arts that we express God’s love and intention for each person. That goes directly to our identity and reason for existence.”

Lynn Larson, Adventist Midwest Health writer/
media relations liaison

Andrews Hosts Third Annual Music and Worship Conference

This spring marks the third annual Andrews University Music and

Worship Conference, sponsored by Andrews University's Department of Music and Center for Youth Evangelism. Hosted on the Andrews campus, this conference is a training event for professional and volunteer church musicians, pastors, and lay leaders.

For the past two years, people from around the country and as far away as Australia have traveled to participate in the useful and interesting variety of seminars, workshops, and worship experiences. This year, as in the past, important issues such as creativity, diversity, quality, and appropriateness will be discussed, outlining a biblical framework for understanding the role of music in worship. Experts in the field of worship and church music will also share techniques and strategies useful to improve music and worship in the local church. Previous years included presenters such as recording artists Ginny Owens and Michael Card, and author Robert Weber. Headlining the event this year is Sally Morgenthaler, world-renowned speaker and author of *Worship Evangelism: Inviting Unbelievers Into the Presence of God*.

"The Conference not only had a huge effect on my church's worship service, but on my perception of worship in general," commented one young participant from Ind.

It is the hope and prayer of conference organizers and sponsors that participants will leave the event in-



Christian recording artist Michael Card gave a presentation at the 2004 Andrews University Music and Worship Conference.

spired to honor God more fully in their worship, better equipped for ministry, and more connected with others who share their passion for God and desire to serve Him.

This year, the conference will take place Mar. 2-4. For more information about the Music and Worship Conference and to register online, log on to www.auworshipconference.org.

Nick Zork, Glendale (Ind.) Church youth pastor

Teacher in the Spotlight: Robert Mason

If you happen to have a '05-'06 Andrews University calendar hanging on your wall, Ranko Stefanovic's book on Revelation, or one of many other University Press productions sitting on your shelf, then you're probably familiar with the creative talents of graphic



Robert Mason, Andrews University assistant professor of design

designer and Andrews' assistant professor of design, Robert Mason. But what you might not know about this British-born Andrews and Notre Dame grad is his passionate concern for the students he teaches.

Mason's classes aren't your ordinary in-and-out, lecture-style, fifty-minute courses. Each week, Mason's students spend at least six hours with him in a studio setting.

"I get to know them really well," he comments. At the beginning of each class, Mason demonstrates his interest in his students by giving them the opportunity to share what's going on in their lives.

"I care passionately about my students," Mason says. "And, I care just as much about their salvation."

Students in his Basic Design class experience this firsthand, when at the start of class, they read a handwritten Bible verse from a promise box Mason's mom made for him when he was in college. But, beyond just handwritten Bible verses, Mason works his values into his curriculum and is always on the lookout for opportunities for students to work on projects in the community that will allow them to wrestle with ethical issues.

"I have a passion for design, especially [for it to be] ethical and service-oriented," he explains. "Others do whatever their clients want, without thinking about the ramifications, but I want students to leave here with a knowledge that design has to be purposeful and not just promote materialism. I want them to see the power of design and how they influence people."

When he's not in the classroom inspiring students to change the world through design, Mason can be found planning his next travel adventure, working in his garden, or most importantly, spending time with his wife, Janean, and their three children.

Bev Stout, University Relations news writer



The Aerokhanas performed very well as a group on their first tour of the year.

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Aerokhanas Start Off the Year on the Right Foot

Michigan—On Fri., Dec. 9, close to 1,500 students in grades one to 12 watched the *Aerokhanas* (*Aeros*) gymnastics team perform the first two shows of this school year at the public school in Lake City, Mich. Even though the first shows of the year often have their challenges, this year they were almost flawless.

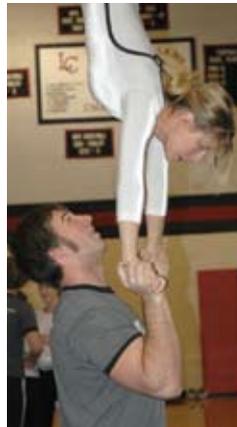
The first show was to a full gym of young students. They cheered so loud it was difficult to hear Coach Tedd Webster's calls at times. Every part of the program, including specialty routines, pyramid routines, and the emcee acts promoting good decisions and a healthy lifestyle, went very well.

During the audience participation portion of the show, Webster invited those watching to raise their hand if they wanted to go down on the mats to do tricks with the *Aeros*. Out of 600–700 students, only a handful did not raise their hand.

God was really there using the *Aeros* to witness to the kids. Andrew Sorensen said, "It was amazing to see how God blessed us even on our first tour. Imagine what the rest of the year will be like."

The second show of the afternoon was to an even fuller crowd of junior-high and high-school students. While the crowd wasn't as loud as the first show, they were still very encouraging, especially the younger students. This

show, too, was almost flawless. "A lot of the time first shows don't go the greatest, but this one was awesome. It was a really good way to start the touring season," said Amber Gillespie.



Andrew Price and Brittany Bellchambers performed a pairs routine.

Friday night the *Aeros* performed their play about Jesus' death and resurrection in the Edmore Seventh-day Adventist Church. The acts and songs went smoothly and all who watched it were blessed. Saturday morning found the *Aeros* back at the Edmore Church to put on Sabbath school and the church service.

Jonathan Fenner and John Musselman presented the Sabbath school lesson, while other team members shared skits and special music. Tim Gotshall and Jordan Reichert gave excellent sermonettes during church. Overall, the tour was an amazing success.

Perhaps the most remarkable circumstance was the fact that because of past injuries and illness, the team was missing several members; however, God was there helping us along and the entire tour was an amazing success. Lance Howard sums it up with these words, "It was a blessing to all of us."

John Musselman, Great Lakes Adventist Academy student correspondent

Students Rake Piles of Blessings

Michigan—Autumn leaves brought Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA) students to the town of Edmore, Mich., on Nov. 1, 2005, for GLAA's 25th annual *Leaf Rake*.

On a fall afternoon, students cleared fallen leaves in the yards of the elderly and needy people in the community. This was a Student Association (SA) outreach activity. Throughout *Leaf Rake*, SA sponsors and officers drove to each site, passing out drinks and donuts to help keep students going.

Student groups were paired with a faculty member. In addition to raking fallen leaves at community homes, one group cleaned the town's park, where everyone met when they finished. The students raked many yards this year—a total of 35 including the park.



One group of students worked with Skip Hann, GLAA director of development and recruitment.

Although it was a cold day, everyone enjoyed the break from school-work and the opportunity to assist others. They also enjoyed playing at the park after their work was done. "It was refreshing to have a break from school and aid others while having fun with your friends," said Ashley Snyder.

Karen Peterson, SA president, said: "*Leaf Rake* this year went really well. I was proud of how well the student body acted throughout the day. All of them were great."

We are looking forward to next year when we can lend a hand to the community once more.

Brianna Johnson, Great Lakes Adventist Academy student correspondent

GRAA Students Share Christmas Joy

Michigan—At Grand Rapids Adventist Academy (GRAA), students in grades K–12 experienced Matt. 25:40 firsthand this Christmas season: “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Projects in the lower grades this year reached out through *Toys for Tots*, *Project Angel Tree*, *Bibles for the Blind*, and *Hope for Humanity*. Beginning with grade seven, the students were more personally involved with projects that have been around for some time.

Ten years ago a small seventh and eighth grade class wanted to do something different for its Christmas giving project. “Why couldn’t we make gift bags, go downtown, and give them to the homeless on the streets?” they asked. When the time arrived to deliver their 50 bags of hats, socks, toiletries, and *Steps to Christ*, both the students and their teacher were apprehensive about what they had gotten themselves into. None could have imagined how rewarding an experience it would be for them as well as the homeless they ministered to that day.



Students distributed gift bags to their homeless neighbors at Christmas.

Now, ten years later, the project continues with the help of numerous members from area churches: a 97-year-old lady who knitted as many as 260 hats each year, another who provided all the shampoo and/or hand soap, and still another who provides 104 pairs of new socks each year, just to name a few. The project just kept growing and growing as people realized the valuable outreach experiences the students were having.

This year, the students were still a bit concerned about going to Division Street until they met their first recipient with an unforgettable change of expression, a heartfelt “Thank you!”, a “God bless you!”, or a song. Soon

apprehension changed to joy. No one focused on self unless they realized how much they had to be grateful for. Adrian Cortes, a seventh grader, said: “I thank God for letting me have this wonderful experience, to have given those bags to the underprivileged/least of these ... today I gave to Jesus.” The students are already planning what they might do in Feb. for the individuals they met this year.

Last year, the high-school students started a new tradition that continued this year. The food shelter provided them with the names of six needy families who would not have much of a Christmas. Twenty children (under ten) and their parents were invited to a party with food, games, and gifts for each child. Two students doted on each child and made it “the best Christmas party I’ve ever been to,” as one eight-year-old put it. Each family went home with smiles on their faces, presents, and a food basket as well.

In the selfish world we live in today, it is so rewarding to see young people “bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2).

Debra Barr, Grand Rapids Adventist Academy principal



Wisconsin Academy Presents Christmas Pageant

Wisconsin—The title of Wisconsin Academy’s (WA) eighth annual Christmas pageant was “Fullness of Time: The Birth of the Messiah.” Students, faculty, and church members dressed in biblical costumes as center campus took on a whole new appearance.

Parents and guests from the community came on Dec. 2 and 3 to witness the events that preceded the birth of our Savior. A tour guide led groups to see the shepherds and the message of Christ’s birth sung by angels. King Herod and the three wise men also played a part in the outdoor tour. Then



Jaci Martinez, Kaylee Tschuch, and Yenifer Sosa, WA juniors, sang to the shepherds, proclaiming Jesus’ birth.

the group was led inside to the marketplace, complete with a fish market, basket weaving, and a carpentry shop.

The journey concluded as attendees assembled in the chapel and watched as the bell choir performed and members of the *Fishhook* drama team presented

the final events of Jesus’ birth. Mary and Joseph couldn’t find a place to stay in Bethlehem until a comical innkeeper and his wife finally found room for them in their stable. Guests marveled at the generosity of God, who sent such a precious gift. “The Christmas pageant is the perfect thing to put you in the Christmas mood! It was a lot of fun,” concluded Teresa Schaezka, a WA senior.

The pageant is held the first Fri. and Sat. evenings of Dec. For more information on how you might be able to get involved next year, please contact D.J. McKenzie, at (920) 623-3300.

Katherine Miller, Wisconsin Academy student correspondent



[YOUTH NEWS]

Youth Experience the Ultimate Workout

Michigan—Five young people from the Metropolitan Church—Courtney Tait, Justin, Jeremy, and Jessica Weaver, and Valerie Walker—traveled to communities in Peru to participate in the 2005 *Ultimate Workout* (UW) church building project. Courtney and Jessica went to Iquitos, Jeremy and Valerie traveled to Santo Tomas, and Justin worked in Caballa Cocha.

Despite uncomfortable living and sleeping conditions, the youth contributed greatly to the completion of their assigned projects. Courtney helped masons get mud, filled cracks, and buttered bricks with mortar. She also helped prepare food and painted a local Adventist church. Justin served as a construction superintendent. Jeremy was a head mason. Jessica was a mason and music leader. Valerie worked on the building project and served as photojournalist for *Insight* magazine.

Work started at 6:00 a.m. and ended at 3:00 p.m. in order to avoid the 90-plus, high humidity heat. The Metropolitan youth participated in building three churches on their trip. They also helped with Vacation Bible Schools, painted local churches and schools, assisted in medical clinics, and reconstructed a walkway.

The young people were motivated to participate for different reasons, but no matter what motivated them, each said they want to go on more UW missions.

Jeremy said, "This trip had the most visible miracles of any trip I've been on. ... On the fourth or fifth day of work, we had less than ten blocks [remaining]. Our construction superintendent, Wils, called everyone together to pray individually and then as a group. He said "Amen," and we went back to work, laying the last few blocks.

Less than ten minutes later, as the last block was laid, the truck arrived with the rest of our block. Amen! I thought it was amazing that those bricks had been traveling down the Amazon for months and had been lost and stuck (and who knows what else), and God has the timing to get them there within a minute of when we needed them.

"A mission trip is the best way to expand and test your faith. It's [the] closest you will come to being totally dependent on God for things you would not be able to do without His help. Two years ago on the UW, I decided to be baptized. I recommend it very highly to anyone."



Jeremy Weaver was head mason at his work site.

Justin suggests, "For high-school age kids looking for a great time and for God to use them, but you feel like you can't go because of money, work, friends, or whatever, sign up, and leave the rest to God. He will work out the details!"

Joy Hyde, Metropolitan Church correspondent

Pathfinders Learn About Hard Work and Helping Others

Indiana—Columbus Indiana Pathfinders held a successful fundraiser last fall with the help of the church school. On Oct. 9, a semi truck rolled in from New Mexico carrying over 1,000 various-sized pumpkins and gourds.



The Columbus Pathfinders' pumpkin patch provided opportunities to tell visitors about the club, church, and school.

The "Pumpkin Patch" was open for three weeks. It gave the children a chance to talk about the club and share a little bit about our church and school with customers. Our Pathfinders became farmers when they learned that the pumpkins had to be rolled every day to prevent them from rotting. Yes, every single pumpkin. Thank goodness for Sabbath; the pumpkins got a rest from being moved. It was a laborious job, but over \$700 was raised, and it was a valuable lesson for the kids.

With a portion of the proceeds earned, the Pathfinders are planning a caving trip. The church school students will be able to visit Chicago in May and tour a King Tut exhibit.

The end of the sale culminated with "Pumpkin Patch Family Day." There were games, prizes, story time, a bake sale, and hayrides, not to mention fresh popcorn and apple cider. The biggest hit, by far though, were the hayrides provided by Lloyd Ping.

In a separate fall activity, the club collected canned goods and non-perishable items. In cooperation with First Call for Help, a division of the United Way, the Pathfinders assembled generous Thanksgiving baskets and distributed the food to 20 needy families in the Columbus area. It was a pleasure to see the smiles on our children's faces after leaving the door of a grateful recipient.

This year we have seventeen Pathfinders; six are friends from the community who do not attend the



Adventist church. God has great things in store for our children, if we will but instruct them in His bidding.

Angela Benfield, Columbus Church correspondent

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Muncie Dedicates New Sanctuary

Indiana—The Muncie Church family rejoiced Oct. 15 as they celebrated the completion of their new church sanctuary. It took over 12 years, many long hours, and a lot of hard work, but they were thrilled to finally be able to worship in their new sanctuary.

Gary Thurber, Indiana Conference president, was guest speaker for the special dedication service. Dwight Kruger, Muncie pastor, traced the history of the project and presented a plaque to several men in the congregation who helped with interior work. Following a fellowship dinner, Olga Schmidt, from Yucaipa, Calif., shared her musical talent on the new church organ, which was also dedicated that day.



Muncie Church with new sanctuary addition on the right

Irene Miller, a former church member and owner of Miller's Flower Shop in Muncie, ignited the dream of a new church sanctuary by leaving an endowment in her will. The old sanctuary was way too small and the congregation was in desperate need of more room. God richly blessed the congregation with the endeavor, and funds always came in just as supplies were needed. Everyone was a willing worker or a prayer part-

ner, and many gave money for a new church sanctuary for the glory of God in Muncie.

Judith Yeoman, Indiana Conference correspondent, as shared by Judi Thomas, Muncie Church communication leader

[UNION NEWS]

Regional Conferences Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Lake Region—The Lake Region Conference was the first regional conference established in the Seventh-day Adventist Church back in 1945 with the others soon following. In keeping with the counsel of Psalm 78, the New Life Church, Black Students Christian Forum, and Black Students Association of the Seminary, sponsored "United for a Finished Work," a 60th anniversary commemorative weekend.

According to Timothy Nixon, Andrews University chaplain, the purpose of the weekend was three-fold. First, to celebrate the blessings of God in the work and ministry of regional conferences. Second, to recognize regional conferences as a Seventh-day Adventist creation and institution, not a "Black institution." And third, to inform fully to a new generation the history behind the formulation of regional conferences and to correct many of myths and the false history that presently surround the discussion of regional conferences.



The keynote speaker was outstanding evangelist, E.E. Cleveland, professor emeritus at Oakwood College.



Walter Wright (right), LUC president, participated in a panel discussion of the history of regional conferences.

The celebration was held in the Seminary Chapel at Andrews University, Dec. 2 and 3, 2005. The keynote speaker was E.E. Cleveland, world-renowned evangelist, author, and professor emeritus at Oakwood College. Friday evening, Cleveland's sermon was titled, "The Shortest Prayer of the Bible," and on Sabbath his message was, "Why Are Ye Afraid?"

On Sabbath afternoon, at Chan Shun-Garber Auditorium, a panel discussed the history of regional conferences. Panelists included E.E. Cleveland; Walter Wright, Lake Union Conference president; Mylas Martin, Layman's Leadership Conference co-founder and church historian; Gary Land, Andrews University history department chair; and Jerry Moon, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary church history department chair.

As Cleveland and members of the panel shared their journeys throughout the weekend, there were often reactions of amazement and disbelief among the students attending. Nixon said, "Some of the history is shocking, ugly, and uncomfortable, yet the truth must be remembered and retold to the next generation. As the saying goes, 'Those who forget the past are destined to repeat it.' May this weekend serve to give us eternal object lessons for the future as we unite to finish the prophetic mission God has given us as a community of faith."

Gary Burns, Lake Union Conference communication director and *Lake Union Herald* editor, and Timothy Nixon, Andrews University chaplain



[WOMEN'S NEWS]

Polly's Place Serves Abused Women and Children

Michigan—From June 13 to Dec. 13, 2005, Polly's Place in Niles, Mich., has served fifty abused or battered women and children who otherwise would not have received individualized treatment and spiritual renewal. In order to keep a program like this running, it takes a community.

We have appreciated the help of volunteers and want to officially thank specific people who have enabled us to stay the course and answer God's call to help the hurting. Several volunteers have gone above and beyond to help keep the program going. These include:



The Polly's Place Christmas party was enjoyed by clients, staff, and volunteers; food, decorations, and presents were donated by the community.

Lahai Allen, Susan Forsey, Amanda Jardine, Doug Myers, Steve Grooms, Myriam Monrose, Wendra Johnson, Ardith Jarrard, Dave Pehska, Ray Robbins, and the Berrien Springs Village Elementary School eighth graders.

On the *Day of Caring*, which was named the *Decade of Caring* this year to celebrate its tenth year, a group from Whirlpool Corporation came to Polly's Place and did some much-needed painting in the shelter and counseling cottage, and repaired a huge hole in the barn roof so we can now enjoy family fun activities there.

Our staff roster is growing. We now have two resident manager assistants. Kenah Daye, a graduate student

at Andrews University, works one weekend a month and a few days a week. Shalewa Paul works evenings, nights, and two weekends a month. We are blessed to have that relief and their wonderful calming presence in the house. Peggy Cain is volunteering as the office manager part-time. She answers phones, organizes the office, and keeps good statistics. We appreciate her commitment to the program.

Mary's Inn, a residential program for unwed teen mothers, is still being planned. In order to make this dream a reality we will need to construct a building dedicated to the Mary's Inn program. Look for a capital campaign to begin in Spring 2006.

Fundraisers are also being planned for the spring. These fundraisers will include a Gospel Fest to be held Sun., Mar. 26, 2006, and a race or bike-a-thon on Memorial Day 2006. Specific details are being worked out. You may contact us at (269) 687-9822 for additional information.

Though we haven't gotten large donations, we have learned to trust in the Lord to provide for our everyday needs and He has every time, through the donations you give and the wonderful support from Polly's Place Network.



Lafo Robbins (left), resident manager, receives a thankful hug from a client.



Whirlpool Corporation employees volunteered at Polly's Place during its Decade of Caring and did some much-needed painting in the shelter and counseling cottage.

Recently, an abuse survivor wrote: "I found Polly's Place and it changed my life. I have counseling sessions twice a week and have learned why and how abuse went on. I have learned what it means to be safe and feel safe. I have developed a close relationship with God. Now me and my kids pray together."

We want to help more women and children. We invite you to partner with us in this very meaningful and life-



Two young friends met at Polly's Place, Niles.

changing ministry. Cash donations are appreciated and will be used to sponsor individuals and families. We also welcome prayer partners. A wish list has been started and includes: volunteers for child care, fresh fruits and vegetables, health food, notebooks for journaling, three-ring binders, hair accessories, hair products, bakeware, cookie sheets, small lock boxes, a riding lawn mower, and a copier.

If you are able to help, call Alina Baltazar, executive director, at (269) 687-9822; or mail donations or items to: Polly's Place Niles, P.O. Box 1055, Niles, MI 49120.

—Polly's Place News

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 in the masthead on page 43.

Anniversaries



Frank and Patricia Decker celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 7, 2006, by a family get-together in Daytona Beach, Fla. They were members of the Williamston (Mich.) Church for 20 years.

Frank Decker and Patricia Frisch were married Jan. 7, 1956, in the Southfield (Mich.) Church. Frank has been a fireman in Detroit, Mich., for over 25 years. Patricia has been a homemaker.

The Decker family includes Mark and Sheri Decker of Siloam Springs, Ark.; Steve and Tessa Decker of Matthews, N.C.; Josh and Kristen Decker of Matthews, N.C.; Aimee and Jason Greer of Atlanta, Ga.; and seven grandchildren.



Grant and Cecile Pierson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 4, 2005, by going on an Alaskan cruise planned by their children, and a presentation in their honor of a cake and song, "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," by the stewards in the ship's formal dining room. They have been members of the Spencer (Ind.) Church for four years.

Grant Pierson and Cecile Torkelson were married Sept. 4, 1955, in Berrien Springs, Mich., by Pastor Ora S. Plue. Grant has been a denominational educational worker for 32 years at Union Springs Academy, Pioneer Valley Academy, and Indiana Academy, retiring in 1994. Cecile has been a secretary and homemaker, retiring in 1994.

The Pierson family includes Darrol and Margaret Pierson of Indianapolis, Ind.; Rhonda and William Foote of Stilesville, Ind.; and five grandchildren.

Weddings

Fawn D. Kotrba and Jason J. Scherencel were married June 26, 2005, in Charlevoix, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Jim Roos.

Fawn is the daughter of Dennis Kotrba of Petoskey, Mich., and Danella and Leland Sherwood of Boyne Falls, Mich., and Jason is the son of Randy and Helen Scherencel of Coopersville, Mich.

The Scherencels are making their home in Grandville, Mich.

Lisbeth M. Zapata and Daniel Taylor were married Oct. 22, 2005, in Atlanta, Ind. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Paul Yeoman.

Lisbeth is the daughter of Liliam Zapata of Puerto Rico, and Daniel is the son of John and Barbara Taylor of Arcadia, Ind.

The Taylors are making their home in Cicero, Ind.

Obituaries

ADAMS, Ronald L., age 67; born Aug. 2, 1938, in Pensacola, Fla.; died Nov. 14, 2005, in Grand Island, Fla. He was a member of the Lansing (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon (Parsons); son, Steven; daughters, Lori Abbott and Teresa Rice; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Chaplain Lincoln Haynes, with private inurnment.

BAUER, James, age 48; born Feb. 20, 1957, in Madison, Wis.; died Sept. 25, 2005, in Milwaukee, Wis. He was a member of the Milwaukee Northwest Church.

Survivors include his mother, Dorothy G. (Steinke); and brothers, Lawrence J., Dan M., and Gregory S.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Charles Brummond, and entombment was in Church and Chapel Mausoleum, Milwaukee.

BECK, Emma (Beck), age 83; born Mar. 8, 1922, in Temvik, N.D.; died July 20, 2005, in Milwaukee, Wis. She was a member of the Milwaukee Central Church.

Survivors include her husband, Ben; son, Jim; daughter, Judy Beck; and sisters, Elizabeth Beck, Alvena Newmiller, and Rebecca Carterman.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Rodney Mills, and interment was in Wisconsin Memorial Cemetery, Milwaukee.

BRICKER, Edith J. (Joerg), age 87; born Aug. 7, 1918, in Olean, N.Y.; died Oct. 8, 2005, in Columbus, Wis. She was a member of the Beaver Dam (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Douglas; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Steve Aust, and interment was in Bethany Cemetery, Calamus Twp., Wis.

FLOYD, Robert L., age 81; born Aug. 20, 1924, in Richmond, Ind.; died Nov. 30, 2005, in Richmond. He was a member of the Richmond Church.

Survivors include his wife, Jane (Phillips); son, Vaughn; daughter, Vicki Rush; sister, Geneva Tice; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Michael Stough, and entombment was in Earlham Mausoleum, Richmond.

HABENICHT, Charlotte (Adams), age 95; born Jan. 13, 1910, in Ionia, Mich.; died Oct. 2, 2005, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her sons, Richard, Robert, and James; 11 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Lisa Isensee and Richard Habenicht, with private inurnment.

HERNDSON, Titus "TJ" J., age 74; born Dec. 16, 1931; died Oct. 25, 2005, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Arlene P.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Esther Knott, and interment was in Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, Mich.

HERNDSON, Willie, age 104; born Aug. 27, 1901, in Detroit, Mich.; died Nov. 15, 2005, in Detroit. He was a member of the Conant Gardens Church, Detroit.

Survivors include his sisters, Annielee Hamilton and Bessie Toler.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ralph Shelton, and interment was in Gethsemane Cemetery, Detroit.

HERFERTH, Lillian M. (Roth), age 79; born Jan. 14, 1926, in Cleveland, Ohio; died Oct. 2, 2005, in Milwaukee, Wis. She was a member of the Milwaukee Northwest Church.

Survivors include her husband, Elwyn; daughters, Donna Hurd, Cindi Wright, Lori Herferth, and Lisa Burrows; brother, Don Roth; sister, Esther Runge; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Steve Aust, and interment was in Wisconsin Memorial Park Cemetery, Brookfield, Wis.

KAGELS, Richard L., age 76; born Apr. 21, 1929, in Danville, Ill.; died Oct. 20, 2005, in Danville. He was a member of the Danville Church.

Survivors include his wife, Joann (Andrews); sons, Robert, Russell, Kevin, and Dennis; daughters, Denise Freed and Terri Henry; sisters, Barbara Winkler and Catherine Thomas; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Raymond Plummer, and interment was in Oak Hill Cemetery, Danville.

KNIGHT, Glen R., age 69; born Oct. 3, 1936; died Nov. 15, 2005, in Flint, Mich. He was a member of the First Flint Church.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy; son, Mark; daughter, Jeanne Rivard; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

There was private inurnment.

LAWRENCE, Betty L. (Smith), age 76; born Sept. 10, 1929, in Mecosta Cty., Mich.; died Oct. 19, 2005, in Lakeview, Mich. She was a member of the Lakeview Church.

Survivors include her son, Roger; daughter, Kathy Walls; brother, Melvin Smith; sister, Mary Ann Risk; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Roger Cooper, with private inurnment.

MATHENY, Christine (Wicks), age 62; born June 17, 1943, in Richmond, Ind.; died Nov. 5, 2005, in Richmond. She was a member of the Richmond Church.

Survivors include her sons, John, Rod, and Tim; mother, Erlabel (Petty); brothers, David and Ronald Wicks; sisters, Barbara Lee Van Osch, Shirley Denton, JoAnne Thompson, LaVerne Smith, and Jennie Baker; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Tim Henry, and interment was in Earlham Cemetery, Richmond.

MATTHEWS, Violet (Blevins) Giddings, age 81; born Jan. 31, 1924, in Chicago, Ill.; died Nov. 11, 2005, in Kalamazoo, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Wilbur E.; sons, Philip E. and Don M. Giddings; daughter, Cynthia Giddings; brothers, Leo and Robert Blevins; sisters, Loveando Seay and Marion Blevins; and seven grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Esther Knott and Aldwin Humphrey, with private inurnment.

MUFONE, Noliti Nellie, age 8; born Feb. 13, 1997, in Berrien Center, Mich.; died Nov. 5, 2005, in St. Joseph, Mich. Her parents are members of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her father, Israel; mother, Millie (Mpatane); brother, Geoffrey; and sisters, Tendai and Leah.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Oliver Archer and Jaspine Bilima, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

OUSLEY, Ola B. (Russell), age 92; born Feb. 28, 1913, in Sharps Chapel, Tenn.; died Oct. 24, 2005, in Kokomo, Ind. She was a member of the Kokomo Church.

Survivors include her sons, Joe and John; and daughter, Donna Wamsher.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Blake Hall, and interment was in Galveston (Ind.) Cemetery.

PETERSON, Howard B., age 85; born Jan. 10, 1920, in Ellisburg, N.Y.; died Nov. 6, 2005, in Alma, Mich. He was a member of the Edmore (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Edith B. (Hunt); stepson, James B. Swett; stepdaughters, Joyce Yeager, Linda Klinger, and Donna Woods; step-brothers, Wilbur J. and Vernon M. Hunt; sister, Alice Cobb; stepsister, Normagene Churchhill; eight step-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Paul Pellandini and David Gotshall, and interment was in Vinewood Cemetery, Edmore.

PRISER, Kelvin L., age 69; born Sept. 13, 1936, in Warsaw, Ind.; died Oct. 22, 2005, in Aurora, Ill. He was a member of the Madison (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Alice (Cedzo); sons, Allan and Seth; daughter, SanDee Priser; sister, Eloise Beardsley; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Allan Priser, with private inurnment.

SCHAVEY, Genevieve (Reed), age 80; born Dec. 14, 1924, in Aledo, Ill.; died Nov. 1, 2005, in Benton Harbor, Mich. She was a member of the Portland (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, William; son, Michael; daughter, Jo Ann Rachor; sister, Gertrude S. Minor; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Dan Rachor, with private inurnment.

STEPHAN, Harriet M. (Bultema), age 89; born Nov. 15, 1915, in Wimbeldon, N.D.; died Oct. 22, 2005, in Cedar Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Belgreen Church, Greenville, Mich.

Survivors include her daughters, Carol Schuitema, Patricia Robart, and Jean Davis; sisters, Theresa Rowley and Vera Kunst; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Karl Tsatalbasidis, and inurnment was in Cook Funeral Home Cemetery, Wyoming Twp., Mich.

STONE, Edith O., age 88; born Dec. 17, 1916, in Fresno, Calif.; died Nov. 5, 2005, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Memorial services were conducted by Andrews University English Department, with private inurnment.

SWARTS, Madelyn (Getts), age 50; born May 19, 1955, in Greenville, Mich.; died Nov. 18, 2005, in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was a member of the Cedar Lake (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Bruce; son, Christopher B.; daughter, Rebecca J.; father, Vernon Getts; mother, Carol (Johnston) Getts; and brother, Dennis Getts.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Dave Gotshall and Mickey Mallory, and interment was in Lakeview (Mich.) Cemetery.

LEGAL NOTICE

The 20th business session of the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, on April 2, 2006. The first meeting of the session will convene at 8:30 a.m. on April 2. This session is being held for the purpose of receiving reports for the five-year period ending December 31, 2005; the election of officers, assistant treasurers, departmental directors and associate directors, an executive committee for the ensuing five years; to consider proposed constitutional changes; and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Walter L. Wright, president
Rodney A. Grove, secretary

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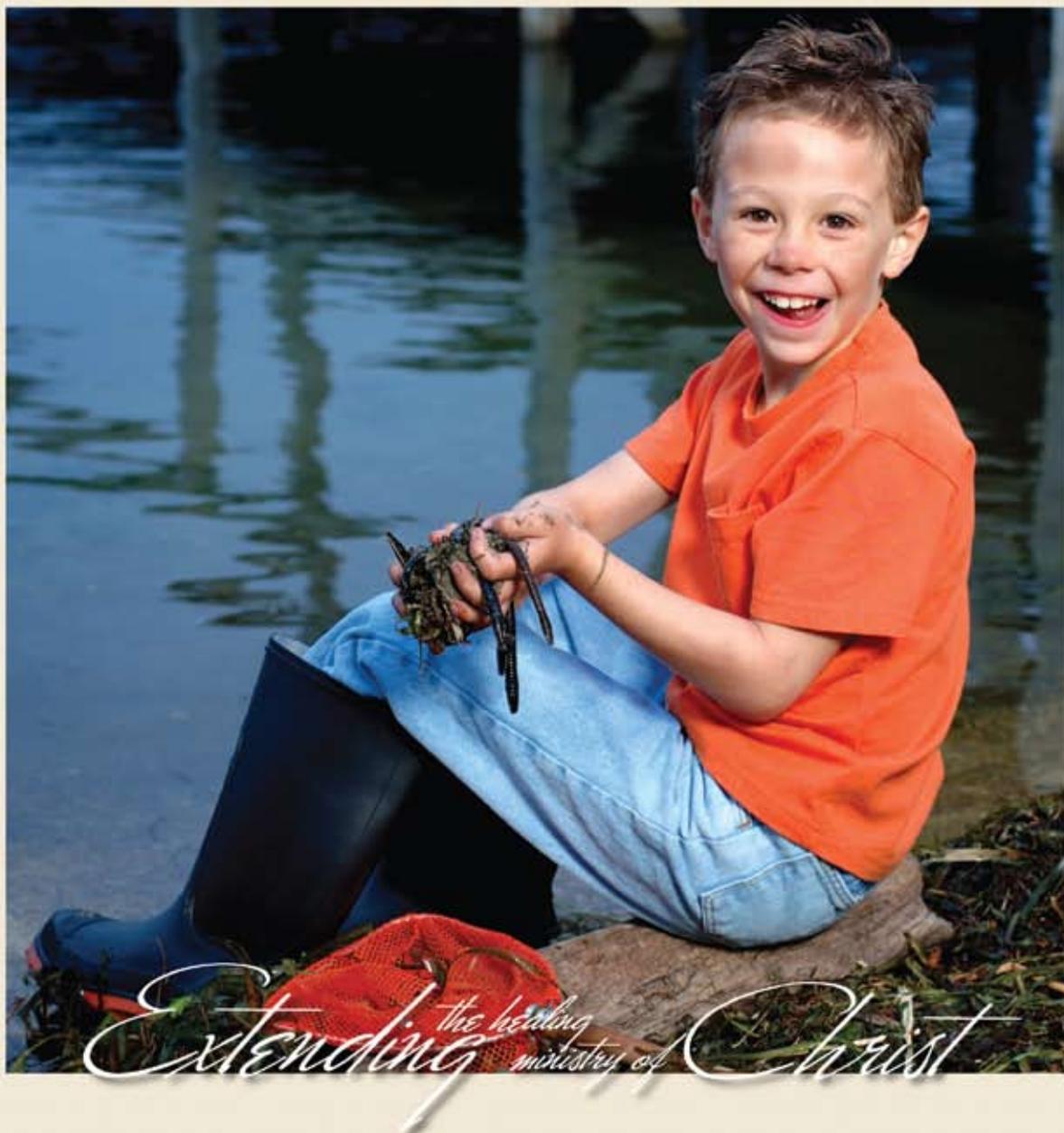
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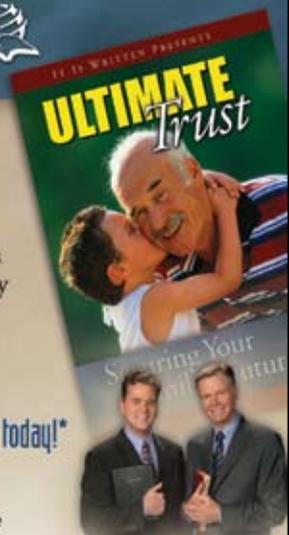
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Chance next enrolled for the entire Study Guide series and completed all 27 lessons. He adds, "I was so excited, I couldn't wait to get the next lesson in the mail!" Then on November 16, 2002, Chance was baptized into the family of Christ.

Not long after, God led Chance to resign from the Navy and enroll in the *Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism*, where he is continuing to grow in preparation for his new assignment in the Lord's Army.

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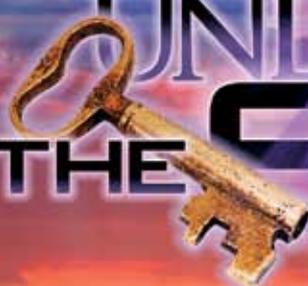


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Prayer Partners

BY GARY BURNS

Some time ago, I received a phone call from a very dear and lifelong friend—a young person who had been a partner in prayer ministry. His years following academy, however, were filled with disillusionment, frustration, and pain that eroded his faith. He called to tell me he had reconnected with the Lord.

He mentioned one thing that held him during his struggle to recover his faith was a special prayer and blessing several of us had for him years ago. The fact that he was able to quote my words to him that day was evidence he had rehearsed it many times.

After over an hour of exuberant conversation, he announced he wanted to be my prayer partner. I gladly agreed to add him to my list, but was unprepared for what God was leading him to do for

me. Since he was in the process of reforming his faith, and in such desperate spiritual need, I expected the partnership to be one-sided. But God saw my own spiritual need and used this young person to help me in areas I had not acknowledged I needed help. His prayer ministry to me has made a significant difference in my life.

To be in partnership with God demands we be in partnership with one another—not a co-dependent partnership, but an interdependent partnership united in Christ—one in which, by His Spirit, we bear one another's burdens in truth and love.

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director and *Lake Union Herald* editor.





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 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.

Andrews University

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Historic Adventist Village

From **Feb.-Apr.** the Village is open only on Sabbaths from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and for specially scheduled group tours during the week. In **Feb. and Mar.**, only the Dr. John Harvey Kellogg Discovery Center and the James and Ellen White Home are open for tours. To schedule a group tour, call (269) 965-3000; or e-mail: adventistvillage@tds.net. A donation of \$5/person helps keep the Village open.

Indiana

Romance at the Ridge: Christmas may be over, but are you still looking for a gift to bless your family? Something that will last beyond the under-the-tree moment? Give your marriage a winter weekend away at beautiful Timber Ridge Camp, **Feb. 10-12**. Call Collene Kelly at (317) 984-4376 for further information regarding this marriage-renewal weekend sponsored by the Indiana Conference family ministries department.

Indiana Youth Rally weekend begins at Indiana Academy Fri., **Feb. 17**, at 7:30 p.m. All Sabbath programs and activities, which begin Sabbath morning at 10:00 a.m., will be held at the Washington Woods Elementary School, 17950 Grassy Branch Rd., Westfield. For further information, contact the Indiana Conference youth ministries department at (317) 844-6201.

Chapel West Women's Day will be **Feb. 25**. The guest speaker is Ginny Allen, who serves on the Oregon Conference Women's Ministries board. Ginny speaks at retreats and seminars across North America and internationally, and has been a contributing author to several devotional books. She founded Joy! Ministries, a lay

ministry committed to bringing joy to the heart of God. The program, "Catch the Wind," begins Sabbath morning at 9:15 a.m. For more information, or to register, contact Rosemary Ryan at (317) 791-1093; or e-mail: RosemaryRyan10@aol.com.

Music Festival: High school, home school, and elementary students are invited to attend the annual music festival held at Indiana Academy, **Mar. 2-4**. For further information, contact Andrew Lay at (317) 984-3575.

Teen Caving Event: Join this adventurous exploration, **Mar. 10-12**, at Timber Ridge Camp. For additional information, or to register, contact the Indiana Conference youth ministries department at (317) 844-6201.

Lake Region

EXTREME GRACE!, a Women Of Spiritual Praise Conference hosted by 3ABN at their Worship Center, **June 15-17**, offers dynamic seminars as well as world-renowned keynote presenters. Seminars will address personal growth issues and equip attendees to be more effective in ministering to those who hurt. Fri. evening through Sat. evening, a life-changing, inspirational program will feature Spirit-filled speakers, praise and worship music ministry, and several special features. Tasty meals, choice of hotels, and transportation assistance to and from the 3ABN Worship Center makes the event both convenient and affordable. There are special incentives for women's ministries leaders and organizers of large groups. For seminar and speaker information, or online registration, log on to www.womenofspiritualpraise.com. For brochures, flyers, and addi-

tional information, call toll free: (800) 681-6361.

Lake Union

Offerings:

- Feb 4** Local Church Budget
 - Feb 11** Adventist Television Ministries
 - Feb 18** Local Church Budget
 - Feb 25** Local Conference Advance
- Special Days:**
- Feb 4-25** Black History Month
 - Feb 12-18** Christian Home and Marriage Week
 - Feb 25** Health Ministries Sabbath

Florida's 15th Annual Lake Union Academies Alumni Reunion will be held **Mar. 4**, at Forest Lake Academy, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Alumni and friends of all Lake Union academies are invited to attend. Bring your own picnic lunch to be eaten in the cafeteria. Dessert and drink provided. For more information, contact the alumni directors at the Lake Union academies.

North American Division

Madison (Tenn.) Campus Adventist Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary, **Mar. 11**. James Nix, of the White Estate, is speaker for the event. For more information, call the church office at (615) 865-5822; or visit the website: www.madisoncampus.org.

Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) Conference: Attend the country's largest training event for single adult ministries (SAM) leaders at the interdenominational SAM Convention, **Mar. 23-25**, following the third annual ASAM Leadership Training Conference on **Mar. 22**. Both will be held in Phoenix, Ariz. Featured speakers are Dr. Hyveth Williams and Dr. Dick Stenbakken, NAD ASAM coordinator. For registration information, contact PlusLine at (800) 732-7587; or go to www.plusline.org/events. The ASAM website is: www.AdventistSingleAdultMinistries.org. Don C. Schneider, NAD president, said: "I am looking forward

to thousands of lives being touched for Jesus through ASAM. I encourage EVERY pastor, church, and conference to work together to help ASAM affect lives for eternity."

Are you an alumni of Highland Academy, Portland, Tenn.? Plan now to attend the 2006 alumni weekend, **Fri., Mar. 31, to Sun., Apr. 2**. The theme is "Working While We Wait." Honor classes are: 1946, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, and 2001. The fifth annual golf outing will be Fri. morning, Mar. 31. Vespers will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Fri. in the Highland Church. The class of '56 and other honor classes will be featured during vespers. Members of the honor classes who sang in trios, quartets, or duets, are invited to participate in the vespers program. Contact Edwin Shafer by e-mail: eshafer@mindspring.com. For more information, check the Highland Academy website: www.highland-academy.com; or visit the Highland Alumni Association website: www.highland-alumni.com. The second annual *Highland Alumni Huff and Puff 5K* walk will be at 8:00 a.m. on Sun., Apr. 2. The academy and Alumni Association are working together to develop an up-to-date mailing list. Please e-mail your name, current address, phone number, and year of graduation to Salli Jenks: salli@sljenks.com.

Madison (Tenn.) Academy will host its annual alumni weekend, **Apr. 21-23**. Please plan to attend! If you were a student or teacher at Madison Academy and have not received a newsletter this year, then alumni officers don't have your address. Visit our website and update yourself: www.madisonacademyalumni.com. If you are not listed, or cannot update yourself using the Web, call the alumni president, Lynn Grundset Reynolds, at (615) 851-0044.

Sunset Calendar

	Feb 3	Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 24	Mar 3	Mar 10
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:01	6:10	6:18	6:27	6:38	6:46
Chicago	5:05	5:14	5:23	5:32	5:44	5:52
Detroit	5:46	5:55	6:04	6:13	6:25	6:33
Indianapolis	6:04	6:13	6:21	6:29	6:39	6:47
La Crosse, Wis.	5:16	5:25	5:35	5:44	5:56	6:05
Lansing, Mich.	5:52	6:01	6:10	6:19	6:31	6:39
Madison, Wis.	5:10	5:19	5:29	5:38	5:50	5:58
Springfield, Ill.	5:18	5:26	5:35	5:43	5:53	6:01

Take Time to Pray

BY KATRINA WHITAKER

It was like any other day at school. I was in study hall and, having no homework, I just felt like reading my Bible. The teacher didn't look too happy about it, but I didn't think anything of it. The next thing I know, I was called to the office by the principal. When I got to his office, he told me I shouldn't bring that kind of "stuff" to school. No explanation on why or anything!

Most of us have grown up in Seventh-day Adventist schools and around people with the same religion and beliefs. I think many of us have gotten to be so comfortable and used to our surroundings that we don't take time to appreciate the fact that we can go to a school in a good environment and be able to have classes where it is okay to pray or even read your Bible.

I have not always attended a Seventh-day Adventist school. I have always moved around; in fact, I've been to a total of about twelve different public schools. In some of the schools I've gone to, I constantly worried if someone would beat me up, put me down for what I believed, or leave me out for not doing the "normal" things like going to parties after sundown on Friday or on Sabbath.

Although it seems like I would need a lot of faith to take rejection from my classmates for my religion, it's not

something I did on my own. I saw the difference in kids my age at Seventh-day Adventist schools and how they seemed to be more accepting. I just wondered, what's so different in what they have and what I don't? It's God, and being in a place where they teach you about Him and everything He has done and will do for us.

I now go to a very good Seventh-day Adventist school, Battle Creek Academy. I feel accepted and I'm not afraid to read my Bible or pray. But I sometimes notice that praying has just become something we do in every class. So I challenge everyone, including myself, not just to pray at the beginning of every class or when we need or want something from God. We need to see prayer as a chance to talk with our Creator and thank Him for everything He has done for us.

Katrina Whitaker is a junior at Battle Creek Academy.



Ashley Jinsun Chung, 17, is a senior at Andrews Academy (AA). Born in St. Joseph, Mich., Ashley is the daughter of Philip and Soon Chung of Berrien Springs, Mich., and attends the Andrews Korean Church.



Ashley Chung

Whether tending to duties as a physical education department reader, working on the school newspaper, or writing a class report, Ashley always produces a high quality product and goes above and beyond what is required. She also goes out of her way to befriend and assist many foreign students who attend AA. She makes sure these new students feel at home and know where to get the help they need.

Ashley is a diligent worker, a gifted student, and a wonderful human being. Rebecca Wright, AA English teacher, says, "We're blessed to have her at Andrews Academy!"

Ashley's favorite class is chemistry because she finds the information fascinating. She says, "I also enjoyed it because it provided me with information that I will most likely need in a future career." Ashley says academy has taught her "no one is guaranteed a 100 percent success rate." Her most memorable experience in the past year was a mission trip to Peru.

Well rounded, Ashley enjoys basketball, reading, golf, hanging out with friends, and community service. After graduation, Ashley will pursue a career in law or medicine.



Jonathan Pichot

Jonathan Pichot, 18, is also a senior at AA. Born in Lansing, Mich., Jonathan is the son of Michel Pichot and Sylvie Baumgautner. Jonathan lives in Berrien Springs, Mich., and attends the Stevensville Church.

Rebecca Wright says, "While he may exude a calm exterior, you can always rest assured that he's constantly processing the issue at hand with full vigor! Jonathan lends a fresh, insightful perspective to any dialogue, a gift that's been especially beneficial in his work with the school newspaper.

He's thorough, responsible, diligent, and incredibly bright. We look forward to hearing great things of Jonathan for many years to come, and are so proud to have him as part of our Andrews family!"

Jonathan's favorite academy experience in the past year was the mission trip to Peru. He says, "I've learned, and am still learning, the lessons of friendship. I've also been taught countless lessons, both big and small, by God." Jonathan's favorite classes were the ones that pushed him to "evaluate things from a different angle, and new paradigm, such as expository composition."

He enjoys philosophy, current events, Middle Eastern history, writing non-fiction, poetry, art, traveling, and visiting museums. Jonathan's life ambition is "to study the great thinkers of the past and, perhaps, one day call them my 'peers.'"

Address Correction

Members of the Lake Region Conference and paid subscribers should contact the *Lake Union Herald* office with their address changes. Members from the Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin conferences should now contact their local conference membership clerks directly for all *Lake Union Herald* address changes. Contact phone numbers are listed below for your convenience, and addresses are listed to the right.

Lake Union Herald: (269) 473-8242

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THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

Box C, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; (269) 473-8242

Editor Gary Burns editor@luc.adventist.org
Managing Editor/Display Ads Diane Thurber herald@luc.adventist.org
Circulation/Back Pages Editor Judi Doty circulation@luc.adventist.org
Art Direction/Design Mark Bond mark@bondesign.com
Proofreader Candy Clark

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Adventist Midwest Health Michael Krivich Michael.Krivich@ahss.org
Andrews University Rebecca May rmay@andrews.edu
Illinois Ken Denslow KDenslow@illinoisadventist.org
Indiana Gary Thurber GThurber@indianaadventist.org
Lake Region Ray Young LakeRegionComm@cs.com
Michigan Michael Nickless MNickless@misda.org
Wisconsin James Fox JFox@wi.adventist.org

CORRESPONDENTS

Adventist Midwest Health Lynn Larson Lynn.Larson@ahss.org
Andrews University Beverly Stout Stout@andrews.edu
Illinois Veryl Kelley VKelley@illinoisadventist.org
Indiana Judith Yeoman JYeoman@indianaadventist.org
Lake Region Tonya Nisbeth TNisbeth@lakeregionsda.org
Lake Union Bruce Babienko BBabienko@luc.adventist.org
Michigan Jody Murphy JMurphy@misda.org
Wisconsin Kitty Cray KCray@wi.adventist.org

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

Box C, Berrien Springs, MI 49103 | (269) 473-8200

President Walter Wright
Secretary Rodney Grove
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Trust Services Vernon Alger
Women's Ministries Myrna Earles

LOCAL CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONS

Adventist Midwest Health: Ernie Sadau, president, 120 N. Oak St., Hinsdale, IL 60521; (630) 856-2010.

Andrews University: Niels-Erik Andreasen, president, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0670; (269) 471-7771.

Illinois: Ken Denslow, president; Kyoshin Ahn, secretary; Duane Rollins, treasurer; 619 Plainfield Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527-8438; (630) 734-0920.

Indiana: Gary Thurber, president; George Crumley, treasurer; street address: 15250 N. Meridian St., Carmel, IN 46032; mailing address: P.O. Box 1950, Carmel, IN 46082-1950; (317) 844-6201.

Lake Region: Jerome Davis, president; George Bryant, secretary; Ted Brown, treasurer; 8517 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60619; (773) 846-2661.

Michigan: Jay Gallimore, president; Fred Earles, secretary; Leroy Bruch, treasurer; street address: 320 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing, MI 48933; mailing address: P.O. Box 19009, Lansing, MI 48901; (517) 316-1500.

Wisconsin: Donald Corkum, president; Roger Driver, secretary/treasurer; street address: 3505 Highway 151 North, Sun Prairie, WI 53590; mailing address: P.O. Box 7310, Madison, WI 53707-7310; (608) 241-5235.

Contributors: All submitted copy must be channeled through your local conference or institution's *Herald* correspondent. Stories submitted online at luc.adventist.org are automatically e-mailed to the local conference communication director. When submitting stories by direct e-mail, copy your local conference correspondent into the address. Writers' Guidelines are available online.

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