

# Lake Union HERALD

JANUARY 2006

Will the Sun Set on Our  
**LIBERTY?**

A SPECIAL REPORT ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM





# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY WALTER L. WRIGHT, LAKE UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

## FREE INDEED



“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 5:32). “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 5:36).

Religious freedom is the right to worship God after the dictates of one's own heart. This is a basic American freedom, and it is one on which our great country was founded. It does not require consensus or agreement. We Americans do not consider it to be a gift or a privilege. It is a right guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

Given these facts, you would think religious liberty would be a “no-brainer” here in “the land of the free, and the home of the brave.” But that is not the case. Our right to worship as we choose, and to live out Biblical precepts as we believe them, must be guarded jealously and defended vigorously whenever and wherever we see those rights about to be trampled underfoot.

I am greatly disturbed by the religious who would curtail the religious rights of any who do not agree with their particular brand of fundamentalism or Biblical interpretation. Jimmy Carter, a former United States president, quotes a fundamentalist in his recent book, *Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis*: “Since I am aligned with God, I am superior and my beliefs should prevail, and anyone who disagrees with me is inherently wrong, and the next step is inherently inferior.” He goes on to say “that tendency has created, throughout the world, intense religious conflicts.”

We should forever insist that separation of church and state must continue to be the watchword here, and call into account any in our government who would force religious subservience or enact laws to restrict free religious expression. Although we believe the day is coming when the religious freedom we now enjoy will be lost, that day is not quite yet. Let us pray and work fervently to preserve the rights of all to worship God in peace and freedom.

# Welcome NEW MEMBERS

**Indiana** A beautiful Sabbath celebration was held May 14, 2005; the Greencastle Church family witnessed their pastor, Ernie Peckham, baptize **Terry and Linda Cox** and their son, **Colton**, and Linda's brother, **Donald "Don" Folck**.

The baptisms can be traced to when Colton, then eight years old, began to ask questions about the Bible. His parents did not attend church, but read Bible stories to him. Colton's grandparents talked to him about Jesus, and how He died on the cross so we could go to Heaven with Him. These influences made an impact on his life.

As a child, Linda accompanied her mother each Sabbath to the Adventist church. She stopped attending on a regular basis as a teenager. Still, she believed Saturday was the true Sabbath.

Terry, raised in another denomination, was satisfied with his spiritual understanding. But when Colton asked questions about God and faith, Linda and Terry started talking about attending church, although they could never agree on which church and which day they should attend. However, not being able to answer Colton's questions pushed them to make a decision toward church attendance.

While Terry and Linda discussed which church to attend, Don, who also attended the Adventist church as a boy, added his opinion. "It doesn't matter which church you go to, just pick one." But Linda challenged him to show in the Bible where the Sabbath had been changed from Saturday to Sunday. Since he could not find Bible evidence of a change, he joined them in attending the Adventist church.

Another factor influencing Don was his diagnosis of incurable cancer. He was told he had no more than two years to live. Don prayed for God to heal him, and many others joined him in that prayer. As an act of faith, he also followed the advice of a physician who placed him on a vegetarian diet, encouraged lifestyle changes, and recommended some natural herbs. Three years later, a MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) showed no evidence of the cancer. God worked a miracle!

As Terry and Linda began Bible studies with Alan Anderson, in preparation for baptism, they prayed Don would also join in their decision. Their prayers were answered



From left: Allen Anderson, elder; Ernie Peckham, pastor; Terry Cox; Colton Cox; Don Folck; and his sister, Linda Cox

when Don decided to rededicate his life to Jesus Christ. "It was the best decision I have ever made," he said.

In response to Colton's questions, Terry and Linda arranged for Colton to study with the pastor. Colton also expressed his desire to be baptized. As Hatti Folck witnessed the baptism of her son, daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, she exclaimed, "It's a wonderful day!"

Bruce Babienko, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent

**Michigan** **Kimberly Hasenpflug**, who graduated from Great Lakes Adventist Academy in 1995, was re-baptized when her fiancée, **Daryl Mynes II**, was baptized for the first time on Sabbath, July 9, 2005. Jim Campbell, Tecumseh Adventist Church pastor, gave Bible studies to both.

Although Kimberly was baptized as a young girl, as she reviewed Bible truths, the Holy Spirit spoke more deeply to her heart. This resulted in a burning desire to make a new commitment to her Lord, Jesus Christ.

Daryl was a non-attending member of another denomination before he began to study the Bible with the pastor. As he attended the studies with Kimberly, the truths he learned began to transform his life. Each week his spiritual vision and understanding grew as he spent quality time reading his Bible and discovering God's clear answers to his spiritual questions. When he made his decision to be baptized,



From left: Kimberly Hasenpflug; Jim Campbell, pastor; and Daryl Mynes II

he requested the service be held outdoors like Christ's baptism. He and Kimberly were baptized in Lake Lock Erin at Onsted, Michigan.

Kimberly's mother says it's so exciting to observe the Holy Spirit's work in their lives. "I praise God for the commitments my daughter and son-in-law-to-be have made. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" Their lives were united in marriage in a church service in 2005.

Sandra Hasenpflug with Bruce Babienko *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent

**Michigan** When asked why she wanted to be baptized, ten-year-old **Alexis Dimmer** said, "My mommy was baptized and God helped her to be strong when my daddy died and I wanted God to help me to be strong too. God will help me because He loves me, and He will help me to be strong about things that happen in life, and because I want to go to Heaven and see my family there, too."

Alexis' father, Ted, was in a motorcycle accident on July 3, 2004. When this tragedy occurred, Alexis and her two brothers, Aaron and Seth, turned to their mother, Chris, for comfort. They witnessed the strength of the Lord shining through her and saw how God's strength fortified her as she explained how such a horrible thing could happen to their loving daddy.

Chris, a member of the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northville Township, Michigan, explained to her children how their daddy was sleeping and waiting for Jesus to return. Alexis listened intently to all the things her mother told her. One Sabbath, after witnessing a baptism, Alexis raised her hand in response to the pastor's invitation for others to give their heart to Jesus and prepare for baptism.

Chris says Alexis has always been a loving and kind child. While in first grade, the mother of a classmate died suddenly from an aneurysm in her lung.



Alexis Dimmer (left) was baptized by Robert Stewart, her pastor.



After her baptism, Alexis Dimmer (left) received a rose from Sandy Stewart (right). Her pastor, Robert Stewart, is in back.

When the boy returned to school, Alexis was very empathetic and kind to the boy. She gave him cards and wrote a note that said, "I'm sorry your [sic] sad, I would be really sad too if my mommy died." The teacher found the note and told Chris she was going to place Alexis' desk next to this boy to help comfort him.

While still in first grade, Alexis witnessed to another classmate about unhealthy foods when the classmate wanted to share a sausage sandwich. Her friend went home and that night would not eat her pork chop. Chris received a call from the girl's mother and Chris shared how the Bible

instructs pig's meat is unhealthy.

When her father was killed, Alexis comforted her grandfather and aunts. She made a collage with pictures of Jesus and Bible characters, and wrote, "Sorry you're grieving because I'm grieving too. Jesus loves you. If you were a Christian, it would be easier for you. I know because I am a Christian."

Alexis likes to lead out in prayer in their home and always prays for others. She even prays for people who have hurt her or the family. This was evidenced recently as Chris struggled with legal issues as a result of Ted's death, while Alexis prayed for those who were causing the problems. Her daughter's example caused Chris to stop and realize Jesus said we are to love our enemies and be kind to those who persecute us.

Alexis learned about Jesus and His love through daily family worships and study time. Robert Stewart, Alexis' pastor, provided additional direction as she prepared for baptism. Alexis said she learned "how to trust in God more and not to give into peer pressure. Jesus helped people by healing them and He died for our sins. I know that God loves me."

Alexis was baptized on October 15, 2005, and reports that she is anxious "to tell others about Jesus."

Joy Hyde, Metropolitan Church communication secretary and church clerk

# University Students Witness on Campus

BY JUSTIN KIM AND BRUCE BABIENCO

Daniel McGrath, a recent graduate of the CAMPUS (Center for Adventist Ministry for Public University Students) missionary training program, was asked why he enrolled in the program. He stated he wanted to be a missionary. Originally planning to go to South America, he believed coming to CAMPUS would be more useful, and would provide more training. He wanted to learn how to reach people on college campuses.

During his one-year training program, Daniel met two women scholars from China interested in spiritual things and with questions about the Bible. He employed the training he received to encourage them to study the Bible with him. After a semester studying with Daniel, they each accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior before returning to their homeland. Daniel was happy to learn they are continuing to study and are sharing what they learned with their families in China.

Daniel's experience led him to change his vocational plans. He is now enrolled at Eastern Michigan University with the sole purpose of reaching more students for Christ. He serves as the first vice president of CAMPUS inreach.

CAMPUS, with headquarters near the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor campus, also trains university students to reach out to their university friends. Azibo Stevens is a student who accepted Christianity through the efforts of others. He became very interested in Bible prophecy, attended three evangelistic meetings, completed two prophecy studies, and continued to ask Adventist classmates for answers to Bible questions.

They encouraged his relationship with Jesus Christ and invited Azibo to worship with them. He discovered the



University students discuss campus witnessing plans. From left: Joe Valente, Maria Kim, Dan McGrath, and Laura Heilig

blessings of the Sabbath, found answers to his questions, and eventually joined the Adventist church through baptism. His zeal and new Christian lifestyle caught his mother's interest and she now plans to be baptized.

Formed as an initiative of the Michigan Conference, CAMPUS students are currently active at six state universities. Retreats are held for university students and conferences are organized to train those interested in working in this innovative ministry.

This organization also gave birth to the General Youth Conference (GYC), originally structured to be a network to support Adventist public university students committed to sharing their faith. It began with 200 attendees at a national conference, and grew to be an international conference, with nearly 2,000 attendees at the 2005 conference in Chattanooga, Tenn. The conference theme was "Now Is The Time." Speakers included C.D. Brooks, Ron Clouzet, and John Nixon. More information about GYC may be found by visiting the website: [www.generalyouthconference.com](http://www.generalyouthconference.com).

Currently, CAMPUS holds two collegiate retreats during the school year in Michigan, while the national training conference, LEADS (Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar) attracts those involved in public campus ministry during a summer seminar. Next year, a new program will be launched, FOCUS (The Faith and Outreach Camp for University Students). It will be a week-long training camp for pre-collegiate students. For more information about these ministries, visit website: [www.campushope.com](http://www.campushope.com); or e-mail: [info@campushope.com](mailto:info@campushope.com).

Justin Kim is CAMPUS director of resources and Bruce Babienko is *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent.



# BEYOND our BORDERS

# All Things Work Together for Good

HOPE FOR LOUISIANA HURRICANE VICTIMS

BY DEXTER D. CLARKE

I traveled to Houma, Louisiana on September 28. As an American Red Cross mental health volunteer, I worked with other volunteers in shelters that housed displaced hurricane victims. The evacuees slept on cots or air mattresses, their meager belongings gathered around their "bed." Lights went out at 10:00 p.m. and came back on at 6:00 a.m. daily. The temperature was set in the middle to low 60s to keep viruses minimal, since so many people were there for the majority of the day. Volunteers slept in the same type of setting; it took some adjustment to sleeping and living in such conditions. I could not imagine how it must have felt for someone to live like that with their entire "life" summed up in a few small bags.

I listened to story after story of experiences. Some were used to hurricanes, but never thought the levee collapse would ever happen. Many said this was why they "waited" so long before trying to leave. It reminded me of Noah's message to the people before the flood came.

Others told of swimming through flood water, or waiting to be rescued from the second floor or roof of their home, or from a highway overpass. Still others voiced frustration at being in a situation they had "no control over." They appreciated a place to sleep with food to eat, and the promise of receiving financial assistance, but it was the "feeling of helplessness" that was difficult to accept. Their home, job, and family were totally disrupted in a matter of days.



Dexter Clarke (left), an Adventist mental health social worker, joined Melanie and Tim, also mental health social workers, in Houma, La. They assisted displaced hurricane evacuees.

and hear the love of Jesus. We agreed we all need Him in our lives every day. It was amazing to hear him express the same feelings I had. I could see what Paul meant when he said "there is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither bond or free ... for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28 KJV).

I worked 12–14 hour shifts. During my two-week stay, I saw the number of shelter residents decrease from approximately 600 to around 200–300. People found more stable housing and moved in a direction to find a better life.

Our paths may never cross again, but the fellowship was worth it. The testimonies about their belief in God and how He would get them through this time of loss were a blessing. My experience changed my whole outlook on life. It increased my belief in God, who makes no mistakes, but at the same time "works all things together for good to them that love Him" (Romans 8:28).

Dexter Clarke is a member of the Fairhaven Adventist Church in Flint, Michigan, and is a mental health social worker.





FAMILY TIES

# FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE?

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

**W**hen we marry, despite our pledge, we don't consider what "in sickness and in health" might require. Perhaps it is best we are blissfully ignorant of what life can eventually bring to us.

"Although it is illogical, illness can feel like betrayal, a miscarriage of marital hopes and promises," suggests author Beth McLeod. The losses are great—companionship, security, intimacy, and our dreams. However, out of the heartache of caring for a partner comes lessons to inform us, strengthen us, and set examples for the next generation.

Harlan cares for his wife Carol, who has dealt with almost a decade of chronic back pain. Only in their forties, they have searched for diagnosis and relief. Harlan says the physical and logistical elements, no matter how frustrating, are easier than providing emotional support and feeling responsible for his wife's self-esteem. "When Carol's okay, she's a joy to be around—smart, funny, warm, compassionate. The problem is, she is not okay an awful lot of the time. What I've had to do more than anything is recognize my anger, because rationally you know this is nobody's fault. And you know that however bad you're feeling, she's feeling worse."

"My wife knows she's sick, and there's always the question, 'Am I ever going to get better—or well?' We want off the roller coaster, but dumping her in a nursing home, or divorce and remarriage, are not among the possibilities. The great hope is we'll get back to a normal life. If we can't, then I hope she comes to terms with it in such a way that she can at least enjoy the life she has to the greatest level possible."

As Harlan and Carol, and multitudes of other couples, have faced the heartaches of chronic illness, they have been called upon to

change their familiar ways. Beth McLeod suggests that in caring for a spouse, "we learn that only the present is given to us and that [it] is our choice how to react to it. ... It is in the now that we live, and in the now that we can give."

**Action steps for couples:**

- ▶ **Talk about illness and dying while you are both still healthy.**
- ▶ **Create legal and financial documents to clearly state your wishes. Update these documents every few years and/or when there is a change in family composition.**
- ▶ **Make inventories of all your important possessions.**
- ▶ **Learn to identify uncomfortable emotions and talk about them so hurts and misunderstandings don't fester.**
- ▶ **Tell your children where your important papers are kept. Discuss estate matters and end-of-life issues before a crisis hits.**
- ▶ **Delegate responsibilities so you can retain the more important aspects of your partnership without fatigue or resentment.**
- ▶ **Use the Internet to develop support networks and to educate yourself, or as a supplement to local support groups.**

Remember, your children still need the attention of parents. Involve them in the illness and care plan so they know you are all still a family, despite disruptions.

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



Sunlight can provide many health benefits.

## The Salve of SUNLIGHT

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

**T**he life-giving rays of the sun are an invaluable blessing and provide a number of healthful benefits. Sunlight has the ability to kill microorganisms and prevent growth of mildew and mold. Sunshine can lift the human spirit and help fight off depression, especially during the short days of winter. For hospital patients recovering from surgery, sunlight appears to be therapeutic. Patients in rooms receiving a lot of natural light took less pain medication throughout their hospital stay than patients in darker rooms.

Fifteen minutes of bright sunlight containing UVB (ultraviolet B) rays on the arms and face two to three times per week is usually sufficient for the body to manufacture enough vitamin D to meet one's needs. However, during the winter months when the sun's rays are of insufficient strength, people living in northern states are unable to manufacture sufficient vitamin D.

Persons with dark skin need twice as much sunlight exposure as a fair-skinned person, since skin pigmentation reduces vitamin D production. In addition, the use of sunscreen also reduces vitamin D production. Sunblock with a SPF (Sun Protection Factor) of 15 or greater can block out most of the UVB rays.

It is important to have a good dietary source of vitamin D, especially during the winter months. Many breakfast cereals, some dairy products and orange juices, and some soy and rice beverages are fortified with vitamin D. One could get excessive levels of vitamin D [over 2000 IU (International Units) a day] from taking vitamin supplements.



For adults up to age 50 years, 200 IU of vitamin D is required daily. The elderly need two to three times more since their vitamin D metabolism is impaired. By age 70, vitamin D production is only about 30 percent of what it was at age 25. The elderly at highest risk of vitamin D deficiency include those homebound or institutionalized and those living in the northern third of the country who have a low vitamin D intake.

A deficiency of vitamin D can increase the risk of bone fractures since vitamin D is needed for efficient calcium absorption and bone formation. The sunshine vitamin is also involved with a diverse range of body processes beyond maintaining healthy bones. Vitamin D promotes better muscle function; stronger muscles are better able to support the body and reduce the risk of falls in the elderly. Vitamin D is known to inhibit the growth of breast, colon, and prostate cancer cells. Adequate vitamin D can also lower blood pressure in adults.

Adequate sunlight provides many benefits. However, excessive sun exposure can accelerate aging, and give us freckles, sunspots, wrinkles, and skin cancer.

Winston Craig is professor of nutrition at Andrews University.





# EXTREME GRACE

# RED LIGHT

BY DICK DUERKSEN

I love being loved. Soft touches. Winks from across the room. Notes under the pillow. Pecan pie to start a meal. Unexpected kindness. Knowing what I like and going even further. It's the heart of country songs, dime novels, chick flicks, and Bethlehem's manger. "Love: treating me as if I am really valuable. Giving me your very best." I love being loved!

When you love me it's as if you find an empty platter on a very private shelf deep inside my heart ... and fill it to overflowing with delicacies sweeter than Turkish Delight.

When you love me I am happy. When you love me the sky is brighter. When you love me my troubles drift away into insignificance. When you love me I have everything I need.

I love being loved!

I thanked

Jesus, the traveling Mes-

siah, for His love one morning. I saw Him talking with a group of scroungy beggars under the freeway overpass and my light had just turned red, so I rolled down the window and called Him over to my car.

I told Him how His love guided me to success in business. I thanked Him for my high standing in the community. I showed Him my new sunglasses. I thanked Him for His love.



"I love being loved," I told Him, "but..." The light was still red, so I forced out the question that had been waking me up at night. "How can I get rid of the feeling that there is still something missing in my life?"

"Your clothes?" He crouched beside my car window and touched my sleeve. "I gave them to you so you could clothe others."

"Your standing in the community? It puts you where you can influence policy so my poorest and most vulnerable children will be cared for."

"The money?" He pointed to the packages in the passenger seat, "I gave it to you so you make others feel wealthy."

"Love's greatest gift is not in the receiving. It is in the giving!"

He smiled, stood, and waved toward His waiting friends. "Give it all away and join me."

That was when the light turned green.

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Dick Duerksen is an assistant vice president for missions at Florida Hospital.



# Organized for Service

BY GARY BURNS

The primary governing body in the Seventh-day Adventist Church organization is your local church. As a member of a local church, you and your fellow members decide in business session how to advance the gospel in your community. The church board implements your decisions.

One of the blessings of the Adventist Church is the fact that your local church is united with every other Adventist church around the world through a representative form of organization.

Each church is part of a local conference or mission. The conference is responsible for providing pastoral support and assists in various ministries and initiatives, including education. The conference executive committee meets regularly to give direction and implement policies between conference constituency sessions.

The Lake Union is one of nine territories in North America and includes the Illinois, Indiana, Lake Region, Michigan, and Wisconsin conferences. The *Lake Union Herald* is the official publication and serves all the members of our territory. Three times each year, the Lake Union executive committee meets at its headquarters in Berrien Springs, Michigan, to give direction and focus for advancing the gospel in our territory. The past several years have included initiatives for evangelism and ministry training. On April 2, 2006, the Lake Union Constituency Session will be held in Berrien Springs, Michigan, to determine the leadership and direction of our Union for the next five years.

The North American Division (NAD) is one of 13 territories that makes up the world church, or General Conference (GC), and includes the United States, Canada, and Bermuda. The NAD and GC headquarters are located in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The NAD executive committee has over 300 representatives who meet at the end of each year to give direction for the work in North America. This year's meeting began on Thursday evening, October 26, with a memo-



rial service for leaders who died during the past year. Friday included the election of leaders and a detailed report of the church's response to hurricane victims. Friday evening, the committee was challenged by David Ring, of Franklin, Tennessee, to employ all God has given in service for Him. Don Schneider, NAD president, led the delegation in a dedication response to that end. During the Sabbath sermon, Jan Paulsen, GC president, reminded the committee we are pilgrims and must remember we are in transit to a better place already prepared for us.

A number of initiatives were presented in a report that included evangelism, world missions, church revitalization, education, media, leadership development, and NAD operation.

Over 400 representatives and invited guests from the 13 divisions of the world church gather each year at the GC headquarters for Fall Council to examine issues between GC sessions. The last session was held in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2005. The next session will be in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2010.

For more information about your church, its organization, and the latest news, visit the Lake Union Conference website: [www.luc.adventist.org](http://www.luc.adventist.org). There are links to the conferences, the NAD, the GC, and a number of other church organization websites.

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



# SHARING *our* HOPE

# EVANGELISM Without Walls

EMBARKING ON A HEALING JOURNEY

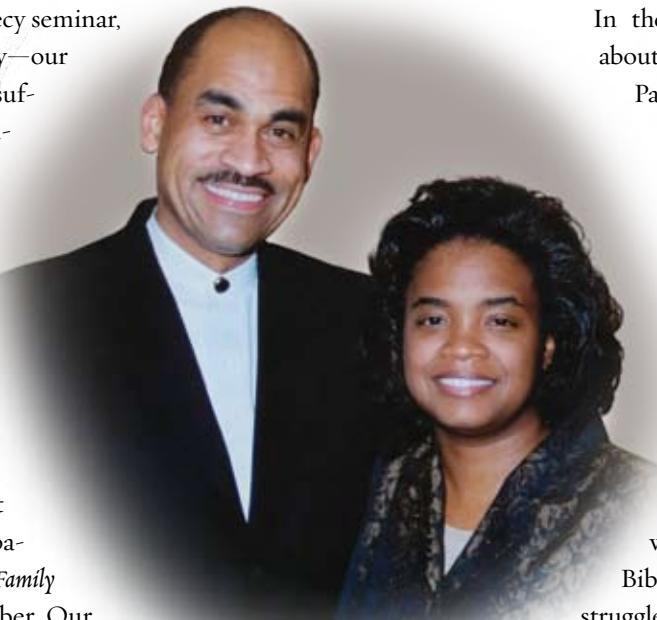
BY DORIS GOTTHARD

**J**ulius R. Everett Sr., Burns Adventist Church pastor, and his wife Regina L. Spears-Everett, a physician, successfully made a powerful case for “blending” a six-week Bible prophecy *Adventure in Revelation* seminar with emotional healing and small group recovery classes. This approach redefined what it really means to call one’s self a Christian. It aroused those who were dead from a result of sin and emotional pain. A safe environment was created for individuals to learn the tools to undo thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and behaviors that undermine one’s peace, love, and joy in life.

Prior to the Bible prophecy seminar, we faced a distressing reality—our church was hurting. We suffered from years of excruciating emotional pain that effected our spiritual life. And so began a three-year journey to spiritual and emotional healing with family seminars, emotional recovery programs, and practical resources.

We declared 2005 to be “The Year of the Family” at the Burns Church in preparation for our *Hope for the Family* evangelism series in September. Our pastor spoke nightly with a free tongue! His mind was fresh! His heart was bubbling with joy as he blended the Bible prophecy messages of Revelation with emotional healing and recovery.

After only six weeks, more than 50 individuals accepted Jesus Christ as their loving Friend through baptism. They now continue their journey with Him as Healer, Lord, and Savior.



In the final analysis, evangelism is about relationships. According to Paul, the Gospel is not limited to Heaven and heavenly things; it is also vital in all areas of our life. There were valuable lessons learned in our journey! First, we had to face-up! Second, we learned God’s constant goal is to make us overcomers. Third, we learned that adding new members as laborers for Christ is primary! Fourth, we learned that when we apply Bible teachings to our personal struggles through suffering, emotional pain, and sin, while trusting in God’s power, blessings do come and we are gloriously redefined.

A new model! A Gospel message of new relationships that God in Jesus Christ has inaugurated! I am one heart, still rejoicing!

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Doris Gothard is a local church elder at the Burns Adventist Church in Detroit, Michigan.



# Edificad la Casa de Dios

POR CARMELO MERCADO

**R**ecuerdo muy bien aquel día en 1985 cuando perdí mi iglesia en Hammond, Indiana. Estaba durmiendo cuando sonó el teléfono. Quien me llamaba era una hermana que vivía al lado de la iglesia para decirme que la iglesia se estaba quemando. Cuando llegué al lugar encontré que ya estaba completamente cubierta por las llamas y el humo. Pronto llegaron otros hermanos, miembros de la iglesia, y no pudimos menos que llorar al ver en ruinas nuestra apreciada iglesia. Recuerdo la incertidumbre y el desánimo que sentía yo esos días cuando recogíamos lo poco que había dejado el incendio. Todo me parecía tan oscuro, y me pregunté: “¿Cómo podremos recuperarnos de esta tragedia?”

Muchos recordarán el año 2005 como un año de desastres y de dificultades. Multitudes de personas fueron afectadas en una manera sorprendente por los desastres naturales. Aún nuestra iglesia adventista sufrió grandes pérdidas. En un informe acerca del huracán Katrina se nos dijo que en una de las asociaciones se pudo contar a sólo 150 hermanos que pudieron reunirse para adorar en un sábado en vez de los cinco mil que acostumbraban hacerlo. Otro informe, quizás poco conocido, de la Unión del Sur de México, nos trajo noticias de las inundaciones en Chiapas, ocurridas en el mes de octubre del año pasado. De acuerdo a ese informe, en la Asociación de Soconusco un total de 40 templos quedaron destruidos o semi destruidos, y sólo la mitad de los cuales estaban asegurados.

Mi corazón clama por el bienestar de nuestros hermanos adventistas que han perdido su templo y no tienen dónde adorar a Dios. En mis dos años como administrador en la Unión he tenido el privilegio de visitar nuestras iglesias y de ver el ánimo y entusiasmo que hay cuando nos reunimos para adorar y alabar a nuestro Dios. La pérdida del hogar es desanimador porque involucra la pérdida de las posesiones materiales. La pérdida de un templo tiene el potencial de



Un templo adventista dañada por las inundaciones en New Orleans

desanimarnos aún más porque ése es el lugar donde buscamos la fe y la esperanza. Al meditar en esto quisiera invitar a nuestros hermanos a hacer lo siguiente:

1. Antes del incendio, yo veía el templo en Hammond como algo pequeño con poco potencial de impactar la comunidad. Sin embargo, al perderlo me di cuenta

cuán importante era la pequeña luz que alumbraba de ese edificio. Demos gracias a Dios por el privilegio que tenemos de adorar a nuestro Dios en su templo cada sábado.

2. Oremos por los hermanos que pasan por necesidad y pidamos que el Señor los llene con su Espíritu Santo para que su fe no flaquee.

3. Demos una ofrenda de sacrificio para ayudar a nuestros hermanos en Chiapas que han perdido sus templos. Si el Señor les impresiona a que apoyen este proyecto, envíen su ofrenda a la Unión del Lago indicando que su ofrenda es para “Templos Chiapas”.

Oremos para que el Señor nos use en este nuevo año para apoyar a nuestros hermanos sin templo, a recobrar nuevas fuerzas para levantar la luz de Cristo.

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

**Dorothy and Ron Watts** have given much of their lives to the people of India—especially its children. They adopted three children as their own and later founded Sunshine Children's Home for abandoned children. In 1973, Jasmine Jacob and her husband, Peter, visited India. They were so impressed when they met the Watts family and later remarked, "We were touched, inspired, and amazed at the love these people had for the children and sacrifices they were willing to make."

Returning home, the Jacobs desired to partner with God to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the suffering and afflicted, so with friends they organized REACH International (Render Effective Aid to Children). The Watts were in the Jacob's home for that first



Girls at the REACH school study their lessons under the trees.

# Expanding Your Family Circle

## ADVENTIST CHILD INDIA: SPONSORING CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM BY DOROTHY EATON WATTS

**T**oday, the church in India is growing faster than anywhere else in the world, and this presents a problem for the future of the church. There is a desperate need for qualified educated leadership to respond to this rapid growth.

Most new members come from villages where they earn less than 50

cents a day as laborers. They struggle to put food on the table. Free education is available in most villages, but it does not give them the knowledge and training to become Christian leaders and workers in their home churches, our institutions, and church administration. The parents new to the faith also have so much to learn. The children who are given an opportunity to attend our boarding schools return to their homes and churches able to model the Adventist lifestyle and share what it means to be Christian. We find that children returning for vacation from our schools make a tremendous impact on their villages.

Some of India's present leaders were educated in Adventist schools because someone cared enough to help them get a Christian education. Some have become educators. An example is Lazarus, principal of the Adventist school in Bidar, in northern Karnataka.



Josie Burns is a volunteer teacher for the REACH Hostel and Mount View Advent Academy Matriculation School in Madurai, India.

Forty years ago no one in his remote village of Bannimatti had heard of Jesus Christ. The village headman visited the city on business and picked up a Voice of Prophecy card and enrolled in the lessons. He studied the lesson with the people in his village and they all decided to become Christians.

Lazarus wrote to the conference office nearly 300 miles away to request help, but there was no one to send who spoke his language. Then the headman got on the bus and traveled to Bangalore to request a teacher. Again, there was no one to send.

On the headman's second visit, Ron Watts, former president for the Karnataka Section and now Southern Asia Division president, took a translator and went by car back to the village. "Please send a teacher," the people begged. "We have no one to send who speaks your language," Watts said. "Why not let us take five of your boys back to our boarding school? They will become your teachers."

So it was that Lazarus, along with four other boys, were sent back to Bangalore to the boarding school. Today, there is a church building in Bannimatti. Almost everyone in the village has become a Seventh-day Adventist. Lazarus and the four other boys finished elementary school, high school,

organizational meeting and have supported the REACH ministry through the years in many ways. The Watts helped REACH find children who needed help the most, and once even sent 68 children from Puliangudi, a very poor village.

Dorothy still has a heart for India's children, and there is still much to do in India for the children. Dorothy invites *Lake Union Herald* readers to join her in a new faith venture—Adventist Child India—sponsoring children of the Kingdom.—*The Editors*



T. Swapna attends the Zaheerabad School in Western Andhra Pradesh. She lives in a village in a mud house. Her parents both work at daily wages and get approximately \$28 per month to support their family.



Akash Santosh Gaikwad is 11 years old and would like to attend Lasalgaon School in Maharashtra. His parents earn less than \$20 per month as daily farm workers or construction workers.



Koniti Ashalatha's parents live in a mud house in a very poor village in western Andhra Pradesh. She wants to attend school in Zaheerabad. Her parents earn about \$25 per month.



Subesh Raipad wants to attend the Zaheerabad school. After becoming Christians his parents have had a difficult time getting work and their lives have been threatened. They earn about \$27 per month.



Children at the REACH Hostel and school pose for a photo in their Sabbath clothes.

and college because of a child sponsorship program. Today, all five are working for God as principal, teachers, and medical workers. And work has been established in more than 100 villages in that area where before there was no knowledge of Jesus Christ and His soon return.

Adventist Child India (ACI) is a new program to help meet the urgent needs of a rapidly growing membership. ACI is a child sponsorship program aimed at placing children of newly baptized members into Seventh-day Adventist boarding schools. "We need to get 10,000 children into our schools within the next three to five years," says Watts.

The ACI initiative matches children with sponsors who provide food, clothing, books, medical care, and educational fees at one of our Adventist schools. An office is set up at the Division in Hosur, India, to monitor the program. Representatives visit the schools at least once annually to verify the child is attending school and receiving good care. Regular reports with letters from the children are sent to the sponsors four times annually.

Please prayerfully consider how your contribution will benefit the lives of these children and what part you may have in the future work for the Lord in India.

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Dorothy Eaton Watts is the associate secretary for the Southern Asia Division.

## ADVENTIST CHILD INDIA

### Sponsorships

For \$25 per month or \$300 per year, sponsors can ensure that one of these children will get the education and support they need. Donations are carefully recorded and monitored; donors will receive a receipt for income tax purposes.

If you are interested in sponsoring one or more children, contact Dorothy Eaton Watts. The Child Care Office will send you a photo of a child, a child information form, and information about how to send funds for sponsorship.

#### E-mail

IO4474.2006@compuserve.com

#### Mail

P.O. Box 2, HCF, Hosur 635 110  
Tamil Nadu, India

### One-Time Gifts

Some prefer to give one-time gifts for the project. These funds are used to set up new hostels and to cover unsponsored children while sponsors are sought.

### Promotional Resources

A promotional video and brochures are available to promote this program in your church or school.

Contact Jeff Dayak.

#### E-mail

dayak@verizon.net

#### Phone

(301) 388-0022 or (301) 602-8464

## REACH INTERNATIONAL

REACH is a world-wide organization with a mission "to provide food, shelter, love, education, and a chance for eternity to the abandoned and destitute children of the world." The organization has expanded to 23 countries and served over 100,000 children since its humble beginnings. Children with little or no chance in life have learned of Jesus and become productive Christian workers.

For more information, visit [www.reach.org](http://www.reach.org).

# TREASURY REPORT

# A COMMITMENT TO OUR MISSION

BY GLYNN SCOTT

The treasury department of the Lake Union Conference (LUC) oversees the financial picture for our Union family of five conferences. We provide guidance and support by assisting where needed and make recommendations for returning Union funds to local conferences for evangelism and special projects. Your Union administrative team is motivated by the belief that Jesus is soon to return. Consequently, we are intentional about using the resources God has entrusted to us to advance our mission of proclaiming the everlasting gospel (Revelation 14:6-12) and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

To accomplish our mission, we need sound financial management as faithful stewards. Our current Balance Sheet or Statement of Position reveals

both strength and stability. Our current ratio measuring our strength to meet indebtedness is nearly 14:1, doubled from 2004. Due to a tithe increase and a timely transfer of tithe funds, our cash and securities increased just over \$1 million in 2005. Receivables have decreased nearly \$250,000.

Current liabilities decreased by \$298,691, leaving a balance of \$353,453 for appropriations/trust funds that are payable to the Lake Region Conference.

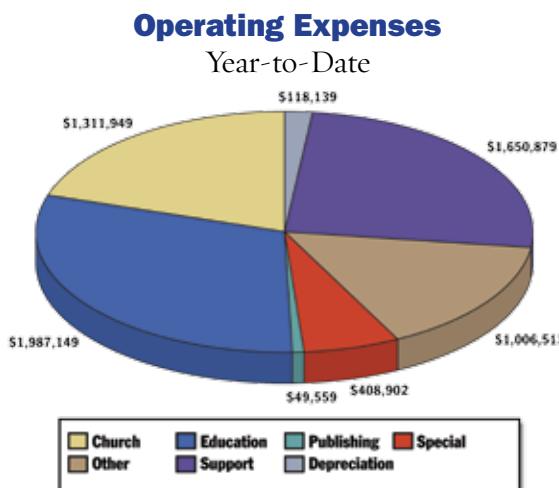
As a result of our members' faithfulness in returning tithe across our Union territory, we have a year-to-date tithe gain of 4.63 percent. In Malachi 3:8-10, God promises a special blessing to His people for their faithfulness. To increase

funding for local conference programs, the North American Division (NAD) voted to increase the amount of tithe retained by the local conference from 70 to 75 percent, excluding retirement funding. In addition, we have reduced the funding of the Lake Union from ten percent to nine percent. We budgeted to receive \$6.2 million year-to-date, yet even with the above adjustments our actual income was \$6.5 million. This

income was used for ministries and programs that directly/indirectly benefit local conferences/institutions within our Union territory (see Operating Expense pie chart).

In an effort to give greater understanding of the funding support given by the LUC, each operating program referenced within the Operating Expenses charts include the following ministries:

**Church**—Ministerial scholarships, general evangelism, summer youth camp ministries, Hispanic church building programs/scholarships, and conference church building programs



## Treasury Team



Glynn Scott, treasurer

### **Education**

Conference academy educational programs and Andrews University appropriations

### **Publishing**

Dollars allocated during 2005 will be used for the final dissolution of Home Health Education

Services (HHES), the Union publishing program. Beginning with the 2006 budget, yearly appropriations will be given directly to the local conferences from the LUC for publishing ministries.

**Special**—Lake Union software development/support (LUCIS), religious liberty, and women's ministries

**Other**—Lake Region capital reversion, inner city programs, and non-tithe appropriations to conferences

**Support**—Auditing cost for conferences/subsidiaries, *Lake Union Herald*, and general administration

Another important financial health indicator associated with our year-to-date financial review includes a careful comparison of actual expenses versus budget. Our total expenses are currently \$94 under budget (see Operating Expenses bar graph) with some variances in different budget categories.

Overall, the net increase to our fund balance as of September 30, 2005, is better than budget by \$416.3 thousand. During the 2005 final quarter all variances to budget continue to undergo a



critical review with a full report and justification to the LUC executive committee for all programs over budget.

The final financial health indicator as a part of our year-to-date financial review would

require a look at the percent of working capital as required by NAD working policy (see Working Capital graph). Working capital is defined as 50 percent of the latest fiscal year's unrestricted income, long-term payables, capital additions, and temporarily restricted net assets. NAD policy requires a minimum of 100 percent working capital for the sound and effective operations of organizations. The

Lake Union had 79.1 percent of working capital in 1997, as compared to 148.5 percent of working capital as of September 30, 2005.

God has truly blessed the financial operations of the Lake Union. Its administrators and staff are committed

to our mission. Our prayer and desire is to do all we can to hasten the soon and second return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through the effective and prudent use of the resources entrusted to us. May God find each one of us faithful as we commit ourselves to Him in service until the end of time.

Glynn Scott is the Lake Union Conference treasurer.



Doug Gregg, associate treasurer



Richard Terrell, associate treasurer and stewardship director



Elisa Flores, administrative assistant to Glynn Scott, treasurer

## TRUST SERVICES REPORT

# MAXIMIZING GOD'S RESOURCES

BY VERNON L. ALGER

**G**od is the owner of all, yet He allows us to act as stewards of His assets. Such stewardship includes making provision for our personal and family needs, remembering we have nothing of our own and are responsible to a loving heavenly Father for what we use during our lifetime and any residue that remains.

Individuals differ greatly. Parental influences, training, and life experiences help determine giving habits and, consequently, support of church ministries. Trust services personnel must consider inspired stewardship principles and meet constituents where they are in terms of their individual philosophies.

Those who work in the trust services program of the church are responsible for sharing with constituents principles of stewardship and estate planning which will ensure a judicious use of God's assets.

Those charged with trust services duties have the awesome responsibility of educating constituents about the methods of finance, stewardship, and estate planning which will help to ensure a thoughtful use of God's assets both during and after life—making paramount the principle that God, the owner of all, requires us to be just and faithful stewards.

"Some wills are made in so loose a manner that they will not stand the test of the law, and thus thousands of dollars have been lost to the cause. Our brethren should feel that a responsibility rests upon them, as faithful servants in the cause of God, to exercise their intellect in regard to this matter, and secure to the Lord His own" (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 323).

Trust officers provide constituents with current estate and gift planning information, and encourage them to create estate planning documents by competent legal advisors.

Union trust service directors do not normally relate directly with church members, but serve as technical resources for local conference trust departments. We also assist local trust departments in getting accredited, and trust officers certified, by the North American Division Certification and Accreditation Committee. Union trust directors arrange for the annual continuing education required for trust directors to maintain certification and assist conferences in maintaining accreditation.

If you have questions and would like to speak with a certified trust officer, please contact your local conference. They would be glad to assist you.



Vernon L. Alger, public affairs and religious liberty, and trust services director



Patricia Young, secretary to Vernon L. Alger

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Vernon L. Alger is the Lake Union Conference public affairs and religious liberty, and trust services director.

# COVER STORY: RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

**INTRODUCTION** **Bill Moyers** is an author, lecturer, and scholar whose career has included public service, academia, and public television. He is an articulate believer in the benefits to religion, government, and society by having government and religion function separately. Moyers recently received the lifetime achievement award from the American Baptist Churches USA Biennial Convention. Though he was unable to attend the award ceremony, he wrote an expression of gratitude containing his thoughts on current trends in church-state separation. The Baptist Joint Committee's publication, *Report from the Capital*, a premiere publication providing perceptive analyses of current governmental events impacting religion, published Moyers' remarks. We are grateful to the Baptist Joint Committee for allowing us to reprint them here.

—Vernon L. Alger, Lake Union Conference public affairs and religious liberty, and trust services director



# BILL MOYERS IS OUR LIBERTY BEING HIJACKED?

THE ACUTE STRUGGLE  
BETWEEN RELIGIOUS POWER  
AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

I do not deserve this award. On the other hand, I have arthritis and I don't deserve that, either. So thank you from the depth of a grateful heart.

I wish that I could have made it. I would like to be with you in person. There is no one I would rather accept this award for me than my soul-brother James Dunn. Actually, he and Howard Moody truly deserve this honor.

There could not be a more timely moment for you to be proclaiming once again freedom of conscience as the well-spring of our faith and our freedoms. The militant rhetoric of holy war echoes around the globe and, sadly, from the precincts and pews of our own country.

Who among us does not wince at the Republican congressman who said that "Democrats cannot help but demonize Christians."

Or Pat Robertson speaking of liberal America doing to evangelical Christians "what Nazi Germany did to the Jews," and of non-Christians as "termites destroying institutions that have been built by Christians."

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ou have bestowed on me.

# *The Constitution takes no sides in the religious human nature makes inevitable. It neither*

Who does not remember Lieutenant General William G. "Jerry" Boykin, deputy under-secretary of defense in 2003, declaring that George Bush had been elevated to the presidency by a "miracle" and who said, speaking of his encounter with a Somali warlord, "that I knew my God was bigger than his. I knew that my God was a real God and his was an idol."

Ten years ago, when then Representative Charles Schumer of New York held a special hearing on violence and harassment by militia groups, his office was deluged with hate

calls and faxes, many stamped with the hot fury of religious anger. One message warned him: "You should make no mistake that you are a conceited, arrogant [expletive]. You will suffer physical pain and mental anguish before we transform you into something a bit more useful ... a lamp shade or wallets or perhaps soap."

Ten years ago Arlen Specter, the moderate Republican Senator from Pennsylvania, ran for his party's nomination for President. His avowed purpose was to save the party of Lincoln from extremism. He described what he called "a continuum from Pat Buchanan's declaration of a 'holy war' at the Republican National Convention

to Randall Terry calling for 'a wave of hatred' to 'the guy at Pat Robertson's law school who says murdering an abortion doctor is justifiable homicide to the guys who are pulling the triggers.'" When Senator Specter spoke out against the radical agenda of the religious right at the Iowa Republican convention, he was booed and jeered.

That was the time Thomas Kean, the former governor of New Jersey, tried to warn his fellow Republicans against giving control to dogmatists.

**The struggle  
for a just world  
goes on. It is  
not a partisan  
affair. God is  
neither liberal  
nor conservative,  
Republican nor  
Democrat.**

He, too, was booed—and then announced that he would not run for the Senate because it had fallen under the grip of the radical religious right.

What was anticipated a decade ago has now been realized. To be furious in religion, said the Quaker William Penn, "is to be furiously irreligious."

Over my long life I have traveled a long way from home, but I have never left the ground of my being. At the Central Baptist Church in Marshall, Texas, we believed in a free church in a free state.

My spiritual forbearers did not take kindly to living under theocrats that embraced religious liberty for themselves but would deny it to others. "Forced worship stinks in God's nostrils," thundered the dissenter Roger Williams as he was banished from Massachusetts for denying the authority of Puritans over his conscience. Baptists there were only a "pitiful negligible minority," but they were denounced as "the incendiaries of the commonwealth" for holding to their belief in the priesthood of believers. For refusing tribute to state religion Baptists were fined, flogged, and exiled. In 1651 the Baptist, Obadiah Holmes, was given thirty stripes with a three-corded whip after he violated the law in taking communion with an elderly and blind Baptist in Lynn, Massachusetts. Holmes refused the offer of friends to pay his fine so he could be released. He refused the strong drink they said would anesthetize the pain. Sober, he endured the ordeal; sober still, he would leave us with the legacy that "it is the love of liberty that must free the soul."

Over time and at great struggle, the First Amendment has made of America "a haven for the cause of conscience." It checked what Thomas Jefferson called "the loathsome combination of church and state" which had been enforced in the old and new world alike by "weapons of wrath and blood" as human beings were tormented on the rock or in the stocks for failing to salute the prevailing orthodoxy. It put an end to the subpoena of conscience by magistrates who ordered citizens to support churches they did not attend and recite creeds that they did not believe in.

The Constitution of the new nation would take no sides in the religious free-for-all that liberty would make possible and human nature would make inevitable. It would neither

# *free-for-all that liberty makes possible and inculcates religion nor inoculates against it.*

inculcate religion nor inoculate against it. For my Baptist ancestors, this delicate balance between faith and freedom encourages neither atheism nor animosity toward religion. We learned that Americans can be loyal to the Constitution without being hostile to God.

I confess that I do not understand the new breed of our co-religionists who invoke the separation of church and state to protect themselves against encroachment from others, but denounce it when it protects others against encroachment from them; who use it to shelter their own revenues and assets from taxation, but insist that taxes paid by others support private sectarian instruction in pervasively religious schools; who loath any government intrusion into their sphere, but are laboring mightily to change federal tax laws so that churches may intrude upon government; who stand foursquare behind the First Amendment when they exercise their own right to criticize others—sometimes with a vengeance and often with vitriol, as when Jerry Falwell circulated videos implicating President Clinton in murder; but who when they are challenged or criticized, whine and complain that they are being attacked as “people of faith.”

Make no mistake about it. The language of religion has been placed at the service of a partisan agenda. God is being invoked to undermine safeguards for public health and the environment, to demonize political opponents, to censor textbooks, to ostracize “the other,” to end public funding for the arts, to cut taxes on the rich, to misinform and mislead voters.

The fact is: Jesus has been hijacked. The very Jesus who stood in His hometown and proclaimed, “The Lord has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor.” The very Jesus who told 5,000 hungry people that all people—not just those in the box seats—would be fed. The very Jesus who challenged the religious orthodoxy of the day by feeding the hungry on the Sabbath, who offered kindness to the prostitute and hospitality to the outcast, who raised the status of women, and who treated even the despised tax collector as

a citizen of the Kingdom. The indignant Jesus who drove the money changers from the temple has been hijacked and turned from a friend of the dispossessed into a guardian of privilege, a militarist, and a hedonist, sent prowling the halls of Congress like a Gucci-shod lobbyist, seeking tax breaks and loopholes for the powerful, costly new weapon systems, and punitive public policies against people without power or status.

The struggle for a just world goes on. It is not a partisan affair. God is neither liberal nor conservative, Republican nor Democrat. To see whose side God is on, just go to the Bible. It is the widow and the orphan, the stranger and the poor who are blessed in the eyes of the Lord; it is kindness and mercy that prove the power of faith and justice that measures the worth of the state.

Kings are held accountable for how the poor fare under their reign. Prophets speak to the gap between rich and poor as a reason for God’s judgment. Poverty and justice are religious issues, and Jesus moves among the disinherited.

This is the Jesus who challenges the complacency of all political parties. He drove the money changers from the temple of Jerusalem; I believe today He would drive them from the temples of democracy.

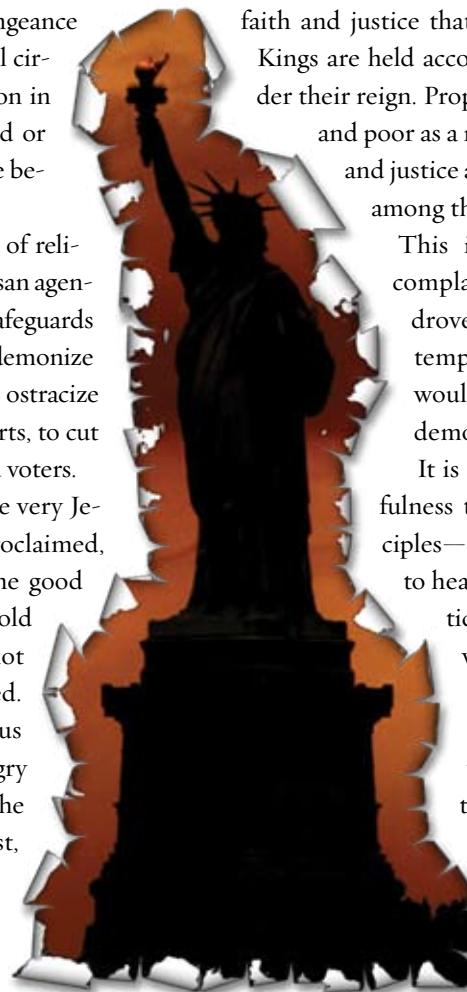
It is this Jesus you honor by your faithfulness to the greatest of all Baptist principles—our belief that we are most likely to hear God’s eternal call to love and justice and redemption in the still small voice of the soul.

Thank you for that fidelity, for the work you do, and the witness you render—and for the recognition that you have bestowed on me.

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Bill Moyers is a veteran reporter and an ordained Baptist minister. He retired from television in December 2004.

**The fact  
is: Jesus  
has been  
hijacked.**





## Balancing Life Issues

### New Director Guides AMH in Healing Ministry

Human life is complex, but God provides direction that encourages the spiritual, physical, emotional, social, and intellectual components of life to come together in a healthy, balanced way. That message is tantamount to the character of John Rapp, the new Adventist Midwest Health (AMH) Ministries and Mission regional executive director.

The youngest of seven in a fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist family, Rapp said his relatives' influence and a sense of God's calling led him to the ministry. "My grandfather was a senior pastor at Takoma Park [Adventist] Church. My father was a pediatric dentist. Both my parents were a big influence in my decision to go into ministry." He has earned Master's and Doctor of Ministry degrees.

"The mission of the church is to preach, teach, and heal as in the ministry of Christ. The mission of Adventist Midwest Health and its hospitals and ancillary services provides an opportunity to extend the healing aspect to a community in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing," said Rapp.

"Jesus has called us to have abundant life. I believe a significant part of the abundant life is to be as healthy as we can be during the different phases of our life's journey. As part of Adventist Midwest Health, I am very interested in pursuing the healing aspect and to be more involved in community ministries," said Rapp, who led churches in Calif., Fla., and Ill., before his journey into healthcare ministry took him across the street from Hin-



*John Rapp*

sdale Seventh-day Adventist Church where he served as pastor.

"There wasn't one day in the six years I was there that I didn't feel joy and honor in being pastor at the Hinsdale [Adventist] Church," said Rapp, "but now I believe God called me to a new opportunity."

His office is located on the campus of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, and his duties are strategic, programmatic, and relational. He will help determine how AMH extends the healing ministry of Christ to the community as a member of the executive council.

The Ministries and Mission department is responsible for planning programs and events—such as Spiritual Emphasis Week, National Day of Prayer Breakfast, the Blessing of Hands, and community concerts. Ministries and Mission also develops relationships with employees, patients and their families, and the community-at-large.

"I've inherited a wonderful staff of chaplains, assistants, and volunteers.

I want each hospital to grow to be integrated into their communities and be seen as a spiritual center as well as providing excellent health care."

Rapp likes to read, especially books on American history and U.S. presidents. He plays golf and enjoys swimming, tennis, and travel with his family—his wife of 21 years, Melanie, and daughters, Samantha, 16, and Lauren, 10. Melanie also works for AMH in Human Resources.

In expressing the balance he seeks in his life, Rapp shared how M. Scott Peck, M.D., author of *The Road Less Traveled*, describes love as extending yourself for the "physical, emotional, and spiritual welfare of another person."

"I'm interested in honoring God and expanding His kingdom of love and grace in every area of life—personal, family, friends, and at work. I think that is what every believer is called to do."

Lynn Larson, Adventist Midwest Health writer/media liaison



*John Rapp (center), the new AMH Ministries and Mission regional executive director, is introduced to employees and volunteers during Spiritual Emphasis Day at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.*



*Merlin Burt, Center director, holds the first letter John Nevins Andrews sent his mother as a missionary, one of 31 original letters recently added to the Center's collection.*

## Center for Adventist Research Receives Andrews/Spicer Collection

The Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University recently received a generous donation. It included important letters, documents, photographs, and artifacts from the life of John Nevins Andrews (JNA), the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary, as well as the missionary work of the Andrews/Spicer family in Tibet.

The collection was donated to the Center in Oct. 2005 by Jeannie Andrews, great-granddaughter of JNA.

There are 31 original JNA letters in the collection, including a letter dated Sept. 26, 1874, written to his mother upon setting foot on the shores of England. It is the first letter from the first official Adventist missionary written from a foreign land. Also included in the collection is the original French language covenant detailing the family's commitment to speak only French at home. About ten original Ellen G. White letters, six or seven of which were previously unknown, are also in the collection.

"This is among the most significant collection of original, handwritten correspondence from early Adventist pioneers," said Merlin Burt, Center director. "Previous to this collection, we had no original JNA letters at Andrews, and there were only a few at the GC (General Conference) and other institutions. This is now the treasure trove of JNA correspondence."

Several historically important photographs, including two daguerreotypes\* depicting the earliest known pictures of Andrews, his parents, and brother are also included, as well as the only known photo of Carrie Andrews, JNA's daughter who died in early childhood.

A collection of letters between Dorothy (Spicer) Andrews, daughter of W.A. Spicer and wife of John Nevins Andrews, M.D., and her daughter, Jeannie Andrews, detailing life in the Tibet mission field in the early 20th century, as well as several Tibetan artifacts, are also included.

"It's more than just history," comments Burt on the collection's significance, "it helps you get to know JNA better as you read pictures of his deep, personal spiritual commitment and the close family relationship between him and his wife and his children."

Beverly Stout, University Relations correspondent

\*An early photographic process with the image made on a light-sensitive silver-coated metallic plate



*A rare daguerreotype depicts the earliest known photograph of John and William Andrews.*

## Seminars Offer College Financial Aid Information

Andrews University representatives will visit the following Lake Union academies to present "Paying for College" seminars. These seminars are designed to help students complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) forms in preparation for college enrollment in Fall 2006, as well as help gain an understanding of the overall financial aid process.

Since all colleges and universities use the same FAFSA forms, parents and academy/high school seniors from any secondary school are invited to attend the seminar, regardless of which colleges they plan to apply to. Representatives from both the Student Financial Services and Enrollment Management offices at Andrews University will be present at each seminar.

### Andrews Academy

Wed., Feb. 1, at 7:00 p.m.

### Battle Creek Academy

Tues., Feb. 7, at 7:00 p.m.

### Broadview Academy\*

Sun., Jan. 22, at 1:00 p.m.

### Chicago Academy\*

Wed., Jan. 11, at 3:00 p.m.

### Grand Rapids Adventist Academy

Sat., Jan. 7, at 7:00 p.m.

### Great Lakes Adventist Academy

Sun., Jan. 15, at 1:00 p.m.

### Hinsdale Academy\*

Thurs., Jan. 26, at 7:00 p.m.

### Indiana Academy

Sun., Feb. 12, at 10:30 a.m.

### Peterson-Warren Academy

Tues., Feb. 7, at 9:15 a.m.

### Wisconsin Academy\*

Tues., Jan. 24, (time T.B.A.)

For additional information call  
(269) 471-3854.

Randy Graves, Andrews University Recruitment Services director

\* Central Time

### Students Lead Week of Prayer

**Wisconsin**—As students ambled into the Wisconsin Academy (WA) chapel on Mon., Oct. 17, 2005, excited chatter filled the air and ushered in a warm and friendly atmosphere to start Fall Week of Prayer. This time of dedication and consecration to God was presented almost entirely by students, and the praise team led song service each evening.



Nicole Willer, Student Association president, told a story about her first babysitting experience.

To go along with the week's theme, "Characteristics of God," Nicole Willer told a humorous anecdote about her first experience babysitting to illustrate the peace God gives anyone who asks.

Michelle Paulsen followed the next day with an entertaining skit performed by D.J. McKenzie, WA chaplain, and Lacy Swanington to demonstrate the power of forgiveness. Paulsen also shared an example from her own life to conclude the Tues. meeting.

Erin McLean talked about God's faithfulness to us and His miracles in our lives. She shared a true experience on Wed. of God's intervention on her behalf.

To reveal her point about God's joy on Thurs. night, Lindsey Shotwell relayed a memory from working at summer camp. She impressed upon students how important God's joy is, and we need only ask for it.



From left: Marlyn Santiago, Sean Fiscus, Gisille Ortiz, and Josh Cook praised God in music during the song service.

Keith Wyland, WA alumnus and a Wisconsin Conference Bible worker, finished the week with a message about the significance of teenagers in bringing the Gospel message to all nations. He ended with an exhortation from 1 Tim. 4:12, "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example."

Fall Week of Prayer was an uplifting time for the students. According to Adrienne Gust, "I feel that out of all the years I've been here, this Week of Prayer was the most meaningful because it was led by students."

Erin McLean, Wisconsin Academy correspondent

### WA Class of 2006 Is Dedicated

**Wisconsin**—One of the best times for a senior at Wisconsin Academy (besides graduation) is Senior Recognition Weekend. Nov. 4 and 5 marked this year's special weekend that included the dedication of the senior mission trip. The weekend is designed for friends and families of the seniors



Michelle Paulsen and Erica Ross posed for a picture after church service.

to have time together, and to raise money for the mission trip.

Fri. vespers was given by G. Paul Foster, Sharon Adventist Church youth pastor. He encouraged the seniors that even when they do fail, failure is not final.

Sabbath school began with a skit about Jesus' wilderness temptations. Following the skit, D.J. McKenzie, WA chaplain, shared thoughts about everyday temptations.



Ryan Fitzgerald and Jerry Miller played their guitars for praise service.

Seniors marched in and took their places on the stage for church service. Vonda Seals, former WA English teacher, delivered a message to the seniors from Joshua 1:8–9. We learned that by following principles in those verses we will have success; failure will not be an option. Fri. evening and Sabbath messages focused on the seniors' motto: "Failure Is Not an Option."

Sat. evening the seniors held a traditional auction and talent show. "My favorite act of [the] talent show was Jordan Wisniewski's and Aaron Cook's song, 'Swing Life Away.' I didn't know they could sing that well!" commented Sara Edminster. "The talent show really brought out different sides of the seniors that I've never seen before; I am quite impressed!" exclaimed Marlyn Santiago.

At the close of the night, as friends and family departed, the seniors breathed a sigh of relief. After all the hard work and planning, the weekend really paid off. This was a weekend the class of 2006 will never forget.

Michelle Paulsen (senior), Wisconsin Academy correspondent

## [YOUTH NEWS]

## Young People Collect Dollars for Timber Ridge Camp

Indiana—Since Oct., the Indiana Conference Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs have been collecting a "Mile of Dollars." Each club is distributing "Mile of Dollars" forms to their local church congregations, and asking donors to commit money for a special project.



The Cicero Cherokees Pathfinder club members hold a portion of the "Mile of Dollars." From left: Katie Thompson, Kasey Eisele, Kaethe Reichert, Sydney Parton, Destyni Tipton, Dee Seikel, Taylor Hicks, and Ashley Trubey

According to Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth director, the clubs hope to complete the fundraising project by Mar. 18. All proceeds will be used to construct a much-needed stage and to purchase sound equipment for the Chapel-in-the-Woods, on Pathfinder Hill, at Timber Ridge Camp.

As Pathfinders and Adventurers ask you to contribute, please give generously! When the "Mile of Dollars" campaign is complete, the young people will have raised \$10,560!

Completed forms should be returned to the local Pathfinder club director. The pledged amount committed on the form is to be placed in a tithe envelope at the local church and marked "Mile of Dollars."

Judith Yeoman, Indiana Conference communication department

## [LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

## Clear Lake Radio Station Is Dedicated Debt Free

Wisconsin—Less than three years ago, members of the Clear Lake Church felt operating a local Christian radio station was an impossible dream. Yet through a series of miracles and hard work WPGR-LP (We Praise God Radio) went on the air in July 2003, and was dedicated debt free on Sabbath, Sept. 10, 2005.

The station broadcasts 24/7 with 16 hours of daily programming coming from Life Talk Radio in Collegedale, Tenn., and eight hours programmed locally. "Connecting people with Christ" in our busy, confused, and uncertain world is the goal of this radio ministry.

Programming strives to meet the needs of a wide range of listeners. The station reaches children with the ever popular *Your Story Hour*. Christian ministries featured include well-known family and financial experts, and health professionals promoting the Adventist lifestyle. *The Voice of Prophecy* is aired with offers for free Bible studies. Associated Press news is broadcast every hour, except Sabbath, to keep listeners informed of current events.

Clear Lake members first applied for a license in Jan. 2001. In Jan. 2002, the license was approved, with the stipulation the proposed station had only 18 months to be on the air!

The question to proceed was debated many times with no firm decision reached until Dec. 2002, when most funds were donated or pledged. Tim and Sue Stuivenga donated land for the building and tower. Unexpected obstacles appeared when several neighbors voiced their objections to the station. However, the county zoning committee approved the project and equipment was ordered in Mar. 2003.

Volunteers raced to be on the air by July 28. Three board members traveled to Vonore, Tenn., to learn how to operate the station. Groundbreaking was held May 18, 2003, at the site. Shortly thereafter, a small building was constructed to house the equipment. The tower was erected June 22, by a professional who donated his time, as thunderclouds held back just long enough for him to complete the task.

In July, the computers and other equipment arrived. Station manager, David Jurisch, and radio board member, Jeff Rosen, spent untold hours piecing it all together. Others put up sheet rock, painted walls, and wired electricity in the building. With only five days to spare, WPGR went on the air at 4:30 p.m. on Wed., July 23, 2003!

Members of the Clear Lake Christian Radio Corporation and guests rejoiced at the official dedication on Sept. 10, 2005. Wisconsin Conference communication director, James Fox, and local elder, Norm Britain, led out, dedicating WPGR-LP to the glory of God as it continues to serve the Clear Lake area.

Beth Nelson, Clear Lake (Wis.) Church communication secretary



Clear Lake members assembled for the dedication of radio station WPGR-LP.

## Glendale Church Celebrates Diversity

**Indiana**—The church pews filled to overflowing as more than 30 nations were represented at Glendale Church's second annual International Day in Oct. The service began with a most impressive Parade of Nations as various members from this multi-cultural congregation marched down the center aisle carrying flags from their respective home countries. It was a beautiful sight as they gathered on stage to celebrate this year's theme: Strengthened by Our Faith—United by Our Diversity.

Miled Modad, Glendale's senior pastor, was born in Lebanon, grew up in Argentina, and came to the United States in 1984. He speaks five languages: Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and English. I felt I was in a romantic far-away foreign port as I caught snippets of assorted languages when friends greeted one another! One lady expressed to me that she found the multi-culture of their congregation to be a blessing as they learn from each other, sharing different social customs and characteristic features of everyday life in their homelands.

Paulette Taylor, International Day committee chairperson, stated she felt impressed to do something to bring



These girls wore colorful native costumes.

the church family closer, and it is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to identify who they are and where they came from! Of the 190 countries in the world, 15 percent are represented at Glendale, and 20 percent of the United States are represented!

R. Clifford Jones, assistant dean of the Seminary at Andrews University and associate professor of Christian Ministry, was guest speaker for the

worship hour. In his sermon, he asked a powerful question: Are we speaking the same language, or does God need to interrupt our communication like He did at the Tower of Babel? He went on to say we need to be melded together in brotherly love. In the afternoon, many talents were marvelously blended together at the International Day Concert with a Hispanic quartet, an African soloist, and a Lebanese soloist.

A delicious dinner followed the worship service and dishes from all over the world graced the serving tables! I felt International Day helps prepare us for Heaven and the great international feast Jesus will provide for us!

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

Judith Yeoman, Indiana Conference correspondent

## Student Witnesses to Mayor's Staff

**Lake Region**—Calvin Ockletree, a Capitol City Church member, had a golden opportunity to participate in the Mayor's Youth Town Hall Meeting. He is a student at the Charles A. Tinley Accelerated School, a charter school in the Indianapolis area. The school's principal asked Calvin to represent his school as a candidate for the Mayor's Youth

Calvin Ockletree



Council. He would join a group of young people, ages 14–18, who serve as advisors to the mayor's administration, participate in community projects, make plans for the Mayor's Back to School Teen Summit, and the Mayor's Town Hall Meeting. Calvin's response was positive, and an interview time was set a few weeks later with a staff member from the mayor's office.

At the end of his interview, Calvin asked the staff member if any of the meetings with the mayor would take place on Sat. The interviewer's response was that "all the meetings take place on every Saturday." Calvin courageously responded to this new information by stating in front of his peers that he was "a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, and would not be available to serve on Saturday." The interviewer sought clarification of his statement by asking if he would be "unavailable on every



Photos by Judith Yeoman  
From left: Paulette Taylor, International Day committee chairperson; Miled Modad, Glendale Church senior pastor; Patricia Modad; R. Clifford Jones, assistant dean of the Theological Seminary at Andrews University and associate professor of Christian Ministry; Elva Jones; Nick Zork, Glendale Church youth pastor; and Noelia Zork

Saturday." Calvin responded the second time by courteously saying he would not be able to serve any Sat. When Calvin was leaving his interview, an interviewer quipped, "Well, if you ever want to change your religion, give me a call!"

We are very proud of Calvin's uncompromising position, for he believes being "a Seventh-day Adventist is something you have to stand up for." Like Daniel in Babylon who witnessed for his God, Calvin is a wonderful example of a young man not afraid to act on his convictions.

Jerry D. Lee III, Capital City Church communication leader, as told to Bruce Babienko, *Lake Union Herald* volunteer correspondent

## Wisconsin Members Supply Items for Hurricane Victims

**Wisconsin**—As reports of the widespread destruction and loss of life from Hurricane Katrina filled the news, members of the Clear Lake Church felt the need to be involved in relief efforts. Their original idea was to offer the vacant church school building as housing for evacuees.

Adventist Community Services leaders, Alice Garrett and Georgia Rosen, contacted the local American Red Cross and the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Although the school building was placed on databases for hurricane victim housing, no evacuee families desired to move so far north.

Seeking an alternate way to help, the two ladies made calls to Georgia-Cumberland Conference communication director, Ken Wetmore, and Henry Beaulieu, manager of a Chattanooga, Tenn., warehouse where supplies were collected to set up evacuees in local apartments.

Beaulieu explained that bedding and kitchen items were badly needed for families relocating to Tenn. The Clear Lake Adventist Community Services team sprang into action, distributing posters and church bulletin inserts to each church in the com-

munity. All the Adventist churches in northwest Wis. were contacted as well.

After ten days collecting new and gently-used kitchen items, Clear Lake members began to sort, label, and pack. Volunteers from ages 11 to 91 showed up on Sun. afternoon, Sept. 25, to load a semi trailer donated by a local trucking company.



Myron Johnson used a forklift to load the semi with supplies for hurricane victims as Ken and Dennis Maloney paused from their work.

Dennis Maloney donated his time and gas to make the trip to Tenn., stopping at Northfield, Wis., for more donations and at Portage, Wis., where Heather Rosen had recruited help from the Portage Church. The total count was nine pallets of canned food and 14 pallets of boxed kitchen items and bedding.

Beth Nelson, Clear Lake Church communication secretary

### [UNION NEWS]

## Lake Region Prepares Camp Wagner for Disaster Relief

**Lake Region**—When Anthony Kelly, Camp Wagner director, suggested to the Camp Wagner governing board that they provide temporary housing for Hurricane Katrina evacuees at the camp, it was a unanimous vote. They were prepared to do what was necessary to assist the victims, including modifications at the camp to make it ready to receive guests.

After securing the Lake Region Conference executive committee's sanction, our camp staff, along with leaders from around the Lake Region

Conference, strategized the enormous undertaking. Included in the group were medical professionals, educators, communication experts, master guides, and our community services director.

Many issues were discussed. Just as quickly as questions came to mind, God began to supply answers. Clothing and personal items were contributed by community members. Pastors brought van loads of items from Detroit, Indianapolis, and all around the Lake Region Conference. The chief executive officer of a local medical center promised medicines, medical staff, and the use of his hospital.

Volunteers came from Detroit, Grand Rapids, and the Chicago area. The team joined the Camp Wagner staff to prepare the laundry, renovate the emergency care unit, and organize the warehouse. Others joined the effort. A major appliance dealer executive assured support. The Andrews University social services and behavioral sciences teams got on board to assist with social and psychological needs. In just one week, we were prepared to provide short-term emergency care, food, shelter, and trauma relief.

As it turned out, no evacuees were routed to Camp Wagner, but we are ready to provide whatever help we can. In the interim, we redistributed a number of donated items to other individuals who did assist evacuees.

There are two very obvious blessings in this effort. The first is affirmation that great things can be accomplished when "the people have a mind to work." The second obvious blessing is that God has now prepared us at Camp Wagner and the Lake Region Conference to be ready for service in any disaster.



Gail Ellis sorted donations for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Gail Ellis, Camp Wagner office manager

## AHS President and CEO Announces Retirement Plans

Thomas L. Werner, who has served as president and CEO of Adventist Health System (AHS) since 1999, has announced his plans to retire effective Jan. 1, 2007. Werner turned 60 on Dec. 8, 2005.

Werner has more than 37 years of service to Seventh-day Adventist institutional work. He served as president and chief executive officer of Florida Hospital and the Florida Hospital Division from 1984–1999, and executive vice president of AHS. Werner also previously served as president of Walla Walla Hospital in Walla Walla, Wash., and administrator of Tillamook General Hospital in Tillamook, Ore. His denominational career started in 1968 as a business professor at Union College in Lincoln, Neb.

During his tenure at AHS, the largest not-for-profit Protestant healthcare system in the nation, Werner has been instrumental in solidifying the financial growth and stability of the corporation while remaining committed to the healthcare work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

While addressing AHS employees, Werner said, "Because of your hard work, AHS has enjoyed significant success over the past six years, and the opportunity to retire when things are going well is most attractive. It will be rewarding to be able to stand on the sidelines and cheer your future successes."

The Board of Directors will elect a new president at the full board meeting on Feb. 23, 2006. Werner expressed his commitment to serve as CEO until



Thomas L. Werner

such time as the new CEO is ready to assume the responsibility.

Speaking to members of the Executive Board during their quarterly meeting, board chairman Walter Wright said, "I want to thank Tom for his leadership and also for his unwavering faithfulness to the principles of the [Adventist] Church." In commenting about Werner's successor, Wright said, "Adventist Health System is blessed to have many capable and dedicated leaders and the future of the organization is secure."

Adventist Health System, based in Winter Park, Fla., was established in 1973 and currently operates 38 hospitals in ten states, 19 nursing homes and extended-care facilities, along with a host of home health agencies, outpatient clinics, and emergency care centers that care and touch more than 4 million patients each year.

Kevin Edgerton, Adventist Health System communication director

## AdventSource and PlusLine Become One

AdventSource and the Adventist PlusLine are pleased to announce their merger. The two organizations have been working side by side in ministry for many years. The North American Division (NAD) made the decision in June 2005 to combine their efforts and funds. The two service organizations officially became one on Jan. 1, 2006.

"In the next ten years, AdventSource will be known by every Adventist as the one-stop source of information for everything Adventist. It will use state-of-the-art technology but retain the live, personal help desk assistance for every member. Adventists will know they can depend on AdventSource to deliver quality service for every ministry need," says Debra Brill, NAD vice president for ministries.

For more than 24 years AdventSource has concentrated solely on the distribution of ministry resources in North America, equipping local lead-

ers in ministry with tools to succeed. Leaders benefit from the thousands of how-to books, videos, DVDs, seminars, teaching aids, and much more. They started with youth ministries and Pathfinders, and became the official source for leadership materials in all ministry areas. Now [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) is a fully bilingual website with more than 1.5 million hits in the last month.

PlusLine began as an experimental question and answer service in the Pacific Union Conference in 1993. The following year the NAD voted to support the project and expand PlusLine services to all nine union conferences. Since then [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org) has grown to include information services, event registration, and event planning services for Seventh-day Adventist church members, church leaders, pastors, and administrators throughout the North American Division.

"PlusLine has now become so national, it only made sense for the Division to take over its operations," says Tom Mostert, Pacific Union Conference president. "We have held off the last couple of years because we wanted to perfect it. We feel that now is the natural transfer time. With the information and resources of the church being supported by the Division, it works well to incorporate the two and increase the effectiveness of both efforts."

Rich DuBose, PlusLine director, says, "Because of the Internet and online registration services, PlusLine has grown beyond my expectations. I am really excited that it has a future with increased synergy and marketing as a part of AdventSource."

Brad Forbes, AdventSource director, says, "I am pleased that the PlusLine staff and their great database of resources are joining our team. I look forward to being able to serve church members in Bermuda, Canada, and the United States more effectively."

Carrie Purkeypile, AdventSource communication director

Within the Lake Union, the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Forms are available in print format, or they can be filled out and submitted directly online. Milepost forms are available at [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org). Conference addresses and phone numbers are in the masthead on page 39.

## Anniversaries



**Victor and Bertha Bigford** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 4, 2004, at a sit-down dinner planned by their children, at Black River Lodge in Ironwood, Mich. The dinner for family members and friends included music by each of their children, two grandchildren, Margrace Ladd, and Bob Silverman. Love letters written by both Victor and Bertha, before they were married, were also shared at the dinner. They have been members of the Bessemer (Mich.) Church for six years.

Victor Bigford and Bertha Brown were married Feb. 20, 1954, in Terre Haute, Ind., by Carl W. Pruitt. Victor was a dentist until 1995. Bertha has been a homemaker.

The Bigford family includes Terrie and Lyle Fitzgerald of Green Bay, Wis.; Bradley and Cheri Bigford of Benton Harbor, Mich.; Robyn and Joe Ozelis of Seaford, Va.; Bruce and Crystal Bigford of Benton Harbor, Mich.; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

## Obituaries

**BAILEY, R. Lyle**, age 81; born May 12, 1924, in Lafayette, Ind.; died Sept. 26, 2005, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Berrien Springs (Mich.) Village Church.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn (Allkins); son, Richard; daughter, Robin Pirrallo; stepdaughter, Judith Edwards; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bruce Hayward, and interment was in Park View Cemetery, Alexandria, Ind.

**CEITHAMMER, Ruth I. (Snell)**, age 86; born Mar. 2, 1919, in Watertown, Wis.; died Sept. 15, 2005, in Columbus, Wis. She was a member of the Wisconsin Academy Church, Columbus.

Survivors include her sons, Robert, James, Dennis, and Duane; brothers, John and Gerald Snell; sister, Mae Gloede; stepsister, Crystal Koehler; 13 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Steve Aust, and interment was in Fall River (Wis.) Cemetery.

**EVERS, Ruth E. (Bachelor)**, age 74; born Mar. 15, 1931, in Montrose, Mich.; died Mar. 18,

2005, in Petoskey, Mich. She was a member of the Petoskey Church.

Survivors include her husband, Alfred "Jim"; son, Paul; daughters, Jean Maves, Dawn Oelfke-Evers, and Deborah Kittredge; step-mother, Irene Bachelor; brothers, Herbert, Dale, and Allen Bachelor; sisters, Donna Longcore, Thelma Festerling, Marilyn Burrows, and Jean Mundt; and five grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Rex Kibler, with private inurnment.

**FOUGHT, Lena G. (Dell Anno)**, age 77; born May 24, 1927, in Reading, Pa.; died Mar. 18, 2005, in Taylor, Mich. She was a member of the Oakwood Church, Taylor.

Survivors include her son, Paul J.; step-sisters, Kathi Ingleby, Shirley Gallandt, and Donna Buhr; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bill Lindemann, and interment was in Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery, Flat Rock, Mich.

**HARVEY, Marshal "MJ" J. Jr.**, age 60; born Jan. 2, 1945, in Plainwell, Mich.; died Aug. 22, 2005, in Plainwell. He was a member of the Delton (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his sons, Marshal S., David, and Michael; daughters, Marsha Chadwick and Melinda Sowa; father, Marshal J.; mother, Madeline (DeKoster); brother, Mark J.; and 13 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Scott Manly, and interment was in Cressey Cemetery, Plainwell.

**HOWELL, Elwin D.**, age 73; born Dec. 31, 1931, in Yorkville, Mich.; died Aug. 12, 2005, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Eleanor (Bush); sons, Mark, Jeffrey, and Frank; brother, Paul; and five grandchildren.

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

**JOHNSON, Junius B.**, age 86; born Mar. 3, 1919, in Louisville, Ky.; died June 12, 2005, in Escondido, Calif. He was a member of the St. Johns (Mich.) Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Richard Lesher and Pastor Esther Knott, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy (Newbold); sons, Douglas W. and Tedrick R.; daughter, Nancy Paige; and six grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Dr. Evert Kuester (Escondido service) and Pastor Greg Webster (Willits, Calif. service), and inurnment was in Mission Hills Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Niles, Mich.

**KANE, Barbara A. (Sheperis)**, age 71; born Jan. 4, 1934, in Rochester, Ind.; died Sept. 4, 2005, in Niles, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her sons, Joseph, Patrick, and Scott; daughters, LeAnn Kane, Susan Wellings, and Cathlene Kane; sister, Dorothy Bert; ten grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Skip MacCarty, and interment was in Silverbrook Cemetery, Niles.

**KUHLMAN, Rebekah J. (Steen)**, age 92; born June 24, 1913, in Holly, Mich.; died July 4, 2005, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her sons, Tom, Henry, and Larry; sister, Ramira Jobe; 14 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Patrick Morrison and David Rand, with private inurnment.

**LADD, David W.**, age 64; born May 22, 1941, in Adrian, Mich.; died Sept. 2, 2005, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Margrace D. (Rupe); daughter, Brenda Ventriglio; sister, Mary Dockerty; and two grandchildren.

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

**MORRIS-WHARFF, Judith L. (Morris)**, age 49; born Apr. 26, 1956, in Fountain Head, Tenn.; died Sept. 24, 2005, in Osceola, Iowa. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include her husband, William Wharff; stepson, Matthew Wharff; stepdaughter, Sarah Eichhorn; father, Richard Morris; mother, Jeanette (Hall) Morris; and four step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Richard Lesher and Pastor Esther Knott, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

**ROSENBOOM, Dorothy P. (Kunz)**, age 82; born June 28, 1923, in Sutter, Ill.; died July 24, 2005, in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was a member of the Carthage (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Tim; daughter, Nancy Knott; sisters, Helen Houghland and Berrie Mae Crouch; eight grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dale Barnhurst, and interment was in Oakwood Cemetery, Hamilton, Ill.

**TERRY, Glenn E.**, age 88; born Feb. 9, 1917, in Tell City, Ind.; died Sept. 23, 2005, in Tell City. He was a member of the Tell City Church.

Survivors include his wife, Vera M. (Caslow); son, Stephen E.; daughter, Medrith L. Adams; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors David Fish and Justin Childers, and interment was in Mount Zion Cemetery, Tell City.

**THOMAS, Patrick S.**, age 65; born Mar. 16, 1940, in Trinidad; died Sept. 20, 2005, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Loma E. (Page); daughters, Leesa P. Thomas and Kerry-Ann Elliott; brothers, Gabriel, Irving, Francis, and Richard; sister, Catherine B. Thomas; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Skip MacCarty, with private inurnment.

**TRICKETT, Virgil A.**, age 78; born June 30, 1927, in Benton Harbor, Mich.; died Aug. 24, 2005, in Berrien Center, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his son, Eric; daughters, Diane Jacoby and Sara Norman; and one step-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Scott Labbe, with private inurnment.

**WILSON, Mary E. (Zappia)**, age 59; born July 9, 1946, in Chicago, Ill.; died Sept. 17, 2005, in Elgin, Texas. She was a member of the Wilson (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Oliver K.; sons, James V. and David L.; father, Sam R. Zappia; brother, Casmier Zappia; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Isaac Heath and David Friesen, and interment was in Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Elgin.

## Sunset Calendar

	Jan 6	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27	Feb 3	Feb 10
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:29	5:36	5:44	5:52	6:01	6:10
Chicago	4:34	4:41	4:49	4:58	5:05	5:14
Detroit	5:14	5:21	5:29	5:38	5:46	5:55
Indianapolis	5:34	5:41	5:49	5:56	6:04	6:13
La Crosse, Wis.	4:42	4:49	4:58	5:07	5:16	5:25
Lansing, Mich.	5:19	5:26	5:34	5:43	5:52	6:01
Madison, Wis.	4:37	4:44	4:52	5:01	5:10	5:19
Springfield, Ill.	4:48	4:55	5:02	5:10	5:18	5:26

# Classifieds

All ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$26 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$36 per insertion for all others. A form is available at [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org) for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order/check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors.

## At Your Service

**SINGLES:** Introducing Adventists discreetly and confidentially since 1987. We have a magazine format with personal ads, plus enlightening, uplifting articles. For information on obtaining friendship, fellowship, or companionship, mail a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to DISCOVER, 15550 Burnt Store Rd., #153, Punta Gorda, FL 33955; or e-mail: [petmoren@cs.com](mailto:petmoren@cs.com).

**CAVE SPRINGS HOME** has openings for mentally handicapped adults. Plant-based diet. Daily and Sabbath worship services on campus. Country home is located in Pegram, Tenn. For further information, contact Craig or Joyce at

(615) 646-6962; or e-mail: [cshmra@yahoo.com](mailto:cshmra@yahoo.com).

**MOVE WITH AN AWARD-WINNING AGENCY.** Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves for you. Call us for all your relocation needs. Contact Marcy Danté at (800) 766-1902; or visit our website: [www.apexmoving.com/adventist/](http://www.apexmoving.com/adventist/).

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# Connect with those who Care

**Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Medical Center Connect with those who Care Throughout the World**

For all of their 100-year history, Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Medical Center have been involved in multiple international health care initiatives, including operating the Wazir Akbar Kahn Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan, and the Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Hangzhou, China, both major teaching facilities.

## Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Hangzhou, China

Through its international affiliation with Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Medical Center, Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital contributes some of the best health care management and services to all patients and families throughout the world. With Loma Linda's technological support and excellent teaching environment for patients and staff, Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital has achieved the utmost level of quality health care throughout the world.

## Sir Run Run Shaw has the following opportunities available:

Nursing Administration Consultant - RN

Clinical & Administration Consultant - MD

## Wazir Akbar Kahn Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan

Loma Linda's interest in continuing medical education programs internationally encouraged the Afghanistan Ministry of Health to ask if Loma Linda would consider operating the Wazir Akbar Kahn Hospital and upgrade the facility to the equivalent of a progressive American community hospital. Thus, a teaching center, named the Loma Linda Center, was constructed at Kabul Medical University in existing space. Now a 200-bed teaching facility, Kabul Medical Institute continues to provide continuing education programs to health care professionals.

## Wazir Akbar Kahn Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan has the following opportunity available:

International Nurse Specialist

Loma Linda University Medical Center offers a variety of benefits for its international employees including: housing assistance, travel stipend, and comprehensive health care plans.

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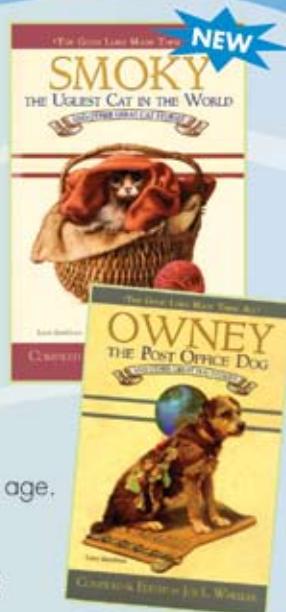


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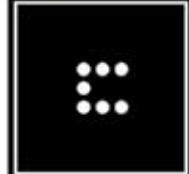
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Send 400 words of hope, inspiration, and challenge to: [herald@luc.adventist.org](mailto:herald@luc.adventist.org). Place "One Voice" in the subject line.

ogden@andrews.edu; or Judy Zimmerman at (269) 471-7004; or e-mail: zim41634@aol.com.

**ADVENTIST GROUP VACATIONS** Seven-day Hawaiian Islands cruise, sailing from Honolulu Apr. 9, 2006; hosts: the Dan Matthews. Seven-day Voice of Prophecy Alaska cruise, sailing from Seattle, Aug. 13, 2006; hosts: the Lonnie Melashenkos. To check availability, contact Mert Allen, Mt. Tabor Cruise, at (800) 950-9234 or (503) 256-7919; or e-mail: mert@mttaborthtravel.com.

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**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks committed Adventist professors by July 1, 2006, to fill the following openings: ESL, Computer Science, History, and Spanish. Further information is available at [www.nadeducation.org/employment/higher\\_education.html](http://www.nadeducation.org/employment/higher_education.html).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks assistant professor of Information Systems, beginning July 1, 2006. Candidates must hold doctoral degree in Information Systems from an accredited university. Adventists submit résumé to: Dr. Robert Schwab, Chair, Department of Management, Marketing, and Information Systems, School of Business, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0222. For information, phone: (269) 471-6859; or e-mail: [schwab@andrews.edu](mailto:schwab@andrews.edu).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks assistant professor of Marketing, beginning July 1, 2006. Candidates must hold doctoral degree in AACSB-accredited program required. Adventists submit résumé to Dr. Robert Schwab, Chair, Department of Management, Marketing, and Information Systems, School of Business, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0222. For information, phone: (269) 471-6859; or e-mail: [schwab@andrews.edu](mailto:schwab@andrews.edu).

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**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks professor or associate professor/chair of Mathematics department beginning July 1, 2006. Successful candidates will have earned a doctorate in Mathematics, or a doctorate in Mathematics Education with equivalency of a master's degree in Mathematics, with a good record of scholarship. Adventists apply online at [www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs.html](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs.html).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks academic coordinator of clinical education for its Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Master's degree (doctorate preferred), PT license, and two years of clinical experience required. Adventists apply online at [www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs.html](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs.html); or apply to: Dr. Wayne Perry, Chair, Physical Therapy Department, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0420. For information, phone: (269) 471-6033; or e-mail: [perryw@andrews.edu](mailto:perryw@andrews.edu).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks Communication teacher beginning Jan. 1, 2006. Doctorate in communication preferred. Research and teaching in persuasion, interpersonal, group dynamics, effective presentations, and conflict resolution.

Adventists apply to: Delyse Steyn, Search Committee, Communication Department, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0050. For information, phone: (269) 471-6161; or e-mail: [dsteyn@andrews.edu](mailto:dsteyn@andrews.edu)

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**AMAZING FACTS** is seeking a webmaster with software development skills in ASP and ASP.NET. A minimum of three years experience writing website applications; accessing information from Microsoft SQL database is a must. Photoshop and website design experience a major plus. Contact Joe Fields at [joef@amazingfacts.org](mailto:joef@amazingfacts.org) to submit your cover letter and résumé; or call (916) 434-3880.

**ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER**, in Portland, Ore., seeks Staff Technologist-Angio Cath Lab. Minimum two years experience as a scrub tech with interventional cardiac and peripheral vascular cases. Full time with some call. ARRT and OR license eligible. This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to be involved in developing a new Interventional Cardiac program. Apply online at [www.adventisthealthnw.com](http://www.adventisthealthnw.com); or call (877) 261-6993.

**ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER**, in Portland, Ore., is seeking a director of Quality Resources. RN (master's degree preferred) with administrative experience in acute care and demonstrated leadership of clinical and risk management functions; working knowledge of quality and performance initiatives. Contact our recruiter at (877) 261-6993; e-mail: [amcjobs@ah.org](mailto:amcjobs@ah.org); website: [www.adventisthealthnw.com](http://www.adventisthealthnw.com).

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**MOVING?** Would you like the assistance of an Adventist real estate agent? Contact Adventist-Realtor.com, a nationwide network of Adventist realtors. Our joy is helping church members and employees with relocation. For information, contact Linda Dayen at (888) 582-2888; or e-mail: lindadayen@kw.com. Agents and brokers, ask about being included in our network.

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# PARTNERSHIP with GOD

## Nevertheless... I Will Do It

BY GLYNN SCOTT  
AND GARY BURNS



Simon worked all night with no results. Tired and hungry, smelling of sweat and sea, he washed the muck from his nets. He looked up to see the people pressing the new Teacher to the edge of the shore. The Teacher waded to the side of Simon's boat and climbed in. After pushing a few yards from shore, Simon continued his tedious task while the Teacher spoke.

The morning sun seared Simon's back as his shadow danced on the gentle waves that lapped the shore. He never heard a man speak as this man. His words evoked deep feelings—feelings of confidence, trust, and assurance. Realizing his hands were motionless due to his wonderful distraction, he set them back to task, without missing a word.

After dismissing the crowd, the Teacher turned to Simon with an absurd request: "Put out into the deep and lower your nets for some fish." Now Simon was

faced with a dilemma. It was obvious this man didn't know fishing. Fish will not allow themselves to be caught when the sun is high, exposing the nets in the clear water. Yet, His voice was so compelling. As Simon offered his reasonable objection he heard himself say, "Nevertheless, at Your word, I will do it."

At that moment, Simon ventured by faith into a partnership with Jesus—a partnership based on trust, confidence, and assurance—a partnership resulting in obedience that countered conventional wisdom—a partnership that changed the world.

I contemplate today's invitation to enter into a new partnership with Jesus. Am I willing to set aside my reasonable objections and say, "Nevertheless, at Your word, I will do it?"

Glynn Scott is Lake Union treasurer and Gary Burns is *Lake Union Herald* editor.

# Announcements



Churches, schools, conferences, institutions, and organizations may submit announcements to the *Lake Union Herald* through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the *Lake Union Herald* website at [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org) and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources, as these events are subject to change.

## **Andrews University**

**2006 Workshop on Natural Remedies and Hydrotherapy:** Andrews University Seminary offers this popular workshop from **Aug. 6-11**. For information and pre-registration, call Fran McMullen at (269) 471-3541; or e-mail: [fran@andrews.edu](mailto:fran@andrews.edu).

## **Historic Adventist Village**

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

## **Illinois**

**Du Quoin Church** would like to invite former members and pastors to the re-dedication of their church on **Jan. 7**. This event will be an all-day affair starting with a special church service in the morning and ending with a musical program in the afternoon following the fellowship dinner. Come and see the new improvements to the church as well. The church address is 517 S. Jefferson Ave., Du Quoin. For more information, contact Iris Montgomery at (618) 542-3518.

## **Indiana**

**Chapel West Church invites you to a parenting seminar,** "Living with Teenagers—Keeping Your Sanity and Their Respect," by Donna Habenicht, Ed.D., on **Jan. 13** from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and **Jan. 14** from 1:30-5:30 p.m. This is a seminar which will be of interest to parents of all ages because of what parents of younger children can do NOW to prevent adolescent rebellion and other unpleasant things during the teen years. FREE SEMINAR, pre-registration requested. To register, call (317) 856-7449 or (317) 839-9544.

**Winter Ski Fest for youth in grades 7-12** who like to ski, board, meet with old friends and make new ones! It all happens **Jan. 26-29** at Timber Ridge Camp. If skiing isn't your thing, just come for the weekend and enjoy great music, preaching, fellowship, and an opportunity to know our Best Friend, Jesus, even better! For an application, call the Indiana Conference youth ministries department at (317) 844-6201.

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

**Indiana Youth Rally '06** is an event you won't want to miss! The date for the Youth Rally is **Feb. 17-18**. You are invited to bring your talents to share! To participate in the talent program, you must submit a video or DVD of yourself performing a song, sign, poem, or testimony that uplifts the name of Jesus. Mail your "audition" to: Indiana Conference youth ministries Department, P.O. Box 1950, Carmel, IN 46082-1950. The deadline for submitting auditions is Jan. 31.

**Teen Caving Event:** What is cool and inviting on a hot summer day, yet warm and mysterious during the cold winter months? Why, a cave of course! Join us **Mar. 10-12** for a weekend of worship, praise, friends, and plenty of caving at Timber Ridge Camp. To register, contact the Indiana Conference youth ministries department at (317) 844-6201.

## **Lake Union**

### **Offerings:**

- Jan 7** Local church budget
  - Jan 14** Local conference advance
  - Jan 21** Local church budget
  - Jan 28** Religious Liberty
- Special Days:**
- Jan 7** Day of Prayer
  - Jan 21-28** Religious Liberty Week

## **North American Division**

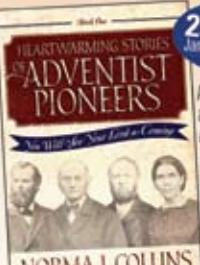
**Oregon Conference Family Ministries:** Go to [LoveTakesTime.com](http://LoveTakesTime.com) or [HopeForTheFamily.com](http://HopeForTheFamily.com) for free marriage, family, parenting, and single's resources. Also, we now have "Marriage Matters" resources by Harvey and Kathy Corwin. For more information, call toll-free (800) 337-8225.

**Are you an alumni of Highland Academy, Portland, Tenn.?** Plan now to attend the 2006 Alumni Weekend from **Fri., Mar. 31, to Sun., Apr. 2**. The theme is "Working While We Wait." Honor classes include 1946, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, and 2001. The fifth annual golf outing will be held Fri. morning, Mar. 31.

Vespers begins at 7:30 p.m. on Fri. in the Highland Church. The class of '56 and other honor classes will be featured during vespers. Members of the honor classes who sang in trios, quartets, or duets, are invited to participate in the vespers program by contacting Edwin Shafer at [eshafer@mindspring.com](mailto:eshafer@mindspring.com). For more information, check the Highland Academy website at [www.hIGHLAND-acADEMY.COM](http://www.hIGHLAND-acADEMY.COM) or the Highland Alumni Association website at [www.hIGHLAND-alUMNI.COM](http://www.hIGHLAND-alUMNI.COM). The second annual Highland Alumni Huff and Puff 5K walk will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Sun., Apr. 2. The academy and the Alumni Association are working together to develop an up-to-date mailing list. Please e-mail your name, current address, phone number, and year of graduation to Salli Jenks at [salli@sjjenks.com](mailto:salli@sjjenks.com).

**Union College Homecoming Weekend:** Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to *Celebrating a Century of Service—Golden Cords 1906-2006*, **Apr. 6-9**. All Union College alumni who had a golden cord hung in their honor are invited to this special celebration. Special honor classes: 1936, '46, '51, '56, '66, '76, '81, '86, and '96. For more information, contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503; 3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or e-mail [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu).

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



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**2004**  
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**1999**  
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**1997**  
Our name changes to AdventSource.

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# My Always and Forever Friend

BY HEATHER BLANTON

**I**t was a trying time in my life. I struggled with various hardships, both physical and mental, and had an empty space inside. It started with the death of a dear friend of mine, shortly followed by the death of an even closer aunt. I thought to myself, *how could a god be so cruel as to let the only joy in my life be ripped from me?*

I hated God for the things that happened to me and began to lose all hope. I no longer prayed. At church, I tried hard to close my ears and mind to all references of Christ. I continued to do this until I totally threw Christ out of my life.

My family lost hope in me and they began to fall apart. They no longer spoke to me about my problems or my faith. I had no control of anything. My emotions blasted from one extreme to another. Mostly, I felt anger because my uncle was sick with cancer and he was the only love I had left. (Fortunately his love is still strong, although each day his continued fight with cancer is a struggle.)

I hit depression hard and stayed medicated to numb my emotions. I felt alone—like I was the only person suffering this way. As others shared their feelings and problems with me, I understood I was not alone. But still, there was nothing but emptiness and misery inside. In desperation, I did things I regret—things that left mental and physical scars.

One Saturday I went to church, and as usual tuned out everything. I sang a few words with my group, but they meant nothing to me. As I left the church, two friends, Jessica and Rachel, asked for rides home.

It happened at Jessica's house—I completely broke down. For the first time, I freely let my emotions out and let others know how I really felt. I was ashamed. I hated what I had become and was terrified of being crushed

by others. I had a mask to hide behind, a fake identity to hide my true self. And now it all burst from within me, so fast my masquerade was shattered. I was sure I would never have my friends again.

But then, the most remarkable thing happened. My friends told me just what I needed to hear. They told me someone did care for me—they cared and so did God. Even though I felt abandoned, they assured me He was there to pull me through; it wasn't too late to reach out.

I'm working hard now to give myself up to God, to let Him pull me through, and to reach to others for help instead of hurting myself. And so, I promise it's the last time—the last time I'll ever reject God, my always and forever Friend and Shelter in the time of storm.

So that's my challenge to you as well. Give up yourself and give your problems fully to God. Trust me, He WILL give you rest.



Heather Blanton (left)  
and her friend, Ashley  
Saint-Phard

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Heather Blanton is a senior at Andrews Academy. She will receive a \$100 scholarship because her article was selected for publication.

# Profiles of Youth [ BATTLE CREEK ACADEMY ]

**Noé Velez**, a senior at Battle Creek Academy (BCA), has a big heart and a strong desire to help others. His positive influence permeates everything he does and spills over into his relationships with friends and those who come in contact with him in the community. Noé always strives to do his best no matter what the situation.

Friends and faculty all describe Noé as a humble leader, just one of his many endearing qualities. He is actively involved in many areas of academy life at BCA. Noé is the BCA math tutor, working with students in grades three to 12. He is senior class vice president, a member of the campus ministries committee, and an active member of the BCA concert band. Noé has gone on four mission trips. He enjoys playing the guitar and has been involved with a band that shares the gospel through music to people his age. Noé's commitment to leadership, service, and character development make him a great addition to the National Honor Society.

When asked the most important thing he learned from his academy experience, Noé replied, "No matter what happens, if you let God lead in your life, everything works out for the best."

The son of Eric and Bonnie Velez, Noé plans to attend Andrews University next fall.



Sarah Barrett

**Sarah Barrett** is also a senior at BCA. By the time she graduates, she will be a thirteen-year attendee of BCA. She is a young lady blessed by the positive influences of her family and her love for the Lord.

One of Sarah's greatest qualities is her quiet humility. Although blessed with unique gifts and talents, she can best be described as quiet and unaware of her talents. Her unassuming personality endears her to those who get to know her well. She sings in the school's choir and plays the French horn in the BCA concert band, of which she has been an active member since fifth grade. Sarah's abilities are reflected in her strong academic performance, and she is well-liked and respected by both students and faculty. This year Sarah embraced her leadership role as student association vice president, where she has enjoyed helping to plan activities and events at the academy. More importantly, Sarah's strong family background and strong relationship with God allow her to accept the challenges of life with dignity and grace.

The daughter of Rick and Robin Barrett, Sarah plans to enroll in the physical therapy program at Andrews University next fall.

These students were selected and profiled by faculty members at their school. To recommend outstanding students for recognition, speak with your pastor or a faculty member. Visit [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org) for selection criteria.

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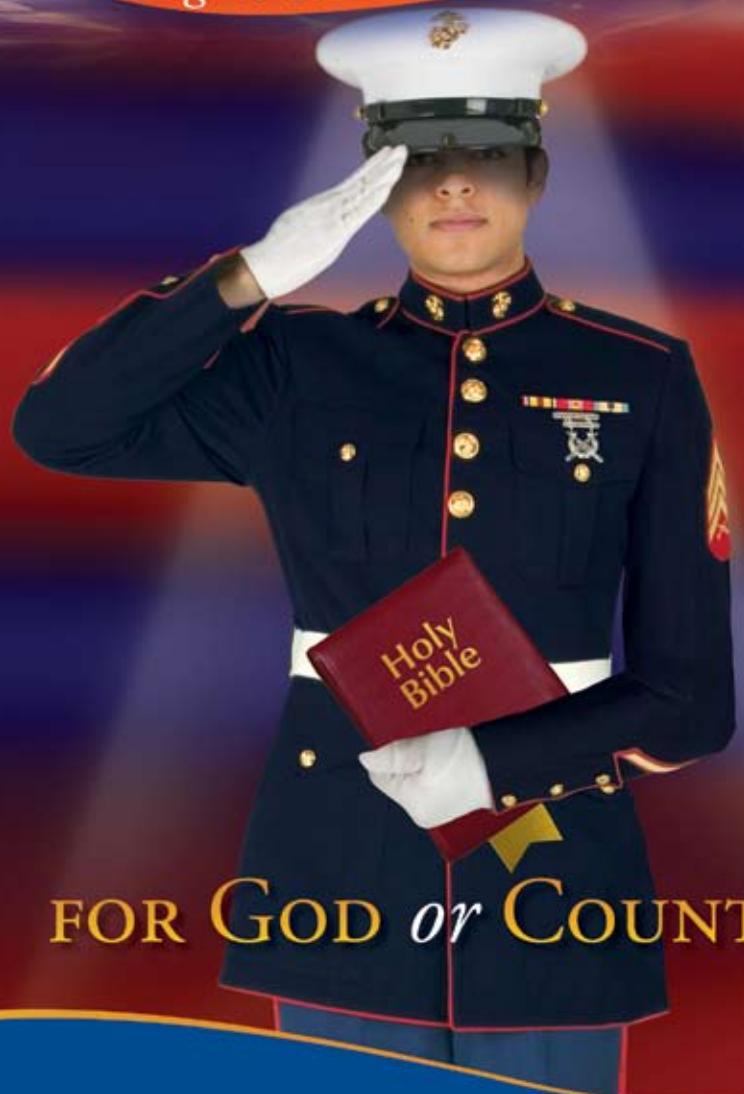
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