

the Lake Union Herald

SPECIAL ISSUE



**Welcome
to the
Family**

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COVER

During the past year many new members joined the Adventist Church through baptism and profession of faith. This issue seeks to introduce them to their new church family. Photo by Joel Springer, Review and Herald Publishing Association photographer.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome!

BY DON SCHNEIDER, LAKE UNION
CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

We are glad that you have chosen to become a part of this Adventist Church family. We've been looking for you . . . and praying that you and others would accept the invitation.

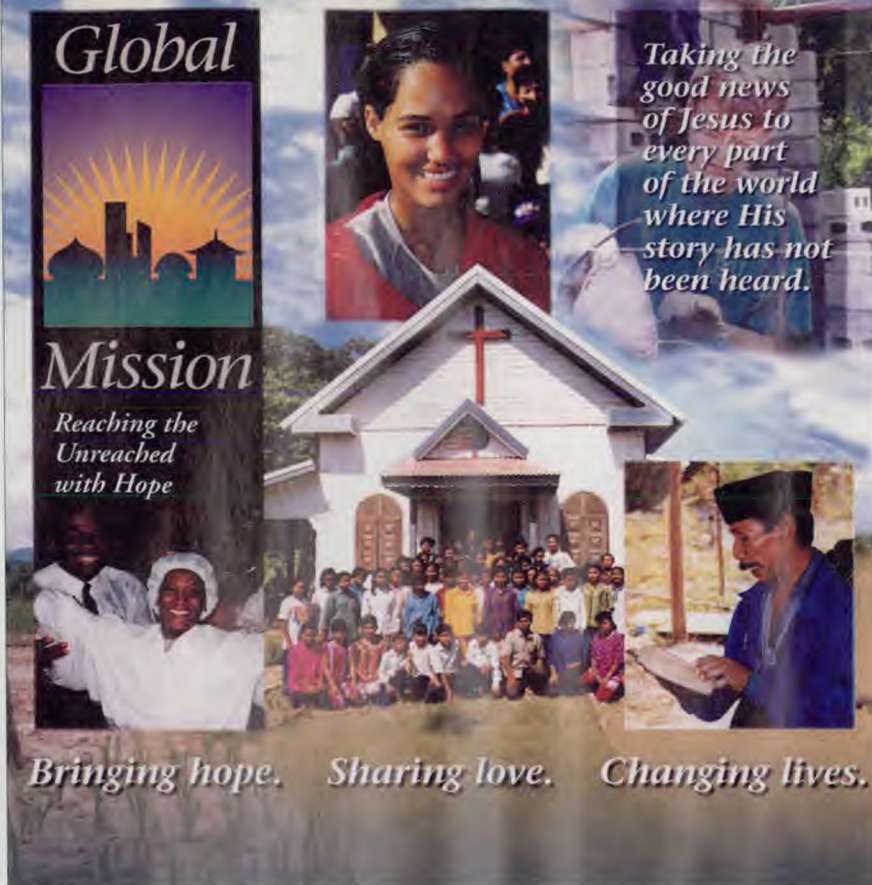
During the past few months, thousands of people along with you have joined our church family. In fact, many people are becoming members all the time. Now those of us who have been members have never claimed to be perfect . . . neither we, nor our church; but there are some features of this church about which we *are* really excited.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church started about 150 years ago with a few young people who were really zealous (too much so for their local congregations) about the coming of Jesus. We still preach it! And we still believe it! . . . that He is coming back. We believe that He has invited all of us to come to live with Him, and that He has even made it possible for *anyone* to have salvation who will accept it.

During these 150 years, the Adventist Church has spread to 205 countries around the globe and has grown to almost 10 million members with about nine percent of us living in North America. I am thankful for the educational system of the church with its 5,380 schools. In most countries, you will find the church involved in medical work, too. Often some of the best hospitals in a country are managed by the Adventist Church. Outstanding gospel literature is produced in the denomination's 56 publishing houses.

We are serious about what we believe; and we want others to have the opportunity to join this family, so we have developed *Global Mission*. The purpose of *Global Mission* is to reach everyone in the world—especially the large groups of people who have never heard the gospel—with the news about Jesus. That includes every one of your neighbors, too; and, of course, they will primarily be your responsibility since you know them.

Seventh-day Adventists *really* believe in their church's doctrines, organization, and mission. But as important as those are, there is something more important to us. In the words of Jesus, we say, "Something greater than the temple is here" (Matthew 12:6). We believe that something much more important than the church is here . . . even though we love our Church. *We believe, and we know, and we preach that most important is knowing Jesus.* We are so glad that you have joined the family, but salvation is not in the family. Salvation is found only in Jesus. I will remind you of that now and then . . . and you keep reminding me. Yes, the family *is* important, but so much more important is each person's growing relationship with Jesus.



Global Mission was to initiate a mission volunteer program that involved lay people in planting churches. Religious study centers were to carefully develop new methods and materials for working among Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, and urban secular societies. Global Mission was to communicate to the church the challenge and progress of mission.

Over the past seven years a lot of progress has been made. More than 10,000 new churches have been established in unentered territories. This year more than 19,000 lay volunteers are working to plant churches. The territory comprising the former Soviet Union has, at the least, quadrupled its membership. Church membership in China is almost five times what it was in 1990. Hundreds of new churches have been established in India. Five religious study centers now operate, developing new materials and methods.

It is thrilling to watch the Holy Spirit work. However, while all of this may sound good, we are just beginning to meet the challenge. God needs people that are willing to become involved in His mission. Pray that God will show you how you can participate in Global Mission.

Mike Ryan is the Global Mission director and a general field secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

BY MIKE RYAN

Christ commissioned the church to proclaim the gospel to every language, nation, and people. In the late 1800's the young Seventh-day Adventist Church rose to that challenge, and over the next 100 years significantly established the church in North America, Inter America, South America, Europe, the southern half of the African continent, and selected countries on the Pacific Rim. However, by 1985 church leaders recognized that there were huge populations and areas that were completely unentered. During 1988-89, the church carefully studied its mission progress and challenge and initiated a global strategy, voted at the 1990 General Conference world session, known as Global Mission. What is Global Mission?

Global Mission is a mission strategy directly connected to the office of the General Conference (GC) president. Its purpose is to establish

Seventh-day Adventist congregations in every un-entered area and among every people group in the world. Global Mission has been charged to monitor the progress and challenge of mission and to take direct action, developing and implementing plans that would establish Seventh-day Adventist churches in all unentered areas and among all unentered people groups.

China, the Middle East, India, and the former territory of the Soviet Union were named as high priority areas. However, divisions outside these areas were also to identify their high-priority populations and take direct action to establish churches in their un-entered areas.



Many baptisms have resulted from the Global Mission initiative

How the Church Ticks

The Seventh-day Adventist Church Organization

BY WALTER L. WRIGHT

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a most extraordinary organization whose very name elicits curiosity. Two bedrock beliefs are set forth in that name: the sacredness of the original Sabbath as given by God and the imminent, literal, physical return of Jesus Christ to the earth at the end of the age. Its mission has ever been to share the gospel of Jesus with every nation, city and hamlet, including every race, kindred and tongue. In order to accomplish this mission, the church is organized into five unique levels of administrative structure.

Each level of the church has the same mission but different functions in carrying out the mission. The five levels of the church are 1) the local church, 2) the local conference of churches, 3) the union conference, 4) the division, and 5) the General Conference.

I. THE LOCAL CHURCH

The local church is the "grassroots" organization that allows for lay members and clergy to cooperate in accomplishing the mission. This lighthouse to the community is a place for worship and fellowship, evangelism and nurture, friendship and planning. The local church also provides for training of the membership and preparation for a variety of personal ministries. Since the local congregation is closest to the people, it is the natural "gateway" into the church.

II. THE LOCAL CONFERENCE

State or area conferences are made up of a number of churches in their territories and are concerned with facilitating, strengthening, and coordinating the work of the church. The church is organized with a representative form of government. Local churches send representatives to

Wisconsin. The union's primary work is administrative, focusing on education, religious liberty, legal issues, and publishing. Unions form the bridge between the local conferences, allowing for a unified emphasis in mission accomplishment within the conferences. Planning for accountability and binding the efforts of the



Members from local churches have the responsibility and opportunity to ask questions and air their opinions during conference constituency meetings.

constituency meetings where conference leaders are elected. Lay members, pastors, and teachers serve on the conference executive committee, which is the governing body for the local conference.

III. THE UNION CONFERENCE

Union conferences are made up of the local conferences within their territory. The conferences in this union, the Lake Union, are Illinois, Indiana, Lake Region, Michigan, and

church together are the union's main functions. The conferences and churches are represented on boards and committees on this level of organization. There are 69,279 (as of September 30, 1998) members within the Lake Union territory. The magazine you are now reading is produced by the Lake Union Conference communication department. Each member household is entitled to receive this paper by virtue of membership. If you did not receive this issue in your own

mailbox, contact your church clerk to be sure your address has been forwarded to your local conference executive secretary for inclusion on the *Lake Union Herald* mailing list.

IV. THE DIVISION

The worldwide church is divided into divisions—the next level of church organization. The Lake Union is part of the North American Division (NAD), which has oversight for all the churches, local conferences, and unions in the United States, Canada, and Bermuda. It has the responsibility of coordinating the division's mission projects, evangelistic efforts such as NET '98, the Adventist Media Center in California, and health and education institutions throughout the territory. The divisions have representatives from unions, conferences, and churches on their division committees. The North American Division has 865,187 church members in its territory.

V. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, world headquarters of the church, is located in Silver Spring, Maryland. It is comprised of 14 divisions and attached fields with a total of 10,000,000 members. The General Conference binds the church together around the world.

From the days when Jethro admonished his son-in-law, Moses, to organize the children of Israel, it has been obvious that God is a God of order in working for and through His people on the earth. The church has expanded its mission, territory, and organization over the years since the name "Seventh-day Adventist" was first used back in 1863. The desire to take the message of a soon-coming Savior to the entire world has required innovative, Spirit-led shifts in organization over the years. The influence of that same Spirit has brought blessings through the organization and mission accomplishment of the church.

Walter Wright is the Lake Union Conference executive secretary

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1997

World Statistics

Church membership	9,702,834
Additions to the church by baptism or profession of faith	744,798
World divisions	13
Union conferences and missions	90
Local conferences and missions	467
Churches	43,270
Sabbath schools	97,602
Sabbath school membership	11,435,399
Sabbath school mission offerings	US\$45,648,694
Pathfinder clubs	15,350
Pathfinder club membership ...	563,148
Denominational workers all categories	153,617
Tithe	US\$970,766,784
Tithe and offerings	US\$1,500,521,546

Education

Colleges and universities	89
Teachers	4,694
Enrollment	59,527
Secondary schools	927
Teachers	14,296
Enrollment	201,945
Primary schools	4,364
Teachers	29,528
Enrollment	696,597

Health Care Institutions

Hospitals and sanitariums	159
Clinics and dispensaries	306
Other health care institutions	95

Publishing

Publishing houses and branches	56
Employees	2,108

Periodicals printed	377
Literature evangelists	
Full-time	13,386
Part-time	6,089
Student	3,852

Global Mission

Countries of the world	230
Countries in which Adventist work is established	205
Population of the world	5,840,433,000
Population of countries where work is established	5,723,153,000
Population of countries where work is not established	117,280,000

North American Division Statistics

Membership	858,364
Additions to the church by baptism and profession of faith	35,493
Tithe	\$534,169,178
Tithe and offerings	\$849,405,140
Colleges and Universities	15

Lake Union Conference Statistics

Local conferences	5
Membership	69,758
Additions to the church by baptism and profession of faith	1,541
Tithe	\$45,969,366
Educational institutions	
Universities	1
K-12 schools	109
Healthcare facilities	
Hospitals	3
Freestanding emergency center	1
Home healthcare offices	3

Welcome to a Family of Ministries

BY ROSE OTIS

Welcome, new member, to the great Adventist family. Joining the Adventist Church could be just the beginning of a whole new adventure in community, because the church is a close-knit community of believers—a place where people are ministered to and their needs are met.

Jesus modeled a life of ministry. By feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and comforting the lonely and dispossessed, He met urgent personal

ministers to its neighbors and to the world through feeding and clothing programs and disaster response.

One of the largest spiritual-nurture ministries in the church is the **Sabbath school**. On Sabbath morning each age level of the church, from the cradle to the rocker, has a program tailored to their special needs. Every member of your family will come to love Sabbath school.

Your church probably offers **clubs**, such as Pathfinders and Adventurers, for children and special events in the summer, such as day camp or Vacation Bible School.

From time to time, the **family ministries** committee will announce parenting seminars and other events for families.

Health ministries will offer nutrition and lifestyle seminars, the result of Adventism's holistic belief that physical and mental health impact one's spiritual life. Your church offers **adult ministries** seminars, **singles ministries** nurture, **women's**

ministries events, and the occasional **men's ministries** weekend.

Your local congregation cannot offer all the ministries mentioned above, that match you up with others of common needs and interests. So watch the bulletin board for announcements of state-wide conferences, conventions, or workshops hosted by your conference. Such events can help you discover your spiritual gifts and learn to be a good steward of both

time and talents. All of these specialized ministries offer you a way to get involved in the life of your church and grow into the body of Christ.

Volunteers, dedicated to Jesus Christ and to making a difference, staff the ministries. Leaders for the ministries are chosen once a year by the nominating committee. So when someone approaches you about teaching a class of kids or sorting clothes at the community center, remember Jesus' example and treat the invitation as a call to ministry.



Women throughout the Lake Union are finding all sorts of ways to reach out to the women in their communities with love and care. Herbal tea parties are but one of the ways.



Community Services volunteers load trucks with supplies to aid disaster victims within the Lake Union territory and around the world.

needs. Then He turned around and bade the fed, the healed, and the comforted to follow Him.

In your city there are some who will, for a time, need to be fed, nursed to better health, and comforted. A variety of ministries in your church follow Jesus' example and help meet such needs. **Adventist Community Services**, which some still call "Dorcas," after the community-spirited New Testament woman known for good deeds,

Training and resources are available to assist and empower you in ministry. Be sure to ask about training opportunities offered by your conference. Questions about training and resources can also be answered by calling (800) SDA-PLUS. A friendly operator will find the answer to any question you have.

So when God opens the way for you to do something in ministry at church, don't turn it down. Getting involved will bring you satisfaction and fulfillment. You will be a partner with Jesus. You might even help write a new chapter for the modern-day book of Acts.

Rose Otis, former North American Division vice-president for ministries, is now vice-president of the Texas Conference.

“The great Christian revolutions,” said H. Richard Niebuhr, “come not by the discovery of something that was not known before. They happen when somebody takes radically something that was always there.”

One hundred and fifty-five years ago, a Christian “revolution” started because a group of young people decided to do just that. They read the scriptures, and they were convinced. And that’s when these youth and young adults gave life to a church that didn’t mind raw truth and radical Christianity. They lived Christ unashamedly, and since then, their example has inspired millions across the world to do the same.

Now you are a part of that movement. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, even though human, has the God-driven goal to help youth experience the grace of Jesus Christ in such a way that it engages them in “dangerous” ministry. A risky goal it is, with unpredictable results. But to abandon this goal would be to shortchange God’s purpose for this church.

Let’s be honest. The church has at times shortchanged itself. But let’s be accurate. The church is in constant motion to recapture the heartbeat of its youth. Through the years it has been committed to nurturing, training, and empowering the young for radical discipleship. It has developed schools, programs, centers, publications, and materials that help youth live Christ unashamedly.

Take, for example, the Center for Youth Evangelism. It is not only a resource center for youth leaders across the North American Division, it is staffed by youth and young adults themselves—a clear example of how church leadership is handing over the reigns of the church to the young. But this is only one of many examples.

All across North America, Adventist youth and young adults are creating rapid-fire changes by initiating ministries such as eXite 98

The Quiet Revolution

Adventist Youth Ministry

and conneXions 99. They seek to give Generation X ownership of their church.

Giraffe University is training volunteer and veteran youth workers for radical leadership. Giraffe University helps them carry out the “SEVEN Principles for Youth Ministry Excellence,” a curriculum for effective ministry.

The *YouthNet eXtreme* is pushing the front lines of cutting-edge evangelism. It is a four-member team that travels the country in a truck and trailer, putting on programs for schools and churches.



The church provides many activities for young people, starting with the Adventurers Club for children in grades one through four.

The *Adventist Youth Service Network* (YouthNet) is calling the young to become missionaries to places near and far. It represents the service center for the Adventist Church.

Pathfinders, a youth organization, is giving students, grades five to ten, countless opportunities for learning—through arts, crafts, nature, recreation, community service, and outreach. On any given day of the week across the world, you can find these youth involved, especially as many of them are preparing for *Discover the Power*

international camporee this summer in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Conference youth directors not only direct summer youth camps, which provide opportunities for lifelong friendships, but also oversee Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs, hold weeks of prayer in schools, conduct Bible camps and rallies, and are generally charged with nurturing the spiritual life of young people. In addition, they offer training to help youth workers in the local churches become effective leaders.

Church school teachers also encourage the children in their *Adventist Youth* (AY) progressive classwork.

Youth Federations are bringing thousands of youth together to worship and be challenged to live their calling. The African American community leads out in these regional and national events.

Supporting ministries such as *Adventist Frontier Missions* and *Piece of the Pie Ministries* are mobilizing hundreds of students for missions.

The Christian revolution that young people started 155 years ago has come a long way. The examples I have given you are just the beginning. To find out more about how the church helps youth **live Christ unashamedly**, and to get involved in youth or young-adult ministry, contact your local church youth leader, conference youth director, or call PlusLine at (800) PLUS for contact information. You can also contact the Center for Youth Evangelism at (800) YOUTH-2-U.

William Hurtado is the Center for Youth Evangelism training coordinator and a young adult who loves his church.

Educating for Eternity

BY GARY RANDOLPH

With the many new thoughts, ideas, and changes that have come into your life since you have made your commitment to Christ and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we hope you have also been introduced to the school system that is operated by your new church.

The curriculum of our schools is organized around the philosophy (found in the book *Education* by Ellen G. White) that education is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, social, and spiritual components of humankind. It is the intent of the system to prepare

students to be thinkers and not mere reflectors of other people's thoughts. The ultimate aim of the teacher is to restore the image of God in the student and prepare him/her for eternity in the world made new.

To support our unique mission, Adventist schools are only taught by Seventh-day Adventist teachers who have taken eight to twelve quarter hours of uniquely Seventh-day Adventist philosophical course work as part of their college degree. This may be additional course work if their degree was earned from a non Seventh-day Adventist college.

If you have joined a smaller church, it is possible that an Adventist school may not be oper-

ated locally. But you should know that within the five local conferences surrounding Lake Michigan that make up the Lake Union, there are 84 elementary schools (K-8), 18 junior academies (K-10), five day schools (K-12), and four boarding academies (9-12). Each of the nine union conferences in the North American Division supports a similar education system, along with a college or university.

The Lake Union is home to the denomination's flagship institution of higher learning, Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. It is made up of five schools, the largest being the College of Arts and Sciences. The other four schools include the School of Business, the School of Education, the College of Technology, and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. A majority of the church's leaders around the world are alumni of Andrews University. Degrees granted range from associate degrees to doctorates. Students from 101 countries are currently attending Andrews in preparation for a life of service. In fact there is a strong service component to the curriculum. Many students are required to spend part of their college experience being of service to the community.

Science, Bible, reading, kindergarten, and music programs have been specifically developed by the Seventh-day Adventist system for use in our elementary schools. The Bible curriculum for secondary schools is also prepared by the denomination. In addition to the normal course work such as reading, writing, math, social



Andrews University provides an Adventist education in many career disciplines, offering students the advantages of small class sizes, caring Christian teachers, and the integration of faith and learning.



The Seventh-day Adventist school system has developed uniquely-Adventist curriculum materials for the elementary schools, including a reading program.

academic average is normally 55–75 percentile with 50 percentile being the expected national student average.

Administration of each school is by a locally-elected school board made up of representatives from one or several churches. However, the local conference K-12 board of education is ultimately responsible. The union conference guides and monitors the schools of the union through a K-12 board of education. The North American Division K-12 board of education guides and directs the schools of the division which includes Canada, the United States, and Bermuda. Higher education, which includes all colleges and universities, has a board of education at the divisional level as well.

Gary Randolph is the Lake Union director of education.

studies, Bible and so on, another component taught to our children and youth is service to others, both theoretically and experientially. The Bible Labs program involves church members with students and faculty in organizing service activities of various sorts in which the students participate to learn traits of generosity and caring. A student work program is also provided in all boarding schools, and some day schools. This is a way to provide students an opportunity to earn a portion of their expenses and to learn good work habits.

The system requires teacher certification which is equal to and sometimes stronger than the state requirements. It has a regular full evaluation program: school philosophy, academics, administration, facilities, and services are evaluated at least every five (in elementary) to seven (in secondary) years. Participation in a national, standardized testing program ensures an academic evaluation of the system and provides a national academic position for the student. The current Lake Union

Contact an Academy or College

To locate one of these schools, you might talk to your local school principal, a teacher, the pastor, or call one of the telephone numbers listed below. We will be looking forward to serving you as you place your student in the Adventist school system. We are confident you will not be disappointed.

Andrews University <i>Berrien Springs, Michigan</i>	(800) 253-2874 (471-3303 locally) <i>Lake Union Conference</i>	Enrollment Services
Andrews Academy <i>Berrien Springs, Michigan</i>	(616) 471-3138 <i>Michigan Conference</i>	Randall E. Graves, principal
Battle Creek Academy <i>Battle Creek, Michigan</i>	(616) 965-1278 <i>Michigan Conference</i>	Don Perkins, principal
Broadview Academy <i>LaFox, Illinois</i>	(630) 232-7441 <i>Illinois Conference</i>	Jeannette Byson, principal
Chicago SDA Academy <i>Chicago, Illinois</i>	(773) 873-3005 <i>Lake Region Conference</i>	Philip Giddings, principal
Great Lakes Adventist Academy <i>Cedar Lake, Michigan</i>	(517) 427-5181 <i>Michigan Conference</i>	Raymond D. Davis, principal
Hinsdale Adventist Academy <i>Hinsdale, Illinois</i>	(630) 323-9211 <i>Illinois Conference</i>	Sean Kootsey, principal
Indiana Academy <i>Cicero, Indiana</i>	(317) 984-3575 <i>Indiana Conference</i>	Robert Rice, principal
Peterson-Warren Academy <i>Inkster, Michigan</i>	(313) 565-5808 <i>Lake Region Conference</i>	Juanita Martin, principal
Wisconsin Academy <i>Columbus, Wisconsin</i>	(920) 623-3300 <i>Wisconsin Conference</i>	John Thomas, principal

It's for Everyone!

BY RICHARD LEE FENN

Around the clock in the ideal world, newborns nurse, sleep, get changed—nurse, sleep, get changed. They are lovingly, fiercely, parentally protected from the real world. Every squeak, squawk, burp, and gurgle is accommodated. Immediately. No questions asked.

Through the seven-day cycle of a real-world week, *spiritual* newborns nurse on the word of the Lord, work/play/rest in the strength/pleasure/safety of the Lord, and continue to be changed by the Spirit of the Lord.

Of course.

And they are lovingly, fiercely, parentally protected from every problem—by the government.

I don't think so!

Look! There's a newborn (you?) with a "big time conflict": newfound faith versus long-held job. Issue: working on the Sabbath—sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. And here's a newborn (you again?) who, without joining a labor organization, can't work at all.

Your cry for accommodation was rejected. Immediately. You weren't even asked *Why?* All you got was "*Don't hafta, not gonna.*"

Enter the Seventh-day Adventist Church's ministry of religious freedom. The Lord has commissioned the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) to help. *To help you!*

The PARL professionals on the staff of your union conference...

- Know the applicable national and state or provincial laws prohibiting religious discrimination—the laws providing accommodation for religious belief and practice.

- Understand the sometimes not-so-easy steps to be taken to achieve what the laws provide.
- Will recommend a course of action, and, start to finish, walk with you through the whole procedure.

And because this really is a tithe-and-offering-supplied-and-supported *ministry*, they won't bill you a penny for all their time and expertise.

Year in and year out, the ministers, attorneys, paralegals, and office secretaries of PARL keep busy helping hundreds of Adventists (and

*Now the Lord is
the Spirit, and
where the Spirit
of the Lord is,
there is freedom.*

folks of other faiths as well) find freedom in the workplace.

But that's not all. Consider what we call *government relations*. In Washington and Ottawa and in every state and provincial capital city, this non-partisan, non-political, never-ending program seeks to preserve and foster the growth of religious liberty. So we'll support good bills that will make good laws and try to block bad bills from becoming bad laws.

You too have a role in government relations—a double role, in fact.

On Liberty Sabbath, you'll be challenged to give liberally so thought leaders in North America can receive *Liberty: A Magazine of Religious Freedom*.

And just about anytime your state or province's legislative assembly is in session, you may be urged to help the cause of religious freedom by contacting lawmakers from your district regarding a specific bill. As a constituent, you will be listened to—with courtesy and respect.

Religious liberty has been a concern of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since its founding and organization. It's a global ministry.

At world headquarters near Washington, D.C., John Graz, a scholar and author from France and Switzerland, works as director of the General Conference Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty and secretary general of the highly-respected International Religious Liberty Association. Clarence E. Hodges, once a high officer in the U.S. Department of State, is director of the North American Division Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty and president of the North American Religious Liberty Association.

In New York at the United Nations (we have an office on First Avenue, directly across from the Security Council), in Geneva at the UN Human Rights Commission (we're officially recognized as a non-governmental organization), and in 207 nations of the world, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is at work for religious freedom, not just for you who are newborn or the rest of us in the church, but for everyone.

In this ministry the church relies totally on the Spirit of the Lord—the Spirit who moved on you to be born again and to experience new faith, new hope, new love, and the Spirit who empowers us to share in Christ's ultimate victory over every manifestation of the slavery of sin.

At the cross, Jesus won. Freedom won too. At the Advent so nigh at hand, we shall win—and freedom will win again.

Richard Lee Fenn is associate director of the General Conference Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty and deputy secretary general of the International Religious Liberty Association.

Clear Around the World

In November 1848, Ellen G. White had a vision in which God told her that the church must print a little paper, and that it would grow into a great world-wide program.

She said, "Our publications have a most sacred work to do in making clear, simple, and plain the spiritual basis of our faith" (*Colporteur Ministry*, page 1).

From that small periodical, *Present Truth*, the first Adventist publishing house, the Review and Herald, was established in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1860. Today, we have 56 publishing houses around the world that in 1997 generated \$133,333,617 in sales. The literature (books and periodicals) that comes from their presses is distributed by 23,309 literature evangelists (not just sales representatives) and hundreds of Adventist Book Centers (ABCs), bookstores usually located somewhere within the local conference offices.

The Lake Union has four ABCs, which are located at the four state conference offices, and one branch ABC, located in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Each summer, during annual campmeeting convocations, a special promotional program is offered to enable members to purchase books and magazines to use both for their own spiritual growth and to give to their friends and neighbors.

The Lake Union has several hundred Adventists who participate in the literature distribution program throughout the year as full-time, part-time, and student literature evangelists. During the past three years, Lake Union literature evangelists visited more than 600,000 homes and gave away 200,000 copies of *Darkness Before Dawn* (ten chapters from *The Great Controversy* by Ellen G. White), which contain a tear-off card for Bible studies. In addition, they answered thousands of Bible questions, prayed with many, and extended invitations for all to attend an Adventist church.

Some people who were contacted have been baptized into Adventist Church membership.

This year, 1999, is the eighth year of the "Magabook" ministry in Michigan. Since 1991, more than 500 young

working, going house to house in the Detroit area. They had gone several hours without any sales and were coming to the end of the street when they noticed an ice cream truck coming toward them. As the truck neared, they waved the truck down, thinking to buy some ice cream. The ice cream man asked them what they were doing, and they said that they were on a scholarship program to earn money for school and showed him some of the books they were selling. They asked the man to buy a book. He said that he couldn't but gave them a \$5.00 donation. The boys gave him a *Darkness Before Dawn* book, which they give to everyone they meet. He thanked them, then drove off. Too late the boys realized that they had forgotten to buy the ice cream.

A few minutes later while working on another street, the boys again saw the ice cream truck; and remembering that they could give the ice cream man the book *He Taught Love* for his \$5.00 donation, they again waved him down. Salim recalls, "I gave him the book, and his eyes just lit up, he was so happy." But again the man left without the boys buying any ice cream.

Salim remembers, "As I was walking to the next house, I was thinking of how great God is, and that He works in so many different ways. God not only worked through me to touch the ice cream man, but He also helped me to get pumped and excited about His work, which made me end up with a great day even though I forgot to buy the ice cream twice."



Salim Bourget, a sophomore at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, practices his sales pitch on Jacqie Curtis, the Magabook leader for Detroit.

people have participated in the ministry. Many of them earned funds to attend an Adventist school, and many have had experiences that they won't soon forget. Salim Bourget, a junior at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, had one such experience.

On one of the hottest days of the summer, he and a companion were

John Bernet is Lake Union Conference publishing director.

The Most Powerful Envelope in the World

Your Offering Envelope

BY NORMAN W. KLAM

It's wonderful to be part of a church with a world-wide mission of bringing people to Jesus. You may be wondering how the Seventh-day Adventist Church can possibly accomplish the wide diversity of projects it supports around the world. This work is only possible because of the support of all the members through their donations of time, talents, skills, and funds. Because of its many ministries, the church has developed an excellent system for tracking how funds are received and distributed to accomplish its mission. While this tracking method is complex, it provides a process that has allowed the Adventist Church to establish churches around the world.

By now you have undoubtedly discovered the offering envelopes that are usually located in the pockets on the back of the church pews. The tithe and offering envelope is a very important financial document on which

you can indicate to your church how you wish your donations to be used.

The information on the envelope is usually divided

activities. Some conferences divide this section up for specific projects, while others combine all conference projects under one offering. You can usually find an explanation of the specific projects for which these funds are used on either the back of the envelope or the flap. The fourth section represents donations for world missions.

THE TITHE

The envelope is fairly straightforward and easy to use. The biblical principle of tithing has been adopted as a basis for returning one tenth of our income to God. Malachi 3:10 is a text that is often referred to as a biblical source of this giving principle. Tithing is a wonderful adventure in faith. Over and over people say, "I can't outgive the Lord."

Tithe monies are considered sacred and are used for the financial support of the ministry. Adventist pastors are not dependent on whatever monies happen to be placed in the offering plate in their church each week. Instead, because of the tithing system, they have a specific salary which they can count on for budget purposes. This has been the church's way of supporting the ministry throughout the world. The tithe also pays the salaries of workers in each department at conference,



into four sections. The first is exclusively for the donation of tithe. The second is used for local church projects such as operating expenses, local church building projects, or other local church functions as may be deemed necessary by each congregation. The third section is for your conference's

union, division, and General Conference levels.

LOCAL CHURCH BUDGET

While the local church does not pay its pastor directly, it does have operating expenses. These expenses are paid for out of the local church budget as needs arise. One of the major expenses that a local church will incur, in many instances, is the operation of a Seventh-day Adventist school. Through members' donations, local churches carry the major responsibility for financing elementary and day schools associated with each church. In most instances, church schools do charge tuition to cover a portion of the expense, while some invite the entire membership to participate in the support of the school, making the school budget a line item in the church budget.

CONFERENCE ADVANCE

The church's policy is very careful about the use of tithe. Certain expenditures are excluded from tithe use. Examples of these would be funds expended for construction costs, land purchases, and building repairs. In addition to tithe, the conference appeals for offerings which assist the local conference with its operations. These offerings are usually used for evangelism, education, youth camp projects, campgrounds, and assistance in building new churches and schools. The tithe envelope used in your conference will list the specific projects for your conference.

WORLD BUDGET

The section entitled World Budget on the envelope is the place where the weekly Sabbath school offering is listed. Some members prefer to drop this offering into the offering plate anonymously each week; however, if you prayerfully plan what percentage of your income you want to devote to the world mission of the church, you can simply include that offering when you are dividing up your paycheck, making it unnecessary to remember to have the correct amount ready each

The Blessing of Systematic Benevolence

All of God's creations are designed to operate systematically. The solar system is one example; the stars and planets follow their assigned paths without deviation. On earth, the seasons follow one another in unvarying order.

Human beings are no different. Our hearts beat systematically, we breathe systematically, and our digestive processes operate systematically. If any of these bodily functions should begin to operate in an erratic, impulsive manner, we would be in serious trouble.

Our charitable giving should also follow a systematic pattern. In the Old Testament, types and amounts of offerings were carefully specified. Today, our giving should be done just as carefully. Every time you receive your paycheck or calculate your personal income, set aside the first ten percent as tithe. Then establish regular percentages for the rest of the offerings that you wish to give, and do this systematically.

You may also wish to make provision for special offering appeals. The impulsive gift, the sudden urge to give a special offering for a special purpose, should never be discouraged. These impulses are from the Holy Spirit. But they should be an addition to systematic benevolence, not a substitute for it.

Jesus said that our hearts will inevitably follow our treasure (Matthew 6:21). This being so, let's place our treasure carefully, steadily, and systematically where we want our hearts to be found on that glorious day of Jesus' return.

Don English, Indiana Conference stewardship director

Sabbath when the offering plate is passed. One advantage of using the envelope is that the donor is identified and therefore eligible for charitable donation receipts.

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS

On most envelopes, several additional offerings are listed below World Budget. These funds are used for the establishment or maintenance of specific missions or ministries in North America and throughout the world. Each one is given special attention at some time during the year, since a large portion of their support comes from the offering given on a special day. Offerings may also be directed to these projects at any time during the year by writing the name of the mission or ministry to which you would like to restrict your donation.

Materials announcing special offerings are also furnished to pastors, so that they may be distributed to members through the church bulletin or used to introduce the offering on the day that it is called for from the platform.

The next time you pick up an envelope from the back of the pew and tuck your donation into it, consider the tremendous opportunity you have to contribute through your church to help tell people that Jesus is coming. This envelope truly is an instrument used by God to provide funding to be used according to your directions, so that the gospel of the Kingdom may be preached in all the world and hasten the coming of Jesus.

Norman Klam is the Lake Union Conference treasurer.

Adventist Laypersons Share Their Faith

Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries

BY SHIRLEY BURTON

Your new church family believes that not all ministry should be done by the paid ministers—that every member is called by God to bear witness to the heavenly Father's love. Adventist-laymen's Services and



The ASI international convention draws thousands of members and features more than 200 exhibits that range from ministries to commercial displays of interest to members.

Industries (ASI) is an organization made up of men and women, taking not only the name of Christian but actively witnessing in the workplace. Multi-generational and multi-cultural, ASIs take as their motto, "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace."

They see marketplace ministry as more than providing unswerving integrity in business, however; and that's why manufacturers like Eastlex Machine Corporation in Lexington, Kentucky, have quiet religious music playing through the phone system when callers wait for the desired service. Employees of Grab-on Products in Walla Walla, Washington, may opt to brown bag at lunchtime in

a video seminar room with Doug Batchelor tapes. Clients of a New York City private investigator receive paid subscriptions to Adventist publications.

An auto dealer in Allentown, Pennsylvania, provides transportation for student literature evangelists. A health club, which stocks a variety of books and magazines for patrons, offers seminars in nutritious eating, and maintains a closed witness during Sabbath hours, was voted #1 among Lincoln, Nebraska's seven fitness centers. A Richmond, Quebec, publisher has secured places for his French and English religious publications in general bookstores.

Because ASI grew out of the self-supporting concept for Christian education and healthcare, prominent early in the 20th century, ASI member organizations also include a half-dozen boarding high schools such as DayStar Adventist Academy near Moab, Utah, and Lifestyle Center of America at Sulphur, Oklahoma.

Some members are committed to full-time ministry, often on a global basis—like Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN), with 24-hour Adventist programming; Maranatha Volunteers, with a service orientation for building churches and schools where church growth exceeds building accommodations; Outpost Centers, Inc. (OCI), which supports 100 smaller outreaches such as vegetarian

restaurants and mission training schools; Adventist Frontier Missions, which pioneers Christian ministry in countries where the church has not established a presence; and Adventist Singles Ministry, with its emphasis on developing an environment where unmarried members of the church may participate in outreach to a large segment of the population; and Canvasback Missions, which encourages short-term medical assistance in Micronesia from a 71-foot sailing vessel.

At both union-wide chapter and international conventions, members are nurtured in their witness through professional and spiritual-growth seminars. But the greatest inspiration comes from member testimonies, laypersons sharing with each other how Christ has inspired them to share their faith and blessed their stewardship of time and money.

ASI members receive their joy in Jesus through telling others about Him, and they make a living by every conceivable means. There's a category for your career, your trade, your vision—literally from A to Z.

So, if you'd like to get acquainted with Adventist business or professional people in your field to stimulate your effectiveness in sharing your new-found faith, write the ASI headquarters office at 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904; call (301) 680-6450; or visit the ASI web site at www.tagnet.org/asi.

Shirley Burton, retired General Conference communication director, is the ASI communication director.

Making a Difference in the Community

Adventist Community Services

BY JOHN GAVIN

Adventist Community Services (ACS) is the domestic humanitarian agency sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Under its umbrella is a wide range of public services, including food pantries and clothing programs in almost every local church. As such, ACS is the affiliate for domestic relief and social action of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), an agency established by the Adventist Church for the specific purposes of community development and disaster response. ADRA is an internationally-recognized, non-governmental organization which addresses world hunger, the needs of developing nations, and major disasters around the world. In Canada the work of Community Services is operated under the agency ADRA Canada.

Community Services includes help for the poor, health screening and health education for the general public, inner-city projects, family-life education, disaster response, tutoring and other youth activities, day care for both children and the elderly, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, adult education, counseling, drug/alcohol awareness and treatment, self-help groups, Meals on Wheels, summer camps for disadvantaged children, addressing the AIDS epidemic, and encouraging conservation of the natural environment. ACS is the organization designed to provide a structure for and to facilitate and support these services.

Concern for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of men, women and children is fundamental to Seventh-day Adventist faith. We believe that God is just as concerned about the physical body and practical aspects of life as He is about religion and the spiritual aspects of life. He asks believers to join Him in acts of compassion for the poor, oppressed, troubled, and hurting.

The *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual* mandates that each local Adventist congregation appoint a Community Services director. This officer is a member of the church board, sits on the church ministries council, and plays a key role in coordinating all of the service activities undertaken by the local church and its auxiliaries such as the Pathfinder Club, Dorcas Society, etc. Projects such as an emergency food pantry or community clothes closet, a smoking cessation program or health screening event, cleaning up a neighborhood park or recycling glass bottles or aluminum cans, distributing meals to the homeless in the inner city or hosting a 12-step program are all typical local-church community services.

There is a small but growing number of ADRA affiliates in North

America—domestic projects that meet the standards set in collaboration with the international agency and form the core of the ACS network. The ACS network includes more than 200 multi-service centers, inner-city projects in 30 of the largest cities across North America, health-screening van



Youthful volunteers sort and stock items for distribution to disaster victims.

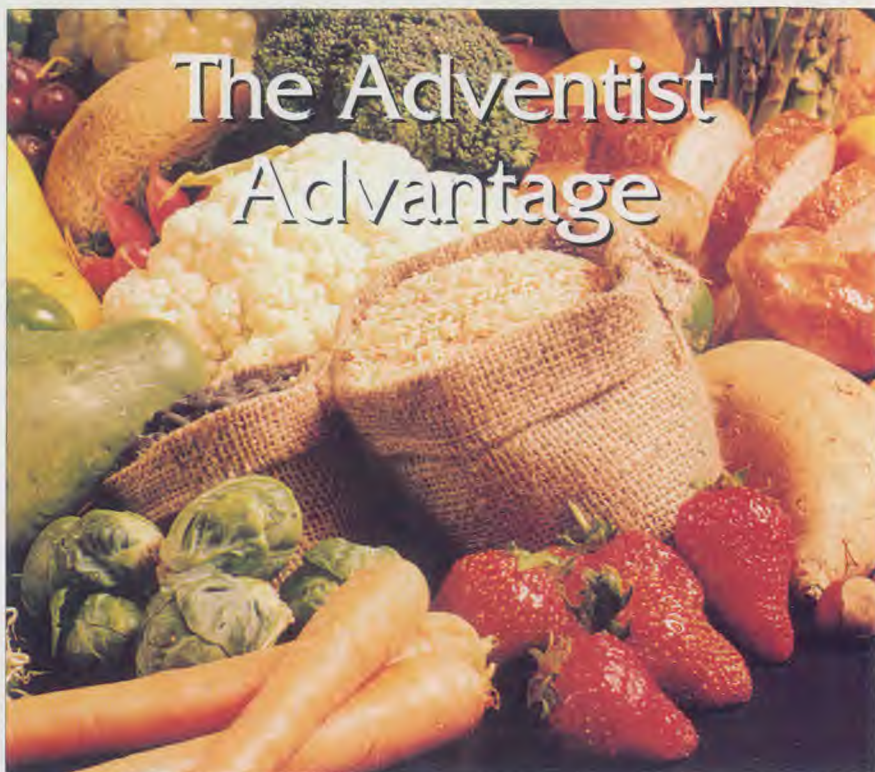
ministries in more than a dozen cities, an Adventist disaster response team in each of the 58 local conferences, nearly 100 churches that currently participate in Adventist refugee ministries, and scores of other specialized ministries. Communication and in-service education is maintained through local conferences as well as area, state, and provincial federations and several annual, national-training events.

For more information about Community Services call (800)381-7171.

John Gavin is the Adventist Community Services national executive director.

Health Notes

- In November, Hinsdale Hospital conducted the first "heart fair" for the deaf ever held in the Chicago area. More than 40 people attended the event, and nine sign-language interpreters assisted more than 20 health care professionals in communicating screening results and answering questions.
- During 1997, Walla Walla General Hospital (Wash.) offered a record-breaking 523 health education classes to its community, and aired health-oriented interviews in both English and Spanish on local television and radio.
- Pioneer Memorial Hospital completed a year-long assessment of Morrow County's health needs and services, including town-hall meetings at five sites.
- Employees at South Coast Medical Center donated more than two tons of food and household items to the Friendship Shelter in Laguna Beach, California; the hospital food services department regularly supplied the shelter with excess food.
- In May, Florida Hospital hosted its fourth annual mission trip in El Salvador where 31 hospital employees completed building projects, held clinics, taught CPR classes, performed health screening for 630 elementary school children, and held Vacation Bible School for 150 children.
- Adventists have been at the forefront of anti-smoking advocacy, tobacco control, and stop-smoking health education for well over a century. In February 1998, Adventists joined with 22 denominations and associations supporting the Inter-religious Coalition on Smoking or Health in urging President Clinton to raise taxes on tobacco.



The Adventist Advantage

BY ANN FISHER

Seventh-day Adventists, because of their unique lifestyle, are among the most researched groups in the world. The more than 250 scientific papers, that have been published since the 1950s as the result of this research, have demonstrated that Adventists live longer and suffer less from heart disease and cancer, the leading killers in Western countries, than the general population. Two studies conducted by Loma Linda University from 1960-1982 involving 60,000 California Adventists concluded that "... for all causes of death combined, Adventists were found to have death rates one-half that of the general population."¹ This explains why Adventists live longer. Why have Adventists been so blessed?

Ellen White, one of the founders of Adventism, received several visions from the Lord during the mid to late 1800s, outlining health principles which, when followed, have proven to be the best formula for health and longevity. In 1905, 90 years ahead of the modern scientific knowledge

available to us today, Ellen White wrote, "Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison."² Today the health principles that Adventists have advocated for almost a century have been scientifically verified and are being promoted by both government agencies and health organizations.

One of Adventism's unique emphases is its belief in the holistic nature of humanity. The mental, physical, social, and spiritual dimensions of human nature are not separate, but are interconnected and dependent on each other for both spiritual and physical health. The Bible teaches that our bodies are the temple of God, and that we should present them to God as "living and holy sacrifices."³ "Whatever injures the health, not only lessens physical vigor, but tends to weaken the mental and moral powers."⁴ For Adventism, a healthy lifestyle is more than a healthy choice, it's a spiritual mandate.

The Adventist lifestyle offers eight God-given gifts of health in one package.⁵ One package, because they are not individual gifts from which to

choose. We must “unwrap” all eight to enjoy maximum emotional, physical, and spiritual wellness. The name *NEWSTART*[®] has been coined as an acronym for these eight natural prescriptions for health and happiness.

Nutritious food

Exercise

Water

Sunlight

Temperate, drug-free living

Air

Rest

Trust in divine power

Adventists believe that Christ's teaching and healing ministry is an example for reaching the world today. This conviction has largely shaped the Adventist philosophy of mission. Medical missionary work is the “right arm” of the Adventist message.

In 1866 at the fourth session of the General Conference convened in Battle Creek, Michigan, Ellen White urged the need for a health institution where the newly-advocated health principles could be publicly demonstrated. Thus the Western Health Reform Institute, which evolved into the Battle Creek Sanitarium where John Harvey Kellogg joined the staff as medical director in 1875, was established in Battle Creek in 1866. In 1900, following instructions from Ellen White, property was purchased in Loma Linda, California, on which a sanitarium was established. In 1910, the College of Medical Evangelists (CME), offering a full medical course, was established. In 1961, CME became Loma Linda University, the denomination's largest institution offering professional curriculums in medicine, dentistry, allied health professions, public health, and nursing. Thousands of health evangelists, graduates from Loma Linda, have gone around the world, establish-

ing clinics, hospitals, and health education centers, following in the footsteps of Jesus.

The church—its medical institutions, personnel, and members—has not always followed the divine counsel given to it more than a century ago. But when the inspired counsel has been followed, blessings have resulted, providing a healthier and happier life on this earth in addition to the blessed hope of eternal life in the earth made new.

ENDNOTES

1. David C. Nieman, *The Adventist Healthstyle*, Review & Herald Pub. Assn., 1992, p. 39.
2. Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1942, p. 327.
3. Romans 12:8, NAS.
4. White, p. 128.
5. See *Ministry of Healing* p. 127.
6. *NEWSTART* Health Center is operated by Weimar Institute in Weimar, Calif.

Ann Fisher is the Lake Union Herald copy editor, and the circulation and classified ad manager.

The Adventist Health Study

A vegetarian diet is recommended, although not required, by Adventism. The health visions given to Ellen White and the conviction that the original diet given to Adam and Eve before sin is God's ideal, led many of our early pioneers to adopt vegetarianism. Does it make a difference?

Researchers at Loma Linda University have been studying the health status of approximately 30,000 California Adventists over the past 25 years, making direct comparisons between vegetarians and non-vegetarians. The study is significant because it compares the health of vegetarians (predominately lacto-ovo vegetarians) and non-vegetarians within an otherwise similar population group, reducing the chance that other diet

and lifestyle factors are responsible for the health differences. Another significant fact is that Adventist non-vegetarians consume less meat and eat a more healthful diet than the typical meat eater, so the Adventist Health Study (AHS) compares vegetarian diets with diets of non-vegetarians whose eating habits are healthier than typical meat eaters.

The results of the AHS are particularly interesting, because they show that vegetarians have a better health profile, even compared to those who eat a prudent omnivorous diet. The Loma Linda *Vegetarian Nutrition & Health Letter* reports that, “The study shows that vegetarian Adventists are less likely to develop colon and prostate cancer, and vegetarian men are less likely to develop fatal heart disease. It also appears that vegetar-

ians are at decreased risk for diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, and obesity. The effects seem to be due to both increased consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes, and nuts, and to lower (or no) intake of meat.

“Finally, the AHS suggests that vegetarians can expect to gain a few years in which to enjoy their good health. Vegetarian women lived, on average, two and a half years longer than their non-vegetarian counterparts. Vegetarian men gained slightly more than three years.”

For more information on the Adventist Health Study, see the Loma Linda University *Vegetarian Nutrition & Health Letter*, October 1998, Volume I, Number 10. For a copy or a subscription to the newsletter, call (888) 558-8703.

Drawing People to Christ

The Adventist Media Center

BY ELAINE DODD

Drawing people to Christ is the ultimate goal of three television and two radio ministries, producing programs at the Adventist Media Center (AMC). Their methods vary.

THE VOICE OF PROPHECY

A leader in religious broadcasting for nearly 70 years, the *Voice of Prophecy* (VOP) presents clear messages from God's Word, bringing hope to broken people and guiding Christians in daily living.

Founded by H.M.S. Richards on a single Los Angeles radio station in 1929, and now directed by Lonnie Melashenko, the VOP reaches contemporary society with the gospel, heralding Christ's soon return and impacting millions worldwide with Sunday and daily radio programs, television broadcasts, Bible study courses, and public meetings—focusing on God's love.

LA VOZ DE LA ESPERANZA

Since 1942, *La Voz de la Esperanza* (The Voice of Hope) has touched millions of Spanish-speaking people through weekly radio programs. With director/speaker Frank Gonzalez and speaker emeritus Milton Peverini, 500 stations in 30 countries carry *La Voz* throughout North and Latin America and Europe.

Their Bible school distributes a full spectrum of courses on Bible doctrines, family life, health, and youth counseling in 32 branches that receive about 100,000 letters yearly. Through this ministry and several annual

evangelistic crusades, the Holy Spirit wins thousands to Christ.

IT IS WRITTEN

The first religious telecast in color, *It Is Written* (IIW) was founded in 1956 by George Vandeman. With Mark Finley speaker/director since 1992, IIW beams around the world, offering salvation through Christ in seven languages and health programs in Chinese.

Blending location shoots, interviews and footage from current events, science, and history to illustrate scriptural truth, IIW's weekly visit-in-your-home changes lives in prisons and mansions. Literature is mailed free of charge to viewers who call a toll-free number on the screen. IIW's traveling evangelistic teams conduct crusades and train pastors and lay people in the science of evangelism.

FAITH FOR TODAY

Faith For Today (FFT) developed a television talk show to appeal to viewers who don't watch religious programming. Hosted by Dan Matthews, *Lifestyle Magazine* teaches people about healthful living. Thousands respond to viewing the program on scores of secular stations.

But, believing the program would attract viewers who never pause to watch a religious channel, the very religious Trinity Broadcasting Network placed *Lifestyle Magazine* on their lineup, free. By early 1998 it had become the fifth most-watched program on TBN! FFT provides home-study materials on wellness, nutrition, marriage, parenting, and friendships.

BREATH OF LIFE

Breath of Life (BOL) television is aimed directly at black audiences in the largest cities of North America and the Caribbean. Nevertheless, the powerful preaching of both speaker emeritus C.D. Brooks and current speaker Walter Pearson is popular with a wide variety of viewers. BOL is well-known for planting new churches.

ADVENTIST MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

Also based at AMC is Adventist Media Productions, a team of technicians specializing in video and audio production for global church projects. Staff members from the media ministries often present seminars that draw people to a local church. Videotaped seminars, sermons, and Bible lessons are available, as well as albums by artists who provide music for the programs.

All the ministries supply churches with lists of interests developed through response to TV/radio programs and Bible courses. Letters of invitation signed by ministry speakers can be sent to these individuals, along with handbills for crusades or seminars. Local events can be announced at the end of broadcasts.

Being largely donor-supported, AMC ministries always welcome financial gifts to help them draw people to Christ and hasten His return.

ADVENTIST MEDIA CENTER
101 W. Cochran Street
Simi Valley CA 93065
(805)373-7777

Elaine Dodd is It Is Written public relations director.

Adventists on the Internet

BY RICH DuBOSE AND
ELVINA WOLCOTT

One study recently reported that traffic on the Internet doubles every 60 days. Seventh-day Adventists are very much a part of this exploding frontier. One way you can become better acquainted with your new church family is through cyberspace. Individual members, local churches and church entities maintain a strong Adventist presence on the web that continues to expand. If you have Internet access, we invite you to visit some of the following sites (both private and organizational) for church news, spiritual nourishment, resource information, and training. (*Users should enter <http://www>, before the web addresses listed below.*)

Adventist Amateur Radio Association, nearly 3,000 members world-wide; e-mail: kw8t@mci2000.com; web: ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/kw8t/adventis.htm

Adventist Association of Online Evangelism, organization for online outreach; web: aaoe.org/

Adventist Church Locator, look up a church address; web: sdanet.org/locator/home.

Adventist Communication Network, for Seventh-day Adventist satellite programming and training; web: acnsat.org/

Adventist Education, educational institutions K-University; web: nadeducation.adventist.org/

Adventist Media Center, the TV and radio ministries listed on page 18; adventistmedia.org/

Adventists Online, Adventist forum on CompuServe; web: adventist.org/online

Adventist PlusLine, ministry resource information; plusline.adventist.org/

Adventist Rodders Club (ARC), an affiliation of Adventist car buffs; e-mail: leiske@techline.com; web: techline.com/%7Eleiske/adventistrodgers.html; techline.com/~leiske/adventistrodgers.html

Adventist Singles Ministries (Oregon chapter) web: teleport.com/~brothers/asm

Adventist World Aviation (AWA), providing transportation, communications, and logistical support for front-line missions; e-mail: 76613.344@compuserve.com; web: tagnet.org/awa.

Amazing Facts, now preparing for NET New York '99, Oct. 15–Nov. 14, 1999; web: amazingfacts.org

Bible Information Line, general Bible information; bibleinfo.com/

Center for Youth Evangelism, youth resources and leadership training; andrews.edu/CYE/

Center for Volunteerism, processes English language school teachers and receives student missionary requests from all world divisions; e-mail: hellern@gc.adventist.org; web: adventist.org/gc/secretariat/

E-MALE, men's ministry resource; web: emale.org/

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (GC), world administrative offices; web: adventist.org/

Geoscience Research Institute, questions on science and faith; web: tagnet.org/gri/

Maranatha Volunteers International, sends volunteers on mission trips locally and worldwide to build churches, schools, etc.; web: maranatha.org/

National Service Organization (NSO) the official military-relations

office of the church; e-mail: adventistchaplains@CompuServe.com

North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (NAD), church administrative offices for North America; web: northamerica.adventist.org/

North American Division Religious Liberty Department, promotes religious freedom; web: nadfreedom.org/

Pacific Press Publishing Association, west coast Adventist publisher; web: pacificpress.com/

Review and Herald Publishing Association east coast Adventist publisher; web: rhpa.org/

Sabbath School Network, adult lesson study helps; ssnet.org/

SDASource, index of Adventist web sites; web: tagnet.org/SDASource

Tagnet, Adventist Internet reference site; web: tagnet.org/

Three Angels Broadcasting Network; international lay television ministry; web: 3abn.org/

YouthNet—Adventist Youth Service Network; e-mail inside NAD: vasqna@nad.adventist.org; outside NAD: latcge@nad.adventist.org; web: cuc.edu/sdaorg/YouthNet

Youth Online, Adventist youth web hangout; web: youth/

As you explore these sites, you'll discover links that will take you to many others. One note needs to be made. Some sites on the Internet that claim to be Seventh-day Adventist are not affiliated with our church. If you have questions about a particular organization or web site, call (800) SDA-PLUS (732-7587).

Rich DuBose is PlusLine director and Elvina Wolcott is the primary consultant at PlusLine, the division's 800 number service to answer questions from local church leaders.

Making Time for a Forever Friendship

*NET '98, The NeXt Millennium Seminar with Dwight K. Nelson,
Held October 9–November 14, 1998*

BY BETTY COONEY

Throughout the world, a lot of people who said, "Go to meetings five nights a week for more than month? No way! I don't have time!" were Spirit-led to do just that. How did they manage?

A businessman on the road for his company planned his work appointments to coincide with meeting sites. A Vermont family on vacation plotted their trip so they could attend meetings, making sure they could watch a tape from the local church back home if they happened to miss a meeting. Students made commitments and planned their studying in order to attend. Some combined the meetings with other events: Young people attending a birthday party were treated to a night at NET '98. When a husband, wanting to reconcile with his wife, asked for a date, his wife agreed as long as it was NET '98.

When the 27-night series ended, the overwhelming response was, "We'll miss the meetings!" Web site visitors immediately began pleading via e-mail, "Please don't take the web site down." They wanted to catch up on meetings they had missed and retrieve materials they hadn't had time to retrieve earlier. The net98.org site will remain as long as there is interest in the on-line media and print versions of the lectures and other features on the site, thanks to the continued support of volunteer web masters Darryl and Cheryl Hosford, the Tagnet

server, and a team of volunteer on-line Bible counselors and others who have made the site possible. With participation from other countries, some materials have been made available on-line in languages other than English.

From South Africa, a woman who missed meetings because of an eye operation was so determined to finish the series she sent word she would do so "even if she had to hitchhike to get there!" Her family members drove 90 km every night and then wrote, "We'll save a lot on petrol, but will miss the meetings."

For some sites where the series was begun later than the October 9 opening broadcast, the *NeXt Millennium Seminar* continued a week or more after the broadcast series closed. An additional 3,000 sites throughout the world planned to conduct the series in early 1999, using VHS tapes. Individuals have continued the series as well, by watching the on-line videos of the meetings and inviting friends to visit the web site.

From Papua, New Guinea, Monica shared her feelings and that of many others expressed in hundreds of e-mails and faxes: "My heart was very much saddened as I was driving in to the stadium to attend the last meeting, but as I was leaving I had this renewed aim to make it home to heaven to shake the hands of Jesus and of every one of you. I have this feeling it will not be very long before I do."

Until that glad day, the word from fifth and sixth-generation Adventists as well as those who have been newly-

baptized or are still studying is that they are not only remembering NET '98, they are sharing what they received from it. DDK posted the following report on the web site message board: "For me, NET '98 is still going, because my aide is slowly watching the films I bring to work. She is very interested, but she works two jobs and has a family. Sometimes she only sees 10 or 15 minutes a day, but as we have breaks from the kids, she keeps plugging along. Yesterday she watched #7 Queen's Prayer about the Sabbath. I do not think she understands her obligation to keep it yet, but she has not rejected it either. Please continue to pray for my dear friend."

By God's grace, technology plus evangelism has once again brought exhilarating results as the Spirit blessed. Numerous churches reported that it also provided more than one fervent prayer experience as equipment malfunctioned, then came on within minutes of a broadcast. Weather threatened numerous times, but a church in Japan found that lashing a dish in place met the challenge of even a typhoon. From Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, buffeted by the tail end of Hurricane Mitch, Deborah Sangster wrote that her church was blessed by "3 angels," men from the congregation "who took turns standing in the rain and wind to physically hold the satellite dish in place so those attending the meeting could receive the blessing of hearing the message."

In Santa Rosa, California, a local

member asked one of his employees to tape the meetings that would be shown at his church site. "She was by herself each day and was able to concentrate on each presentation," he wrote. Her baptism was scheduled on Sabbath, November 21, 1998.

In addition to reaffirming for members that the church is a global family united in its efforts to bring the Good News of salvation to the world, NET '98 was a family experience for many who attended. A baby boomer in Washington State who had stopped attending church in her early 20's, wrote, "It was not until the *NeXt Millennium Seminar* that I felt I had finally found a God and a church I can really believe in. My 15-year-old son attended the meetings with me and also learned to love God, and has chosen to follow." Mother and son planned to be baptized as the series closed. In a Kansas church, a small

group had watched the seminar each evening. When the final altar call was made, wrote Flo, "only one soul came forward at our church, but what a precious soul it was—my daughter!" Couples were married during the series, then baptized together. "Computerman," a young adult who participated in a chat room hosted by speaker Dwight Nelson, requested prayer for his mother, then later wrote that she was planning to be baptized.

San Francisco Central Church pastor, Connley Hartman, wrote that Irene and Helen were sisters raised in a Russian Orthodox home. They stopped attending when they grew up but still wanted to know more of the Scriptures. Helen moved to Texas; Irene stayed in San Francisco. "Prior to NET '98, Helen was getting acquainted with a local Adventist church in Texas," Pastor Hartman writes. "She told her sister what she was learning,

and eventually encouraged her to attend NET '98 in the church near her home." Thanksgiving week, Helen flew to San Francisco so both could be baptized that weekend.

Elmhurst, Illinois pastor, Frank Kean, received a very welcome invitation by e-mail on the closing Sabbath of NET '98. It was an invitation from his brother, George. He was attending the meetings at the New Market, Virginia church and wanted his brother to baptize him.

When the broadcasts concluded, among the thousands taking their stand for baptism and church membership were clergy and truck drivers, prisoners and returning prodigal sons and daughters, young adults and retirees. They had found their Forever Friend.

Betty Cooney is the NET '98 communication director.

Nonagenarians Baptized with GenXers in Ontario

Chaplain Bujak, I know that the Sabbath is the right day to worship God," said 95-year-old Julja Jager, the senior person among eight baptized November 14 at the Heritage Green site in Ontario, Canada. Her assurance about the Sabbath dated from 1927, when she had bought a book in Germany on the Ten Commandments from two men at the door. She had searched since then for a Sabbath-keeping church. In March of 1998, Julja, now in Canada, became a resident at the Heritage Green Nursing Home, where she attends every morning worship and weekly Bible Discovery Class and did not miss a single *NeXt Millennium Seminar* session.

The second oldest person to be baptized was Aurelia Paroubek,

92, who does not hear a word. The church bought a TV with the closed-captioning feature so Aurelia could read Nelson's sermons, since she couldn't keep up with Pastor Dwight's rapid-fire presentations. So each message was followed up by a pastoral visit lasting from 1.5 to 2.5 hours each. Nursing home chaplain, Adam Bujak, says, "I wore out three magic pads bringing Aurelia up to date on what she had missed. Half way through the series, I turned to the laptop as a means of communicating the gospel. When asked if she wanted to be baptized, Aurelia's response was, 'Sure, I want to be your neighbor in heaven.'"

A third gentleman has Parkinson's disease and was a patient in a local hospital. With a nursing shortage there, he had been losing weight, since he could not feed himself. Bujak

visited him each morning at 8:30 a.m. in time to feed him breakfast. Then, he says, "I fed him spiritually by connecting my laptop to a phone line and letting Fred Dinsdale listen to the previous night's message. He just loved it. So did the other men on the ward, who asked all kinds of questions.

When the therapist came in one day, she was curious about what I was doing. An explanation about *NeXt Millennium Seminar* at the chaplain's church led to her request the next day for the NET '98 web site address. Only eternity will reveal all the results of NET '98.

Watch for more inspiring NET '98 stories next month.

Having a Spiritually-empowered Childbirth

*Developing a Closer Relationship with God and Your Spouse
Through the Experience of a Spiritually-enriched Childbirth*

BY DORIS CHERWENKA AND
DELORA HAGEN

As part of Hinsdale Hospital's Health Link Wellness Series, the hospital offered a unique childbirth lecture entitled "Having a Spiritually-empowered Childbirth." The presenter, Doris Cherwenka, is a Christian certified nurse-midwife who attends births at Hinsdale Hospital. There were between 55-60 people in attendance for this special community wellness initiative that emphasized the spiritual aspect of childbirth. Expectant parents were able to ponder God's marvelous plan to make families. The goal of the presentation was to show couples how to develop a closer relationship with God and their spouses through the experience of spiritually-enriched childbirth.

The lecture began with the Biblical basis for childbirth, looking at both the Old and New Testaments. The natural birth process that God designed is one of the most awe-inspiring miracles witnessed. Even though God's design is so perfect, Satan can rob women of the wonder and beauty of birth through deceitful fear. "Fear, anxiety, and the resulting tension can lead to serious problems for mothers because it can prevent labor from progressing. It can also lead to problems for the babies because it can result in fetal distress," says Cherwenka.

This experience gives everyone involved a new appreciation for the

meaning of family, how we need each other, and how each person has an important role to play. The pregnant mother will find the experience of pregnancy and childbirth more fulfilling if her husband is there to give protection, support, and encouragement.

Couples are encouraged to write Bible verses to bring with them to labor so the mother can read them, or her support person can read them out loud. Creative suggestions were given at the lecture, such as initiating a prayer chain when the mother enters labor. What a comfort it is to know that people are praying for the safe delivery of a new bundle of joy. Christian music can also help a couple to stay spiritually centered and relaxed during labor.

Pregnancy and childbirth provide

wonderful opportunities for spouses to draw closer together. The experience of childbirth also leads to the opportunity of a deeper relationship with our Heavenly Father. God has promised that He will be with us through every experience. He has promised us His strength. As children grow up, there will be difficult times, but the love a parent feels for that child never dies. Through the way they love their children, parents can better understand God's love for all of His children.

To Your Health is provided by the Adventist Health System Midwest Region in the interest of helping the members of the Adventist Church in the Lake Union Conference maintain and improve their health.



Childbirth and the making of families is one of God's most marvelous miracles.

Kimberly Ann Flahter

Andrews Religion Majors Become Lansing "Lifesavers"

Students Learn in Evangelistic Field School

BY TONYA HIPPLER

LIFESAVERS. The term is usually used in a nautical context. But in summer 1998, the term "lifesavers" was redefined for an evangelistic context as 10 dedicated Andrews University religion majors worked to bring gospel truth to the citizens of Lansing, Michigan.

During their 12-week evangelistic field school, held June 11 to August 31, "The Lansing Lifesavers" learned a lot more than soul-winning techniques for an urban context. "We learned that there is no substitute for personal contact when it comes to spreading the gospel," said Chris Holland, a sophomore religion major from Chicago.

"Everybody up here loved these students because their willingness to

learn and their burden for souls was so evident," said Loren Nelson, Michigan Conference ministerial director.

While the experiences for "The Lansing Lifesavers" proved to be unique, it was not unprecedented for Andrews students. In summer 1997, 10 religion majors worked in a similar evangelistic field school in Jackson, Michigan. "'The Jackson 10' (last summer's crew) and the 'Lansing Lifesavers' might sound like a hit-parade roster, but the groups show that Andrews religion majors are getting the practical training that will make a difference in their careers," said Keith Mattingly, associate professor of religion and interim chair of the Andrews religion department.

"As important as it is, academic learning only goes so far. These summer experiences help young men and women solidify their calling to the

ministry and experience 'front-line' evangelism," said Mattingly.

The plan for success was simple: personal contact. Like their Jackson predecessors, the Lansing crew started by going door-to-

door, conducting a community religious survey and offering Bible studies to those who were interested. The efforts all led to a late-summer evangelistic series at the Lansing Church.

The "Lifesavers" logged more than 20,000 driving miles getting to neighborhoods, and knocked on more than 6,000 doors. Outside of their field school responsibilities, they spoke and helped out in churches in the Lansing area, and, at the end of the summer, they had given or initiated some 2,100 Bible studies. All the work paid off when 10 people were baptized, and more than 200 people continue in Bible studies that the students first initiated.

"Thanks to the students and the field school, our church is now excited about evangelism," said Daniel Tower, Lansing Church pastor.

The field training school is now an annual part of the curriculum for Andrews religion majors. Continued "practicum training" goes on throughout the year, as religion majors work and volunteer in churches throughout southern Michigan and northern Indiana. "Our goal is to produce some of the best-prepared pastors that can be found in the country," Mattingly said.

Better-trained students make for more effective spiritual leadership in the future. And highly-motivated college students meant changed lives in Lansing during the summer of 1998. After all, lifesavers can never fail when they work for the Lord, the ultimate Lifesaver.

Tonya Hippler is an Andrews University correspondent.



Jack Slenger, Andrews University Relations

Religion majors who participated in the summer 1998 evangelistic field school were Bayani Pastrana, Courtney Ray, Trisha Gallimore, Keith Mattingly, Isidro Perez, Chris Holland, and Eric Ellison. Not shown are: Young-Chun Kim, Jorge Guevara, Larra Miller, and Heath McClellan.

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Detail of stained-glass window in Pioneer Memorial Church on the Andrews University campus

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Churches, schools, and conferences may submit announcements to the Lake Union Herald through their local conference offices. Institutions and organizations outside the Lake Union may submit announcements to the e-mail address listed in the masthead on page 31. Readers may want to verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Events Calendar: Feb. 5—Friday Festival of Faith vespers featuring The Ambassadors singing group from Nigeria, Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC), 7:30 p.m.; **12-15**—Black history weekend featuring Ifeoma Kweisi, Palo Alto (Calif.) Church senior pastor, Sabbath at 8:20 a.m., and Anthony Paschal, Southern California Conference vice president for Black ministries at 11:20 a.m. [weekend theme "Let Brotherly Love Continue"]; **22-27** Creative Arts Festival featuring Calvin Miller, author of "The Singer," PMC, Feb. 23, 10:30 a.m., and Linda Pastan, poetry-reading, Chan Shun Hall, Feb. 25, 7:00 p.m. [For more information about other events included in the Creative Arts Festival, call (616) 471-3322.]; **24-27**—Andrews

University band and keyboard festival [music teachers who want a senior-high-school-aged instrumental or keyboard student to participate should contact Alan Mitchell immediately at (616) 471-6340.]; **26**—Friday Festival of Faith vespers featuring the Andrews University Wind Symphony conducted by Alan Mitchell, PMC, 7:30 p.m.; **27**—Band and keyboard festival concert featuring students from Lake Union academies and more, PMC, 3:00 p.m.

Andrews University alumni homecoming will be **Apr. 22-25**. The annual business meeting of the association will convene Thursday evening, Apr. 22. Special reunions are planned for the classes of '39, '49, '59, '69, '74, '79, and '89. The weekend theme is "The World Is Our Classroom," a reunion of all Andrews

tours. Dust off your slide collections and plan to attend! For more information, please contact the Alumni House, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0950; (616) 471-3591; e-mail alumni@andrews.edu.

The Institute of World Mission at Andrews University is the training organization for missionaries, and Mission Institute is open to anyone interested in missions. The 1999 dates for Mission Institute are **Feb. 26-Mar. 13** (Loma Linda University), **June 11-26** (Andrews University), and **Oct. 15-30** (Andrews University). For information, call (616) 471-2522.

LAKE UNION

Offerings: Feb. 6—outreach/church budget; **13**—Adventist television ministries; **20**—church budget; **27**—local conference advance. **Mar. 6**—outreach/church budget.

Special days: Feb. 6-13—Black history week; **13-20**—Christian home and marriage week; **20**—health ministries Sabbath. **Mar. 6**—women's day of prayer.

Learn how to practice and teach Bible-based stewardship at Pioneer Memorial Church **Aug. 29-31**. Learn where the biblical

storehouse is. Learn how much tithe and offerings are required by the Lord. Learn how to apply good stewardship principles to your life in this complex world.

Sponsored by the Lake Union Conference stewardship department, these presentations will be made by some of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's stewardship giants from the North American Division and union conferences. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of materials. Housing and food service will be handled by Andrews University.

For more information, call your local conference stewardship director (see the conference phone numbers in the masthead on page 31 of this issue) or the Lake Union Conference, phone (616) 473-8200; fax at (616) 473-8209.

MICHIGAN

The annual Michigan academies alumni reunion will be held at Forest Lake Academy, **Mar. 6** beginning at 10:00 a.m. Alumni and friends of all Michigan academies are invited to attend. Come and enjoy fellowship with old friends and new. Beverage and tableware will be provided at the fellowship potluck following church. For more information contact Andrews Academy, Battle Creek Academy, Great Lakes Academy, or Sheryl Vandenberghe at (813) 681-3293.

Battle Creek Academy alumni weekend will be **Apr. 16-17** at the Battle Creek Tabernacle. Breakfast at the Tabernacle at 8:45 a.m. will be followed by Sabbath school at 9:30 and church at 11:00 a.m. Elder Dale Hannah, former Battle Creek Academy principal, motivational speaker, and retired pastor, will speak for church. Honored will be the classes of '39, '49, '59, '69, '74, '79, and '89.

WORLD CHURCH

Lessons 5-8 in the Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for first quarter, 1999, and Chapters 5-8 in its companion book, *Show and Tell*, do not coincide. Lesson 5 in the quarterly matches chapter 6 in the book. Lesson 6 matches chapter 7. Lesson 7 matches chapter 8. And

Lake Union Conference Tithe Comparison Year-to-date November 30, 1998

Average Membership Basis					Increase	%	Per Capita	
1998	1997	Conference	1998	1997	(Decrease)	Inc. -Decr.	1998	1997
11,282	11,394	Illinois	6,939,532	6,776,452	163,080	2.41%	615.10	594.74
5,816	5,559	Indiana	4,453,001	4,030,209	422,791	10.49%	765.65	724.99
22,842	22,375	Lake Region	7,465,856	6,717,308	748,548	11.14%	326.85	300.21
23,294	23,074	Michigan	19,786,822	18,391,522	1,395,300	7.59%	849.44	797.07
6,219	6,109	Wisconsin	4,074,496	3,923,135	151,361	3.86%	655.17	642.19
<u>69,453</u>	<u>68,511</u>	Totals	<u>42,719,707</u>	<u>39,838,627</u>	<u>2,881,081</u>	<u>7.23%</u>	<u>615.09</u>	<u>581.49</u>
Tithe per Week			889,994	829,971	60,023	7.23%		

Sunset Calendar

	Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Jan. 29.	Feb. 5.	Feb. 12.
Berrien Springs, MI	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:56	6:05	6:14
Chicago	4:37	4:45	4:53	5:02	5:11	5:20
Detroit	5:19	5:26	5:35	5:44	5:53	6:02
Indianapolis	5:38	5:45	5:53	6:01	6:09	6:18
La Crosse, WI	4:45	4:53	5:02	5:11	5:21	5:30
Lansing, MI	5:21	5:29	5:38	5:47	5:56	6:05
Madison, WI	4:40	4:47	4:56	5:05	5:15	5:24
Springfield, IL	4:51	4:58	5:06	5:14	5:23	5:31

lesson 8 matches chapter 5. The Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department of the General Conference, its editors, along with Pacific Press Publishing Association regret any confusion this may cause.

You are cordially invited to the inaugural installation service for Dr. David Smith, the 27th president of Union College, Sunday, **Feb. 28**, at 3:00 p.m., at the College View Church, 49th and Prescott, Lincoln, NE. For more information contact LuAnn Davis (402) 486-2503; e-mail ludavis@ucollege.edu.

Shenandoah Valley Academy will be celebrating 90 years of history during alumni weekend **Apr. 16-17**. Activities include a golf tournament on Friday (registration required); multimedia presentation of SVA's history from 1908 to the present day, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Sabbath; SVA choir reunion concert for the choirs of John Read ('54-'61), Stewart Crook ('61-'64), and Victor Hilbert ('61-'64) (practice will be Sabbath at 4:00 p.m., and concert at 7:00 p.m.); Saturday night talent show and tribute to retiring teachers Sarah Jane Liers and Clarence and Beverly Williams.

Dubuque Centennial! The Dubuque (Iowa) Church will celebrate its centennial **Apr. 23-24**. All former members, pastors, and friends are invited to join us. If you have addresses of former members, or wish more information, call (888) 769-4959; e-mail d4woods@mwci.net.

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ADVENTIST MEDIA CENTER SCHEDULE

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7

Faith For Today's Lifestyle Magazine: "Home Remedies

That Work," with Dr. Walter Thompson.

It Is Written: "He Showed Me Real Courage." [Jesus Face to Face—Part 5].

La Voz de la Esperanza: "If Only the Wives Knew..." (Si Sólo las Esposas Supieran...)

Voice of Prophecy, Sun: "Surrender: I Give up What?"—Part 2. *Mon-Fri:* "The Greatest Promotion in History: Philippians 2."

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14

Faith For Today's Lifestyle Magazine: "Women and Cancer" with actress Marcia Wallace and author Joyce Landorff Heatherly.

It Is Written: "When Walls Crumble."

La Voz de la Esperanza: "If Only the Husbands Knew..." (Si Sólo los Esposos Supieran...)

Voice of Prophecy, Sun: "Sorry Enough to Quit." *Mon-Fri:* "My One Perfect Treasure: Philippians 3."

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21

Faith For Today's Lifestyle Magazine: "Food Smart," with Cheryl Townsley, wellness consultant and author.

It Is Written: "When Ancient Kings Tremble."

La Voz de la Esperanza: "The Power of Jesus" (El Poder de Jesús).

Voice of Prophecy, Sun: "The Person God Forgot"—Part 1 with Morris Venden; *Mon-Fri:* "A Truckload of Purity: Philippians 4."

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28

Faith For Today's Lifestyle Magazine: "Sexuality," with Dr. Lewis Smedes.

It Is Written: "God's Temple Re-discovered."

La Voz de la Esperanza: "Three Diseases of the Soul" (Tres Enfermedades del Alma).

Voice of Prophecy, Sun: "The Person God Forgot"—Part 2.

ADVENTIST COMMUNICATION NETWORK SCHEDULE

Feb. 3, 7:30-8:30 p.m., ET—First Wednesday: satellite TBA.

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 11 a.m.—Noon, ET,—Adventist Worship Hour: satellite TBA.

Feb. 13, 4-6 p.m., ET—Cross Training: satellite TBA.

Feb. 13, 6-8 p.m., ET—Together Again: satellite TBA.

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Youth who dare care²

Dating, Love, and the Whole Person

Thirty-one thousand feet above ground was an unexpected place to get educated on love, dating, and commitment. The advice came from two young ladies who coincidentally sat by me during my flight to California—Angela Worden, a 15-year-old from Lake Mills, Wis., and Erin Armstrong, a 20-year-old from Springfield, Ill. I didn't know these girls from Adam, but I decided to ask them their opinions on dating.

"I think it's cool," said Erin. "You spend time with someone you feel secure with."

"Okay," I reflected, "So why do you do it?"

"Well," Angela responded, "it opens a broader perspective to different kinds of people."

After two hours of sharing, the three of us came to a smart analysis. Erin said it best. "Don't date one person for physical or emotional involvement. That will prevent you from getting hurt. Instead, have many friends that will help you grow spiritually and intellectually."

At 31,000 feet, that was sound advice.

Live the Life

It was a bitter-sweet moment. Minutes earlier, Tad had kissed his parents goodbye. Now he was airborne, heading East to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa. It was June 8, 1998.

Tad Wintermeyer was on the verge of accomplishing his life dream. Seated on the top deck of the 747, he wore his white pilot's shirt with four silver bars on each shoulder.

"You're a captain, sir," remarked the stewardess as she brought him a snack. "For what airline?" Tad smiled and responded, "I'm a pilot, volunteering services to a missionary organization."

"How interesting," said the stewardess. "How many years have you done this?" Tad smiled again and replied, "I'm 18 years old."

"I'm sorry," retorted the stewardess with a trace of skepticism, "you're how old?"

She heard him right. At an early age, Tad knew what he wanted to do. That summer he had completed ground school, finished 250 hours of flying, taken five flying tests, and earned his CFIIME (ask Tad what that means). Now he was talking to a stewardess who was shocked to know he was combining his love for flying with the gospel commission—at age 18!

Tad's youthfulness didn't limit him. In Africa he built a plane, flew



Tad kept his eye on his goal and went for it.

the plane, conducted Bible meetings under mango trees, and experienced one miracle after another. Six months later he was back in Michigan—a commercial pilot and a flight instructor for Andrews University. Pretty cool.

"How did you do it all?" I asked Tad as he told me his story. "Instead of dating," Tad answered, "I rigorously dedicated my time to flying. It took discipline. Getting into the dating scene before it was time would have made it completely impossible for me to learn and experience all that I did."

Dedicate your life and your will to God, and He will take you places you never imagined!

William Hurtado



Two young strangers on an airplane had some pretty good ideas about dating.

*Editor: Pastor Ron Whitehead, executive director; Associate Editor: William Hurtado
This page is designed for youth of all ages by the staff of the NAD Center for Youth Evangelism, based in the Lake Union Conference, Box C, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.
You may contact them with your ideas, concerns, and questions at (800) YOUTH-2-U.*

PROFILES OF YOUTH

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THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

Box C, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; (616) 473-8242
CompuServe 74532,472

Editor Richard Dower
Managing Editor Nadine Dower
Copy Editor/Circulation Manager Ann Fisher

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Adventist Health System Midwest Region Elizabeth Lively
Andrews University Jack Stenger jack@andrews.edu
Illinois Richard Carey 74617,1243
Indiana Clay Farwell 74617,771
Lake Region Carolyn Palmer 74532,1514
Michigan Sandra Blackner 110175,1313
Wisconsin James Fox jfox@chorus.net

CORRESPONDENTS

Hinsdale Hospital Crister DelaCruz CDelaCruz@ahss.org
Illinois Jori Avante 76361,3031
Indiana Sheri DeWitt 74617,771
Michigan Bruce Babienko 74532,1235
Wisconsin Kitty Cray kitrae@juno.com

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

Box C, Berrien Springs, MI 49103
616-473-8200

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LOCAL CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONS

Adventist Health System Midwest Region: Ernie W. Sadau, president, 120 N. Oak St., Hinsdale, IL 60521; (630) 856-2010.
Andrews University: Niels-Erik Andreassen, president, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0670; (616) 471-7771.
Illinois: J. Wayne Coulter, president; Ken Denslow, secretary; David Freedman, treasurer; street address: 619 Plainfield Rd., 2nd floor, Willowbrook, IL 60521; mailing address: P.O. Box 1110, Westmont, IL 60559-1110; (630) 734-0920.
Indiana: Clay Farwell, president; Archie Moore, secretary; George Crumley, treasurer; street address: 15250 N. Meridian St., Carmel, IN 46032; mailing address: P.O. Box 1950, Carmel, IN 46082-1950; (317) 844-6201.
Lake Region: Norman K. Miles, president; Ivan Van Lange, secretary; Gregory Baker, treasurer; 8517 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60619; (773) 846-2661.
Michigan: Jay Gallimore, president; Fred Earles, secretary; Michael Jamieson, treasurer; street address: 320 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing, MI 48933; mailing address: P.O. Box 19009, Lansing, MI 48901; (517) 485-2226.
Wisconsin: Donald Corkum, president; Brian Hamilton, secretary; treasurer; street address: 3505 Highway 151 North, Sun Prairie, WI 53590; mailing address: P.O. Box 7310, Madison, WI 53707-7310; (608) 241-5235.

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Jon Schmidt

Jonathan Schmidt, 17, a junior at Hinsdale Adventist Academy, has revived the notion of the Renaissance Man. By combining success and leadership in academics, athletics, and music, Jon has set a standard for his peers to follow. An aggressive basketball player with growing confidence, Jon leads his team with a winning attitude. Jon is also an accomplished saxophone soloist. "He has music flowing out of his ears," says Denisse Bowser, director of music. Jon regularly solos at school, church, and other events. "The ability to be

so good at the things he does, yet remain focused and humble is rare and admirable," says Principal Sean Kootsey.

Jon is the son of Tricia and Allen Wightman of Hinsdale, Ill. While he still has one more year of high school, Jon is already planning to study mechanical engineering and looks forward to raising a family.

Winnelle De Leon, 18, currently a senior, is a life-long student of Hinsdale Adventist Academy. A charter student of a newly-established senior academy, Winnelle has had many opportunities to showcase her musical, leadership, and academic abilities, not only at school, but also in the Hinsdale Fil-Am Church where she is a member.

At school her influence is felt by dramatic growth in the yearbook, her musical talents, and her ability to positively influence her peers. "Our yearbook has risen from elementary school to senior academy level because of her skill and dedication," says Ruth Horton who advises Winnelle with the yearbook "She is one of the rare students who offers leadership to her peers in many different arenas," said Principal Sean Kootsey.

Winnelle, a longtime trumpet player, recently switched to French horn. "She sounds as if she were born with it in her hands," said Denisse Bowser, director of music.

The daughter of Winnie and Elizabeth De Leon of Darien, Ill., Winnelle is actively pursuing college opportunities and plans on studying medicine or forensics at Andrews University.



Winnelle De Leon

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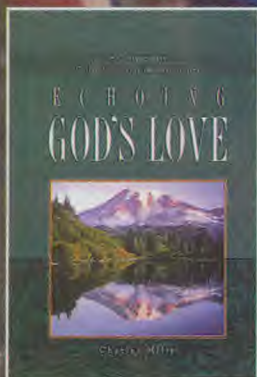
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