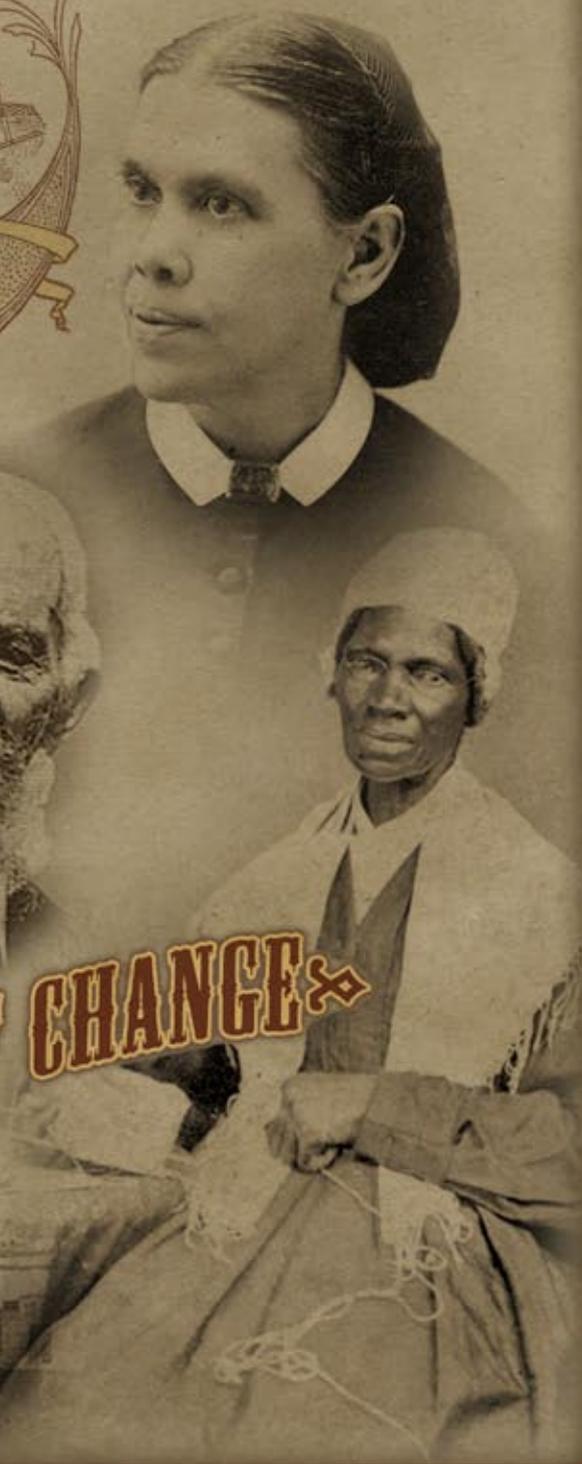
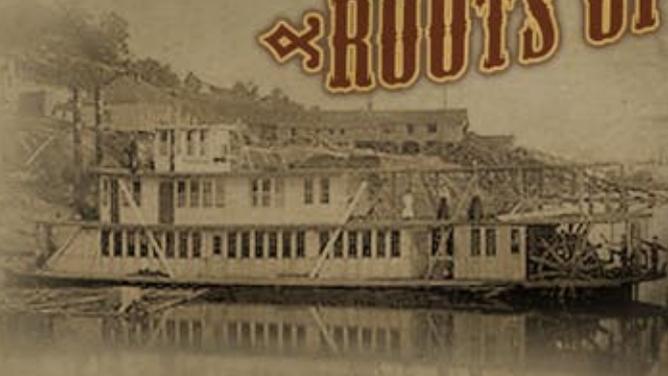


Lake Union HERALD

FEBRUARY 2004



ROOTS OF CHANGE



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COVER

Featured on the cover is Ellen White, champion of equality; her son Edson who printed The Gospel Herald from his steamer, the Morning Star; Charles Kinney, first Black Adventist ordained minister; and Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and Battle Creek speaker/lecturer. Through the resources of Oakwood College, *MESSAGE* magazine, the Ellen G. White Estate, and the new Center for Adventist Research on the campus of Andrews University, we were able to obtain the cover and feature articles photos.

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EDITORIAL



BY WALTER L. WRIGHT,
LAKE UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Me and My Household

“Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your fathers worshiped beyond the river and in Egypt and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Josh. 24:14,15 NIV).

How could Joshua make such a statement? In this modern age in which we live, one can hardly say what he will do, much less speak for his entire household. It seems that the *independence bug* has infected families. Each person in a household today can hardly wait until they reach the age of personal accountability. Children wish to be self-determining as soon as possible.

I suppose I was raised in a household similar to Joshua's. True, my father did not determine whom we would marry, or even what we would study in school. But he certainly had an influence on our service to God. My siblings and I were taught to be active in church work at a very early age. We were taught all the church doctrines, including how to prepare for and respect the Sabbath. You attended church on Sabbath unless you were very ill, and then Mom stayed at home with you.

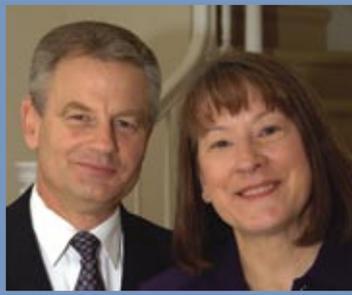
I can remember getting a dime to spend, but first changing it into 10 pennies so that I could take out one penny for tithe and another for offerings. It didn't bother me much, because you could still buy a lot of candy for eight cents. The point is, we were taught that the Lord expected us to tithe.

We thought it was just ridiculous for someone to declare that a deceased loved one was “looking down on us from heaven.” We understood the Bible teaching that the dead are in the grave until Jesus calls them forth at the second coming. It never crossed our minds to be afraid in graveyards. Dad said, “The dead can't hurt you, it's the living you have to watch out for.”

Now, maybe I have figured out what Joshua had going for him. His household respected and trusted him as the spiritual leader and provider of the family. If you have that kind of credibility with your family, they too will follow your example and instruction. Ask God for wisdom, strength, and courage to follow in Joshua's footsteps.



President: Walter Wright and his wife Jackie.



Secretary: Rodney Grove and his wife Rose Anne.



Treasurer: Glynn Scott and his wife Donna.



Vice president: Carmelo Mercado and his wife Rosanne.

Lake Union Administrative Team Complete

Carmelo Mercado Accepts Vice Presidential Responsibilities

BY DIANE THURBER

The Lake Union Conference welcomes Carmelo Mercado, the newest member of its administrative team. As vice president, Carmelo will coordinate Hispanic ministries, Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI), and human relations. Coming to the union from Indiana, Carmelo has demonstrated successful ministerial, evangelistic, and leadership skills for the past 25 years.

A graduate of Andrews University with a B.S. in biology and a M.Div. from the Adventist Theological Seminary, Carmelo has experienced God's leading throughout his life.

Upon completing his junior year, Carmelo became a student missionary in South America, where he was a pastor in the Beni province of Bolivia. He returned from this experience with a determination to dedicate his life to ministry, abandoning earlier plans to practice medicine.

After graduating from the seminary, Carmelo joined the Indiana Conference ministerial team in the Hammond Church, where he stayed for eight years.

Carmelo responded to an *It Is Written* interest card returned by a family replying to a free book offer. He visited Matt and Amparo Prieto in their home and began Bible studies with this family and their

special daughter—Rosanne. After two years, they were baptized.

Rosanne kept busy helping with the church's health-screening program and volunteered her typing skills to help her young pastor keep up with his work. After a quiet courtship, Carmelo and Rosanne were married in 1986 and have been ministry partners ever since.

After pastoring in several Indiana districts, Carmelo began to realize God leading him to strengthen Hispanic ministries. Under the direction of Reuben Rivera, the Indianapolis Hispanic Company was organized. Carmelo gave strong support to this endeavor and was later asked by the conference to assume responsibility for the growing Hispanic work in Indiana. He coordinated the growth of Hispanic ministries in the Indianapolis, South Bend, and Fort Wayne communities for five years.

In 1996, Carmelo and Rosanne moved to Fort Wayne, where they have lived for the past seven years. While in Fort Wayne the North American Division (NAD) asked Carmelo to facilitate Hispanic involvement in NET '98. He provided support for several hundred churches here and abroad, assisting with uplink coordination, equipment purchasing, translation

of evangelistic materials, and arranging translators for the series.

In addition to providing strong leadership in the many congregations he has pastored, Carmelo also served on the Indiana Conference Executive Committee, the Lake Union Conference Executive Committee, the NAD Hispanic Coordinators Advisory, and the NAD Hispanic Evangelism Council. He also coordinated the production and distribution of the *Hope for the Homeland* video that was used in conjunction with evangelistic series in the Lake Union and North Pacific Union conferences in the fall of 2002.

As Carmelo contemplated the invitation to serve as Lake Union vice president, he felt impressed the Lord was calling Him to help support Lake Union Hispanic ministries. Realizing Hispanics are now the largest minority sector in North America, it is his desire to maximize our church's outreach in this population group.

Carmelo has always had a strong interest in evangelism and is passionate about sharing Jesus with others and motivating them to lead others to Him also.

Diane Thurber is the Indiana Conference communication director.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

Michigan

Alvaro Sauza, Gobles Pinedale Church pastor, interviews Sharon Powell.

Alvaro Sauza (AS): Vincent and Nayeli Boekhout, a young couple from the Gobles Church, came to your home, and they told me how excited they were after they had met you. You were so open and ready to study the Bible. What is the background to their visit?

Sharon Powell (SP): I had told the Lord I wasn't going back to my church anymore. I planned to stay home and learn the Bible by myself. At the church I was attending, the pastor never preached from the Bible. I liked to attend Sunday school, but they decided not to have Sunday school anymore.

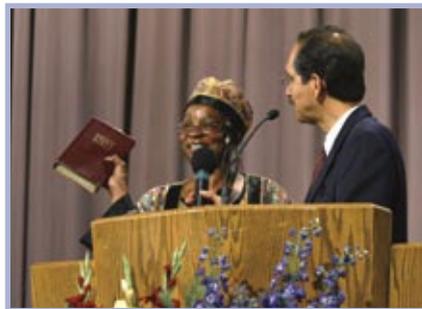
About this time, I had to go to the Allegan Hospital for surgery. While I sat in their waiting room, I saw some Bible story books and read them. I noticed a card in the books and filled it out. I wanted a series of books and a Bible. Two men came with a suitcase full of books. I told them I needed some books to help me understand the Bible. They showed me 11 books by Ellen White and a Bible, and I purchased all of them.

Later I realized I didn't know which book to read first. I needed a teacher. Then a "Something Wonderful" card came in the mail. I filled it out and prayed for a teacher. Soon Vincent and Nayeli came to teach me how to read the books and study my Bible.

They asked me if I would like to attend church with them. I said, "Yes," but I didn't have any transportation. They said that they could take me to church on Saturday. I said, "Saturday? I go shopping on Saturdays."

The first time I stepped into the Gobles Church I felt a special happiness. The people shook my hand, and I got a lot of hugs. I felt I had found the church I was looking for.

Pastor Sauza began his sermon by asking everyone to open their Bibles to a text. I thought, "We're going to read directly from the Bible!!" I used to go to sleep in my old church, but I stopped going to sleep at Gobles.



New member Sharon Powell (left) was interviewed at Michigan camp meeting by Alvaro Sauza, Gobles Pinedale Church pastor.

AS: So did you continue to study?

SP: Yes, every week until Vincent and Nayeli left for Wiemar, California, where Vincent is studying to be a minister. Paul Elder from the Gobles Church and Don and Janis Loew from the Allegan Church took over the studies. Paul studied with me on Tuesdays, Don and Janis on Thursdays, and on Wednesday I attended prayer meeting at Allegan and studied with Pastor Sauza.

AS: When the *Hope for the Homeland* meetings began, Paul Elder made sure Sharon was at each meeting. It was during that series she made her decision to be baptized. However, she was a heavy smoker and thought she could never stop smoking. Evangelist Dan Collins and I visited

her, and the church members continued to pray that she would gain the victory over her habit.

Pastor Collins invited her to his evangelistic series at Gobles where they were studying Revelation. She attended faithfully and learned the victory song from Kay Collins. She sang it day and night until she, by faith and God's grace, gained the victory over tobacco.

SP: As I was preparing for baptism, I looked at all the women in church and noticed they did not wear any jewelry. I asked, "Is this what the Lord wants me to do? If so, I want to do it right away." I'm very happy to be baptized. The church I used to attend would baptize you the next week. The Adventists want you to understand what the Bible teaches before they baptize you.

Today Sharon is involved in a women's prison ministry.

Bruce Babienko, Lake Union Herald volunteer correspondent

Michigan

Recently the Michigan Conference asked me to care for the Stevensville Church as its interim pastor. One day I discovered **Pat Toney's** name on two interest cards sent to the church from *It Is Written*. They were filled with the titles of booklets she had requested, indicating a keen interest in Bible study.

As a local representative of the telecast, I contacted Pat and asked if she wanted to study the book of Revelation with Mark Finley as her instructor. Overjoyed, she exclaimed, "Yes, I have been praying for someone to study the Bible with me!"

That longing began 25 years earlier. At 19, Lauretta Mann, Pat's sister, wondered what life would be like after high school. She had questions about a career, God, and life itself. Providentially, God lead



After 25 years of praying for her sister, Laretta Mann (left) rejoices with her newly baptized sister Pat Toney.

her into a relationship with Him first, then the other questions found more satisfying answers.

Laretta met several wonderful people in the Berrien Springs Adventist community who shared Bible knowledge, love, and an occasional meal. After several months of Bible study, she made her commitment to Christ and was baptized into the Adventist Church. She wanted so much to share her new faith with her family, but the gospel seeds she began to plant in their lives took time to germinate and grow.

After her divorce, Pat was feeling very lonely. Her daughter, Melanie, was also experiencing feelings of loneliness as she went through the break-up of a dating relationship. Hoping to help both of their situations, Pat asked Melanie if she would like to start going to church with her. She did not hesitate, and together they started worshipping each Sunday at the Lutheran Church. While attending, Melanie met a wonderful man, Don, and they were married three years later.

Things were different for Pat. Although she was still alone, Pat had begun to sense God's Spirit working in her life. She faithfully watched Mark Finley on *It Is Written*, requesting and reading each week's telecast booklet.

At her work a new supervisor was hired whose management skills brought real stress into the office

and her life. By April 2002, it had reached the point that her doctor ordered her to take a seven-week work leave.

During Pat's leave, her sister Laretta was at home with a broken ankle and Pat offered to care for her. It was a perfect setting, and Laretta wisely shared what the Bible meant to her and how the love of Jesus had changed her life.

That time together helped to nurture Pat's faith. She continued to grow while her interest in learning about the Bible increased. That's why I received such an enthusiastic greeting the day I arrived at Pat's door. She was eager to begin right away and we arranged for her studies using the Revelation of Hope video and the *It Is Written* Revelation Bible lessons. Pat completed the course, but was not yet ready to join the church through baptism.

One Sabbath afternoon, Pat phoned me and said she had driven by the St. Joseph Adventist Church on her way to work that week and had returned to worship there that morning. At church, she met Dottie Davidson. A friendship developed, and Dottie's warm personality and Bible knowledge helped prepare Pat for baptism.

I had the privilege of baptizing Pat on Sabbath afternoon, August 2, 2003, in the Stevensville Church where I had found her interest cards in the daily mail.

Bruce Babienco, Lake Union Herald volunteer correspondent

Wisconsin

Sharon Naber has been acquainted with Jesus ever since she can remember, but it has only been in the last two years that He has become her "Forever Friend."

Sharon was baptized by sprinkling when she was an infant, and attended Sunday school and a

parochial school for several years. At 13, she was confirmed and took her first communion.

Although she attended church regularly, she felt spiritually cold inside. It always seemed to her that something was missing.

When she moved to Crivitz, Wisconsin, in 2000, her mother told her about a new church that she was attending. She was a little surprised when her mother said that their services were on Saturdays. One Sabbath she invited Sharon to worship in this church with her, and when she walked in the front door, Sharon felt she had come home. The people were friendly and genuine.

When the church members discovered Sharon had just moved into town, they came to her home with some much-needed groceries and clothes for Sharon and her three daughters. Soon her girls were attending the Adventist school, and Sharon was involved in Bible studies.

Bible concepts she had heard about years earlier finally began to make sense. It wasn't hard for her to accept the seventh-day Sabbath—it was in the Bible. Sharon also began watching video tapes of biblical topics presented by Dwight Nelson, Pioneer Memorial Church pastor in Berrien Springs, Michigan. His down-to-earth language made the Bible truths easy for her to understand.

As her spiritual understanding grew, Sharon made her decision to be baptized and become an official member of the Pound Church family.

Gloria Wilde, Pound Church head elder, with Bruce Babienco, Lake Union Herald volunteer correspondent



Sharon Naber



Never Call Your Pastor “Reverend”

BY ANN FISHER

You begin to leave the sanctuary hesitantly after the worship service on Sabbath morning. You can still hear the organist playing the postlude as the worshippers make their way to the back of the church. You feel a little bit uncertain because you haven't been attending church all that long. In fact, it is your first month in your new church family.

The minister is at the door warmly greeting the worshippers. You make your way past the older folks, the kids from the mothers' room, the church members chatting together, and Mrs. Grable, the church matriarch who seems to know everyone and everything.

You finally stand, hand outstretched, before the minister. As he grasps your hand, you hear those new, wonderfully caring words: "Welcome to the family."

Your hair is damp from the baptismal font. You feel the rush of joy and hope in your heart. People are smiling at you.

"Thank you, Reverend. I'm so happy!" comes your almost automatic response.

As you move into the foyer, a friend who was baptized a few

months earlier whispers, "We don't call pastors 'Reverend' in the Adventist Church."

You feel slightly embarrassed, but your excitement about baptism and new life covers up your nervousness. You think, "Well, I'd better not say that again! Adventists don't call their pastors 'Reverend,' hum ... " Maybe you should call him "Father." But you don't hear anyone calling the minister of your new church "Father," either. Then someone says, "Lovely service, Elder Blain."

Ah-hah! In Adventism, the minister is called "Elder" or "Pastor." You realize that you have a lot to learn.

Just as no one expects a baby to know all of the family traditions, no one will expect you to know everything about your new church. Do you remember making a decision about when to open your Christmas gifts when you were a child? Should you do it on Christmas Eve, or on Christmas morning? The decision about that was made by family traditions that you accepted and adopted as you were growing up.

Like your family, your new

church has traditions that have been passed from generation to generation. As a new member, you assimilate these traditions as you grow in the church family. Soon what seemed foreign becomes familiar. The newness wears off and you "belong."

This new *Herald* column, "Adventism 101," is designed to help you develop a sense of belonging by giving you a working knowledge of the language and culture of your new Adventist Church family. Throughout this year, we plan to acquaint you with your Adventist family roots, help you understand Adventist jargon, give you ideas on how to celebrate the Sabbath, and maybe even share some traditional Adventist recipes you can take to potluck.

We might not be able to help you avoid the rocky road of "newness," but we hope that we can cushion the ride a little bit. When the honeymoon is over and you begin to see the flaws in your fellow family members, remember that we are all sinners saved by grace. Look to Jesus. Never take your eyes off Him. And if you don't understand, ask.

This article was adapted by Ann Fisher, Lake Union Herald managing editor, from Welcome to the Family, an out-of-print book published jointly by Home Study International and the North American Division, and used with permission.

PHILIPPINE CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS BENEFIT
BY THE GENEROSITY OF INDIANA MEMBERS

A Single Man Finds Love, a Church Family, and a Mission

BY DIANE THURBER AS
TOLD BY ROBERT GRIGSBY

Single and never married, 33-year-old Robert Grigsby of Tippecanoe, Indiana, began corresponding in 1996 to find a wife in the Philippines. He shared letters with over 100 young ladies before receiving a letter from 20-year-old Genemie Ann Calub Pellazar (Gen-Gen). Gen-Gen was sweet, kind, and came from a good Christian home on the southern island of Mindanao. She told Robert in one of her letters that she was a Seventh-day Adventist. Robert wondered to himself, "What's that?"

Robert wanted to learn more about Gen-Gen's background, so



Gen-Gen, Robert, and Jingle Joy Grigsby share their blessings with their less fortunate brothers and sisters in the Philippines.

he called up some area Adventist churches to quiz them on their beliefs. Stan Wilkinson, former pastor of the Warsaw (Indiana) Church, returned the call. He invited himself to Robert's home for a visit. This visit led to months of Bible study. Robert, an infant-baptized Roman Catholic, was immersed on October 17, 1998, in

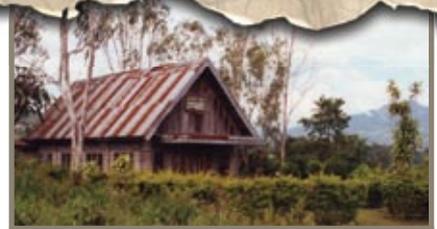


Hillside View Adventist Elementary School enrolled 65 students this year.

the Tippecanoe River.

In 1999, Gen-Gen and Robert were married at the Warsaw Church. They vowed to each other and to the people of the Philippines that they would help the needy and downtrodden.

In 2002, they returned to the Philippines and met with the Hilltop District pastor. Together they toured the area and visited



Warsaw members provided religious books and educational aids for Kilangi Adventist Church and its elementary school.

10 of 21 churches, assessing their physical needs.

Their first project would be piping water to the Hilltop Church from a spring that was purchased one and one-half miles away. Then they would collect materials for libraries in the three churches with elementary schools.

Back in the United States, with the Warsaw congregation offering immense material support, more than one ton of books and instructional aids were gathered in less than a year! Items were shipped through an agent in Chicago with donations collected every Sabbath. The volume of materials collected out-weighed the ability to ship and receive these items in the Philippines.

In 2003, Robert and Gen-Gen once again returned to the Philippines—this time to select a site for building a storage facility and office to receive, categorize, and distribute the materials collected back home. One acre was purchased, and a 2,400-square-foot concrete building was erected.

To learn more about this ministry or to donate educational supplies, e-mail info@thesinglesministry.com or call (574) 498-6777.

Diane Thurber is the Indiana Conference communication director.



When the Going Gets Tough, Play Ball

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

In baseball, in order to score you need to make it to first base, go on to second, touch third, and continue on to home plate. This same concept can help you cope when you are troubled by a problem. You don't need bats or balls or even a sunny day. But the metaphor can help you to remember a process that can bring comfort to you during a tough time, or when someone you care about is distressed.

Uncomfortable feelings are a sign that we need to *go to bat* on a problem in our lives. If we have a companion on the journey, a partner with whom anxiety, fatigue, and frustration can be shared, we are richly blessed. When we have family members who can lend us energy and help us find our way in distressing times, that is a blessing as well. When we can be the empathetic mate or supportive loved one, we are living out God's plan for us (James 1:19).

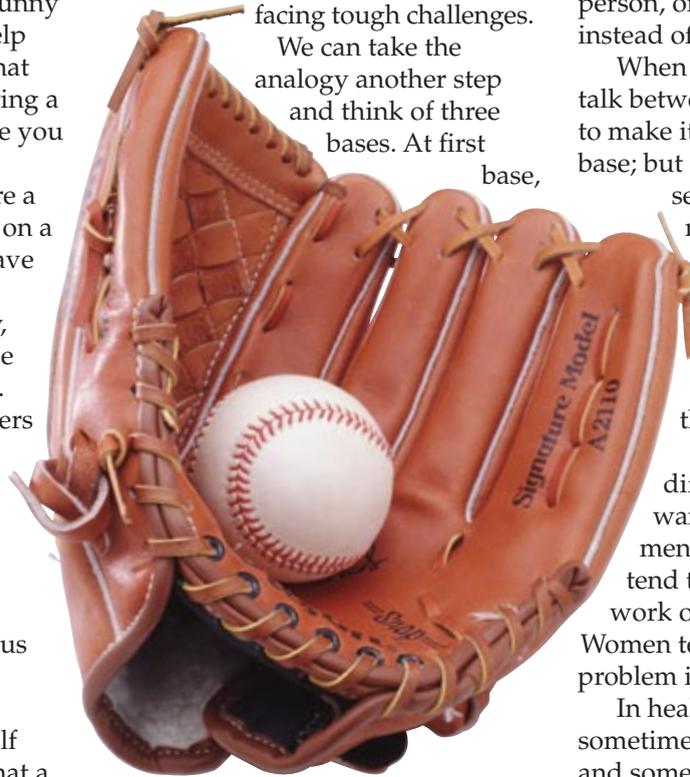
If you are reaching out to someone, you can see yourself as a coach.¹ Let's consider what a baseball coach does:

- ▶ The coach does not solve problems. The coach is there to help the players work their way around the bases, not do the batting or running for them.
- ▶ A good coach listens and looks very intently at what is going on. A good coach lets the players know they are not alone in

grappling with the challenge and offers a second set of eyes and ears for understanding.

- ▶ A good coach helps player morale by providing an invaluable boost when another is facing tough challenges.

We can take the analogy another step and think of three bases. At first base,



we can help a person identify the conflict or problem that is generating a negative emotion. On second base, we can gather data to understand the facts of the situation and the other's concerns. Third base is where solutions are sought.

Many get hung up on first base because the *coach* offers unhelpful

responses such as encouraging recovery instead of expressing concern, giving advice instead of simply being there and listening, minimizing the loss instead of validating the feelings of the other person, or forcing cheerfulness instead of offering empathy.

When it comes to supportive talk between genders, women tend to make it easy to first or second base; but they tend to stay on second base instead of moving on to third base and working on possible solutions. By contrast, men tend to barely touch first, skip second, and dash to third base where they quickly give advice.

Men and women also differ in when and if they want another's help. When men are distressed, they tend to want to be alone or work out problems themselves. Women tend to want to talk when a problem is troubling them.

In healthy relationships, sometimes we do the coaching and sometimes we are running the bases. May God bless you as you *play ball*.

1. Analogy adapted from Dr. Susan Heitler's workshop, *The Power of Two*.

Susan Murray is an assistant professor of behavioral sciences at Andrews University.

EXTREME GRACE

Living Water

BY DICK DUERKSEN

We needed water, but not in the morning. Every woman in Sychar would be there, pulling water from the well and gossiping about husbands, wives, and lovers. They would also be talking about me, laughing at my failures and describing my life with ugly words of contempt.

But we needed water.

I went to the well at noon, hoping no one would be there to condemn me. The jar was heavy, but no heavier than my memories. I married early and poorly, and was discarded at the city gate with shouted words of rejection and divorce.

It had been no better in the next town. Yes, I had been able to find beds, but there was no peace for this lady of the night. Five marriages had gone stale and then exploded in jealousy and hate.

Now I was in Sychar, in a new bed with renewed hopes. Yet the very fact that I was

sleeping in with Rueben made me a juicy gossip topic. I felt the circle closing again.

The well was silent, but not empty. A Jewish man lay on one of the benches, his clothes dusty, hair sweaty, and face lined with exhaustion. Just looking at him made me thirsty. I pulled my veil closer and drew cool water from the ancient depths.

"Hello." His voice startled me. "Please give me a drink of water."

The words came as a request, yet they hammered into me like a command.

I held out the half-empty lifting jar and whispered, "You're a Jew, and I'm a Samaritan. How can you ask me for water?"

He took the jar and smiled.

"Lady, if you knew water and if you knew me, you would be asking me for a drink! And, I would give you a drink of *living water!*"

"Right," I answered. "I don't think so."

He set down the jar, looked directly into my heart, and offered me heaven.

"Drink my water, and it will become a spring of eternal life spilling over inside of you. You'll never be thirsty again."

I pointed to my jar. "Fill it up, so I don't ever have to come here again!"

"Go, get your husband," He required. Seems like there is always a catch.

I hung my head as He reminded me of my hell, one husband at a time. My hope nearly drowned in the details. Then it hit me: "No one else knows the whole story. How does He ... ?"

I asked, and we argued about prophets, temples, and worship—all too confusing for me. So, I gathered my jar and threw one last challenge over my shoulder. "When the Messiah comes, He'll explain all of this."

"I am the Messiah." His words froze my feet.

I looked back and felt my heart overflow with hope. He was different—open, accepting, smiling—offering a love that outmatched my dreams.

Living water? Now? The Messiah?

I dropped my jar and began to run to get Rueben.

I had never been so thirsty!

Dick Duerksen is the director of mission development for Florida Hospital in Orlando.



The Balanced Life

VICKI GRIFFIN



A balanced life is a gift from God. Temperance is a fruit of the Spirit. It is not something you *do*, it is a Divine trait implanted in the heart by the Holy Spirit—just like joy, peace, love, gentleness, and meekness. On my own I cannot be temperate, loving, or gentle. But God, working through me, can. The following are some basic tips for achieving a balanced life.

Awareness

Be aware of stress traps that you set for yourself. Managing stress involves making choices, forming priorities, adopting attitudes, and taking actions that enable you to maximize your potential without overloading your abilities.

Pare down

People who are chronically stressed often feel that their lives are out of control. Balancing your life puts you back in control and helps you avoid unnecessary stress. Here are some tips:

Limit the number of decisions you make in a day. Monitor your schedule, including the amount and intensity of your activities.

Avoid clutter.

Regulate the rate of change taking place in your life at one time—including jobs, moving, travel, and even holidays.

Set a realistic schedule.

Eliminate personal debt,

especially credit card debt, and don't buy on impulse.

Identify your most important goals, and prioritize your time accordingly.

Take time to help others—it's a good way to put your own life in perspective.

Lifestyle

Take time to eat nutritious food at regular mealtimes. It lowers stress, boosts immunities, and punctuates your busy day with pleasure and satisfaction. It reduces cravings for unhealthy snacks between meals.

Drink plenty of water between meals to keep the blood free-flowing and to help nutrient transport.

Exercise regularly. It will not only improve physical health, but exercise also lowers stress and improves your mood.

Don't neglect sleep. Determine how much sleep you need and make sure you get it. Going to bed early is the best way to get deep, refreshing sleep.

Relax. Find a relaxing, stress-reducing hobby or pastime that refreshes and distracts you from your daily routine.

Connect. Spiritual needs must be met as well as physical needs. Spend time communing with God in His Word, asking Him for balance in your life.

Develop community with others in worship and service.

Vicki Griffin is the Michigan Conference health ministries director.



The attractive Lifestyle Matters kits include books, audio CD's, and videos designed to help you incorporate God's principles into your life. These principles deal with issues such as stress sensitivity, immune function, memory, learning, behavior and mood. They are simply presented and easy to share with others. You are also encouraged to include the Lifestyle Matters ministry modules in your church's comprehensive evangelistic plan for 2004. Visit www.lifestyl matters.com or call 866-624-LIFE (5433).

Sharing our HOPE



Operation Homeland Support

BY ESTHER R. KNOTT

When you meet Anne Carlson, you wouldn't guess the influence she is having in her home town of Berrien Springs, Michigan, and in the Middle East. This quiet, unassuming young woman works as a physical therapist during the day, spreading her own version of warmth and light. At night, she's busy with *Operation Homeland Support*.

Anne is the sister of Sgt. Ryan G. Carlson, stationed with the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad, Iraq. Anne has experienced a lot of stress with her brother being stationed in Iraq. To help her cope with the stress, she began sending her brother a care package every week. Every time Ryan received a package, he knew of her love and support. Anne assumed that every soldier had that same kind of support coming from home. This was not so.

Operation Homeland Support began quietly when Ann and Ryan's mother, Sue Carlson, began to hear of soldiers who were not getting *any* mail. Sue then began to communicate with other *Proud Army Moms* (PAM) and became part of a network of sharing names to adopt among military families. Sue passed on names to her daughter, Anne. As Sue and Anne adopted soldiers, it was communicated back through the military grapevine to the "adopted" soldiers that they could safely expect mail from Anne and Sue. The five names they began with soon expanded to include 30

other men in Ryan's unit.

The news of what they were doing spread to the community. I shared with our congregation at Pioneer Memorial Church about Anne's part in supporting our soldiers, and people from church volunteered time and items.



Anne Carlson carefully chooses the items she will include in her next care package to a serviceman or woman serving in Iraq. She is holding one of the most sought-after items, a battery-powered fan.

Anne's neighbor connected her with the Berrien Springs American Legion, where she gave short presentations to the men of the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary. They provided funds for fans and care-box items. Co-workers at Lakeland Hospital, where Anne works, also began to contribute items for care boxes. One of the doctors who had been very vocal against the war purchased four fans for the soldiers. The fans are battery operated and can last 400 hours on one set of D cells. These have been invaluable, as the temperatures reach above 100 degrees and there is no electricity.

Anne has raised hundreds of dollars toward this project.

She keeps meticulous records of the donations and each item the soldiers receive. Thanks to the generosity of the community, Anne is able to ship each soldier a package every one or two weeks. Most of the care packages contain simple items, such as books, granola bars, Pop Tarts, nuts, disposable cameras, writing supplies, travel games, powdered drink mix, the portable fans, and other items.

Each soldier has also been sent a small New Testament, compliments of Bonnie Lloyd of Pioneer Memorial Church, who provided the money, and Gary Hillebert, Berrien Springs ABC manager, who helped with special ordering.

For the most part, the soldiers need simple support, to know that they are cared about and remembered, and especially that they are prayed for. When Ryan contacts his family from Baghdad, he always requests prayer.

Because of Anne's decision to get involved, several communities have been inspired to participate. Young military men and woman in the Middle East feel the love and support of their fellow Americans. As we pray for them and show tangible love, we hope they will learn of a God who also came to set the oppressed free.

Esther R. Knott is an associate pastor at the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University.



Adventist Health System Midwest Region Announces Plans to Build Bolingbrook Hospital

Adventist Health System Midwest Region (AHSMR) has announced plans to expand its whole-person, health-care ministry by building a hospital in Bolingbrook, a fast-growing suburban area about 25 miles southwest of Chicago.

In 1977, Adventist Health System realized the need for health-care services to serve the growing population around Bolingbrook; hence, the freestanding Bolingbrook Medical Center was developed. The proposed hospital is an expansion of AHS medical services, which have been provided to this area for more than two decades and will continue well into the future.

"The pastoral care department is extremely excited about the opportunity to expand our ministries to more of the community in Bolingbrook and the surrounding areas," noted Vicky Syren, chaplain. "A beautiful new chapel will be at the center of the new hospital. As with all the hospitals in the Midwest Region, chaplains have been, and will continue to be available to our patients and their families as well as the staff—24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We also look forward to new outreach opportunities and becoming more involved with local churches and pastors in our continuing ministry in the area."

Ernie Sadau, Adventist Health System Midwest Region CEO/president, said the \$130 million full-service hospital will serve the area within minutes of residents' homes and workplaces. The hospital also will provide services to retirees and baby boomers moving into planned retirement communities.

"The time certainly has arrived for a full-service hospital to serve this region, and the residents of

this area deserve nothing less," said Sadau. "We are proud of our long history and relationship with this community, and we are committed to continuing to develop medical care that will meet the needs of residents for years to come. This is the right place and the right time for a new hospital to serve this area."

The population in the primary service area for the new hospital is expected to grow by 35 percent by 2012. Leaders in Romeoville and Bolingbrook support the proposed new hospital because they believe it represents the best solution for meeting the health-care needs of the region.

More than 100 people attended the December 9 press conference, including government officials, hospital personnel, residents, media representatives, and other supporters. AHSMR will file a Certificate of Need with the Illinois Department of Public Health as the first step in the process of building a hospital.

Roger Claar, Bolingbrook's mayor, said,



This is an architect's rendering of the new Bolingbrook Hospital.

"Bolingbrook is the ideal location for a new hospital because it is centrally located in the heart of the population growth area and easily accessible via several highways."

"With growing density and longer travel times in our area, having a Level II trauma center in Bolingbrook will mean our paramedics will be able to deliver patients to a hospital-based emergency room in a timely manner," said Charles Peterson, Bolingbrook fire chief.

The proposed hospital will have 138 beds—including 106 medical/surgical beds, 20 obstetrics/postpartum beds, and 12 beds in the intensive care unit.

*Lynn Larson, Adventist Health System Midwest Region
Lake Union Herald correspondent*

The Conscientious Objector

For over 50 years, Hollywood has wanted to tell Desmond Doss's story. Half a century after receiving the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military tribute, Doss gave Terry Benedict, a Seventh-day Adventist filmmaker, permission to tell his story to the world after years of silence.

Desmond Doss, a Seventh-day Adventist private first class with the U.S. Army medical detachment for the 307th Infantry Division during World War II, became the first conscientious objector to win the Medal of Honor. Refusing to carry a gun, even for personal protection, Doss was ridiculed by officers and peers during training.

In the spring of 1945, Doss and his division were attempting to overtake the Japanese island of Okinawa. On April 28, the enemy attacked relentlessly, injuring a large part of the battalion. Doss put his own life in danger when he stayed on top of a jagged escarpment and lowered the 75 injured men down the face of a cliff on a rope-supported litter to friendly hands.

His arm received a compound fracture in a later attack. Using a firearm—the only time during the war—he tied a rifle stock to his wounded limb as a splint, then crawled 300 yards over rough terrain to the aid station.

Doss received the Medal of Honor during a ceremony on Oct. 12, 1945, from President Harry S. Truman. The final paragraph from his citation reads: "Through his outstanding bravery and unflinching determination in the face of desperately dangerous

conditions, Private Doss saved the lives of many soldiers. His name became a symbol throughout the 77th Infantry Division for outstanding gallantry far above and beyond the call of duty."

Benedict is in the final stages of producing his documentary, "The Conscientious Objector," which will air on PBS as a special presentation on significant national holidays such as Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, and July 4th.



Terry Benedict, a Seventh-day Adventist filmmaker, spoke to students at Andrews University about the process of producing a documentary of Desmond Doss.

"Desmond's story is inspiring. He is an amazing role model to young and old alike by never compromising his beliefs; and yet he showed his compassion for the very men who abused him," says Benedict. He has had a burden for years to tell Doss's story and his goal is to conserve its integrity. Benedict will submit his documentary to the 2005 Academy Awards.

Benedict came to Andrews University in early November and showed a 30-minute trailer for the documentary, and spoke about its impact on his life. He said, "I want to be a Doss in a mass media world."

For more information on this documentary, visit www.theconscientiousobjector.com.

Katie Shaw, news writer



Andrews University will host the first annual Music and Worship Conference Mar. 25-27.

Music and Worship Conference at Andrews in March

Spring of 2004 will mark the first annual Andrews University Music and Worship Conference, sponsored by the Department of Music and the Center for Youth Evangelism at Andrews. Hosted on the university's campus Mar. 25-27, this conference is a training event for professional and volunteer church musicians, pastors, and lay leaders.

Important issues such as creativity, diversity, quality, and appropriateness will be discussed, outlining a biblical framework for understanding the role of music in worship. Presenters will also share techniques and strategies that can be used to improve the music in your local church.

Workshops on song writing, arranging, choral music, organ music, worship-leading, and other topics will be available to participants.

Nick Zork, conference organizer, said, "We wanted to create an opportunity for musicians to connect with others, to share their passion for God and their desire to serve Him."

For more information or to register, visit www.musicconference.andrews.edu or call 800-YOUTH2U.

Katie Shaw, news writer

"I'll Be Back Someday"

BY CHERYL DOSS

Ruimar, Margareth, Larisson, and Melissa DePaiva were excited about becoming missionaries. Originally from Brazil, they had spent nearly five years living and studying at Andrews University. Now they were headed for the island nation of Palau, where Ruimar would pastor a church and their years of study could be put to good use.

From August 2002 to December 2003 Ruimar pastored the Koror Church and Margareth taught church school in Palau. The family earned the love of the church members and was befriended by the queen of Palau and many others in the wider community.

On the night of December 22, 2003, an intruder broke into their home intent on theft. One by one, as the family was aroused from sleep, the robber attacked them until all were dead except ten-year-old Melissa. Abducted by the attacker, Melissa was released after a harrowing twenty hours and told the story to the police. Within a few hours, the perpetrator was in custody.

The government of Palau ordered the country's flags lowered to half-

mast and a state funeral to be held on Monday, December 29. The entire nation of Palau was shaken by this horrendous tragedy. The General Conference sent Ann Hamel, former missionary and licensed psychologist from Berrien Springs, Michigan, to provide support to the grieving.

But, the real story of the funeral is best told by one who was there—



The DePaiva family: (front) Larisson and Melissa, (back) Margareth and Ruimar.

John Rutledge, an attorney with the State Government of Koror. Following are excerpts from his e-mailed report.

The memorial service was held yesterday at 4:00 p.m. The ceremony was long but remarkable. Just as I was about to stand and yell "Enough already!" (the thing ran 4 hours!), Ruimar's mom did something so intensely selfless that I simply broke down and wept.

She took the microphone without warning or announcement and showed us a level of forgiveness we'd all do well to strive for. In the week she was here in Palau, she met with Justin Hirosi, the man who murdered her son, daughter-in-law, and only grandson. She prayed with him. And she let him know that she'd already forgiven him.

Then, having just learned

that Justin's mother was at the service, she asked Ms. Hirosi to join her. Ms. Hirosi, unable to walk on her own, was aided to the stage by her brother and several neighbors. Ruimar's mom hugged her so warmly that the casual observer might have believed the two were long-lost friends. Together, they stepped to the microphone and Ms. DePaiva announced that they were "both mothers grieving for lost sons." You could have heard a pin drop.

Ms. DePaiva went on. She implored the Palauan community to remove any shroud of blame that might otherwise cover Justin's family. She declared that the DePaivas do not blame Justin's family for the tragedy (and that no one else should either). "We raise our children; we educate them," Ms. DePaiva said. "We teach them right from wrong. That is all we, as mothers, can do. They have their own minds."

The high chief of the island where the tragedy occurred came to the microphone. He expressed shame, regret, and sorrow on behalf of Justin's family, his clan, and his entire tribe. The high chief explained that Justin's family and clan, though of meager means, had sold many of their belongings and now desired to deliver \$10,000 in cash to Melissa for her college education.

Melissa has been so extraordinarily strong throughout this process that it's left us all in awe. When asked where she'd like to go to live, Melissa said: "I'd like to stay here in Palau." Imagine everyone's surprise. Her grandmother then explained that staying here wasn't possible. "Okay," Melissa said. "But I'll be back someday; I'll come back as a missionary."

Cheryl Doss is associate director of the Institute of World Mission at Andrews University.



Larisson, Margareth, and Ruimar DePaiva were tragically murdered on December 22, 2003, in Palau where they were serving as missionaries.



Showers of Blessings

BY RENEE COFFEE

The December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor was an event that America will never forget. But what happened on December 7, 2002, may be even more memorable to the families of the Eau Claire Seventh-day Adventist Church.

During a school board meeting last fall, it was discovered that the school faced an \$8,000 deficit. When the church board was not able to help with the shortfall, the entire church was made aware of the situation. An anonymous donor came forward with a promise to match all funds raised. Letters were sent, families were called, and prayers ascended to heaven.

On December 7, an offering was taken during the intermission of the school Christmas program. At the end of the program, Ron Greeley asked the school principal, Jim Gray, to come to the front where he was presented with the total amount raised, \$12,160. This

amount did not include the pledged matching funds.

The benefactor who had promised to match the funds raised wasn't prepared for the generosity of the other church members. He had expected to match around \$4,000 from a small savings account that could spare that much. Even if he



Thanks to the generosity of the church family and the faithfulness of God, the Eau Claire (Michigan) School ended the 2002–2003 school year with a \$16,000 reserve instead of an \$8,000 deficit.

cleaned out that account, he would still be thousands short of his pledge.

At first he considered just

donating the \$4,000 he had planned to give, but then he decided to make good on his promise and trust God to make up the difference. He emptied his bank account and then prayed for a miracle.

Before the end of the week, unexpected funds arrived at his home, which not only finished off his pledge, but also replenished his bank account.

Thanks to the generosity of the church family, and the faithfulness of God, the Eau Claire Church School ended the 2002–2003 school year with a \$16,000 reserve. But even more important, the church family has grown in faith through this experience. They saw God's hand work in a miraculous way, and they will never be the same.

Renee Coffee teaches half-time at Gobles Jr. Academy and works half-time in the Michigan Conference education department.



THE GOSPEL HERALD

THE MAGAZINE WITH A MESSAGE

BY DELBERT W. BAKER

During the late 1800s, *MESSAGE* magazine,¹ originally called *The Gospel Herald*, was a premier religious communication paper for Blacks in the South and the Mississippi Delta. It was designed to uplift the Black race, recently freed from slavery. Its content aimed to educate its readers in biblical topics, Christian living, the gospel, and practical living. One hundred years later, *MESSAGE* still aims to educate and uplift the Black race.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Founded in 1898 by James Edson White—son of Ellen G. White, cofounder of the Seventh-

climate became too dangerous in one place, the Morning Star would move to a different location. The plan was innovative and effective; however, Edson and his team were ridiculed, chased, shot at, and resisted by disgruntled White southerners.

Notwithstanding, as the communication link of the Southern Missionary Society, an independent volunteer organization also founded by Edson White, *The Gospel Herald* sold hundreds of thousands of copies and became a popular religious and educational magazine in the South. The catch line in the first issue of *The Gospel Herald* best sums up its appeal:

suggested that Edson White publish a paper carrying an account of the work among Blacks. Initially, the paper was not to make direct appeals for finances, but simply to represent the “character and needs of the work.”

In the first issue of *The Gospel Herald*, in May 1898, Edson White, in his first editorial, explained that the object of the magazine was to “awaken an interest in the South.” He identified his two editorial objectives as (1) the securing of missionary effort and support for “both educational and evangelistic work,” and (2) the encouragement of Seventh-day Adventist families to move to the South to take



VOL. II.

BATTLE CREEK, MICH., JULY, 1900.

NO. 7.

day Adventist Church—the first nine issues of *The Gospel Herald* were printed on board the Morning Star, a steamer that shuttled up and down the Yazoo River in Mississippi. In the 1800s, educating Blacks was a dangerous and virtually forbidden enterprise, so Edson White housed the printing venture on board the Morning Star for protection and mobility. If the

“The magazine with a message is the magazine we want to hear.”

The purpose of the magazine was to teach and galvanize Black people to reach for a better way of life—educationally, economically, and spiritually. The mission to educate Black people came in part from John H. Kellogg, famed superintendent of the Battle Creek (Michigan) Sanitarium, who

advantage of the “unparalleled opportunities” to start ventures in the business and farming lines.

CHANGE MY NAME

In 1910, *The Gospel Herald* became the official magazine of the new Negro department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and the printing was taken over by the press at Oakwood College² in Huntsville,

Alabama. From then on it became primarily a news journal for the Black Adventist churches in North America. The magazine ceased publication for 11 years when Oakwood College began producing the *Oakwood Bulletin*, in 1923. Publication resumed in 1934 under the new name, *MESSAGE*. This name change was suggested 28 years earlier in a *Gospel Herald* editorial, which said the magazine should be called *The Message*.

Until 1945, the work of *The Gospel Herald/MESSAGE* was carried out under the leadership of White editors interested in reforming race relations and building unity. In 1945, Louis B. Reynolds, the fourth editor, became the first Black editor of *MESSAGE*.

The 25-year history of *The Gospel Herald* under that title provided insightful information about the actions, personalities, and policies of Seventh-day Adventist leaders toward the Black work in the South. It recorded the origin of churches, educational advances, racial issues, and the general pulse of the work for Black people. Virtually every major development in the Black Seventh-day Adventist Church is either reported on, referred to, or intimated about in the pages of *The Gospel Herald*.

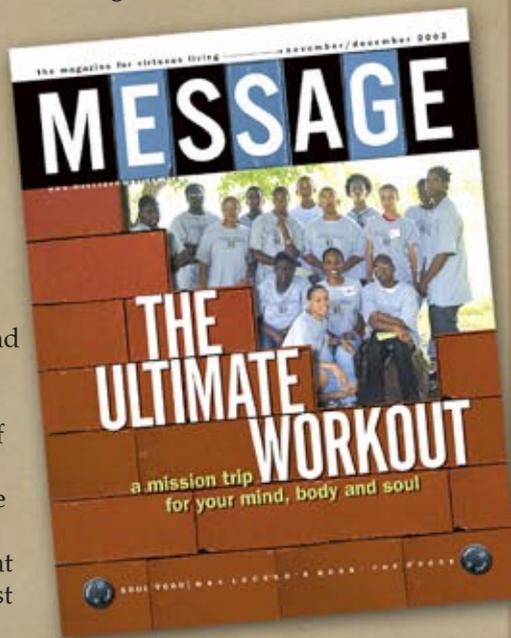
LET'S CELEBRATE

Throughout its colorful history with 12 editors, *MESSAGE* has responded faithfully to the social, domestic, and spiritual needs of Black people in the United States and around the globe. With its tasteful and balanced articles, editorials, reports, and special features, *MESSAGE* is distinguished as one of the oldest religious journals in America.

MESSAGE continues, among its numerous distinctions, its role as a Christian magazine of contemporary issues and its status as the only Black religious and

international journal, focusing on role models, positive Christian lifestyle, and social-moral issues. Historically, *MESSAGE* has targeted and always will target Black people—a minority readership—and those interested in diversity.

Finally, *MESSAGE* is still committed to its original mission—education! That includes an emphasis on Christianity, biblical teachings, and other practical teachings on success and positive living.



Today, as 100 years ago, these characteristics make *MESSAGE* one of the most distinctive and appreciated religious magazines in America.

1. *MESSAGE*, a Seventh-day Adventist magazine, is the oldest and most widely circulated religious journal addressing ethnic issues in the United States. To learn more and/or to order a subscription, go to: www.messagemagazine.com; or call (800) 765-6955.

2. Oakwood College is the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Black institution of higher learning.

Delbert W. Baker is a former editor of MESSAGE, and is currently serving as president of Oakwood College, located in Huntsville, Alabama.

TEN ACTIONS TO MAKE THE ADVENTIST CHURCH AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

1. Actively explore your issues regarding prejudice and racism. Participate with your friends, family, or church members in a dialogue on race-related issues.
2. Commit to learn about others. Continuously learn about people of other races, ethnicities, cultures, through Scripture, new relationships, periodicals, and cultural events.
3. Examine your myths and stereotypes of others. Make a list of your racial stereotypes. Where and when did they originate and why? Question if they are true by challenging yourself to disprove them through study and discussion.
4. Be more conscious of racial prejudice and privilege. Reflect on how racial prejudice and privilege affect you. How would your life be different if your skin was another color?
5. Become an ally of people other than those of your own race, ethnicity, culture, or religion. Personally confront racist comments and discrimination even if you are a member of the targeted group.
6. Arrive at a personal understanding that you are morally bound (by God) to engage in anti-racial activities in order to reach the ultimate realizations of your faith tradition.
7. Complete the Congregational Diversity Evaluation. This non-scientific tool provides you with an opportunity to assess your congregation's awareness, commitment, and policies—particularly on race-related issues and other issues critical to unity.
8. Urge your church school leaders to address all communities of color within the church and country. Our children deserve to know about contributions of each community.
9. Support your elected officials in their demonstration of a commitment to diversity inclusion.
10. Contact local, union, and division leaders. Identify diversity initiatives that can be addressed at the local and divisional levels to advance reconciliation and justice. Commit yourself to involvement at the level where your contribution can best be felt.

Prepared by the Office of Human Relations for the Adventist Church in North America with the assistance of The National Conference for Community and Justice. More information and resource materials are available at the Web site from which this information was taken: www.nadadventist.org/humanrelations.



REFLECTIONS OF SISTER B

BY HENRIETTA BLANCHARD AS TOLD TO GARY BURNS

I've been a Seventh-day Adventist all my life. My grandmother was an Adventist. She entertained all the ministers that came to town, so we all got to know them. She had a big house, and a lot of the church ladies came to help serve. My twin sister, brother, and I used to complain because there were always so many folk in the house. You know how children are.

We were always in church, so mother didn't have to worry

children. Michael went and asked them if they could keep their team over and let us come in, and they agreed to that. We were all excited to go to camp.

On Sabbath Michael came on the campground dressed in a white Palm Beach suit. All of the older girls were just having a fit. But we were still young, so we were not interested. Everyone was asking him, "Mr. Blanchard, will you sign my plaque?" He signed my plaque,

offering more money to work with them, so I got a job in Chicago in the war bond division. It was during that time that Michael was seeing me because I was going to Shiloh Church, which was the largest church. We married before he was shipped overseas.

I've always been a person who has done my work and stayed by my chores, so when they built an office in New Jersey, I was chosen to go. I came home to Chicago during



with us on Sabbath because that's where we would be. When we got to be school-age, we went to the little church school in Paducah, Kentucky. Then, in 1927, we moved to Gary, Indiana, where my father got a job in the mill.

Michael Blanchard was an energetic young man affiliated with the youth department. At that time they didn't have regional conferences, and Blacks didn't have a camp. I remember the Illinois Conference had their camp for the

and he wrote, "I think you're a swell little girl. Call me sometime," and put his phone number. My sister said, "Who does he think he is, calling us little girls?" We couldn't stand him. Who would of thought that he would end up being my husband years later?

I finished high school. My highest aptitude score was math, so I took the bookkeeping course. I was the first Black girl to be hired at the city hall in Gary. It was war time, and the government was

the week that they were having this session at the Shiloh Church to talk about forming a Black conference. I didn't go or know anything about it. I understand that there was a lot of bickering back and forth, but they decided that they were going to organize, so it was organized in 1944.

At the time, we were satisfied with what was going on. But they explained that none of the Black girls could get jobs in a church office. Most of them went to the government, and that's where I

was. So it really didn't bother me one way or another. But then I found out what the purpose was—our people could develop church leadership skills.

Now I believe this was supposed to happen, because I noticed that the work grew by leaps and bounds after that. You see, we had our own ministers before, and all they did was preach to our churches and hold evangelistic meetings. But nobody worked in a conference office, and I guess nobody bothered.

After I visited with my parents and my husband's parents, I went back to New Jersey. And it was while I was there that they asked me to come and work at the new conference office. After I began

they could help take care of the conference business. Laymen were able to serve on the committee as well.

We began to see our former pastors develop into church leaders. J. G. Dasent, our first president, helped us buy the campground at Cassopolis. When Charles Bradford came, he helped us build the first cabins. And of course my mother went to camp meeting every year. She kept my two children in her little tent. She'd put a floor and rugs in it, and it looked like a little house in there. They enjoyed it.

Robert Carter became our first Black union president. To know somebody in that position made you feel good because that had never happened. Then some of our

president. He was a Christian, and he did a lot of things that made us feel good.

I've been with the treasury department for 46 years. So many people know me, and I know their faces, but I can't call their names. Van Putten was the one who gave me the name Sister "B." To the children, I'm Grandma "B" or Aunt "B." I am "B" to everyone. I don't think some of the folk know my name.

When they told me I had cancer, I asked the Lord to save me or whatever He wanted to do. I don't think I was out four weeks, and I was back at work. And they tell me the doctors at Hinsdale are still wondering how I healed so fast. They asked, "You said you are 80

WHEN THEY TOLD ME I HAD CANCER.

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working for the church, I noticed a difference. We weren't cut off from everything, and we started mingling together with people from other conferences. It wasn't like that before. We would go to these meetings and everybody would be there together. It brought understanding between the Blacks and the Whites.

Our pastors had never been on conference committees before. Now they became members of the conference committee, and

former pastors like F. L. Peterson, G. E. Peters, and Owen Troy were at the General Conference office. It made us feel that we were more involved and closer to what was going on than before.

Bradford later became the president of the North American Division. We were very good friends because he was the president of the Lake Region before he got that position, and I was his secretary for a time. He was such a good speaker, and he was a good

years old?" And I said, "That's right." They said, "What do you account for it?" and I said, "Well, when I sit down I feel like I'm 40, but when I get up, I feel like I'm 90. If you think I look younger, it's just because I've been an Adventist all my life. That's all I can say."

Henrietta Blanchard recently retired after 46 years in the treasury department at the Lake Region Conference, and Gary Burns is the Lake Union communication director.



ROOTS OF CHANGE

BY GARY BURNS

Although it was a late delivery, the Lake Union was the birthplace of the first Seventh-day Adventist systematic work for Black people in the South. The greatest opportunity opened at the end of the Civil War, yet it took another 25 years before the church responded to the need.

The chief champion of the cause was Ellen White. In 1891, she delivered a historic presentation entitled "Our Duty to the Colored People." Her words were instrumental in influencing her son James Edson White to dedicate his efforts to the work among Black people in the South.

Long before the Adventist Church was formed, William Ellis Foy, a Black minister, received visions. As a girl, Ellen White heard Foy speak in Portland, Maine, and later talked with him after receiving her first visions. She had a copy of Foy's four visions and noted, "It was remarkable testimony that he bore."¹

Black people in the Millerite movement played a significant part in the preaching of the soon coming of Christ. Prominent ministers such as William Still, Charles Bowles, William Foy, and John Lewis were coworkers with Millerite leaders.

The first Black Adventist ordained minister was Charles



Charles Kinney was the first Black Seventh-day Adventist ordained minister.

Kinney, born a slave in Richmond, Virginia. It was the preaching of Ellen White and James Loughborough in Reno, Nevada, that convinced him to become a Seventh-day Adventist. He suggested the concept of Black conferences as a way to work more effectively among Black people, after he confronted efforts to segregate him and his members at his camp meeting ordination service in 1878.

Former baptist preacher Harry Lowe established the first Black Adventist church in 1883 at Edgefield Junction, Tennessee.

Edson White and his wife Emma acted on the burden they felt for their brothers and sisters in the South and, with the support of Will Palmer, began a ministry along the Mississippi River from the Morning Star, a steamship purchased with

their own funds in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Emma served by her husband's side in every venture at great personal sacrifice.

In order to provide education and training for the new Black members and their children, Oakwood Industrial School, later

to become Oakwood College, began operations in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1896. It is estimated that 85 percent of all Black leaders in the Adventist Church have spent some time at Oakwood College during their educational careers.

Designed as an evangelistic journal for Black people, Edson White began publishing *The Gospel Herald* in 1898 at Yazoo City, Mississippi. It's successor, *MESSAGE* magazine, was first published in 1934.

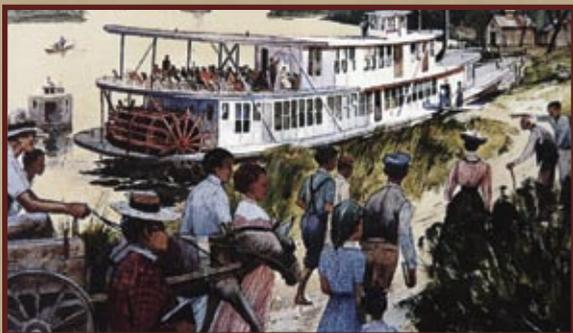
The first Black Seventh-day Adventist medical facility was founded in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1901 as the Riverside Sanitarium. Under the direction of Nellie Druillard, the sanitarium expanded to a hospital in 1927, and many



Edson White responded to his mother's challenge to begin the Southern work.



Emma White taught Black adults who had been deprived of an education. Emma served at Edson's side through every conceivable difficulty.



The Morning Star was a missionary steamer that shuttled up and down the Yazoo River in Mississippi ministering to Blacks.

prominent African-Americans visited the hospital for treatment.

By 1909, the growing issues of the Black work precipitated the formation of the Negro department of the General Conference. In 1943, a shocking incident occurred that caused concerned Black leaders and members to press the General



The daughter of a slave, Anna Knight was baptized in Tennessee, graduated from the Battle Creek School of Nursing, was the first Black female missionary, and founded the National Colored Teachers Association. She is standing by the star taken from the Morning Star where she worked as a medical missionary.

Conference to take active measures.

Lucy Byard, a Seventh-day Adventist member from Brooklyn, New York, experienced a medical emergency and was admitted to the Washington Adventist Sanitarium. Although gravely ill, Lucy was discharged and transferred to Freeman's Hospital when it was discovered that she was Black. She died shortly thereafter.

The unpleasant truth of this incident helped to galvanize the cause of the Committee for the Advancement of Worldwide Work Among Colored Seventh-day Adventists. Among the prominent Black laity signing an eight-page set of demands from the committee to the General Conference was Eva B. Dykes, the first Black woman in the United States to complete the requirements for a Ph.D.

By 1944, Black membership in the United States climbed to 20,000. In response to the growing membership, the General Conference Committee approved the formation of regional (Black) self-governing conferences. After an organizational meeting was held at

the Shiloh Church in Chicago, the Lake Region Conference became the first regional conference with J. G. Dasent duly elected as president. By 1947, the Northeastern, Allegheny, South Atlantic, South Central, Southwest Region, and Central States conferences were organized.

Regional conferences, with Black leadership at every level, became central in the coordination of the Black work from this point on. This new organizational configuration facilitated a period of unprecedented evangelism, leadership experience, and promotion of initiatives. It allowed for new types of intra-conference and inter-conference mobility in the Black work. In one decade, Black membership grew from 20,000 to 70,000.

One of the first advances of the newly formed Lake Region Conference was the purchase of land for a camp ground in Cassopolis, Michigan. Camp Wagoner has provided opportunities for countless children and young people to experience Christian camp life. It has become the central camp meeting place and youth camp for Black members throughout the Lake Union. It's recent development and expansion has made it an attractive retreat for many churches and schools throughout the union.



Robert Carter, former Lake Union Conference president, was the first Black union president in North America.

A number of Black administrators developed their leadership skills in the Lake Region Conference, including Charles Bradford, former president of the Seventh-day

Adventist Church in North America. Most recently, Adventist-Laymen Services and Industries (ASI) elected Debbie Young, from Ypsilanti, Michigan, as its president—the first woman and the first Black person to hold this office.

The development of the Black work was the providential outworking of God's plan for Adventists to take the gospel to all the world. From its beginning, God designed that the Seventh-day Adventist Church be multicultural and inclusive of all people. There is cause for celebration because progress in this area was the result of the combined effort of the entire church.



Charles Bradford, a former Lake Region Conference president, later served as the North American Division president.

Although we still have a long way to go, we can't help but notice that God has blessed His church by providing the Lake Union with a gifted leader—it's second African-American president and a grandson of a former slave from Kentucky—in the person of Walter Wright.

The world is waiting to see an organizational model of the kind of love and unity Christ spoke about in John 17:22: "That they may be one, even as we are one."

1. Manuscript Releases, vol. 17, p. 96.

This article was adapted by Gary Burns, Lake Union Conference communication director, from "In Search of Roots" a four-part series on the history of the work among African-Americans by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, written by Delbert Baker, president of Oakwood College, and MESSAGE Magazine Special Supplement, Vol. 60, No. 3, May/June 1995, used with permission.



SISTERS IN SERVICE

ELLEN WHITE'S INFLUENCE ON SELECTED BLACK FEMALE CONTEMPORARIES

BY ROSA TAYLOR BANKS

Ellen Gould Harmon White lived in a man's world. Yet from her first vision in 1844 to her death in 1915, she ministered to both men and women of all races, encouraging them to invest their talents in gospel service.

While thousands of women must have been influenced by the prophet, the names of only 323 surface in the church's major biographies and indexes. All but three were Caucasian.

But Ellen White inspired Black women, too. She saw in them a reservoir of talent and ability needed to round out the church's employment and volunteer service forces. To pave the way for greater consideration of Black workers, she exhorted Adventists to their duty to the "colored people." Her efforts and writings inspired a widespread mission enterprise in the South, resulting in the development of Black male, and later female, involvement in the spreading of the Advent message.

Sadly, most of their involvement was not recorded. From the album of history we see only a few snapshots of Black women achievers.

SOJOURNER TRUTH

Perhaps the most popular Black woman of all time was Sojourner Truth. Born as Isabella Van Wagener around 1797 in Ulster County, New York, she was the first woman of African ancestry to see and know the prophet up close.

Though Sojourner Truth was more than 30 years older than Ellen White, the two had much in common. Both spoke out about temperance, abolition, and equal rights. Both were leading dress reformers (though Sojourner Truth's focus in regard to fashionable dress was not the same as Ellen White's).¹

Both were sought-after speakers in church and in public settings. Sojourner Truth spoke at least twice at the 1843 Millerite camp meeting in New England, a year before Ellen White had her first vision. Twelve years later both were frequent speakers at the Battle Creek (Michigan) Sanitarium, the 4,000-seat Dime Tabernacle, and Battle Creek College. Sojourner visited and spoke so often at the Tabernacle that some associated her attendance with membership.²

Both moved to Michigan within

months of each other. Ellen and James White moved to Battle Creek, Michigan, in November 1855. In 1856 Sojourner Truth moved to Harmonia, Michigan, and later relocated to nearby Battle Creek.

Sojourner Truth and Ellen White had common friends: John Byington, Uriah Smith, Dr. J. H. Kellogg, and other prominent Adventists.³ After Sojourner Truth's death on November 26, 1883, in Battle Creek, one of several memorial services was held at the Battle Creek Tabernacle. After Ellen White's death on July 16, 1915, the last of her three funeral services was held at the Tabernacle. Both women were laid to rest in the Oak Hill Cemetery of Battle Creek, though some 32 years apart.

JENNIE B. ALLISON

Jennie B. Allison was also a friend of Ellen White's. Born in 1858 near Edgefield Junction, Tennessee, Jennie is documented as the first Black woman to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A member of a Black company of believers organized in 1886 in Edgefield Junction, she attended church with Caucasians as early as 1883.

Ellen White occasionally visited



Ellen G. White's efforts and writings inspired widespread missions in the South resulting in Black involvement in the spreading of the Advent message.



Sojourner Truth, one of the most popular Black women of all time, was a frequent speaker at the Battle Creek (Michigan) Sanitarium, the Dime Tabernacle, and at Battle Creek College.



Anna Knight was the first Black female Adventist Church employee and the first Black female missionary to India.

the Allison home,⁴ where they discussed personal and private matters. Following one of those counseling occasions, Jennie took the prophet's advice and encouraged her son to move from Chicago to Tennessee. Later, after leaving the glamour and glitter of big-city life, her son became an Adventist minister. Though Jennie was never a church employee, she was a faithful volunteer in the local church.

ETTA LITTLEJOHN

A convert of Edson White's Morning Star boat mission and one of the first 16 students to enroll in 1896 at Oakwood Industrial School (now Oakwood College), Etta Littlejohn was Ellen White's caregiver. According to Mervyn Warren, Oakwood College provost, Etta became one of the sanitarium students assigned to care for Ellen White. The fledgling nursing student felt privileged to care for her church's prophetess, and Sister White must have been pleased to see evidence that the inspired counsel she shared on working for Blacks was bearing excellent results.⁵ Etta later married a Seventh-day Adventist minister, Robert Lee Bradford, and used her talents to instill Christian principles in her children while serving the church any way she could.

LOTTIE ISABELL BLAKE

Another friend of Ellen White's was Lottie Isabell Blake, M.D., the first Black Adventist physician. Born

on June 10, 1876, in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, Lottie Blake labored as the director of Rock City Sanitarium in Nashville, Tennessee, the forerunner of Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital.

According to her grandson, Paul Brantley, a former professor of education at Andrews University, Dr. Blake's treatments involved natural remedies patterned after those used by Dr. J. Harvey Kellogg. The sanitarium became so widely respected that Ellen White came there for treatment of a knee problem.

Among her many other contributions to the church, Dr. Lottie Blake organized the first nurses' training program at Oakwood College in 1903.

OTHER NOTABLES

Three other Black women achievers are believed to have known or been influenced by Ellen White. The first is Anna Knight, the first Black female missionary to India (1901), the first Black female employee of the church (1909), and one of the champions of Christian education.

The second is Rosetta Douglass Sprague, daughter of the prominent emancipator Frederick Douglass, with whom Sojourner Truth occasionally shared the platform. Baptized in 1883, Rosetta held membership in Washington, D.C., and is reported to be among the first Black female converts to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The third is Mary Britton, a

classmate of Dr. Lottie Blake's at the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University). Britton was editor of a newspaper, *The Standard*, which promoted vegetarianism and health care.

These contemporaries of Ellen White's represent the many unsung Black heroes of the nineteenth century. We may never be able to document their contributions to the church, but we take comfort in knowing that in the kingdom of heaven the full story will be told.

1. Carleton Mabee, *Sojourner Truth: Slave, Prophet, Legend* (New York: New York University Press, 1993), p. 192.

2. The report that Sojourner Truth was baptized by Uriah Smith into Adventist Church membership has been both affirmed and denied by old-time Battle Creek residents. Although we know she was a Sabbath-keeper and frequently attended the Battle Creek Tabernacle, there is no way to confirm her membership because church records were destroyed by fire.

3. Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1976), p. 1503.

4. Louis B. Reynolds, *We Have Tomorrow* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1984), p. 110.

5. Mervyn Warren, "The Legacy of Etta Littlejohn," *Adventist Review*, May 24, 1990, p. 15.

Rosa Taylor Banks is the associate secretary and director of the Office of Human Relations for the North American Division. This article is reprinted with permission from the May 30, 1996, issue of the Adventist Review.



Lottie Isabell Blake was the first Black Adventist physician.



Mary E. Britton, a classmate of Lottie Blake's at the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University) was editor of a newspaper which promoted vegetarianism and health care.

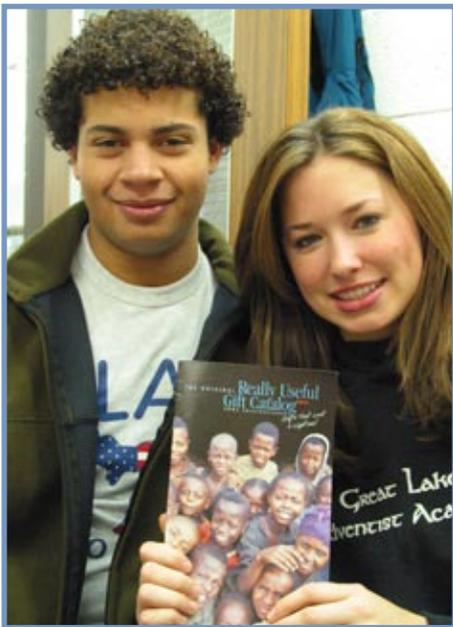


Etta Littlejohn Bradford was a convert of Edson White's Morning Star boat mission and one of the first 16 students to enroll in 1896 at Oakwood Industrial School.

GLAA Students Give Really Useful Gifts

Michigan—Every year the Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA) student association (SA) does a Christmas project to help the less fortunate. As they were searching for ideas, an *ADRA Really Useful Gift Catalog* arrived in the mail. It included many different ways to donate money to the needy across the world. Students could choose to give for specific needs. Gifts ranged from as low as one dollar to as high as \$3,800 and included gifts such as feeding one child for a day in Haiti, helping poor Mongolian families sell chicken eggs to earn an income, preventing blindness in one child through vitamin A capsules, and many more.

When our SA sponsors and officers saw this, they thought it would be a great idea for their Christmas project. Rachel Hopkins, SA president, presented the idea to the students before Thanksgiving break so they could share the project with their parents and relatives.



Ian Holt, senior, and Alaina Elder, junior, hold ADRA's Really Useful Gift Catalog.

When students returned after Thanksgiving, SA sponsors and officers visited the dorms to collect the donations. In the boys' dorm, over \$500 was donated within 30 minutes.

“Boys were swarming the table to give their money. It was so amazing, because they weren't doing this to get anything for themselves. They were there to give to others,” said Jason Boothby.

The girls' dorm also had good results. Kendra Knudson donated money to send a girl to vocational school. “For only \$10 I sent a girl to school. Something so little was able to change a girl's life for the better,” she said.

One student who works at the bookstore was

looking through a particularly old book when a one hundred dollar bill fell into his lap. He went and told his boss what he had found and was told that he could keep it. Instead of keeping it for himself, he donated it to the ADRA gift program.

In all, 148 students donated \$1,513.70 for ADRA.

Alaina Elder, GLAA junior



These Au Sable campers programmed their robot to overcome obstacles.

Legos—An Effective Teaching Tool

Michigan—Challenge, intrigue, unexpected turns and twists, suspense! No, this isn't a television program. These are all things that students involved in Lego robotics find when they are given a challenge to solve.

In a Lego Robotics Challenge, students are given a problem and asked to build a robot to solve that problem. Beginning with the RCX “Brick” which is the main control, students add motors, sensors, gears, wheels, treads, arms, and other items to build robots that accomplish the tasks before them. Then, with the help of team mates, the robot is connected to a computer by an infrared connection and programmed using a simple graphical, drag-and-drop system to tell it what to do.

Last year I started exploring how to get more schools involved in Lego robotics. I began by planning and conducting a one-week Lego Robotics Challenge training for teachers to be held at Camp Au Sable. When Garry Sudds, Lake Union Conference associate superintendent of education, heard about the plans, he was excited and offered to help financially and to get teachers involved from all across the Lake Union. As a result of the training

provided last summer, more schools are now using Lego robotics to teach physics, engineering, math, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

Lego Robotics Challenges have been around for over five years, but many Adventist small schools and home schools found it difficult to participate due to the size of teams needed, the cost (about \$200 for a kit), and Sabbath observance. Now for the first time, a Lego league specifically designed for Adventist schools, home schools, and Pathfinder clubs is underway.

With support from the Lake Union and North American Division offices of education, the Michigan Conference information technology department is launching the Adventist Lego League. The Adventist Lego League will provide opportunities for participation for students from the first grade through college and university, thereby linking our elementary, secondary, and university systems to accomplish a common goal.



Students at the Holland Elementary School explore how to program a robot to follow a line.

The first North American Division Adventist Lego League Challenge will take place, Monday, May 3, at Andrews University. Details and information about the league and the challenge can be found at www.adventistlegoleague.net.

Mel Wade, Michigan Conference information technology director

Sharing the Christmas Spirit

Michigan —Battle Creek Academy (BCA) students planned several activities during the holiday season to share the love of Jesus with area children. Ronie Fogg, campus ministries director, arranged for 24 community children with special needs to be invited to BCA for a Christmas party. The children were adopted by individual BCA students, who spent their time during the two-hour party entertaining their adopted



Battle Creek Academy seventh- and eighth-graders shared God's love with their adopted family.

Christmas children. They played games, enjoyed good food, sang Christmas songs, watched a Christmas movie, and each child received a present.

Wafiya Foote's seventh- and eighth-grade class also celebrated the true meaning of Christmas by adopting a local family and planning a very special holiday treat. The students invited the family to the academy to enjoy an afternoon of food and fun. With money raised by their class, the students planned and prepared a delicious Christmas dinner and purchased gifts for the family. In addition, the students were able to send them home with a carload of food staples for their pantry.

Bonnie Velez's witnessing class and Pathfinder



These special-needs community children were delighted by the Battle Creek Academy-sponsored children's Christmas party.

group spread some holiday cheer of their own to area families. They prepared about 35 Christmas food baskets with all the makings of a delicious holiday meal, complete with homemade Christmas cookies, baked and decorated by the Pathfinders.

Michelle Cain, Battle Creek Academy public relations director

Planned Giving Blesses Donors and Recipient Ministries

Michigan—Joseph VanSlaten* learned to love God in a Christian home in western Michigan. When he discovered the three angel's messages of Revelation 14, he was thrilled to join the Advent movement. Over the years, he gave his energies, tithes, and offerings to promote God's work. At his death, he left his property to his sister, with clear direction that she should help finish God's work on earth with his estate.

As time went by, Joseph's sister decided it would be good to benefit the Lord's work during her lifetime. She shared her thoughts with her pastor, who advised her to contact the Michigan Conference planned giving and trust services department. With their assistance,



Lyle Davis, Michigan Conference trust services associate director, helps Adventists plan the distribution of their estates.

she was able to donate a large portion of the property to the Michigan Conference, which in turn distributed the nearly \$200,000 in proceeds to the charities of her choice.

Hope for the Homeland, her local church, *It Is Written*, and 3ABN benefited from the gift. By using the church's organized plan, Joseph's sister avoided capital gains tax, had a sizable tax deduction on her

taxes, and gave the Lord's work an exciting boost. Many will be in God's kingdom because of this kind, generous, and well-planned gift.

Acts chapter 2 describes the spectacular way the church began with sacrificial giving on the part of many believers. We should expect the work to finish in a greater blaze of glory than at its beginning. As members, pastors, and other conference workers team up to spread the gospel, we can expect God to pour out His richest blessings.

*a pseudonym

Lyle Davis, Michigan Conference trust services associate director

Westmont Korean Church Welcomes New Members

Illinois—The Westmont (Ill.) Korean Church welcomed their newest members—four by baptism, and one by profession of faith.

Won Sook and Almando Park had been faithful Christians and members of the Full Gospel Church for many years. Through their mother-in-law's death, they became acquainted with Adventists and began Bible studies. As their father-in-law faithfully prayed for them, the Holy Spirit blessed their studies. When they completed their lessons, they chose to be baptized and join the Adventist Church fellowship.



From left: (front row) Jin Woo Han, Grace Moon, Won Sook and Almando Park. (second row) Jeremy Kwon, Westmont Korean Church pastor.

Grace Moon had contact with Adventists for many years, and during those times she was faithfully prayed for by the church family. Providentially, Jeremy Kwon, pastor, began having Bible studies with her and helped her to fully understand Christ's gracious gift of salvation by faith, which led to her baptism.

Jin Woo Han started attending the Westmont Korean Church at the urging of a friend, and faithfully attended for a full year. During that time, he joined Pastor Kwon's Bible studies with Grace Moon. Through his friend's prayers, encouragement, and spiritual guidance, he also requested baptism.

These new members have caused the Westmont Korean Church to rejoice and look forward to their *Hope for Our Day* evangelistic outreach.

Jeremy Kwon, Westmont Korean Church pastor, with Bruce Babienco, Lake Union Herald volunteer correspondent



Sue, Derek, and Dylan Tent, Novi Company members, rake leaves and clean up the yard as volunteers for a Christmas in April project.

Christmas in April

Michigan —Members of the Novi New Beginnings Company used the Christmas in April program to not only reach out to an elderly resident in need, but also to establish recognition for our mission and beliefs in the community.

More than 15 members of the Novi Company joined together on Sunday, May 4, 2003, to help an older woman who needed assistance maintaining her house. This project was conducted as a part of the Christmas in April organization. Christmas in April is a national organization that repairs and rehabilitates the homes of the elderly, disabled, or low-income people through an all-volunteer, barn-raising event. The organization exemplifies the concept of neighbor helping neighbor.

Novi members expressed interest in the program, so Gordon Fellows, a Novi member who has also volunteered in Washtenaw County, spoke with the Oakland County organizers. Typically, the Christmas in April program is held on the Saturday after Easter.



Dave Cischke uses his electrical skills to fix a kitchen light for the woman we were assigned to help.

Although this date is usually in April, this year's late Easter pushed the event into May. On this day, groups sponsored by businesses, churches, and service organizations go into their communities and tackle multiple projects.

Gordon contacted the group and asked if our church could participate on Sunday. They were happy to accommodate our beliefs and arranged for a project that could be completed on Sunday.

We organized the volunteers to use their special talents to do projects on a woman's house that she could not do herself. An electrician fixed light fixtures, while a tile expert worked to improve the bathroom with new tile. Volunteers also fixed the woman's back deck. Others worked to give the house a thorough cleaning, both inside and out. Brush was removed, leaves raked, and walls and fixtures scrubbed. At the end of the day, the house was in great shape, and the Novi volunteers had impressed at least one person with their dedication to help meet her needs.

If your church is interested in getting involved, call the Oakland County Chapter at (248) 889-5450. They will provide contact information for your local organizer.

Nathan Whitaker, Novi Company member and Columbia University law student

Wisconsin ABC Makes Top 100 List for Christian Retailing

Wisconsin —The Wisconsin Adventist Book Center (ABC), based in Sun Prairie, Wis., made the list of Top 100 stores for 2003 by *Christian Retailing*, the industry's trade journal. It ranked number 82 on the list and was the only Adventist book store to make the Top 100 listing from their 2003 survey.

Christian Retailing surveyed hundreds of Christian retail stores, evaluating sales figures, store size, and other criteria. Not all of the stores in the Christian retail industry choose to participate in this survey. In fact, the Potomac Adventist Book and Health Store, which has sat atop the list since 1993, declined to participate this year, says Larry Leech, *Christian Retailing* editor.

Rick Claus, Wisconsin ABC manager, is excited about making the Top 100 list. "We were happy to be among the Top 100 Christian stores for 2003, and hope this will bring awareness to our Adventist Book Centers across the country. It's nice to know that smaller stores can be recognized, and that ABCs are Christian bookstores also," says Claus.

"The Christian booksellers market has been hit hard by the nearly two-year-long recession. More than an estimated 200 stores have closed in the last two years alone in an industry with just over 8,000 stores," reports Leech, "but Christian retailers are still alive and strong, and the industry's overall annual revenue is growing."

The Wisconsin ABC is owned by Pacific Press Publishing Association (PPPA), along with 19 other ABCs throughout North America.

Nicole Batten, Pacific Press Publishing Association director of publicity/public relations

Sow 1 Billion

“Sow 1 Billion” is a world-wide project to distribute one billion brochures around the world inviting people to study the Bible. The scope of “Sow 1 Billion” is unprecedented. With an average of four people per household worldwide, there’s a potential for these one billion brochures to reach nearly two-thirds of the world’s population. A mere 0.5 percent response rate will result in five million requests for Bible studies.

The North American Division’s (NAD) part of that project will be to send 25 million throughout the division territory. Names of people who respond will be referred to a local church where a Discover Bible School is being conducted.

Between 100,000–180,000 invitations were printed and distributed in nine test markets. The final printing of 25 million invitations was to be ready by January 2004.

“Go 1 Million” is a North American Division (NAD) project to train a million people to be able to give Bible studies and hold evangelistic meetings. It will be coordinated by Debra Brill, NAD vice president for ministries. If there is only a one percent response rate to NAD’s 25 million “Sow 1 Billion” invitations, we will need enough Bible study schools to handle 250,000

responses. There are 2,400 Discover Bible Schools currently in operation.

Churches that want to learn to run a Discover Bible School should contact Kurt Johnson at kurtjohnson@vop.com. A Discover Bible School can choose which Bible lessons (*Voice of Prophecy* or any other) they prefer to offer.

To learn more about this unique world-wide outreach, go to: www.Sow1Billion.org.



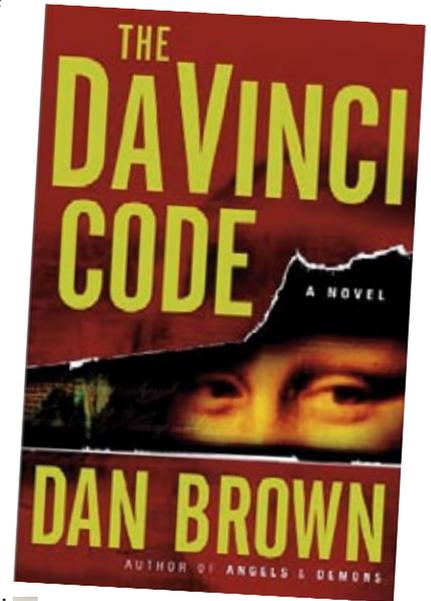
One billion invitations to study the Bible will be distributed throughout the world the “Sow 1 Billion” outreach initiative.

Popular New Novel Explains Sabbath Change

The DaVinci Code by Dan Brown (2003, Doubleday) is a new novel that is getting a lot of attention in the media for a variety of reasons. In addition to mixing odd-ball historical fiction with a quasi-mystery plot, it addresses a serious topic: the rise in popularity of pre-Christian, European pagan beliefs in our increasingly post-Christian era. Buried in this 450-page story is a clear statement about the change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

This book presents the traditional idea that Constantine was the key player, ignoring more recent research by scholars, such as Bacciocchi. It is interesting to find this statement in popular culture: “Originally ... Christianity honored the Jewish Sabbath of Saturday, but Constantine shifted it to coincide with the pagan’s veneration day of the sun. ... To this day, most churchgoers attend services on Sunday morning with no idea that they are there on account of the pagan sun god’s weekly tribute—Sun-day” (pages 232–233).

Monte Sahlin, Center for Creative Ministry board chair, says this illustrates an important trend. “Post modern popular culture is breaking down old prejudices from the popular culture of the past that has been dominated by traditional Christian ideas. Now, non-standard ideas, such as our teachings about the Sabbath, are given equal shelf-space with the established ideas in the marketplace of ideas. This is increasingly true for new generations which find it easier to believe our presentation of the Sabbath than did their parents and grandparents. Of course,” Sahlin continues, “new generations have different prejudices. They tend to distrust organized religion. The highly bureaucratic corporate structure of the Adventist Church is a much bigger barrier to belief than the Sabbath or other traditional testing truths.”



Paul Richardson, Center for Creative Ministry director

MILEPOSTS

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 luc.adventist.org/herald/herald-submit.html. Conference addresses and phone numbers are in the masthead on page 39.

ANNIVERSARIES



EDWIN F. AND ELSIE L. BUCK celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 6, 2003, by being honored with receptions with friends and a joyous family dinner in Wausau, Wis. They have been members of Pioneer Memorial Church (Mich.) for 40 years.

Edwin Buck and Elsie Landon were married June 6, 1943, in Berrien Springs, Mich., by Pastor Walter Straw. Edwin has been a teacher, pastor, evangelist, and inventor before his retirement in the 1990s. Elsie has been a music educator, a member of Andrews University Board of Trustees as well as serving on many other committees and boards, and chair of the committee for the restoration of Sutherland House on the Andrews University campus before her retirement in the 1990s. The Bucks spent many years in evangelism in India, and are world travelers. They also keep very active in their church.

The Buck family includes Patricia and Frank Dominguez of Chapel Hill, N.C.; Edwin L. and Linda Buck of Gwinn, Mich.; Elizabeth and David Zumbunnen of Seneca, S.C.; and five grandchildren.

J. PARKER AND WAUSTELLA LAURENCE celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 16, 2003,



by a brunch sponsored by the Summit Ridge Church, Harrah, Okla. They were members of the Niles (Mich.) Westside Church for three years.

Parker Laurence and Waustella Rickmon were married Nov. 21, 1943, in Cassopolis, Mich., by H.W. Kibble Sr. Parker has been a pastor in the Lake Union, and a teacher in Michigan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Waustella worked as a nurse in Michigan, and also was a part-time nurse and teacher's assistant in Africa.

WEDDINGS

CYNTHIA A. DOOLIN AND F. BRIAN STEPHAN were married Nov. 28, 2003, in Lansing, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Michael Nickless.

Cynthia is the daughter of Stanley and Eleanor Wegrzyn of Lansing, and Brian is the son of Fred and Sylvia Stephan of Berrien Springs, Mich.

The Stephans are making their home in Grand Ledge, Mich.

OBITUARIES

ANDERSON, AGNES M. (JONES), age 81; born May 12, 1922, in British Columbia, Canada; died Nov. 21, 2003, in Waipahu, Hawaii. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Bernard; daughter,

Connie Severin; brother, Bert Jones; sisters, Lily Whitehead and Gwladys Andrews; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Douglas Waterhouse, and interment was in Mililani Memorial Park Cemetery, Waipahu.

BIGGS, VIRGINIA (ANDERSON), age 83; born Apr. 30, 1920, in Hayti, Mo.; died Dec. 6, 2003, in Niles, Mich. She was a member of the Buchanan (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Walter L. Jr., Larry, and Mike; daughters, Barbara Bailey, Joann Hunter, and Valdo Skinner; half brothers, Bob and Denver Meek; sister, Leatha Bell; half sisters, Bonnie Coppock, Shirley Morgan, and Brenda Glass; 17 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Sheldon Seltzer and David Tenold, and interment was in Silverbrook Cemetery, Niles.

BRANTLEY, MAXINE (HAMILTON), age 92; born July 12, 1911, in Alameda, Calif.; died July 26, 2003, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her son, Bruce; daughters, Marsha Horton and Brenda Brantley; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Robert Tolson, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

BYARD, LUELLEN (GRAHAM), age 92; born May 12, 1911, in Antrim Cty., Mich.; died Aug. 3, 2003, in Mancelona, Mich. She was a member of the Central Lake (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Donald and Roscoe; daughters, Betty Hanson and Kay Anger; 22 grandchildren; 50 great-grandchildren; and 16 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were

conducted by Pastor George Dronen, and interment was in Fairview Cemetery, Mancelona.

CUMMINGS, RUTH (RILEY) WITZEL, age 76; born Oct. 16, 1927, in Milwaukee, Wis.; died Nov. 3, 2003, in Janesville, Wis. She was a member of the Milton (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Errol W. Witzel, Timothy Witzel, Robert Cummings, and James Cummings; daughter, Lois A. Stern; brother, Rodney Riley; sisters, Claire Waagen, Nellie Steele, and Barbara Bender; 13 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Wendell Springer, and interment was in Milton Junction Cemetery, Milton.

DYER, FRED, age 90; born Jan. 2, 1913, in Lick Creek, W.Va.; died Nov. 16, 2003, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Mercedes (Habenicht); sons, William Sanders and Dennis Dyer; brother, Curtis; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Skip MacCarty, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

KNAPP, HARRY, age 89; born Feb. 3, 1913, in Horton Bay, Mich.; died Nov. 19, 2002, in Boyne City, Mich. He was a member of the Boyne City Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mabel (Stone); sons, Ralph, Steve, and Ronald; daughter, Kay Brochette; sister, Ora Baker; 12 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor George Dronen, with private inurnment.

LIDNER, IRMA B. (BERNER), age 92; born Dec. 11, 1910, in Kalmar, Sweden; died Oct. 29,

2003, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her stepson, Victor H. Lidner; daughters, Lauri N. Wood and Cherry B. Habenicht; 11 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Richard G. Habenicht, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

MAYOR, WILMA L. (CESARIO), age 74; born May 27, 1929, in Detroit, Mich.; died Nov. 15, 2003, in Bridgman, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Raymond L.; son, David L.; daughter, Laura L. Walter; sister, Theresa Wohlfeil; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Dwight Nelson and Esther Knott, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

SAGE, LEONA M. (PARKER), age 89; born Apr. 17, 1914, in Milford, Mich.; died Oct. 23, 2003, in Marais, Minn. She was a member of the First Flint (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Jonathan and Ron; and daughter, Karen Shovels.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Kenneth E. Sharp, and interment was in Ottawa Park Cemetery, Waterford, Mich.

SCRANTON, DENNIS D., age 46; born June 17, 1957, in Olney, Ill.; died Aug. 10, 2003, in Fairfield, Ill. He was a member of the Noble (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Tracy L. (Woolege); daughters, Sarah Barnfield, Laura Scranton, and Corinne Scranton; father, Paul Scranton; mother, Juanita A. (Foll) Penrod; brothers, Kenneth and Kevin; stepbrother, Kevin Penrod; step sister, Tammy Penrod; half sister, Kendra Priddy; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Tom

Ferguson, and interment was in Greenhills Cemetery, Noble.

SMITH SR., HERMAN L., age 71; born Nov. 8, 1932, in Altona, Mich.; died Nov. 28, 2003, in Lansing, Mich. He was a member of the Ionia (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mary M. (Little); son, Herman Jr.; daughters, Sharon Decker, Penny Martin, Cindy Owen, and Brenda Moore; brother, Melvin R.; sisters, Betty Lawrence and Mary Ann Risk; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Karl Tsatalbasidis, and interment was in Tuttle Cemetery, Ionia.

STAFFORD, BESSIE B. (BAILEY), age 75; born June 20, 1928, in Onaway, Mich.; died Oct. 10, 2003, in Cheboygan, Mich. She was a member of the Cheboygan Church.

Survivors include her sons, Harold W. and Donald L.; daughters, Pauline D.

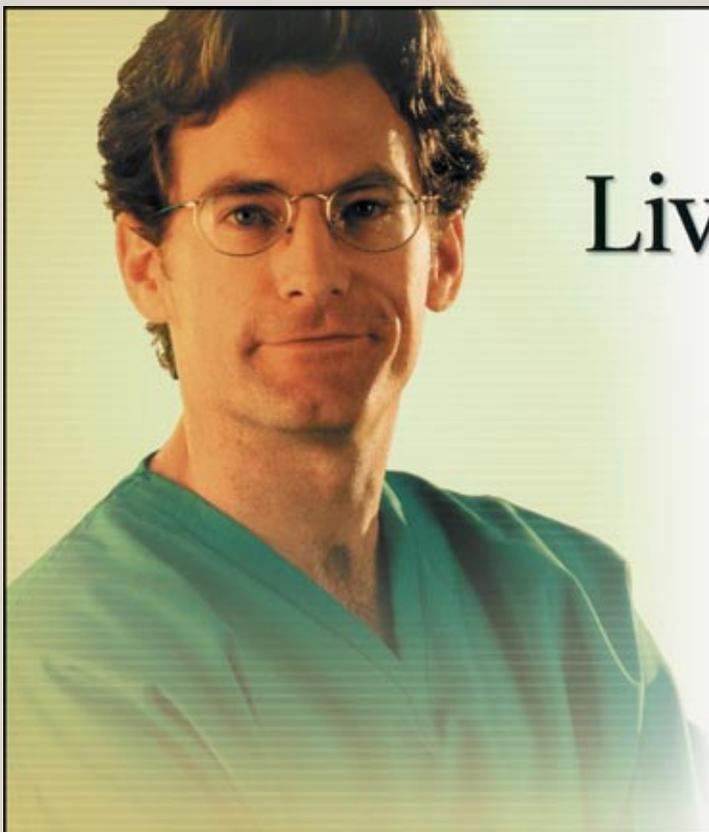
Schoolcraft, Heidi L. Rief, and Elaine M. Thompson; 13 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Greg Timmins, and interment was in Pinehill Cemetery, Cheboygan.

WOOLEVER, DOROTHY J. (KRANER) HILL, age 75; born Apr. 1, 1928, in Lansing, Mich.; died Oct. 21, 2003, in Montoursville, Pa. She had been a member of Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Donald A.; stepsons, Kendall Hill, Mark Woolever, and Glenn Woolever; daughter, Deborah Burlingame; stepdaughter, Judy Zimmerman; brother, Douglas Kraner; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Dwight Nelson, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.



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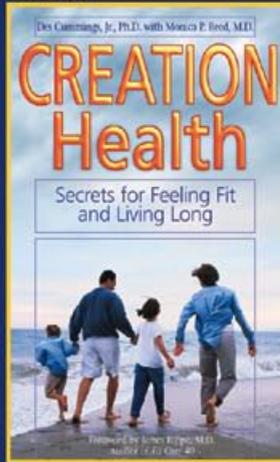
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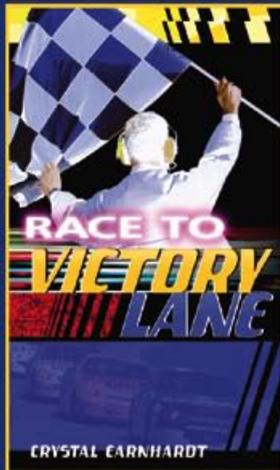
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10-DAY SCANDINAVIAN/RUSSIAN CRUISE for health professionals, families/friends, July 12-22, 2004. Includes Denmark, Estonia, Russia, Finland, Sweden, and Germany. Earn 10 hours continuing education credit from LLU schools of medicine/dentistry. CME credit, call (909) 558-4968; CDE credit, call (909) 558-4685; cruise only, call University Travel at (800) 362-3389 or e-mail: utravel@carlsontravel.com.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks accounting teacher beginning July 1, 2004. Ph.D. in accounting required. Commitment to research essential. Ranking based on academic qualifications and experience. Adventists submit résumé to: Dr. Leonard Gashugi, Chair, Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance, School of Business, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0024; or e-mail: gashugi@andrews.edu.

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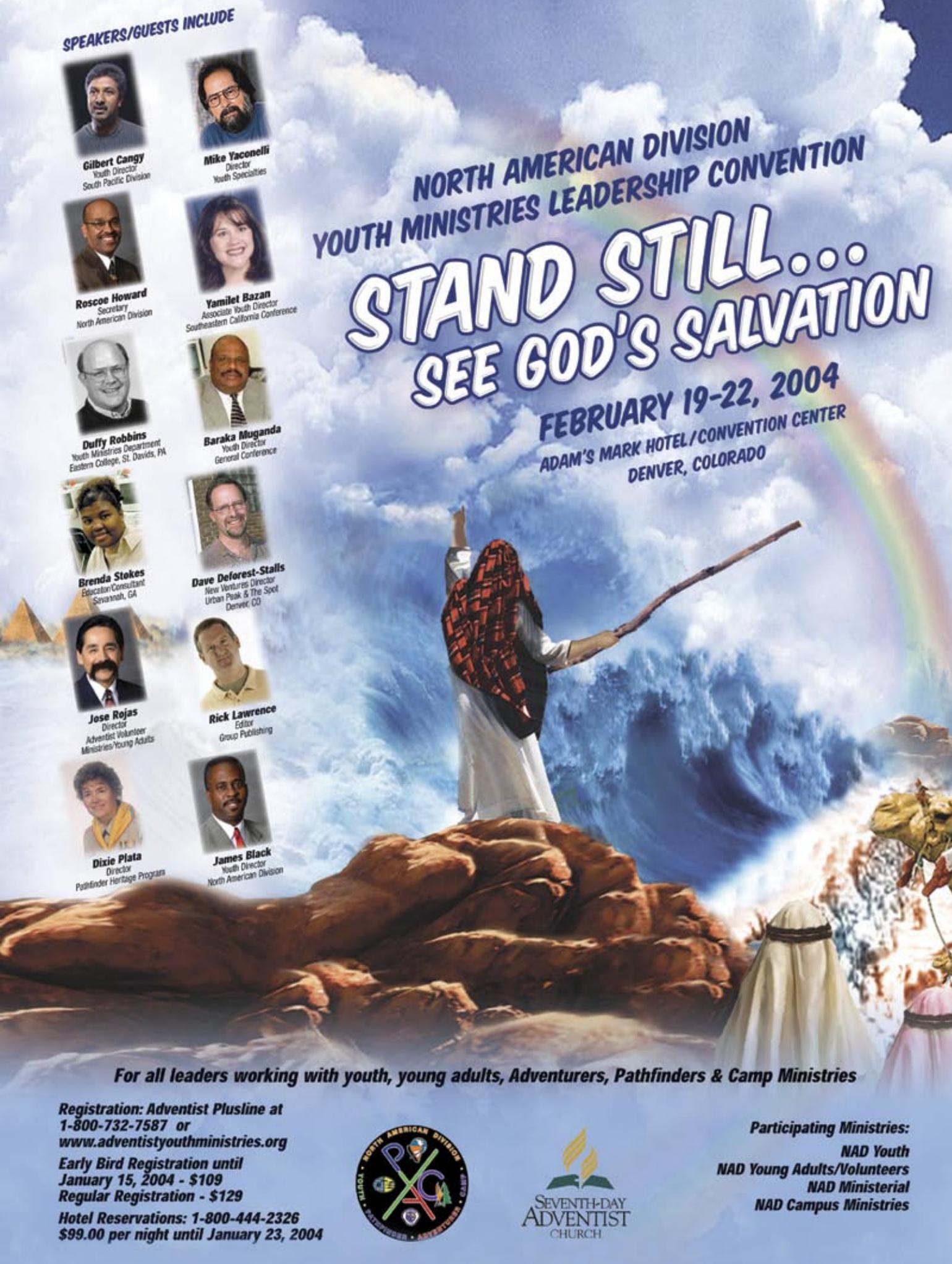


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UNION COLLEGE seeks to fill tenure-track position with qualified Adventist nursing instructor, beginning summer 2004. Experience in management, leadership, and nursing research preferred. Doctorate with teaching experience preferred, MSN with teaching and/or professional experience required. Submit résumé to Jeff Joiner, Nursing Program Director, Union College, 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or e-mail: jejoiner@ucollege.edu.

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY seeks chair of archives/special collections, and director for

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks an Adventist biologist/educator committed to involvement in undergraduate student learning and research

Lake Union Conference Tithe Comparison Year-to-date

48 Sabbaths ending November 30, 2003, compared to 48 Sabbaths ending October 30, 2002

Number of Members:			Average Tithe Per Member		Increase -Decrease	% Inc. -Decr.	Average Tithe Per Member	
09/30/03	09/30/02	Conference	2003	2002			2003	2002
12,449	12,101	Illinois	760,020	786,912	-26,892	-3.42%	61.05	65.03
6,673	66,540	Indiana	593,480	611,129	-17,649	-2.89%	88.94	93.44
26,574	25,903	Lake Region	1,183,277	861,286	321,990	37.38%	44.53	33.25
24,552	24,362	Michigan	2,492,297	2,384,151	108,145	4.54%	101.51	97.86
6,644	6,494	Wisconsin	548,149	569,396	-21,247	-3.73%	82.50	87.68
76,892	75,400	Totals	\$5,577,223	\$5,212,875	\$364,348	6.99%	\$72.53	\$69.14
Average Weekly Tithe:			\$1,109,547	\$1,090,955	\$18,592	1.70%		

Sunset Calendar

	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Mar 5	Mar 12
Berrien Springs, Mich.	6:04	6:13	6:22	6:31	6:41	6:49
Chicago	5:10	5:19	5:27	5:36	5:46	5:54
Detroit	5:50	5:59	6:08	6:17	6:27	6:35
Indianapolis	6:08	6:16	6:24	6:32	6:41	6:49
La Crosse, Wis.	5:20	5:29	5:39	5:48	5:59	6:08
Lansing, Mich.	5:53	6:02	6:12	6:22	6:32	6:41
Madison, Wis.	5:14	5:23	5:32	5:41	5:52	6:01
Springfield, Ill.	5:22	5:30	5:38	5:46	5:55	6:02

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks communication professor. Doctorate in communication field strongly preferred; ABD and MA with significant relevant experience considered. Please send CV/ résumé to Volker Henning, Dean, School of Journalism and Communication, Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN 37315. Fax: (423) 238-3159; e-mail: materials to: henning@southern.edu. For more information, call (423) 238-2733.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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* Web site at luc.adventist.org/herald/herald-submit.html 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

Feb. 1–3rd annual Winterfest; **2—**Viola recital, featuring Isaac Sinnett, Howard Performing Arts Center, 2:00 p.m., free admission; **21—**"Touring the Isles," Andrews University Symphony Orchestra, Howard Performing Arts Center, 8:00 p.m., free admission; **25–28—**Lake Union music festival; **25—**Music festival showcase recital, Howard Performing Arts Center, 8:00 p.m., free admission; **26—**Music festival invitational recital, Howard Performing Arts Center, 8:00 p.m., free admission; **27—**Vespers concert, Howard

Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.; **28—**Choral and orchestra festival concert, Howard Performing Arts Center, 4:00 p.m., free admission; **27–29—**Black history weekend; **28—**Faculty recital, featuring Peter Cooper, piano, and Carla Trynchuk, violin, Howard Performing Arts Center, 8:00 p.m., free admission; **29—**Piano recital, featuring Aseneta Schwartz, Howard Performing Arts Center, 4:00 p.m., free admission; **29—**Voice recital, featuring Carey Pearson, Howard Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m., free admission.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP TRAINING:

Mar. 25–27 will mark the first annual Andrews University Music and Worship Conference, sponsored by the university's Department of Music and Center for Youth Evangelism. Hosted on the university campus, this conference is a training event for pro-fessional and volunteer church musicians, pastors, and lay leaders. Participants will have access to a variety of seminars, workshops, and concerts. For more information, go to www.musicconference.andrews.edu, or contact Nicholas Zork at nickz@andrews.edu or (800) YOUTH-2-U ext. 3.

SPRING MISSION TRIPS:

Looking for an affordable domestic mission trip for your youth group, Pathfinder club, or senior class? Contact *We Care* Domestic Mission Trips for information on their **2004 spring and summer** project sites. For more information, go to www.adventistyouth.org/wecare, or call (800) YOUTH-2-U ext. 3.

INDIANA

A PATHFINDER WINTER CAMPOUT will be held **Feb. 13–15**, at Timber Ridge Camp. For further information, call Dean Whitlow at (812) 829-2507, or e-mail dwhitlow@bluemarble.net.

COUPLES RETREAT: To build intimacy in your marriage, register now for a special couples retreat, **Feb. 13–15**, at Timber Ridge Camp. Space is limited. For further information, call Sharon at (317) 844-6201, or e-mail family@indianaadventist.org.

YOUTH RALLY: Youth are invited to the Indiana youth rally, **Feb. 27–29**, sponsored by the Indiana Conference. Guest musicians will be Nick Zork, Greg and Kim Taylor, Andrew Price, and Jonathan Meharry. The weekend speaker will be Matt Gamble from the Washington Conference. Saturday evening, enjoy a great gymnastics program by Andrews University

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Gymnics. For information, call (317) 844-6201, e-mail youth@indianaadventist.org, or visit www.indianaadventist.org.

DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING: Join other disaster response teams at the disaster response training weekend, **Feb. 27-29**, at Timber Ridge Camp. For additional information, call Jose Vazquez at (317) 844-6201, or e-mail communityservices@indianaadventist.org.

WOMEN'S DAY: Ladies, need a break from the winter blues? Join us at Chapel West (3819 S. Mann Rd., Indianapolis) on **Feb. 28**, 9:00 a.m., for an entire day devoted to a woman's perspective. Speakers Carla Gober and Barbara Hernandez will share their insights and inspiration on being a woman in today's world. This free event includes a gourmet lunch, afternoon seminar, and musical concert. Register at www.chapelwestchurch.com, or call (317) 865-7449.

MUSIC FESTIVAL: Academy and elementary students are invited to attend the annual music festival, held at Indiana Academy, **Mar. 4-7**. For further information, contact Sharon at (317) 844-6201.

A HISPANIC LAY TRAINING WEEKEND will take place **Mar. 5-7**, at Timber Ridge Camp. For further information, call Orlando Vazquez at (317) 209-8246, or e-mail yorland@juno.com.

SABBATH CELEBRATION is **Mar. 6**, at Indiana Academy. Music will be provided by the music festival participants. For additional information, call Sheri at (317) 844-6201, or e-mail sdewitt@indianaadventist.org.

IPATI, a Pathfinder training weekend, will be held **Mar. 19-21**, at Timber Ridge Camp. For further information, call Dean Whitlow at (812) 829-2507, or e-mail dwhitlow@blumarble.net.

LAKE UNION

OFFERINGS:

- FEB. 7** Local church budget
- FEB. 14** Adventist Television Ministries
- FEB. 21** Local church budget
- FEB. 28** Local conference advance

SPECIAL DAYS:

- FEB. 1-7** Black History Week
- FEB. 8-14** Christian Home and Marriage Week
- FEB. 21** Health Ministries Sabbath

FLORIDA'S THIRTEENTH ANNUAL LAKE UNION ACADEMIES ALUMNI REUNION will be held on **Mar. 6**, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at Forest Lake Academy. 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 are provided. For more information, please contact the alumni directors at any of the Lake Union academies.

MICHIGAN

VILLAGE ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Berrien Springs, Mich., is beginning an alumni association with its first meeting **spring 2004**. If you attended or graduated from VAES, please send us your name/address/phone/e-mail so we can send you an invitation. Send information to: Village Adventist Elementary School, 409 West Mars Street, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; ggifford@misda.org; (269) 473-5121.

CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY ALUMNI AND STUDENTS: If you are a CLA alumnus of 1954 or earlier, or were in attendance as a student then or previously, this announcement is for you. The second annual post-CLA reunion will take place on the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy (formerly CLA) on the weekend of **June 10-13**. Honor classes will be 1934, '44, and '54. For information, call the GLAA alumni office at (989) 427-5181, or visit GLAA's Web site at www.GLAA.net.

NAD

NORTH AMERICAN AND INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION HEALTH SUMMIT, FEB. 1-7, Hilton Orlando, Altamonte Springs, Fla. Learn cutting-edge methods for preventative health education, discuss health strategies with nationally recognized experts in their fields, and update your classes. If you want to be certified and effective in health education, you'll want to be at this health summit. Twenty seminars, limited enrollment, register early. Special rates available for students and CEUs. Registration: <http://www.plusline.org/> or (800) 732-7587. Hotel reservations: (800) 445-8667.

LASIERRA UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING WEEKEND, FEB. 26-28. All alumni, former faculty, and friends invited. Honor classes include 1994, '84, '79 (25 year), '74, '64, '54 (50 year), and 51 plus years. For more details or reservations, contact the LSU alumni office at (909) 785-2LSU; write to 4700 Pierce St., Riverside, CA 92515; or e-mail: alumni@lasierra.edu.

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL HEALTHY PEOPLE conference will feature a selection of topics of current popular interest to chaplains and ministers as well as health professionals. The conference theme is "Spirituality, Culture, and Health" and will be held **Mar. 9-12**, in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center, Loma Linda University. Keynote speakers include Harold Koenig, Kenneth Pelletier, David Williams, William Strawbridge, Toni Yancey, Carol Easley Allen, Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Neal Krause, and Stephen Post. This conference has been approved for 21 hours of CE credit. For more information and to register, visit our Web site: www.llu.edu/llu/sph/cpe/healthy/index.html; or e-mail Dianne Butler at dbutler@sph.llu.edu.

FIRST ADVENTIST SINGLE ADULT MINISTRIES (ASAM) LEADERSHIP TRAINING: Are you a pastor who wants to minister to single adults or a volunteer single adult ministries leader or helper? Do you want to learn how to launch or expand a single adult ministries in your church, home area, or conference? Then attend the first annual, NAD-sponsored ASAM Leadership Training Conference in Phoenix, Ariz., on **Mar. 25-26**, following the SAM convention taking place on Mar. 22-25. Contact BBabcockASAM@aol.com or LThomasASAM@aol.com, or phone (909) 929-4178 for a brochure or more information on ASAM. Register now for early-bird discounts. www.nadasam.org.

THE QUIET HOUR'S "WINDOWS OF HOPE: PEACE FOR A TROUBLED WORLD." Join hosts Bill and Jackie Tucker as they tackle contemporary themes of stress, depression, coping with tragedy, the silences of God, emotional issues, financial loss, and geopolitical strife, giving the answer to our distress: finding peace only in Jesus Christ. Look for "Windows of Hope" on Christian satellite and cable channels. For information, visit www.thequiethour.org; or call (800) 900-9021 weekdays.

One Voice

Wanted: Creative teens and young adults who have something to say. The *Herald* is looking for stories of faith and challenge written by readers between the ages of 14 and 30.

A \$100 scholarship will be awarded for each published entry. For further information visit www.luc.adventist.org/herald.

It's time that your voice is heard. Send 400 words of hope, inspiration, and challenge to: herald@luc.adventist.org. Place "One Voice" in the subject line.





Smaller Is Better

BY CIERA JENNINGS

I have been a number all my life. It started with the hospital. Before my mother had a chance to name me, the hospital gave me an identity: patient #1483276330. For about three days, that was my total identity. Then came the day when the government discovered my existence. To everyone who knew me, I was Ciera, but to the government, I was a nine digit Social Security number.

After that, I started school, public school. Big public schools. To the administrators, teachers, and students, I was Ciera Jennings, but to the school system as a whole, I was 0030016009, my student ID number. This number encompassed my entire educational identity. I was not a person, but a mere file among many other files of my type. I was identified as just another folder that was to be uniformly filled with the same documents as the next one behind me. This was Ciera Jennings for 13 years of my life. That is, until I escaped.

When I got the chance, I ran as fast as I could from my institution of mind poisoning, to the small, yet loving arms of a school that was blessed by my God. I was finally

part of the majority, instead of the minority as I had been before. I am loved. I am cared for, and most of all, I am free.

Free to ask questions, free to seek extra help if I need it. Free to sleep at night. Free to eat lunch at school instead of going hungry because I love my God. And most importantly, free to be on fire for Him who saved me.



Yes, Peterson-Warren Academy (PWA) is a small school, but has anyone ever bothered to ask why? Is it kept as a small school as a provision of God's providence? I think so! If PWA were big, do you think the teachers would have time to put love and care into all they do for us? Do you honestly think that the Christian atmosphere would be at the level it is now? No, it would not.

It hurts me to see people, that have been blessed by providence to be born into Christian homes, scoff, murmur, and complain at the gifts Christ has blessed them with. I am appalled at their ungratefulness, when a student like me has to leave this place of "Christian oasis" and be the object of ridicule and scorn.

Yes, PWA is a smaller school. But take my advice, it is better to be in a small, safe school, than in a big, cold, uncaring, and sin-ruled school.

Yes, smaller *is* better.

Ciera Jennings is a senior at Peterson-Warren Academy in Inkster, Michigan.

Ciera Jennings will be receiving a \$100 scholarship for having her article selected to appear in the Herald. If you are between the ages of 14 and 30, please see our ad on the previous page to find out how you can submit an article to "One Voice."

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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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Profiles of Youth

Chrislyn Ellen Sands, 18, is a cheerful senior at Indiana Academy (IA) where she is involved in band, bell choir, gymnastics, campus caring ministry, and playing her guitar or flute for campus ministry services. She is a true renaissance lady who enjoys all the arts and helping make people happy.



Chrislyn Sands

A native of the Bahamas and the daughter of Roger and Peggy Sands, she attends the Cooperstown Adventist Company. She came to the United States—after working with a former IA student, Anita David, in the Bahamas—to continue her Christian education.

“She always has a smile and is positive in the dorm,” says Peggy Fisher, Indiana Academy girls’ dean. “Ellen is cheerful and really shows appreciation for living in the dorm.”

Ellen says the most important thing she has learned in academy is that “friends are one of the most important things (in life), and that God works in little mysterious ways, coming to help exactly when you need Him.” Her most memorable experience was receiving her brand-new guitar from her best friends on her 18th birthday. She says that her favorite class is music.



Michael Shull

Michael Ryan Shull, 18, is a senior at Indiana Academy where he is a hardworking, responsible student. His ambition for a career is to become an X-ray technician.

“Michael is a right-hand man in the registrar’s office; dependable, bright, very capable; and a person who gets along with others,” says Beth Bartlett, Indiana Academy registrar. “He will be successful wherever God leads.”

As senior class vice president and yearbook editor, Michael has a lot to do. He says that the most important thing he has learned during academy is “the value of hard work.”

Michael is a member of the National Honor Society and was the president of the local chapter his junior year. He enjoys playing piano and organ, taking numerous pictures, and working with computers.

The son of Ed Shull and Ann Miller, Michael is a member of the Cicero Church where he helps run audio systems and plays the organ.

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I am a member of the _____ Church in the _____ (local) Conference.

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Send this form to: *Lake Union Herald*, Address Correction, P.O. Box C, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. Plan six to twelve weeks for new address to become effective.

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