

the Lake Union Herald

DECEMBER 1999



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COVER

Christmas is a special time for children to celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus in pageant and song. *Herald* photo.

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EDITORIAL

No Thanks . . . Maybe Tomorrow

BY DON SCHNEIDER, LAKE UNION
CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

It seems strange to me. I saved him several thousand dollars, yet he never even said thank you. I didn't do the favor for him to get recognition. I did it because I wanted to do it, and because I thought it was the right thing to do. There was a cost, and it was inconvenient. But I was sure that it was the right thing, so I did it. Now I wonder why the man never even mentioned it. Did he not recognize it as a favor or a gift? Is it something that he has just come to expect, so that he sees no need to acknowledge it? Has he been too busy?

Then I got to thinking about what Jesus does for me . . . every day. How often do I tell *Him* thank you? Do you suppose that He is wondering if I've even noticed what He has done for me? His gifts come so regularly to me that it would not be impossible for me to expect them to always be there. Every day I wake up, right? . . . and have a good place to live. Every day I have food to eat. And every day I enjoy good health. These gifts have become so commonplace that I'm sure that I don't say thank you to Jesus often enough.

Maybe He is trying to excuse my thoughtlessness. Maybe he says, "Oh, when he wakes up He will talk to Me." But then that day things get so busy that I hardly say hello.

So He might be saying, "Toward the middle of the day, maybe Don will spend a little time with me. Maybe he'll read some of my Letter to him. Surely, then, he'll talk to me and just say thanks for so many things." But during the middle of the day, I have so many *important* appointments and meetings that I only say the same prayer at the meal that I've said many times before. It was a habit and not really meaningful, neither to Jesus nor to me.

Do you suppose that He says, "Well, at the end of the day, we will have a little time together"? But then I come to the end of the day, and I've worked all day, and I'm so tired. I fall asleep right away, and still I haven't really talked with Jesus to tell Him thank you for salvation, for family, for friends, for safety, and for so many other things. Probably He is wondering if I've even noticed what He's done for me. What Jesus did for me, He did because He wanted to, and because He felt that it was right to do, but a thank you wouldn't hurt.

So, right now, I am going to take some time to actually do it. Yes, I have other things awaiting my attention, and I am in a great hurry; but I want Jesus to know that I *really believe* that He's important to me. I'm stopping my other activities right now for a while to say thank you to Jesus.

"Thank you for salvation; and thank you for my family. Thank you for health. Thank you for this new day. . . . Thank you, Jesus!"

Honduras

Ultimate Workout 1999

BY PAT WICK

This is not a snorkeling trip or a shopping expedition," says Fred Specht (Indiana), construction coach for the Ultimate Workout. "You be sure and say that when you write about it," he cautions. "What this is," he pauses for emphasis, "is a place for kids to give God a chance to use them."

One more time, the Ultimate Workout materialized with 175 participants—the largest group yet—in Honduras during the last part of July. "Having a larger group gave us a chance to do more personal work in the communities than ever before," said Steve Case, the organizing dynamo behind the Ultimate Workout philosophy and president of Piece of the Pie Ministries. "We had outreach teams from each of the four sites visiting homes, offering to have prayer with community families, and doing medical clinics. Then, of course, they would invite the children to VBS and the adults to spiritual and health-oriented meetings in the evening. The response was overwhelming."

"I have been on many mission trips, never like this," says Luis Leonor, Lake Union Conference vice president. "The Ultimate Workout is really an ULTIMATE WORKOUT. We learn to live in the same conditions that the nationals live in. That requires flexibility. And the conditions in which we work also are a real learning experience. All of our young people need to experience this at least once in their lives. They will never be the same."

Youth leadership and training has been the hallmark of the Ultimate Workout. "I hate age limits," said Mike Ahn (Texas). "They always say, 'wait until you are 18, or you have to be 21.' Here there are no limits. The only question is, 'Can you do it?'" Not only are teenagers doing the work, but the project leadership is provided by teenagers as well. "We have leaders who are 14, 15, 16 years old—that's young, but they are leading," says Mike (who at 25 is considered a coach). "These kids are not only doing something for the church but helping each other. Think of it—a fourteen-year-old teaching an 18-year-old how to lay block—nowhere else will an 18-year-old listen to a kid four years younger."

The 1999 Ultimate Workout in Honduras was especially challenging. Project coordinators and construction supervisors always make a site visit in advance to ascertain the resources available in any given country. This year, in between the site visit and the actual project, Hurricane Mitch devastated Honduras. Whole villages were washed away. "Even the course of the river which runs through Mangaseca was altered," says Steve Case, "which means that the stability of a community is changed. Church congregations just disappeared. Ownership of the land changed because the river changed. Where once people owned a plot of land, the earth actually disappeared into the water along with the houses. In the aftermath of this kind of disruption, other people moved in on new land

formations, and land owners became renters in temporary housing. It was under these circumstances that the Ultimate Workout groups came to build churches.

After 10 days in Honduran heat and monsoon rain, four brand new Maranatha churches stood in four villages: Barranco Chele, Mangaseca, Rio Claro, and Sonaguera, Honduras. In the process, just as Pastor Leonor expected, the lives of all the participants were altered. "We have people coming to evening meetings, and our young people are the evangelists," Leonor said.

"There are so many things we depend on at home," says Jessica Landess, a 16-year-old project coordinator. "There's my friends, Mom, Dad, the telephone, the computer, e-mail, television. Here we have to rely on each other and depend fully on God, something I don't normally do at home."

Maranatha Volunteers International constructs urgently-needed buildings around the world with volunteer labor, offering a wide variety of service opportunities for all ages. If you would like information about volunteer projects, including the 2000 Ultimate Workout in Nicaragua, July 18–31, contact Maranatha at (916) 920-1900 or look us up on our web page: www.maranatha.org. The Ultimate Workout has its own web site now to facilitate youth contact in between projects: www.ultimateworkout.org.

Pat Wick is Maranatha's traveling reporter.



Volunteers from the Lake Union participated in the Ultimate Workout, building churches in Honduras.

NEW MEMBERS

MICHIGAN

"What a joy it was to see our mom go down into the baptismal waters to be born again!" said Dawn Bains, proud daughter of **Maxine Eismann**, who recently gave her life to the Lord. "June 5, 1999, is a birthday that we will celebrate for many years to come—the day Mom was baptized and born again." As Dawn's sister and Maxine's daughter, I had to wholeheartedly agree.



From left: Judi Sauza, Dawn Bains, and Maxine Eismann rejoice together at the providences of God that allowed all of them to become members of God's remnant church

Although our mom, told us there was a God in heaven, we weren't reared with any kind of religion. When I was about eight years old, I remember running into Mom's bedroom to tell her something. My words and feet came to a quick halt when I saw her kneeling by her bed praying. That was proof enough for me that there was a God in heaven—but I didn't have a clue who Jesus was. Thirteen years ago my sister Dawn became a Seventh-day Adventist Christian and began praying for me. Five years later I came to know the beautiful character of Jesus and followed my sister in baptism. Then, together, we began praying for Mom.

The Lord used many different avenues to bring our mom to an

understanding of Bible truths. The church she was attending held a seminar on the second coming and the rapture. This made her excited as well as perplexed. She could see in the scriptures that Jesus was coming back soon, but the rapture was something she could not find in her Bible. The NeXt Millennium satellite series produced by the Adventist Church was just around the corner. The Lord's timing was perfect. Dawn told mom that all her questions concerning the rapture would be answered through scripture as Pastor Dwight Nelson preached during the satellite series. We attended the series together, and almost every night Mom was thrilled to find God answering her questions as Pastor Nelson unfolded Biblical truths. However, when he made an altar call, her response was, "I'm just not ready to be locked in."

Mom began attending the Livingston Church while also attending her own Sunday church. She believed the major Adventist doctrines, and she began keeping the Sabbath on her own. As part of their NET '98 follow-up program, Chris Small, pastor of the Livingston Church, and his wife, Karen, started personal Bible studies with Mom every week, and the church members continued to express their Christian love and friendship to her.

During this time Mom also attended two church functions that gave her a sense of belonging. The first was a seminar for health professionals on how to care for their patients' spiritual needs. As a seasoned nurse, Maxine was impressed with the compassion and sincere interest this course demonstrated. The second was the women's retreat at Camp Au Sable. These helped her feel love, acceptance, and inner peace.

Finally, Maxine attended an evangelistic series led out by Michigan Conference evangelist Steve Vail. The meetings confirmed all the truths she had learned, and as Pastor Vail talked about people "sitting on the fence," she realized that was what she had been doing. She believed, but she was afraid to take the step of faith.

One Sabbath morning at the Livingston Church, Pastor Small gave an altar call. Mom did not intend to respond, but she felt compelled to go forward. "I felt the Lord was calling me," she said.

At times we have wondered whether God was listening to our prayers, or whether Mom was just too set in her ways. Now we know Jesus was listening, answering, and working out His plan for her life. The song holds true—"He makes everything beautiful in His time."

*Jodi Sauza, Holly Church
pastor's wife.*

* * *

Clementina Herrera was born in Mexico to a committed Christian family. Her father used to spend time every day reading the Bible, and as a result of his studies, he discovered that the biblical day of rest was Saturday, not Sunday. He shared this finding with his family and members of his church, but the church members attempted to convince him to give up his "strange" convictions.

He tried to find someone who would come to his home and teach him about the seventh-day Sabbath, but he never could. He died still wanting to learn more about this biblical doctrine.

When Clementina grew up, she met



Clementina Herrera was baptized into the Detroit Spanish Church on July 3, 1999.

and fell in love with Oscar Herrera, a former Adventist. After they married, they moved to the United States and settled in Detroit. Many times they expressed to each other their desire to have someone visit their home and teach them about the Bible.

Clementina's cousin, Carolina Barrientos, knew about their interest, and so she invited Clementina to come to the Detroit Spanish Church with her.

In April of 1999, a month after Clementina's first church visit, a lay Bible instructor named Danilo Lopez knocked on the door of the Herrera home and offered to study the Bible with them. Clementine and Oscar joyfully accepted, and on July 3, Clementina was baptized. Oscar is determined to follow in his wife's footsteps by accepting Christ as his savior and becoming a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

David Garcia, Detroit Spanish Church pastor

* * *

"I'm so blessed and thankful to God to have found the truth," said **Manuela Krohn** as she reflected on all the events that led her to the Adventist Church. Born in a beautiful Austrian valley, she lived with her two brothers and her mother, who had divorced when Manuela was a baby.

"Although my brothers and I grew up attending church together, we came to think of God as a cruel tyrant, and in our teens we left the church" Manuela said. At 19, Manuela fell in love with a man from Graz, Austria, and decided to move to his home with him. A few months later she became pregnant, and her life changed dramatically.

His parents were heavy drinkers, and soon he became an alcoholic. This resulted in the heartache of Manuela being so verbally abused that she eventually became desperate and considered suicide. Only her love for and the responsibility of caring for her daughter, Nadine, kept her alive. Not wanting Nadine to grow up in that environment, Manuela finally gained strength, after years of struggle, to return to her mother's home.

Not wanting Nadine to grow up without a father as she had, Manuela prayed, "God, if you exist, please send me someone who will love Nadine as much as he loves me." Manuela is still in awe that God answered her prayer so quickly. It happened when Hans Krohn of Grand Rapids, Michigan, came to Austria with his parents and siblings. Hans' parents wanted to show their children the home and



The Krohn family from left (back row): Hans, Manuela, and Nadine. (Front row) Christa and Ashley.

neighborhood where they had grown up. They stayed just long enough for Hans' and Manuela's hearts to knit together. After a few more visits back and forth, they decided to get married in Grand Rapids.

Manuela recalls, "We became faithful church members, our family grew by two more daughters, Christa and Ashley, and life seemed wonderful." As time moved on, however, she and Hans began having Bible questions about the prophecies of Revelation. Answers they were given by their own church were not satisfying, and they began praying earnestly for truth and to learn more about last-day events. In answer to their prayers, God sent the evangelistic team of Robert and Peggy Wagley into their lives. "We attended their *Revelation Now* seminar," said Manuela, "and after hearing the Bible explained so clearly, we were happily baptized."

"Now we have a caring church family in the Three Angels Fellowship in Grand Rapids," said Manuela. "We are so grateful to God for leading us in such a wonderful manner and to the precious truths we have embraced."

Peggy Wagley, Revelation Now evangelistic team assistant

When **Mike and Kelly Schmelling** considered baptism, they knew they wanted to rededicate their lives to the Lord together. As a result, on September 18, Mike and Kelly were baptized as one by Brandon Korter, South Haven Church pastor. The baptism took place during a Sabbath evening vespers program where friends and family could witness the couple's new dedication to the Lord.

Both Mike and Kelly had been reared in Adventist homes and had been baptized before. They met at Andrews University and married, but they strayed from their baptismal vows and stopped attending church. When the family and their three preschoolers moved from Florida to South Haven,



Mike and Kelly Schmelling share their testimony with Brandon Korter, South Haven Church pastor.

Michigan, they began searching for a church with activities for their family. After finding the South Haven Adventist Church, they became actively involved in church programs. The Schmellings were so involved that many at the church didn't realize they weren't already church members. Kelly had been leading out in Vacation Bible School, Sabbath school activities, and children's story time at church. Mike had been busy maintaining the church yard, preparing the baptistry, and being helpful wherever needed.

The vesper program ended with the church family forming a circle, singing, and praying for the Schmelling family as they began new lives as church members.

June Mitchell, South Haven Church communication leader

Musing on My Heritage -2

In the November issue, Gary Patterson outlined four American cultural models—the Clan, the Authority, the Cause, and the Celebrity—that have shaped the perceptions and behaviors of succeeding generations of Adventist Church members, sometimes creating trans-generational misunderstandings.

With this kind of mix in society today—and in the church as well—how do we ever get together on a strategy to win the world for Christ, or for that matter, even to get along with one another? First we must recognize that there are both values and drawbacks to each of these models. When we insist on living in our own clannish little cells, or when leadership has become authoritarianism and creative innovation has become rebellion, we doom ourselves to repeat the follies of prior generations again and again.

Nature is so designed that offspring are to learn from their parents. But when we destroy that process through continuous cycles of authoritarianism and rebellion, we violate the natural order of things and are doomed to live in a perpetual state of conflict and folly, repeating old mistakes even as we invent new ones.

LEARNING FROM THE PAST

In the church today, one segment wishes to maintain the strictures of the clan, all the while claiming righteous validation for the perpetuation of their positions in the name of



preserving “Historic Adventism”—whatever that is. But the question remains, at what point in history do they wish to freeze-frame? At the “Shut Door” heresies or the legalism rampant in the church in 1888?

Another element seeks to maintain the top down, authoritarian structure which appeared to work well for them. This model brought them apparent efficiency, to say nothing of the preservation of their privilege and position. But they seem not to realize that it was the extreme versions of this very structure which was the precursor of the problems we face today.

And even more distressing, we see this approach being played back in mission fields around the world, where we exported not only the Gospel, but our authoritarian way of doing things as well. It is said that the classic symptom of mental illness is doing the same things over and over again and expecting different results. Perhaps there is an ecclesiastical version of this same malady.

Thus without insightful intervention, these mission fields will be doomed to reproduce the same problems from which we suffer in North America by using the same methodologies which we exported to them, confusing these methods with the gospel. Doing more of what it was that caused our problems will not solve them, it will only exacerbate them.

Then there are the cause joiners. It is curious to note the changes in



“Boomer” causes which they so frequently assume to be original with themselves. In fact their changes in interest are frequently traceable to the natural aging process. Now “Boomers” have discovered the family, and for all the hype, you would think they had invented it—a particularly interesting concept in light of the fact that only twenty or so years ago, they nearly destroyed it.

It was one of the mantras of futurologists in the 60s that the family was a thing of the past. Now, thankfully, we are recognizing anew the value and necessity of the family. But we are at a threshold again. If we are not careful, the “Boomers” will capture society and the church even as their parents of the military generation did before them—against which they rebelled—and in the process again force aging on the church.

It has been interesting to note in my life experience that those who were the most rebellious against authority in the past when they were young, became the most rigid and domineering as they aged, forcing their wishes, their wills, their styles, and their thinking on their own children. And they frequently are the most rigid in refusal to accept new and creative ideas from a new generation.

And what is to become of the celebrity followers? I don’t know. But it is disturbing to see that behaviors which are obviously unacceptable to any form of polite, moral, or civil society are not only tacitly condoned in celebrities—even worse they are frequently voyeuristically followed



and celebrated as if murder, mayhem, adultery, and general brutishness were characteristics to be admired and emulated. And then we wonder why society isn't safe anymore.



Perhaps the next great wave on the societal beach will be that of virtual reality. In this nirvana-inducing state, social interaction becomes individual gratification in a self-centered world of electronic manipulation. Will it call for virtual church and artificial community? On Sabbath morning, will we slip on an electronic hood and "attend" the church of our choice—complete with pipe organ and choirs or contemporary religious bands and super stars? Or perhaps your taste runs to the country music scene. Surely we could come up with church in that idiom, couldn't we?

And indeed has not the burgeoning religion industry of television made us vulnerable to this possibility? But what does this do to community? What is to become of the New Testament concept of *koinonia*—the fellowship of the saints? The leavening influence of the church in the community in which it exists?

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

How will all this affect the future of the church? Being a prophet is obviously a difficult task—particularly when it comes to forecasting the future. And I do not aspire to it, nor do I claim this gift in these speculations. But it does seem plausible that a cult of charismatic leadership or pulpit stars, or evangelistic sensationalists, or major donors—while having the potential of a salutary effect on the church under the right circumstances—also have a chilling potential for abuse, diverting the gaze of the church away from a principled commitment to gospel community to a frail and faulty humanity.

What will the institution of the church look like in the days ahead? The "Boomers" are now taking their

places in the leadership ranks of the church.

Even though I had noticed a personnel gap, emanating from the 50s many years ago, it still caught me by surprise, now that it is actually beginning to happen. It is now upon us. As we search for top leadership in the church, we realize that we must now dip further down in the age categories than we traditionally have in the past in order to find the staff we need. This has the positive effect of accelerating change and introducing new thinking, but it also contains the risk of frightening the older generations as well as losing some of the experience needed to maintain stable operations.

CONGREGATIONALISM

Only a few years ago it was the popular thing to repeat the anti-institutional theme, "Don't trust anyone over thirty." Now the originators of this notion are themselves reaching their fifties and facing the same reaction from a new generation. These anti-institutional sentiments now reflect themselves in a growing congregationalism in the church.

On one hand, there are those who see this congregational trend as the devil-inspired bane of the church, while others see it as the church's only hope in a new era. Probably the truth lies somewhere in between. The pet theories of the "Authority" era well may not apply any longer. Yet the anti-institutional notions of the "Cause" era may be so nebulous as to undermine efficiency and any corporate effort.

GIVING TRENDS

An immediate effect of this thinking may be noted in current trends toward distribution—or should I say the redistribution of tithe and offerings. Today's youth and young adults feel much freer to direct their giving to projects which appeal to themselves. This is often interpreted as selfishness by the traditional leaders of the church. And it may or may not be so. But unless this attitude toward giving

is addressed realistically, the church may well find itself standing beside a dried-up, traditional cash stream only to realize too late that the new flow is going somewhere else. Either you learn to drink from the streams that are flowing, or you die of thirst.

Two additional factors relating to the availability of funds are found in earning capacity. These involve the changing ethnic face of the church and the general decline in the ratio of earning power to the cost of living. We all know that our wages have not kept pace with inflation in recent years.

Thus as church members slowly lose the income/inflation race, their ability to fund benevolent causes suffers. Our traditional response is to berate them for unfaithfulness, somehow thinking that guilt is the motivational power which is most effective. But in reality, encouragement and telling the story of grace are what is needed.

Furthermore, there is a growing number of our members who no longer buy the notion that only the institution of the church can say where their tithe must go. They are making that decision for themselves, resulting in significant shifts in traditional funding sources for administrators to deal with.

EDUCATION

As to our schools, the question is being asked, "Is this the best way to spend our limited resources in order to influence our children and youth for Christ and the church?" The fact that not all of our youth are in our schools—especially in higher educational levels—gives rise to the question as to whether we are fairly distributing our resources, spending the bulk of our funds on only those who elect to or who are financially able to attend.

The question thus arises as to whether there are more cost-effective methods of serving in this arena, without spending so much in the effort to provide total education in a world in which academic options are increasing in quantum leaps far beyond our capacity to keep up. "Boomers" with

children in the elementary and high school age groups are now interested in funding the needs of their own children at these levels. Thus frequent questions are addressed to the massive amounts of money it takes to operate colleges and universities. It will be of interest to note if this concern will change as their children reach college age in increasing numbers.

HEALTH CARE

Hospitals today face new realities, and they are mostly chilling. Only a few years ago—during the days of full-cost reimbursements—hospitals made more money the longer patients stayed. Suddenly, nearly overnight, the rules changed. Fixed payments for diagnostic related groups (DRGs) have provided an environment in which hospitals make more money the shorter the stay of the patient.

It doesn't take a business school degree to figure out that this will massively reduce the occupancy rate of hospitals nationwide. And even though shorter stays optimize income for hospitals, the name of the game is still bed occupancy. If your hospital beds are not full, you lose the game.

It is the expressed purpose of the government to drive health care into more efficient operation and eliminate a significant percentage of existing medical care facilities. There will not be an exception for Adventist hospitals in this tough market. We will be subject to the same losses as anyone else.

Unfortunately, the church terrorists among us will use these tough times to advance their own agendas, questioning the spirituality of leadership and the way we do business, all the while crying for a return to bygone days.

But a failure to acknowledge the changing times in a futile attempt to return to the "Clan" will not resolve the issues. We must not allow them to fight this unfair "holier than thou" war of innuendo and spiritual put downs, often destroying the effectiveness of our best leaders. It now seems mandatory to some that either we affiliate with other health care provid-

ers or go out of business. We are at a point where we must re-define "Adventist hospital" and "health ministry," or we will cease to be effective in either. The wave of the future is in prevention, life-style issues, and home care—a future ready-made for Adventist emphasis if we are quick enough to move with the idea and are not cemented to institutionalism.

WORSHIP STYLES

In the days ahead, worship will lose its sacerdotal strictures, becoming more the work of the people and less the formal presentation of a program observed by passive communicants. This was never the New Testament model anyway. Communion in the early church was probably much closer to what we call "pot luck" or "fellowship dinner" today.

Stiff formality was not the model of worship in the New Testament either. These were the inventions which grew out of the authority mode of operating the church. These strictures on social interaction and involvement are fading fast away, even in such sacramental settings as the Catholic Mass. Personally, I still like high church and the great classical music that goes with it, but this is a matter of taste, not theology. Much of our contention over worship in the church is due to the fact that we assume our own likes and dislikes to be of theological and eternal significance. What we really need is not a stagnant demand to maintain our traditional order of service, but more variety which will appeal to differing tastes, cultures, languages, and segments of society.

EVANGELISM

Likewise, we must expand our evangelistic outreach to include more audiences. Our traditional approach has been directed primarily toward sensationalism. We should not be shocked, then, to discover that we have drawn an overly large slice of sensationalists from society and failed to reach groups which are looking for a different kind of appeal. This does not

mean that we should cease doing what is successful. But it does indicate that we need to move more into a relational model of outreach.

We need to address ourselves to issues of attendance rather than membership. Membership is an institutional concept. Attendance is a social concept. What really matters is whether people are there in the community of the church, not whether they belong to the structure of the institutional membership.

We need to learn how the human psyche works; we fellowship first and indoctrinate later. Somehow we have gotten that concept backward, thinking that if we could convince people of our doctrines, they would join our fellowship. Actually the way it works best is the reverse of this notion. Bring people into our fellowship, then they will want to learn our doctrines.

THE INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

Finally, the structure of the institutional church must come to see itself as the provider of materials and services needed in the local congregation on the basis of market research, not by executive fiat. Institutional workers will need to become responsive resource providers rather than tenured departmental directors and authoritative administrators. And in this setting we will maintain the balance required to function effectively, both in the local congregation where the church begins and in the broad reach of the corporate body, which makes possible the fulfillment of the world scope of the gospel commission.

This article is from a presentation made to the Association of Adventist Editors and the North American Division communication directors by Gary Patterson, then co-director of the General Conference Office of Mission Awareness, in Seattle, Washington, March 24, 1994. Patterson is currently Sunbelt Home Health Care vice president for spiritual ministry.

The motto, "You've got to make calls if you want to get results," is true for many worthwhile endeavors.

For the second year, Ken Hutchins, assistant to the president of the Lake Union Conference, has been making calls asking people to support a scholarship fund for academy students. As of November 1, 1999, people with a Lake Union Conference connection have given \$206,000. This money included a special gift to the fitness center at Great Lakes Adventist Academy and a grant to Hinsdale Academy.

How does Hutchins do his work? Here are some sample stories as he tells them in his own words.

While attending the 1999 ASI convention in Orlando, I sat next to a man from Chicago. As we got acquainted and exchanged business cards, I indicated to him that I would be calling him after we both returned to our homes. I did contact him, and as a result he sent a check for \$3,000 for Broadview Academy.

While visiting in Indiana, I talked to a member of the K-12 board. I asked her for names of people to contact, and she gave me the names of three family members. After I called them, that family gave about \$1,000 to help Indiana Academy students.

A year ago, I contacted a family from Wisconsin and spoke to the wife. That family gave \$2,500 to the scholar-

ship fund for Wisconsin Academy. At campmeeting this year, I spoke to the husband about another gift, and he said, "Speak to my wife," which I did. When I talked to her she said, "We have some other plans, so I am going to put you on hold." A little while later, I called her and asked her for names of people to contact. She did give me the names of several people, and as we were finishing the conversation, she said, "We will be sending you another \$2,500 to match what we did a year ago." I said, "I did not call you for money." She said, "I know, but we will be sending it anyway."

Several weeks went by and she called me on a Sunday morning and said, "I have a story to tell you. My husband recently got a check that we had not anticipated, and it was for six cents less than the check that we just sent to the Lake Union scholarship fund for Wisconsin Academy." She gave me some additional names to

contact and then said, "We are sending you another check in November to match what we already gave."

As a result of Hutchins' efforts, 40-50 students are in Adventist academies that most likely would not have had the opportunity to attend if he had not made those calls and if people had not responded; and all told, approximately 150 students have received financial assistance.

One student, Jose, registered for his senior year at Great Lakes Adventist Academy with the summer's earnings from the magabook program. As the second semester drew near, it appeared that there would not be enough money for him to continue and graduate. Just when things were not looking good, Jose's step-father called and told him that the school had awarded him a scholarship, and that he could stay in school and graduate. The money came from the scholarship funds that were donated by the people Hutchins had contacted. Jose, now a freshman at Andrews University, says, "I praise God for His blessings, and how He always provides just when it is needed most."

Hutchins concludes, "When I see the Lord blessing my humble efforts for Him, it invigorates me to see how God has inspired so many people in the Lake Union to help kids attend our Adventist academies."

If you would like to help students like Jose to be able to attend an Adventist academy in the Lake Union, contact Ken Hutchins at the Lake Union office, (616) 473-8200.

Thanks to You It's Working!

The Lake Union academy scholarship fund report

Lake Union Conference

K-10 ENROLLMENT	1998	1999
Illinois Conference	498	530
Indiana Conference	310	295
Lake Region Conference	512	560
Michigan Conference	1,910	1,940
Wisconsin Conference	<u>348</u>	<u>322</u>
Lake Union K-10 total	3,578	3,653

ACADEMY ENROLLMENT	1998	1999
Andrews Academy	285	294
Battle Creek Academy	52	47
Broadview Academy	90	93
Chicago Academy	48	35
Great Lakes Adventist Academy	242	235
Hinsdale Academy	71	81
Indiana Academy	92	100
Peterson-Warren Academy	66	51
Wisconsin Academy	<u>131</u>	<u>149</u>
Lake Union academy total	1,077	1,085

Reaching People Where They Are

Van Ministry Success Stories

BY STEVE VERES

If you had to describe the Michigan Conference van ministry in a few words, you could say it is *community service on wheels*. The van ministry is a mobile medical health ministry that boasts three shuttles, driven to various fairs, festivals, and high-traffic areas in Michigan. Many health and spiritual needs are addressed on-site by an all-volunteer staff made up primarily of church members from each particular community. We also have a network of volunteers from many service professions who can aid people in need of social services, grief recovery, food banks, clothing, limited counseling, and small-group support. Our desire is to reach people in their own neighborhoods. After the screening, if individuals indicate an interest in seminars or Bible studies, their names are turned over to the local church for follow-up.

God has wonderfully blessed this unique ministry, and many lives have been touched because of the contacts made. The following are a few of our success stories:

Brian and his wife, Sandy, had just experienced the sorrow of having four close family members die within three months, and during the following three months, two more family members would die. Dorothy Brock, our van ministry assistant coordinator at the Cherry Hill Church, put Sandy in touch with Marie Brannon, a grief-recovery specialist from the Oakwood Church. Marie and her husband, Steve, together with other members of the Oakwood Church, helped Brian and Sandy learn about God's love in a

small-group study. Last July the family was baptized, and they are now members of the Oakwood Church.

The Michigan State Fair is the largest fair in Michigan, and it is nearly impossible to rent space there because of the vendors who have rented all the spaces for years.

Two years ago in 1997, the State Fair management was contacted with our request for fair space. They almost laughed at us. We then took our need for space to the church coordinators and pastors in the Detroit area, and we asked them to make our request for space a matter of prayer.

The next year we again contacted the fair management, and they told us that a health care provider was using the only large space available, and that the rental cost was \$10,000! I then asked permission to talk to the health care provider to see whether they would be willing to share the space. The manager said she would talk to them and call me back. I immediately telephoned local church coordinators and asked them to pray earnestly for a favorable decision. When the management called me back, they said, "We would love to have you come to the fair. And, by the way, the health care provider has paid the \$10,000 space cost, so just come and

get all the free parking and admission passes you need." As a result of that answer to prayer, we had our largest screening ever—177 people in one day—and two-thirds of them took our Bible Study guides *Power to Cope* or *Powerful Promises*. God answered our prayers in a marvelous way and far beyond our expectations.

When I contacted the fair manager again this year, she said that space was available, but there was still the \$10,000 fee. When I asked to talk with the organizations who had spaces, the manager responded, "I don't know why I am doing this, but we are waiving the fee for you!" This year we again had a record number of people who came to the van for a health



A record number of people came to the van for a health screening at the Michigan State Fair—250 in one day—and two-thirds of them took Bible study guides.

screening—250 in one day—and, again, two-thirds of them took Bible study guides. God has blessed our ministry in a marvelous way!

Van ministry is sponsored by the Lake Union Conference, municipal grants, Ingathering reversion, and private donations. If you would like to start a van ministry or receive our newsletter, see us on the web at tagnet.org/DET-VAN-MIN or call us at 888-D-VAN-MIN.

Steve Veres is Michigan van ministry director.

The weather forecasts sounded discouraging and/or possibly dangerous for our health van's fourth visit to the East Capitol Jewel Osco store parking lot in Milwaukee. A 90-degree day was predicted. Standing in the sun from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. sounded quite challenging. We were concerned about the comfort and safety of potential guests stopping for blood pressure readings and free literature in the heat.

The later forecast lowered the predicted temperature to 83 degrees, somewhat better. But on that Wednesday morning, after flooding Tuesday night, more flooding and severe thunderstorms were predicted. Then the scheduled driver called to say he couldn't come, which meant that I would have to drive the van to the site and back for the first time.

Canceling the program sounded reasonable, but remembering the advice from Rita Vital, Boston van director, that consistent service builds up confidence, we prayed and decided to go. Erika Grossauer and I met at the Milwaukee Central Church. Loading the van with supplies and trusting in the Lord to answer our prayers, I drove the vehicle, with Erika's guidance, to the site.

We developed a plan; instead of arranging the table and chairs in the usual place, we set them up right in front of the van. In this new location, we had shade from the overhang of the store front to start our program. Before we had even finished the setup, people were waiting for their free blood pressure checks.

During our three-hour stay, we met 58 interesting and appreciative people. Along with the usual mixture of Hispanic- and African-Americans and Caucasians, we served people from China, Somalia, the Ukraine, the Philippines, and Russia.

The Health Van's Coming!

A concerned man from Russia, who spoke English while his wife didn't, told us that the previous week they had taken a fast trip to an emergency room as her blood pressure reached alarming heights. He felt great relief that she now had near-normal blood pressure as a result of taking her new medication.

A 40-year-old African-American dressed in work clothes from an auto body shop expected his blood pressure to be elevated. It was! He told us that a physician had prescribed blood pressure medication, but he had only taken it for a month because the prescription had cost more than \$50. He felt he couldn't afford that monthly cost. Erika gave him literature with information on how to lower his blood pressure by making lifestyle changes, then she suggested that he contact the local medical college to see if he could

Church's transportation van. On that fourth visit, in spite of fears of



Many unsuspecting people with high blood pressure are helped by the services that the van ministry offers. Erika Grossauer, RN, (left) shares her medical expertise with a client.

impending excessive heat and/or severe storms, no rain fell that afternoon, and though it felt warm, the temperatures stayed in the 80s, and a soft breeze soothed us most of the time. When we ran out of shade from the overhang of the store, the clouds supplied the needed shade. We praise God for His blessing on our ministry.

Bea Graham, a member of Milwaukee Central Church, is a van ministry staff member.



Bea Graham, RN, takes a client's blood pressure.

join a clinical study group and receive free medication.

Our church's dream to develop a health ministry materialized after alterations were made to the Central

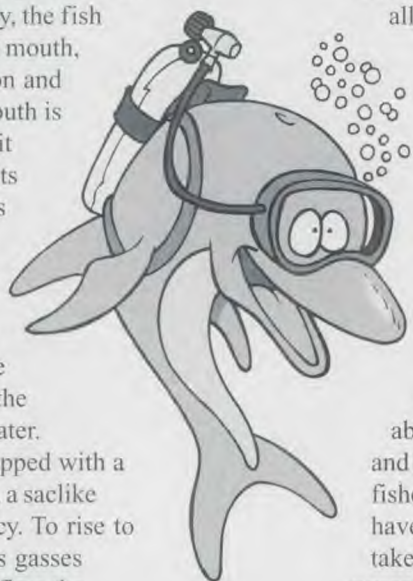
Of Gills and Swim Bladders

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Psalm 150:6

Humans have lungs for breathing, but most of the world's 21,000 species of fish have four feathery breathing organs called *gills*; these are located in *gill chambers* behind the back of the mouth, on each side of the head. Each gill is formed of a double row of flexible, closely spaced filaments attached to a support called the *gill arch*. *Lamellae*, thin plates of tissue, range along each filament.

To inhale, the fish opens its mouth and closes its *gill covers*. (The gill cover is a flap of bone or skin.) Almost simultaneously, the fish also expands the walls of its mouth, an action that creates suction and draws in water. When its mouth is full of water, the fish closes it again. Then the fish opens its gill covers, presses the walls of its mouth together, and forces the water into the gill chambers. As the water passes over the gills, blood vessels in the lamellae absorb about 75 percent of the available oxygen from the water.

Most fishes are also equipped with a *swim bladder*, or air bladder, a saclike organ that provides buoyancy. To rise to a higher depth, the fish uses gasses produced by the blood to inflate the bladder; to swim deeper, it deflates the bladder. When the fish is at rest or in deep water, where water pressure increases, the amount of gas in the swim bladder is automatically regulated by the nervous



system to keep the fish at a constant depth. A variation of this swim-bladder concept is used by submarines. To dive, the sub's ballast tanks, located between the inner and outer hulls, are flooded with water; to surface, compressed air is blown into the tanks, forcing the water out and allowing the ship to rise.

The air bladder may also serve additional functions. Some fish species also use the swim bladder to produce sound. Others use it as an auxiliary air supply—like having built-in scuba (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus) gear. The most unusual function of the air bladder is seen in the lungfishes; in these freshwater fishes of Australia, Africa, and South America the bladder is an air-breathing lung. To breathe, the lungfish goes to the surface to take in air through its mouth. The air goes into the swim bladder, which has an abundant supply of blood vessels to absorb oxygen and release carbon dioxide. A few North American fishes—gars, bowfins, and catfishes, for example—have rudimentary lungs on the gills and are able to take oxygen from the air if the oxygen content of the water is low. But the lungfish—unique in the fish world—breathes only air.

Note: For more about how humans and fish breathe, see the October 1999 issue of *Natural Learning*.

Exploring God's World

With James and Priscilla Tucker

Bladder Buoyancy

How does a fish's swim bladder work? See for yourself.

What you need:

- ✓ Small glass jar with lid

What to do:

1. Fill the sink with water.
2. Fill the bottle about half full of water and put on the lid.

3. Put the bottle in the water. What happened?
4. If the jar sank to the bottom, pour out some water. If it floated to the top, add some.
5. Adjust the amount of water in the bottle until it stays submerged just under the surface of the water.
6. The jar represents the fish, and the air in the jar acts as the swim bladder. You had to use trial and error to perfectly adjust the balance of air and water. The fish does this automatically!

The Tuckers have written three daily devotional books (they're best known for *Windows on God's World*) and publish *Natural Learning*, an exciting new magazine to help home-schooling parents, classroom teachers, and youth leaders use the motivating forces of nature to integrate faith and learning. For further information, write to the Institute of Outdoor Ministry, P. O. Box 670, Niles, MI 49120.

Health Tips



**Adventist
Health System**
Midwest Region

Heart Disease: Not for Men Only

Heart disease has traditionally been considered a "male" problem. Yet it ranks as the primary cause of death in women.

"Women are just as vulnerable as men to coronary artery disease," said Karen Lambert, Hinsdale Hospital cardiologist. "The difference is that until menopause, the female hormone estrogen protects women by maintaining higher levels of the 'good' cholesterol (HDL) and lower levels of the 'bad' cholesterol (LDL)."

As women's estrogen levels drop with menopause, the balance switches. As a result, women tend to develop heart problems later in life, in their 50s, 60s, and 70s instead of in their 40s like men. By age 65, one in three American women is affected.

The best way for women of any age to avoid heart disease is to act now. "Don't wait until menopause," Lambert cautioned. "You can head off heart disease and other health risks like diabetes, hypertension, and

possibly cancer by making simple changes in your lifestyle. The point is to form healthy habits now that will last a lifetime."



Lambert makes the following **"Heart Healthy" Suggestions for Women:**

1 Schedule cholesterol and blood pressure screening in your early 20s. It is much easier to manage cholesterol and hypertension early, before any damage is done.

2 Incorporate regular aerobic exercise into your lifestyle, aiming for at least 30 minutes three to five times a week. Not exercising is as bad for you as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day.

3 Limit your total fat intake to no more than 20-25% of your total calories. Since high-fat foods contain twice the calories of equal portions of carbohydrates or protein, reducing fat is an effective way to protect your heart and manage your weight without drastically cutting back on the amount of food you eat.

4 When you reach menopause, talk to

your physician about the pros and cons of estrogen replacement therapy. Each woman needs to make an individual decision about hormone replacement based on her risk factors, menopausal symptoms, and family history.

Andrews University

Life at Andrews 101

First-year students were "all fired up" (freshman lingo for "ready") for classes, studies, books, and, of course, fun during the Andrews University 1999 freshman registration and orientation.

"We set a very simple goal," says Steve Yeagley, assistant director of enrollment at Andrews and organizer of the orientation, "to give freshmen what they need to be successful at Andrews. What they need is to feel connected to others on this campus and to be energized about Andrews."

The goal was achieved, in part, via "family groups"—eight to ten freshmen and two upperclassmen facilitators—where friendships were developed and mentoring relationships fostered.

After the inevitable entrance exams and orientation sessions, freshmen enjoyed three days of relaxing fun. A 32-foot climbing wall, street hockey, pizza lunch, block party and barbeque, an energizing vesper service, and contemporary Christian music concerts ended an exciting, yet exhausting week of tests, introductions and registrations.

Annual Convocation Service

More than 100 Andrews University administrators and faculty members led out in the university convocation service that was held at Pioneer Memorial Church on the Andrews campus. The annual fall service—which also includes staff members and students—serves as a spiritual dedication for the university as the new school year begins.

Niels-Erik Andreasen, Andrews University president, delivered the university address entitled, "Education and Community." "Christian education should ... bridge the gaps that come between us ...," he said in part. "We are all brothers and sisters, and we are all here to learn how to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers."



Andrews students pray for a successful—and spiritual—academic year.

The service concluded with the ten-year tradition of passing the garland of blue and gold. The 85-foot garland was carried down the church aisles, across the width of the packed church, and over the heads of those in the pews. Students lifted their hands to touch it in a symbolic display of commitment and dedication to the Andrews tradition of "scholarship for service."

Following the convocation, more than 800 people posed for a historic photo commemorating the 125th anniversary of Battle Creek College—the forerunner of Andrews University.

Week of Spiritual Emphasis

Traveling and preaching since the age of 15, Jonathan F. Henderson, outreach ministries director for Pacific Union College, in Angwin, Calif., spiritually inspired students and faculty members during fall quarter's week of spiritual emphasis held Oct. 11–16. Speaking on the theme, "Discipleship: Synergy Not Cynicism,"

Henderson adeptly and colorfully illustrated the triumphs and trials of such noted Biblical figures as David, Gideon, Elisha, and Naaman.

Henderson has preached throughout the United States. In the summer of '95, he spoke at the General Conference session's

Youth Impact in Utrecht, Holland, and, more recently, at ConneXions '99 in Maryland. Next month, Henderson assumes the new position of pastoral assistant at the Campus Hill Church in Loma Linda, Calif.



Jonathan Henderson inspired students and faculty alike during the fall week of spiritual emphasis on campus.

Web Registration

For the first time in its 125-year history, Andrews University students were able to register for fall quarter classes via the World Wide Web.

"A total of 2,968 students were registered," said Emilio Garcia-Marenko, university registrar and chair of the Quality Improvement Team which oversaw integration of the new system. "Web registration was the method used totally or partially by 881 students. This is 29.5 percent of the total."

Katie Widner, a senior English major, gave the new process two thumbs up. "Web registration was really efficient and easy. It's much smoother than before, and there are no long lines to stand in. Plus, now you can order your books online which makes the whole process much faster."

A. Monise Hamilton, assistant director of University Relations

Check us out online at
www.andrews.edu

Angels on the Rooftop

Wisconsin — Angels on the rooftop, sheep in the middle of campus, lepers in the window well, these and many other extraordinary things are all part of Wisconsin Academy's Walk Through the Christmas Story pageant.

"The whole school was involved in this new outreach project," said pageant coordinator, Bonnie Peden. Students made the costumes



The potter: John Thomas, principal.

and props and memorized their character parts. The middle of campus became the route to Bethlehem, and guests journeyed there to pay their taxes.

Visitors dispersed in

small groups and were cautioned by their kinsman (tour guides) to watch out for ruthless robbers, unclean lepers, beggars, and Roman soldiers. As they walked along the path, guests encountered a pregnant Mary and her worried husband, Joseph. They watched as the couple was turned away by the innkeeper. A prophet beckoned the travelers into his tent and whispered the news of the coming Savior.

Along the way, shepherds were seen huddling around a fire discussing the hope of Israel, angels heralded the birth of Jesus, and wise men spoke of their search. The journey ended at a stable with Mary and Joseph presenting the Christ child

and recounting their wondrous experiences. Refreshments and a Christmas concert followed in the chapel. Over 600 people attended the free pageant.

"People in the community were excited about the program," remarked John Thomas, academy principal. "When we called to ask a local farm family if we could borrow their sheep for the weekend, they were so happy to hear what we were doing, and they said they would be calling all of their friends and family with the news. We hope to make this an annual event. It's something that is unique to our area, and we hope to develop our theme even more next year."

Sue Rappette, Wisconsin Academy administrative assistant

A New Meaning of Christmas

Michigan — Christmas took on a new meaning for the third- and fourth-graders at the Greater Lansing Adventist School. After reading about the shortage of food for the orphanages in Haiti and calculating that it costs just over a quarter a meal to feed an orphan, they decided to see how much money they could raise. Their teacher challenged them to think of creative ideas to raise the money rather than just asking their parents for a quarter.

The students and their parents were very innovative. One student was given money if he didn't complain at all about having to do homework. Another student earned money by reading his Sabbath school lesson to his father at night. Another gave his hot lunch money and ate a regular brown bag lunch once a week. One family stayed at home instead of going out to eat as they usually did and gave the money for the project. The school staff decided to help the class by giving money to the project instead of doing the normal Christmas gift exchange. The class was pleased to have a total of \$205.42 to send to Haiti.

The class also sent four large boxes of items for Christmas care packages to one of the orphanages in Haiti that the Lake Union Conference is sponsoring. The students understand a little better the true spirit of Christmas as they think of the many orphans who had a merrier Christmas as a result of their efforts.

Luana Harlan, Greater Lansing Adventist School third- and fourth-grade teacher



Students from grades three and four at Greater Lansing Adventist School stand around a table covered with items that they sent to orphanages in Haiti so the orphans could enjoy a merry Christmas.

Bruce Block Retires

Illinois — After 38 years of Christian service in the education field (23 years as teacher, vice principal, and acting principal at Hinsdale Adventist Academy), Bruce Block announced his retirement.

Block was known for his sense of humor, especially when teaching reciprocals. During his math classes, he would turn one of the lightest students upside down. The method was never forgotten, and of course everyone now knew what "reciprocals" meant!

The class of 1998 arranged for a limo (his first-ever limo ride) to take him to Marshall Fields for a very special back massage. Upon his return, he found the room totally decorated. He was given a royal purple robe and a golden crown. Block was the king for that day! Of course there was a wonderful cake waiting for him.

HAA chose his birthday for his farewell party. Many of Block's former students came from near and far, including all his children whom he had taught as well. Letters arrived from the General Conference, Lake Union, Illinois Conference, and Senator Kirk Dillard of Illinois who also recognized his dedicated service to education. These letters were read by Sean Kootsey, HAA principal, and Akram Razzouk, HAA Development Committee chairman. All past principals included their congratulations and best wishes also.

Block's wife, Janice, taught at HAA for over 10 years. Their contribution and wonderful Christian service to the academy will long be remembered. They are now at home in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Sinka Michelle Razzouk, Hinsdale Adventist Academy development director



After 38 years of Christian educational service, students robed and crowned Bruce Block king for a day at his farewell party.

Christian Education Pays

Wisconsin — The journey began 22 years ago when Pamela Boon enrolled in the first grade at the Raymond school. On May 22, 1999, Pamela graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, with a Doctor of Medicine degree.

Pamela attended both Raymond and Sharon (Milwaukee) Adventist schools through the ninth grade. She then attended Wisconsin Academy followed by four years at Andrews University, where she graduated with a Bachelor in Business Administration in 1992.

During the summer of 1990, Pamela worked in the office of Junith Thompson, an Adventist physician in Kenosha, Wis-

consin. That experience reawakened her childhood dream of becoming a physician, and Pamela set her educational compass in that direction.

It was not an easy road, but with God's help Pamela completed all of her science prerequisites at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and received a full four-year scholarship at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Pamela's accomplishment was only achieved through God's guidance and her determination to follow the plan He had for her, a plan nurtured in a Christian home and school environment. She feels if she could give any young person a few words of encouragement, those words would be, "Do not be discouraged by what others may think or say about you when you are following the Lord's leading. No matter how tough and rocky the road becomes, the Lord will guide you through the obstacles and constantly provide 'streams in the desert' (Isa. 35:10). Trust Him!"

Nelson Boon, Raymond Church head elder



Pamela Boon, MD

Indiana Votes Major Improvements to Academy

Indiana — At a special constituency meeting held on Sun., Oct. 10, members of the Indiana Conference demonstrated their overwhelming support of Indiana Academy (IA). The subject of the meeting, which was preceded by numerous Town Hall Meetings held around the conference, was the future of IA. Niels-Erik Andreasen, Andrews University president, started the meeting off with an excellent devotional, stressing the importance of Adventist education.

By an overwhelming majority of 234 to 16, it was voted that the Indiana Conference constituency make a long-term commitment (three years, to conclude 12/31/02) to raise funds for Indiana Academy in two areas: \$2,035,900 for capital and equipment improvements and a capital reserve fund, and \$500,000 for student aid (worthy student funds), for a total of \$2,535,900.

Areas to be improved include dorms, staff housing, the cafeteria, the administration building, the gymnasium, campus lighting and sidewalks, the athletic department, the bus barn, and the water tower—a total upgrading of the entire campus. New equipment would include additional computers and upgrades for classrooms and staff members, as well as TVs, VCRs, and numerous other teaching aids.

In 2003 Indiana Academy will celebrate 100 years of service to the youth of Indiana. This is a wonderful opportunity for members of the Indiana Conference and friends of Indiana Academy to show their support of a great school.

Sheri DeWitt, Indiana Conference correspondent

Thesba Johnson Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

Lake Union — Thesba Johnson of Berrien Springs, Mich., was honored for her contributions to her church and community during the 17th annual conference of the Association of Adventist Women (AAW) in Orlando, Fla., Oct. 7–10. She was given the Lifetime Achievement Award. Johnston has spent her life helping people, especially those who have not been given many opportunities. Throughout a lifetime of government work, teaching and counseling, she has “walked the walk” with Blacks, women, and the disabled. She continues her service today at the All Nations Church in Berrien Springs.

Two men in Johnston's life supported and enabled her to develop her talents and gain the confidence she needed to be all she could be for God. The first was her husband of 40 years, Harold. The second was Vermont Governor Lee Emerson, who realized Johnston had more than secretarial skills and promoted her from his personal secretary to “secretary of civil and military affairs for Vermont,” a position not unlike lieutenant governor, which she held for seven years. Six months after she married Harold, Johnston

went back to college. When she had a brand-new doctorate from Boston University, no job opportunities were available in New England. The Johnstons told the Lord they'd go anywhere except Mississippi, Alabama, or Georgia.

The Lord led them to Atlanta University, an all-black college in Georgia, where they stayed for 15 years, and where Johnston was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award in 1967. In addition to attending an Adventist church every Sabbath, the Johnstons also regularly attended the Ebenezer Baptist Church to hear Martin Luther King Jr. preach. The two families became friends. With other Christian therapists, Johnston was instrumental in establishing the Atlanta Counseling Center to provide help for all people. In 1978 the Johnstons moved to Andrews University, where Johnston was professor of counseling psychology when she was officially retired in 1993.

In the midst of her busy career at Andrews, Johnston coped with the sudden death of her husband. Johnston's interest in women's issues was aroused by independent Bible study. She began to realize that male translators had not always told the complete story of the Bible writers. Then

another realization dawned. “In Atlanta I saw that we wrested the Scripture to hold Blacks down. I realized that maybe we do that to women, too,” she says.

Johnston became active in the Association of Adventist Women and founded the Michiana chapter. She chaired the General Conference's Women's Commission. She was the first woman elder at her local church.

“Her capacity for showing compassion, her ability to weep with those who weep, mourn with those who mourn, and laugh with those who laugh makes her a trusted friend, consoler and counselor who is loved by all,” says her pastor, Walter Douglas. Another colleague, Elizabeth Sterndale, former director of the NAD Women's Ministries Department, says, “It is well past time that we said thank-you to Thesba. And our voice of thank-you will never be loud enough. Thesba's quiet humility will outshout our inadequate voice of gratitude.”

“We're pleased to recognize the contributions of this outstanding woman,” says Alyce Pudewell, AAW president. “Thesba is representative of the thousands of Adventist women who are the backbone of their congregations and their communities.”

Pat Benton, Association of Adventist Women correspondent

Spanish Women Hold Retreat

Michigan — Directed by Iris Maldonado, the Maranatha Spanish Church women's ministries department celebrated their annual retreat from June 4–6 at the Maranatha Bible Camp in Muskegon.

The keynote speaker was Adly Campos, international evangelist and family counselor. The theme for the retreat was “The Modern Woman and Her Challenges.” Campos spoke of the woman's role throughout history, both in the church and in the home.

Three workshops were offered during the retreat. They included “Depression” by Tomi Glenn, “Conflict Resolution” by Dorothy Macey, and “Becoming a Lady” by Rosie Mora.

Representatives from the Grand Rapids Central and Wyoming churches joined the women of Maranatha Spanish for this retreat. In attendance were 48 women, including four guests from other denominations.

Women responded to the speaker's challenge to become better women at home, at church, and in society. This includes sharing the good news of salvation to those they encounter, which can be accomplished through personal testimony, public evangelism, and hosting Bible studies and seminars.

Iris Maldonado, Maranatha Spanish Church women's ministries director



Thesba Johnson



Forty-eight women attended the annual Spanish Women's Ministries Retreat in Muskegon.

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

Two for One

Indiana—The 40-member Tell City Church swelled its attendance to 125 on Sabbath, July 17 by combining its 50th anniversary with a homecoming for missing members, former pastors, teachers, and church school students.



Clay Farwell, Indiana Conference president, stands with Tell City member Glenn Terry, the owner of the 100-year-old bell.

The day began with the ringing of a 100-year-old bell, first housed at Mt. Zion, the first Adventist church in Perry County. Harold Leffter, a former church school teacher now living in Michigan, was one of five panelists leading the Sabbath school lesson study. Elder Clay Farwell, Indiana Conference president, was the guest speaker.

Former pastor, Walter Kolmodin from Brownsburg, shared memories; and many letters of congratulations were read. Especially meaningful was the lighting of candles by all present, using a torch to signify the commitment of the congregation to "light" all of Perry County with the gospel and reclaim missing members.

Barbara Hales, Lake Union Herald volunteer correspondent

Ann Arbor Church Celebrates 100 years

Michigan—The Seventh-day Adventist Church of Ann Arbor (Mich.) celebrated its 100th birthday on Aug. 20 and 21. The theme for the centennial, "Service to Christ in This Community for 100 Years," was displayed on a large banner secured at one end of the church for all to see. The banner remained there until Oct. 7, the actual date the church was organized.

Guests for the event came from all over Michigan as well as Tennessee, Kentucky, Arizona, California, Florida, and Alabama.

Friday evening, Aug. 20, the celebration service highlighted education. Robert Habenicht, a former teacher and principal of the Ann Arbor Elementary School, and Arlene Krohn, a former



A banner outside the Ann Arbor (Mich.) Church announces its centennial celebration.



Members reminisce under the canopy at lunchtime.

teacher, were honored. Guests William

Mutch and Arlene Moore Blieseth, who at one time were students at the school, shared memories of their experiences. Habenicht admonished the three current teachers to continue standing for their faith and not be "bought or sold."

Sabbath brought an overflow crowd to the school gymnasium. Roy Leman, a former pastor, presented the worship hour message. Other former pastors were presented with boutonnieres and reminisced of their years spent in Ann Arbor.

In addition to people reliving memories with one another in the afternoon, Jay Gallimore, Michigan Conference president, accepted questions from the audience relating to present issues in the Adventist worldwide church and progress of the fitness center at Great Lakes Adventist Academy.

The finale to the beautiful day was a lively musical hour featuring many artists, including the Tedford Rasmussens, Peter Coopers, Gerhard Koehns, and the Steve Ericksons.

Ruth Walker, Ann Arbor Church communication leader

Youth Ministries Leader Receives TV6 Award

Indiana—In a special ceremony Jana Withrow, Glendale Church youth ministries director, received the Indianapolis Channel 6 TV (ABC affiliate) Leadership Award in recognition of her outstanding service in the community in providing food and clothing for the homeless in downtown Indianapolis. Colleagues



Jana Withrow (front center) receives TV6 Leadership Award Plaque from Channel 6 (ABC) news reporter Martha Weaver (front left) and a bouquet of flowers from reporter Bill Sullivan (front right), as her work colleagues look on.

at Blakley's, where Withrow works as a sales estimator for floor coverings, looked on as she was presented a commemorative plaque and bouquet of flowers as a tribute for making a difference in the community.

For two years now on the first Sabbath afternoon of the month, Withrow, together with 25 young people, ages 12-18, prepares and distributes approximately 75 sack lunches, which include a sandwich, fruit, and a cookie. During the winter months, soup and hot chocolate are also provided. In addition, clothing, blankets, and care packages containing soap, a toothbrush and toothpaste are distributed as needed.

This outreach ministry is made possible by financial contributions and food and clothing donations by Glendale Church members and corporate neighbors in the community.

"Helping the homeless feel better about themselves," Withrow stated, "has had a positive influence on our youth in creating a sense of caring for others and internalizing the importance of mission outreach."

Barbara Bryant, Glendale Church communication leader

Saginaw Church Holds Vegetarian Cooking Classes

Michigan — On the first four Thursdays of September, the Saginaw (Mich.) Church conducted vegetarian cooking classes for the public. The classes were well-received by all 67 non-Adventist participants.

Each evening, vegan recipes were mingled with lectures on other aspects of healthful living. Attendees watched a projection screen as Sandi Stewart, wife of the Saginaw Church pastor, prepared salads, breads, entrees, and desserts. They were able to taste the creations at the end of each class. The cooking students eagerly awaited the food sampling and had many questions and comments about the lifestyle changes presented to improve the quality of their lives. Sandi's unique history with health issues and her deep spiritual conviction blended beautifully with her love of cooking.

Participants were invited to attend an upcoming potluck dinner after church services on Sabbath. Ten people from the class also committed to attend the upcoming Revelation Seminar.

Dawn Briggs, Saginaw Church communication secretary



"I am what I eat" was the message presented by Sandi Stewart, cooking school leader.



Indiana — The Muncie Church reached their \$425 investment goal a month early this year. To track their progress, they built a country church with pennies on a poster board, each penny representing a dollar given toward their goal.

Some of the church members donated money, others picked up aluminum cans to turn in at twenty-five cents per pound. Flower lovers donated a certain amount per blooming flower, and bird watchers made a donation for every new bird that they saw and identified.

Karri Henry, Muncie Church pastor's wife

God's Messages Shared at Fair

Michigan — We are to share the gospel with "all the world," and an excellent way to reach people with God's truths is by setting up a display booth at a county fair. And so on July 13-17, the Manistee Church sponsored a booth at the Manistee County Fair held in Onkama, Mich.

The booth represented the three churches in the district—Frankfort, Irons, and Manistee—and it was staffed by members from each church. Everyone who participated agreed the booth was a success. Suggestions for healthful living and nutritional information were shared using a Whole Grain Quiz (which comprised identifying 12 different legumes and grains). There were 315 people who took the quiz, and they were then able to enter a daily drawing. Prizes included vegetarian cookbooks, gardening books, and a large-print Bible. Almost 650 pieces of literature were given out, and more than 100 people requested information on Bible studies, stop-smoking clinics, and cooking classes. Passers-by also enjoyed trying the many healthful food samples we gave away. NET '98 videos were also available for loan, and vegetarian cookbooks were for sale.

The children were not forgotten. More than 1,000 balloons were tied into animal shapes, hats, etc., and given away free to children. It was a day of fun and learning for everyone who came to the Manistee, Frankfort, and Irons fair booth, and we were grateful for the opportunity to share with them



The Manistee, Frankfort, and Irons churches shared God's messages of love and healthful living at a recent county fair.

God's messages of love and healthful living.

Harlan Niesen, Manistee Church elder



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WORLD CHURCH NEWS

Adventist Church Hosts Race Relations Summit

Silver Spring, Md. [Adventist News Network] — More than 300 church administrators and institutional leaders were invited to engage in a dialogue on race relations as it pertains to church and society. This summit on race relations, themed "Racial Harmony in the New Millennium: Making It Happen," was held at the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., from Oct. 27–30.

"Rather than merely talk about critical racial issues, participants were asked to concentrate on the important question of how to bring about positive change in race relations, recommend bold initiatives for dismantling racism, and create an ongoing mechanism to continually motivate, expand, and monitor the progress of those initiatives," said Dr. Rosa Banks, director of Human Relations for the church, and a representative to the President's Initiative on Race's Faith Community Committee.

"We accept President Clinton's call to action and will prayerfully and objectively address concerns within our diverse congregation, seek to improve race relations, and take steps to prepare our members for life and ministry in the 21st century," said Alfred McClure, president of the North American Division. The event convened with an interfaith prayer breakfast involving community and political leaders and clergy of various faiths. Plenary sessions, 21 workshops, small group breakout sessions, and a "Great Conversation on Race" panel discussion created an environment for constructive dialogue, while more than 50 renowned thought leaders spurred on the quest for creative solutions.

Celeste Ryan

Adventist Elected Mayor of Philadelphia

Philadelphia, Penn. [ANM] — Seventh-day Adventist politician John F. Street was elected Nov. 2 as mayor of Philadelphia, America's fifth largest city. A graduate of Oakwood College and Temple University Law School, Street occupies one of the highest elected positions ever attained by an Adventist in the United States.

Street, 56, has served on Philadelphia's City Council for 19 years, the last six of them as council president. A former teacher, Street says he was first drawn to community activism because he believed he should use his education to help other people. "I've had this Seventh-day Adventist Oakwood College background, which is very significant in my life," says Street. "We were always taught, and I believe, that my responsibility is to live a life of service."

Bettina Krause

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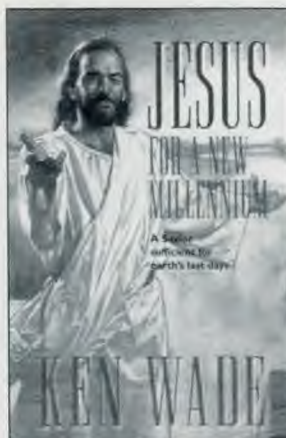
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Dec. 1—Christmas tree lighting, Burman Hall, 5:30 p.m.; **2**—Piano studio recital, Castlebuono Youth Chapel, Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC), 7:30 p.m.; **3**—Feast of Lights, PMC, 7:00 p.m.; **10**—Andrews University Christmas music program vendors, PMC, 7:30 p.m.; **11**—Festive Evensong, PMC, 5:00 p.m.; **15**—End of fall quarter/start of Christmas holiday break.

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To find out more about how you can participate even if you will not be in Berrien Springs for Esprit 2000, or to reserve your tickets, contact Rebecca Becker at (616) 471-6140 or acadalum@andrews.edu. Ticket price includes dinner and a bidding number for the auctions.

LAKE UNION

Offerings: Dec. 11—Inner City; **18**—Church Budget, 13th Sabbath; South American Division; **25**—Local Conference Advance. **Jan. 1**—Church Budget; **8**—Religious Liberty.

Special Days: Dec. 25—Ingathering Campaign ends. **Jan. 1**—Day of Prayer; **8–15**—Religious Liberty week.

Lake Union ASI and Adventist Health System join efforts in an Operation Amigo mission trip to Honduras. Come and enjoy the happiness of giving and serving. Join us in a short mission trip that will refresh you spiritually!

Who: Builders, cooks, and anyone with two hands and a willingness to help. We need a minimum of 30 volunteers for this mission trip to Honduras.

Dates: March 2–12, 2000

Cost: Around \$1,000 will cover all expenses—travel, hotel, and food.

Purpose: Build a church in Buena Vista, one of the areas badly hit by Hurricane Mitch. Plan to come with us! Anyone interested, please contact Luis E. Leonor, ASI Lake Union executive secretary, (616) 473-8 2 4 9.

MICHIGAN

Winter Family Camp: Looking for something special to do during the holidays? Why not come to Camp Au Sable for a week of family excitement. Enjoy snowmobiling, ice skating, horseback riding, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, sledding,

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Evangelism Training

January 10-29, 2000

Southwest Michigan Institute of Lay Evangelism

Southwest Michigan Institute of Lay Evangelism (SMILE) is an exciting new evangelistic training program designed to equip today's church members to become more effective soul winners for Christ. This resident school, located on 1,200 beautiful acres just 50 minutes north of Berrien Springs, Mich., offers:

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Space is limited, so call or write NOW for information:

S.M.I.L.E.

Keavin Hayden, Director of Lay Evangelism
P.O. Box 489, Pullman, MI 49450

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dishes to wash! Daily spiritual emphasis and awesome evening programs to round out the day of pleasure. So don't delay, register today for your special week of Winter Family Camp, Dec. 26, 1999-Jan. 2, 2000. For more information, call Michelle at (517) 485-2226, ext. 270. World Church

Maplewood Academy west coast chapter alumni reunion will be **Feb. 13, 2000**, at 10:00 a.m. in Loma Linda University campus cafeteria. Send luncheon reservations (\$9.50) to Lyol Netteburg, 24414 University Ave. #43, Loma Linda, CA 92354, or call him at (909) 799-7212.

Spring Valley Academy homecoming reunion, Apr. 14-16, 2000. Our theme is "Celebrating 30 Years!" Honor classes are the classes of '70, '75, '80, '85, '90, and '95. Honor class members and interested alumni please contact Cheryl (Gilbertson) Bair ('79), development director, at (937) 433-0790 or tcbair@prodigy.net; or Christa (Meelhuysen) Carlson ('75) at (937) 294-6953 for information.



Along the Sawdust Trail by Ivy Ruth Venden

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Position Available Chancellor / Executive Vice President of Loma Linda University

A search process has been initiated for chancellor of Loma Linda University (L.L.U.). A primary function of this office is to provide leadership in academic pursuits of the University as an integral component of our Adventist Health Sciences Center. The chancellor will work with the vice chancellors, deans, and special assistants to provide quality educational programs, both on and off campus; to promote research; and to interface effectively with the health-care system.

The chancellor reports to the president of L.L.U./Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center (LLUAHSC) and is a senior vice president of LLUAHSC.

Qualifications: Seventh-day Adventist committed to the mission of the University and the Seventh-day Adventist Church; an earned doctorate; and administrative and educational experience in a health-sciences setting. Interested individuals should send a curriculum vitae by January 15, 2000, to:

**Dr. B. Lyn Behrens, President
Loma Linda University Adventist
Health Sciences Center
Magan Hall
Loma Linda, CA 92350**

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Lake Union Conference Tithe Comparison Year-to-date 39 Weeks Ending September 30, 1999

39 weeks ending September 30, 1999								
Average Membership Basis		Conference			Increase	%		
30-Jun-99	1998		1999	1998	(Decrease)	Inc. -Decr.	1999	1998
11,178	11,238	Illinois	5,737,713	5,640,779	96,934	1.72%	513.30	501.94
5,980	5,798	Indiana	4,055,772	3,589,357	466,415	12.99%	678.22	619.07
23,124	23,102	Lake Region	6,606,913	6,083,182	523,731	8.61%	285.72	263.32
23,478	23,307	Michigan	16,258,260	15,886,212	372,048	2.34%	692.49	681.61
<u>6,251</u>	<u>6,190</u>	Wisconsin	<u>3,580,495</u>	<u>3,270,954</u>	<u>309,541</u>	<u>9.46%</u>	<u>572.79</u>	<u>528.43</u>
70,011	69,635	Totals	36,239,153	34,470,483	1,768,669	5.13%	517.62	495.02
Tithe per Week			929,209	883,859	45,350	5.13%		

Sunset Calendar

	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24	Dec 31	Jan 7	Jan 14
Berrien Springs, MI	5:14	5:15	5:19	5:23	5:30	5:38
Chicago	4:20	4:21	4:25	4:30	4:34	4:42
Detroit	5:01	5:03	5:06	5:11	5:14	5:22
Indianapolis	5:21	5:22	5:25	5:30	5:35	5:42
La Crosse, WI	4:27	4:29	4:32	4:37	4:43	4:50
Lansing, MI	5:04	5:05	5:09	5:14	5:19	5:27
Madison, WI	4:22	4:23	4:27	4:32	4:38	4:45
Springfield, IL	4:34	4:35	4:39	4:44	4:49	4:56



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Youth who dare care²

Unwrap God This Christmas

Have you written your Christmas list yet? Here are three books you just might want to add before your Santa swings by the ABC store. Each takes seriously the question, "What's God all about, and how does he relate to me?"

Surprise Me! Meet the God You Didn't Expect, by Gary Swanson, is just out for 2000. It builds around some heavy themes, from belief to acceptance to the second coming, but it never bogs down. *Surprise Me!* shakes it up and pulls you in with stories like "Percival Gets the Point" and "Out of the Babes of Moths." Hard-hitting questions like "Why is it so easy to misunderstand Jesus?" and "What place, if any, does ambition have in a Christian's life?" encourage you to keep thinking after you've stopped reading. Its poems will hit you with



surprise endings. And its relevant Bible verses both bring things together and suggest that there's always more than meets the eye.

Sarah Coleman's new book title says it all: **God Who?** Now 22, Sarah has long wondered and asked hard questions about God and Christianity. Each chapter of *God Who?* suggests one of God's many "last names." God the Silent. God of Action. God of Peace. God Who Overcomes. God of the Useless. In her introduction Sarah writes, "Who is God?" "Who says He exists?" "How do you know?" "Can you prove it?" In a year-long chain of late-night conversations, early-morning jogs, and solitary silences, I've been search-

ing for answers to a growing mountain of questions. As I search, I discover more and more people who ask the same questions. They too face silent Bibles and blank stares. They feel hypocritical attending a church they don't understand and praying to a God they

don't know. They too want to know God on more than a first-name basis.

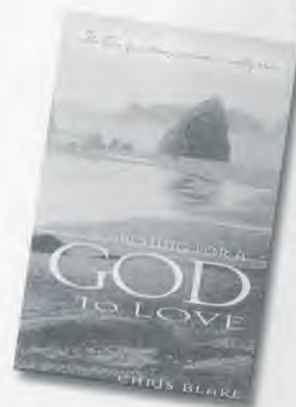


Chris Blake's **Searching for a God to Love** is no mere warm and fuzzy ode to joy. It is the fruit of Blake's quest for a God who makes sense, who's far too big to carry in our pockets. Blake writes for "believing unbelievers," people who believe in a God but don't necessarily believe everything they've heard about Him. He writes, "If you're a 'believer' who feels squeezed and drained by a religious experience of deep

weariness, unending frustration, and blasted hopes, to the point where even if your religion is 'right' you don't know if you want it, this book is also for you."

In chapters like "Freedom's Mortgage Payments" and "The World's Greatest Lover,"

Blake tackles heavy questions with honesty and whimsy. Chapter by chapter he pulls back the curtains and cobwebs just a bit on a God beyond our imagination. A God who's willing to take risks to show His love for us.



Unwrap God this Christmas.

Tompaul Wheeler

Editor: Pastor Ron Whitehead, executive director; Associate Editor: Tompaul Wheeler. 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



Yvonne Wright

Yvonne Renae Wright, 17, is a senior at Peterson-Warren Academy in Inkster, Michigan. She is a kind and considerate young lady who is active at school, home, church, and in the community. Yvonne, a member of the RD Barnes Honor Society, is also a member of the school band, where she plays the flute, and the choir.

Yvonne's educational interest has led her to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Law in Washington D.C. Apart from her studies, her part-time job, and her daily chores at home, Yvonne finds time in her busy schedule to volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America. She believes that she can make a difference in the world and has the support of those who know and love her to reach her goal.

The daughter of William and Deborah Wright, Yvonne is a member of the Ypsilanti (Mich.) Church. Her career goal is to be an international corporate attorney.

Jesse Lee Taylor, 17, is a senior at Peterson-Warren Academy. Born prematurely at home, Jesse, the "miracle baby" as his grandmother affectionately calls him, has had God's grace shining on him since birth. A product of Christian education, Jesse has faithfully served as a choir member at church and at school and has played the saxophone in the school band. Active in his home church, City Temple (Detroit) Church, Jesse is also a member of the church basketball team.

Jesse has participated in community service activities by assisting in providing church services to the elderly in nursing homes, helping out with the soup kitchen program, and collecting food for the needy. As secretary of his class, Jesse, an RD Barnes Honor Society member, participated in the Leadership Camp activities at Camp AuSable.

The son of Phyllis and Edward Taylor, Jesse is a congenial young man who is willing to assist wherever he is needed. He plans to pursue a career in computer engineering.



Jesse Taylor

the Lake Union Herald

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THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

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

Internet: dower@andrews.edu

CompuServe: NadineDower@cls.com

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

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Adventist Health System Midwest Region Elizabeth Lively
Andrews University Monise Hamilton rollins@andrews.edu
Illinois Richard Carey 74617.1243@compuserve.com
Indiana Clay Farwell 74617.771@compuserve.com
Lake Region Carolyn Palmer 74532.1514@compuserve.com
Michigan Sandra Blackmer 110175.1313@compuserve.com
Wisconsin James Fox jfox@chorus.net

CORRESPONDENTS

Hinsdale Hospital Crister DelaCruz CDeLaCruz@ahss.org
Illinois Joi Avante 76361.3031@compuserve.com
Indiana Sheri DeWitt 74617.771@compuserve.com
Michigan Bruce Babienko 74532.1235@compuserve.com
Wisconsin Kitty Cray kitrae@juno.com

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

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

President Don C. Schneider
Secretary Walter L. Wright
Treasurer Norman W. Klam
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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 Andreasen, 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.
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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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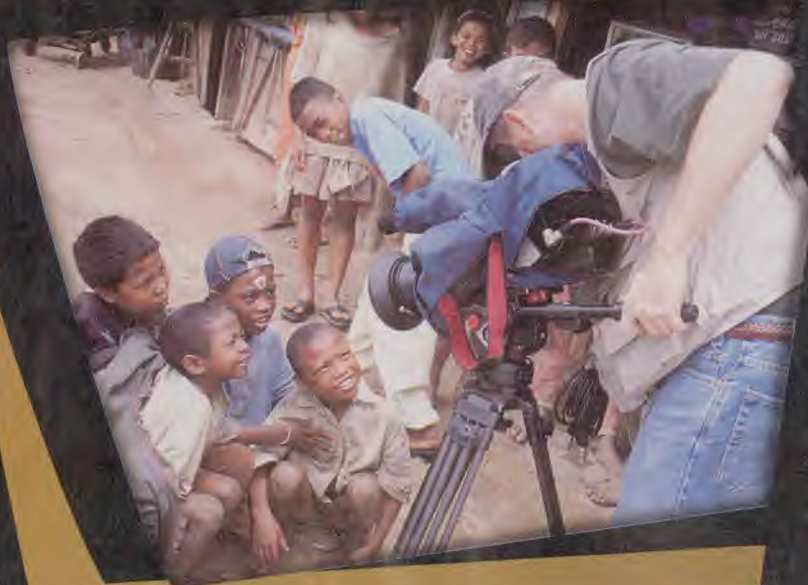
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