

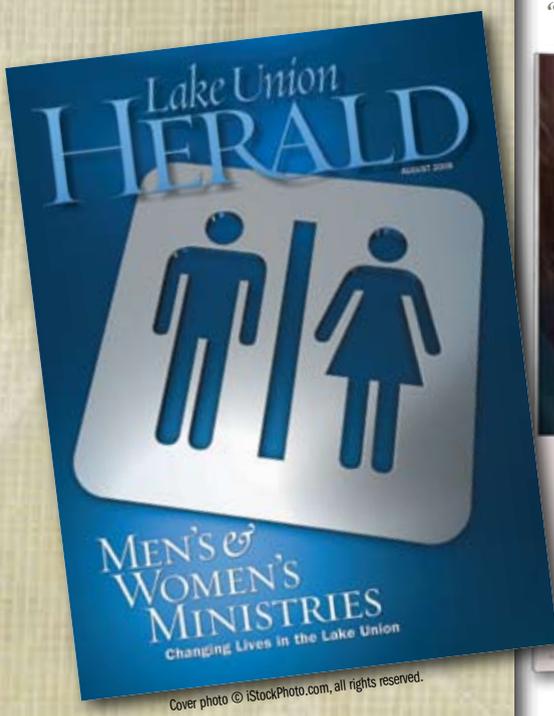
Lake Union HERALD

AUGUST 2008



MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Changing Lives in the Lake Union



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"Telling the stories of what God is doing in the lives of His people"

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I SQUANDERED MY SUBSTANCE, THE LOVE OF MY FAMILY, AND NEARLY MY OWN LIFE ON AN EXPENSIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE DANCE WITH THE DEVIL.

The Prodigal Daughter
BY KASEY MCFARLAND

Several years of watching—hanging, drinking, and wallowing in the life of the wicked. Looking across to the weeping saint. Nothing for me—except the back of the pool. I knew the pain of starvation—of walking. I had wanted my substance and instead I myself as a keeper of the wolves. Heavily, missing the mission to head back to my father. I've lost so much. How do you count?

I don't know if I am the prodigal of home. I think of my brother. The words of grace and adventure from my father's words on the hills are ringing in my ears. Hearing and breathing. I realize my father's words have all died. I cannot promise to be the prodigal again. No. I've gone far for that. I'll tell you to make me a woman.

With and discarded. I place ourselves here in those of the wolves, and begin the long breathing waters. I would have been. There my father's love never let us know when to come home. That's how I live my life. I believe properly, but when I don't. He'll take away. There he has seen when I can't walk. But when I fall he'll have no choice. That's how we live when I make him proud. But when I don't.

I was surprised by the producer contacted in his name. "Bring the first chapter, without the first two weeks. Please my agent says he's fine." "But... but... I'll try to control my speech. But it's just not in his words to make a mother and parent a fan... in my honor. Did I hear right?" My thoughts are quiet as I try to understand my father's love. It is not correct, not correct, not correct or good. It is not forgivable. He has me because he chooses to love me. My father is love. And his unexpected action got an impression of his love around me. I begin to see it clearly for the first time.

The story of the prodigal daughter (and) is one the Holy Spirit brought to me, especially as I searched for some of the longer years of my life. During that time, I squandered my substance, the love of my family, and nearly my own life on an expensive and destructive dance with the devil. I've begun drawing me back to this gratitude, but the journey home is still long, and the heart of my second wife is September 2008. I experienced what the birth of a child did to a heart, and I realized the remaining love of a woman.

On April 27, 2008, at the Women's Ministries Retreat at Camp Au Sable, I finally indicated my life to Jesus and entered into the grace of my Father's house. Through the loving offices of His Word, and the love and care I received from other women, my Father gave me the Herald. It had been missing, the Bible I needed for my husband and I to have peace, and the living water that satisfied my soul.

Each time the thought came to me that I couldn't go back, the Holy Spirit reminded me that my Father was waiting and watching with open arms, ready to welcome me into His embrace and welcome me home.

Finally, I was right where I needed to be. I depended on His mercy and love. Because I knew I had no guarantee of my own life.

There were so many of my father's words recalled to my journey home. The Health and Temperance leader whose words also brought me into the church doors without pressure or threat, my husband's love who carried me to the church and attended with me so I wouldn't feel uncomfortable. The women's minister leader who invited me to the arena and made me feel welcomed and accepted. And through accepting the invitation, the Women's Ministries Board members and the amazing spiritual advice from the front and center for women were there that weekend, and finally the women I met whose grace and love brought me a portion of my own experience.

Now I have the joy of serving my Father. I see from His table and am satisfied. However, I am not just my Father's servant. I am the His daughter. I see this work because of my own experience.

My Father has so many beautiful ways where others were a sympathy of love, compared to drive the soul of one lost prodigal daughter. If you are a prodigal daughter, meaning your substance is in the economy of the go home. Can home be your Father's home. It is waiting for you with open arms.

THE LAKE UNION HERALD

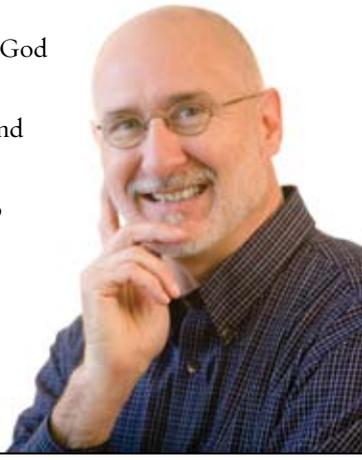
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In celebration of our Creator's wonderful plan, we are devoting this edition to special ministries to women and men. By design, God designed us to more fully represent His image as male and female. With special design comes special approaches to ministry—in some cases, gender specific.

Gary Burns
Gary Burns, Editor



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY WALTER L. WRIGHT, LAKE UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

A Fond Farewell

I have enjoyed meeting you each month in this column of the *Lake Union Herald*. It has been my privilege to share intimate glimpses into my life and thinking. Your warm greetings were felt whenever we met in person, and it was extremely gratifying to hear some of you say, "I never miss your editorial, and it has been a blessing to me."

Your moral and spiritual support helped me carry on during some very difficult times. Jackie and I have been uplifted by your prayers and messages of encouragement while we fought the cancer fight. We know firsthand the power of the praying saints, and our great God in Heaven has answered those prayers.

Most of you have heard by now that we are entering retirement from our official duties in administration here at the Lake Union Conference office. We seek a more even, less stressful pace, and it seems like just the right time to do it. We have built a house in our hometown of Germantown, Ohio, and it, along with some of our ten grandchildren, beckon to us. You are not surprised because I have made no secret of the fact that I am a true "Buckeye."

The deep, burning desire during the past five years has been to see evangelism flourish throughout this territory. It has been a joyous satisfaction to witness laity and pastors alike seize the idea and turn it into souls for the kingdom. I was blessed to conduct two evangelistic series myself this year. I am thankful for the support of the pastors and members in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Gary, Indiana, and the officers and staff of the Lake Union as we sought out souls under God.

My other hope was to see Christian education strengthened. The Lord has blessed this Union by giving us strong, qualified, spiritual leadership in the education department. I know that the program is in good hands, and already there are signs of a re-awakening of our members to the importance and necessity of vibrant, mission-driven schools.

I know that you will prayerfully support the one God has chosen to fill the office of Lake Union president. I wish for him the same blessing that you have been to me during the past 11 years of service in this Union. And so to the Illinois, Indiana, Lake Region, Michigan and Wisconsin conference families, I bid you a fond farewell and the richest of God's blessings as you press on to the great day of the Lord.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (Revelation 22:21).

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Indiana **Chuck and Louise Smith** were baptized in 1981 at the Salem (Oregon) Seventh-day Adventist Church by their pastor, Dwight Nelson. Sometime later, the Smiths moved across the country to Florida and then in 1983 they moved to a community in Indiana near Indianapolis. When they arrived in Indiana, Chuck and Louise visited various area churches, and they chose to worship at the Irvington (Indianapolis) Church.

Reflecting on the years after their move, Chuck and Louise say they allowed the cares of this life to lead them away from their faith. The fellowship they had once enjoyed with their church was no longer a part of their lives.

Then in 2007, the Smiths began to feel the wooing of the Holy Spirit in their hearts. Chuck and Louise realized life had taken them away from the fellowship they had once enjoyed with God and His people, and they decided to come back to their former church. Immediately, they were treated like a part of the caring church family at Irvington, as if they had just returned from a long vacation.



After being absent from the Irvington Church for several years, Chuck Smith (center) and Louise Smith (right) returned. They were treated like part of the family, as if they had just returned from a long vacation. Now re-baptized, the Smiths are pleased to be a part of a wonderful and loving Christian congregation. Also pictured: Fred Troxell, pastor

Louise are very pleased to be a part of a wonderful and loving Christian congregation.

Charlotte Dodd, communications secretary, Irvington Church, as shared with Bruce Babienco, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*

Indiana I (**Cathleen Riley**) grew up in the Adventist church as a faithful member. But when I reached the age of 13, I hit “fool’s hill,” and began to live a rebellious life. In my teenage years, I began to take part in all the worldly activities which I was taught were wrong.

After living a rebellious life for several years, I found out I was going to have a baby. My daughter’s birth brought

me to the most sobering event in my life. It led me to begin a search for something to satisfy my heart’s cry. Day by day time slowly went by, but I had still not found it.

Three years into my search for something meaningful, I decided to drive home for a visit to my mother. One Sabbath, while at my mother’s home, I attended the Adventist church with her for the first time in seven years. There I found what I had been searching for—Jesus Christ as a personal Savior.

One year later I had grown to know Christ better, and understood how His forgiveness and grace covered me with His righteousness. It was then that I asked Fred Troxell, Irvington Church pastor, if I could be re-baptized.

Now, as a member of the Irvington Church, I feel complete again with my husband and daughter, but most importantly with Jesus Christ.

Charlotte Dodd, communications secretary, Irvington Church, as shared with Bruce Babienco, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*

Wisconsin **Kayla Falch** always felt that God was important in her life, but her search for a meaningful relationship with Him became more serious when she was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. After visiting a non-denominational Christian church with her sister, Kayla felt led to read her Bible daily and have time for prayer. This resulted in a transformed life; she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. However, at this time, she was also seriously dating **Tim Hayes**, who did not have any interest in religion.

Soon after giving her heart to Christ, Kayla began to work in a restaurant with a waiter who was a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. One day at work they had a conversation, and what he shared about his faith had a profound impact on her. Everything he said seemed to make so much sense. Soon they were having Bible studies, and Kayla was baptized in the Menomonee Church.

Kayla dearly wanted Tim to share in her newfound faith, but during the next two years of their relationship, that just did not happen. It was only after Kayla listened to the voice of the Holy Spirit urging her to put God first and



Cathleen Riley was re-baptized recently at the Irvington Church, and joined other new believers who committed their hearts to Jesus the same day. Also pictured: Fred Troxell, pastor



After Kayla and Tim Hayes placed Jesus first in their lives, they moved forward with their wedding plans. Kayla says, "I am so thankful I chose to wait for Tim's conversion so we could have a Christian home."

Tim second that Kayla was able to make her life-changing decision. She chose to leave her relationship with Tim, the man she dearly loved, rather than to be "unequally yoked with an unbeliever" for life.

But God was working with Tim's heart all during this time! Little by little Tim became convicted he should accept the invitation that Jesus Christ was giving, and allow God to totally lead in his life. This conviction resulted in Tim's studying the Bible and being baptized during June 2007.

Two months later Tim and Kayla were married. As Kayla reflected on many of those past years and months before her marriage, she confessed, "Those were the longest three and a half years in my life as I waited for Tim to be baptized, and our wedding to finally take place. But God is good, and He still answers our prayers. I am so thankful I chose to wait for Tim's conversion so we could have a Christian home."

Robert Mills, pastor, Menomonee Church, as told to Bruce Babiencko, volunteer correspondent, *Lake Union Herald*

Indiana I (Kayla Engle) first decided to be baptized about two or three years ago at camp. Since then Satan has been really attacking me. It's been an uphill battle (with 500 pounds of luggage on my back!). But I know that every second has been worth it to get me this far.

At the beginning of the school year, Gail Macomber asked me if I would like to take Bible studies with her so that I could be baptized like I decided. I was very surprised. I wasn't expecting it at all, and if I could be completely honest, I wasn't really too excited about it. I was at a point where I didn't really acknowledge God very much.



Kayla Engle first decided to be baptized about two or three years ago at Timber Ridge Camp. Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth director, was pleased to baptize her recently.



Kayla Engle (center) shared her testimony with members of the Cicero Church before her baptism. She shared her appreciation for the Bible studies with Gail Macomber (right) and acknowledged, "she helped me grow spiritually." Also pictured: Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth director

This is why the studies have been such a blessing to me. If she hadn't asked me, I don't know where I would be spiritually today. I've loved spending time with her, learning all these wonderful things. She's helped me grow spiritually, and I plan to keep growing until I get where I'm going.

This is a special verse for me: "A man's heart plans his way but the Lord directs his steps" (Proverbs 16:9).

Kayla Engle, member, Cicero Church

Guess What I've Done!

BY MANNY OJEDA

Sometimes when a child approaches us and says, "Guess what I've done!" we worry a little. In the youth tent at the Indiana Conference Camp Meeting, we had "Guess what I've done!" experiences. This year we decided to adopt three outreach projects.

Our first project began on Sunday night and continued throughout the camp meeting week. The young people were told about the needs of children overseas and how the Dress a Child program collects funds and clothing for destitute children. This Florida-based ministry is coordinated by Prints of Hope, an Adventist organization. Ninety percent of diseases that affect children living in third world countries are due to not having shoes to cover their feet. This attributes to the death of one child every 5.2 seconds. For only \$6, a child is fully clothed through this program.

During the week, the young people surprised us by running throughout the Indiana Academy campus and asking whomever they encountered for donations. As an adult, this would scare me, but the young people did it freely. To our surprise, these young people came day by day with wadded up money

in hand—\$73, \$93 and so on. God really worked, because the youth group collected \$506.25. (Enough to provide clothes and shoes for nearly 85 children!)

The reaction that we received from the young people involved was amazing. McKenzie Wallace told us that the outreach activity that she participated in during camp meeting was "really amazing! Just knowing that I could help put clothes on a child's back is amazing." We simply challenged them, and they surprised us by setting a high bar. There was no fear; they took ownership of the project and met a need.



McKenzie Wallace of New Albany, Indiana, and Dee Seikel of Cicero, Indiana, collected funds for the Dress a Child initiative during the Indiana Camp Meeting.



Indiana young people assisted at the Second Harvest Food Bank during camp meeting. This was one of several outreach projects offered.

On Wednesday of camp meeting, we took a bus full of young people to Anderson, Indiana. There, the young people were divided into two groups. One group was taken to a location to help with yard work. The second group volunteered at the Second Harvest Food Bank where they did one of four things: They assisted at the office; they guided needy people through the Food Bank facility and helped them get some food off of the shelves; they stocked shelves; and they put bags full of food into waiting cars.

One thing that stood out in my mind was the reaction from a Food Bank assistant who came to me and told me that the kids were walking around the building and praying. When the young people delivered bags full of food into waiting cars, they received many smiles, and "Thank-you!" and "God bless you!" remarks from total strangers in need.

People looked not at the youthfulness of our young people, but at the work that they did to bring an end to a need, and therefore 1 Timothy 4:12 rang true: "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity."

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Manny Ojeda is the pastor of the Columbus, North Vernon and Seymour churches in Indiana.

Prints of Hope is a member of ASI (www.asiministries.org). If you would like to learn more about the mission opportunities and initiatives offered, visit www.printsofhope.org.



BEYOND *our* BORDERS

A Trip Beyond All Expectations

BY JIN PARK



March 13, 2008—it felt like an eternity waiting for that day to arrive. We had planned to go back to Honduras since the day last year when we said our good-byes and left the orphanage in tears as the children waved us off. We started off our senior year with about \$5,000. Our goal in order to make the trip possible was about \$18,000. As much as I had wanted to go back, doubts formed in my mind as the dismal reality of our low account sank in. Our goal wasn't being met as quickly as we had anticipated, but the donations slowly came in as we continued to ask the Lord for His guidance and moved forward with our plans.

I kept questioning whether or not we'd really be able to make it back to Honduras, but as our deadlines arrived, so too did our funds. The funds had not only come in on time, but they continued to come in clear to the day before we left! When I found out how much money had come in, I realized the Lord had not only provided for us, but that it was in His will for us to make this trip a reality.

It had been almost exactly one year since I had gone on my first mission trip. Through God's incredible plans, I found myself, along with the rest of my class, boarding the flight to San Pedro, Honduras, once again. Since it was our senior class mission trip, I was excited not only to see all of the kids at the orphanage again, but I was also excited for the opportunity to share the experience with some of my closest friends.

Despite the fact that it had been a long day of traveling, the moment we had waited and planned for the past three and a half years finally arrived. It was only our first day at the orphanage, yet by the end of it we already felt a deep connection with the children. With construction in



The Battle Creek Academy group paused for a photo opportunity at the orphanage in Honduras.



Battle Creek Academy students and others spent as much time as they could singing and playing with the children at the orphanage.

the morning, vacation Bible school programs in the afternoon, kitchen and clean-up duties, worships, as well as shopping and sightseeing, all of us managed to have enough energy to squeeze in whatever time we had left to be with the children. While the days quickly passed, our hearts, as well as theirs, spilled over with joy and excitement during the time we spent together.

The trip was beyond all of our expectations, and went as smoothly as any of us could have possibly hoped for. The only disappointing part was having to say our good-byes. It has been amazing to look back and realize how much

we accomplished within a mere 12 days. The Lord blessed us with safety, and gave us an experience that none of us will ever forget. Most importantly, it enabled us to grow closer together as a class, as we were reminded of how satisfying the simple things in life, such as friendship with those near and far, can really be.

Jin Park graduated from Battle Creek Academy in 2008.



FAMILY TIES

Growing Up Whole: Understanding Gender

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

As parents, teachers, family and friends, we try to help our children grow up with the skills they will need as adults. Both boys and girls need a full repertoire of skills to develop a strong identity, to be able to achieve what God created them to accomplish, and to develop and maintain healthy relationships. In the midst of all this, children receive messages that are often unhelpful about what it means to be male and female today.

Femininity has long been categorized around themes of cultivating beauty and sex appeal, developing a non-threatening personality and giving service. The socialization of girls still supports a focus toward others, emphasizing values of friendship, nurturing, understanding emotions and pleasing others.

On the other hand, boys learn the characteristics associated with being male. Some of these include strength, independence, boldness, autonomy, loyalty and an appreciation for competition. At the same time we celebrate the positive aspects, we must also challenge the characteristics that are not helpful to the whole development of boys.

To extend girls' views of themselves, here are some ways we can be helpful to girls: We can listen well and respect them. That means focusing on what is really important to them and getting to know who they really are and affirming them. We need to honor girls' choices as much as possible. Valuing a girl's ideas has a great impact on her self-esteem.

Girls need new affirmations that contradict the unhelpful messages they receive. We can teach girls that anxiety doesn't need to immobilize them. We should teach them about healthy risk-taking and to endure the uncomfortable feelings that overwhelm them when they face situations that make them afraid. We need to challenge the fairy tales and happily-ever-after myths. We need to

"Girls need to experience themselves as subjects of their own life, not as objects of someone else's gaze." Mary Pipher

"If we understand the sadness in boys, we'll deal with the sadness and not have to wait to cope with their aggression."

James Garbarino

"Boys do not ache for their fathers' masculinity. They ache for their fathers' hearts." Terrence Real

encourage them to express their opinions, defend them and hold on to their ideas. They need skills in public speaking, from which they develop the courage to go from being in the crowd to being in front.

For boys, we can empower them to grow into men who can find satisfaction and success in all aspects of their adult lives. We need to allow boys to feel all their feelings and to appreciate

deep connections. They need to be part of groups that create norms of respect and help them develop skills in listening, empathy and collaborating. Boys need opportunities to work with girls in safe and respectful environments that encourage mutual growth and understanding.

We can help by teaching boys to take responsibility for their feelings, to take care of themselves and to ask for help. We need to connect with them through activity and play. We need to be patient with silences, honoring a boy's need to choose when to talk. We need to make brief statements and wait. Listen. Do not lecture. Be satisfied with short conversations.

This is a much more complex issue than space allows. But I invite you to consider how you are encouraging the boys and girls in your lives to be all that God created them to be!

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 a licensed marriage and family therapist.



HEALTHY CHOICES

Regular use of greens lowers the risk of cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

GREENS: A Neglected Goldmine

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Greens can prevent blindness.



Mother was right all along. Grandma also told us they were good for us. So why do Americans eat green leafy vegetables only about once or twice a week? Why is lettuce the only green vegetable many Americans ever see? Why are cabbage, broccoli and spinach rarely seen at the American dinner table, when green vegetables are recognized as one of the most inexpensive sources of so many essential nutrients?

Low in calories, leafy vegetables are ideal for weight management. They are useful for reducing the risk of cancer and heart disease, since they are low in fat, high in dietary fiber, and rich in folic acid, vitamin C, potassium and magnesium, as well as containing a host of phytochemicals such as isothiocyanates, indoles and beta-carotene. Adding one daily serving of green, leafy vegetables can lower the risk of cardiovascular disease by 11 percent, as well as lower the risk of all causes of death.

Green vegetables are rich in health-promoting flavonoids and carotenoids, potent antioxidants with cancer-preventive properties. Cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and broccoli are rich in indoles and isothiocyanates, which protect against colorectal cancer. A regular use of green, leafy vegetables reduces the risk of stomach cancer by 30 percent or more.

Green vegetables are also an important source of iron and calcium for any diet. Because of their high magnesium content and low glycemic index, green, leafy vegetables are also valuable for persons with Type 2 diabetes. Adding one serving per day of green, leafy vegetables can lower the risk of diabetes about ten percent. The high level of vitamin K in greens makes them important for the production of osteocalcin, a protein essential for bone health. The risk of



hip fracture in middle-aged women was decreased substantially by adding a daily serving of green, leafy vegetables.

Lutein and zeaxanthin, carotenoids found in dark green, leafy vegetables, are concentrated in the macular region of the retina, and protect against age-related macular degeneration, the major cause of blindness in the elderly. For millions of children around the world,

green, leafy vegetables provide an important source of vitamin A to prevent blindness.

Sometimes lettuce and other fresh vegetables become contaminated. In 2006, an E. coli O157:H7 outbreak, associated with contaminated bagged baby spinach, resulted in 205 confirmed illnesses and three deaths. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigators reported the outbreak was probably caused by irrigation water contaminated with cattle feces, grazing deer or wild pigs on the ranch.

Green, leafy vegetables provide good nutrition in a variety of colors from bluish-green kale to bright kelly-green spinach. Young plants with small, tender leaves have a mild flavor, while many mature plants have tougher leaves and stronger flavors. Collards, Swiss chard, bok choy and spinach provide a mild flavor, while arugula and mustard greens have a stronger peppery flavor.

Winston Craig, Ph.D., R.D., is a professor of nutrition at Andrews University.



EXTREME GRACE

The Women

BY DICK DUERKSEN

The first to look into Christ's empty tomb were "the women." A woman, His mother Mary, taught Him the stories of Moses, Aaron, David and Jehoshaphat.

"The women" cared for His meals on the road. They brought their children to Him and stayed for the stories around village wells.

"The women" listened, believed, were healed and then shouted for their neighbors to come.

It was true in Palestine, and it's still true in Michigan, in Mozambique and everywhere else around the world. "The women" are still core to communicating the gospel.

Take Mozambique, for instance.

In this East African country the women carry an empty five-gallon container three to five kilometers to a community water hole where they talk with friends, fill the buckets and then walk home with five golden gallons perched exquisitely on their heads.

Hauling water is just one small part of their day. They plant crops, hoe weeds, tend children, gather food, cook the daily meal, wipe runny noses, scrounge clothes and deal with father whenever he's home.

Only 17 percent of Mozambique women can read and write their own names. They've been too busy carrying little brothers and sisters on their backs, raking the dirt in front of their reed huts, and fulfilling a hundred other tasks Mom delegated their way.

But a glacier of tradition is washing away in Mozambique.

The South Africa/India Ocean Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has placed the needs of Mozambique at the top of their "to do" list and has enlisted support from Maranatha Volunteers International and Hope for Humanity to help meet those needs. This includes a thousand new church/community centers, a thousand wells, eight schools, numerous health clinics and a literacy program for "the women."

Hundreds of village women are attending literacy classes in spacious new Maranatha church/community centers. These buildings are home to Bible study, worship, wells, literacy and health.

"The women" are learning the basics in these buildings—the sounds and swirls of alphabet letters, how simple everyday words look on a blackboard, and how to copy those shapes and words into their cherished school notepads.

Taught by literacy instructors whose training is funded by Hope for Humanity, women meet three afternoons each week—after the chores are done.

These women are serious, and nothing interrupts the flow of learning. The chief's wife Imo nurses their youngest daughter as her chalk squeaks the day's lesson across the school's blackboard. Beside her another

mum wraps a child closer as she sounds out a new set of squiggles. It's multi-tasking for the future!

Outside the building Maranatha volunteers are drilling a well, a well that will bring fresh water close to home and save each of "the women" several hours each day. Time enough to study!

Several times Jesus had to slow His male disciples down and ask them to care for the needs of the mothers and children. That's happening in Mozambique as more and more women move to the forefront of ministry. They're reading the Sabbath school lessons, sounding out the names in Luke and John, and leading praise songs with the children.

It's ministry like in Bible times. For the future!



Dick Duerksen

Dick Duerksen is the official storyteller for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact Dick at dduerksen@maranatha.org.

To learn more about Maranatha Volunteers International's projects visit www.maranatha.org; to learn more about Hope for Humanity projects visit www.hope4.com.

Agents of Hope

BY CYNTHIA AND J.W. WARREN

Nothing is more discouraging than to be the object of judgmental responses by members of the Body of Christ for our own personal moral failings and improprieties. Although any departure from the righteousness and character of Christ is an offense to Heaven itself, (“Nothing impure will ever enter it” Revelation 21:27 NIV), we must not frustrate Christ’s passion to serve, embrace and forgive the erring.

“The Lord is righteous; he [alone] does no wrong” (Zephaniah 3:5 NIV, adapted). Our personal experience affirms what the Bible teaches, that professors, pastors, presidents, prophets and perfectionists have “all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23 NIV; Zephaniah 3:4 NIV). Even deliberate and intentional unrighteousness should not be surprising in light of Jeremiah’s observation, “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9 NIV) Whatever the reason, everyone at times of personal failure may claim in faith the iron-clad promises of God’s forgiveness and restoration. God declares, “For I will [even] forgive your [deliberate] wickedness and [seriously,] I will remember your [willful] sins no more” (Jeremiah 31:34 NIV, adapted). What compassion and love! Unmerited forgiveness and a clean slate!

In the Bible’s famous sexual purity debate, Jesus confirmed God’s opinion of those who stand in the way of His compassion for sinners. The command is clear, “If any of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at the [sinner]” (John 8:7 NIV, adapted).

Ellen White adds, “While [Jesus] does not palliate sin, nor lessen the sense of guilt, He seeks not to condemn but to save. The [synagogue leaders] had ... only contempt and

scorn, but Jesus speaks words of comfort and hope. ... While the Pharisees denounce, Jesus bids, ‘Go, and sin no more’” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 462, adapted).

This encouraging narrative offers key lessons. First, we should acknowledge that conviction of sin is not our work, but the work of the Holy Spirit. Our work is to love and encourage with compassion and sympathy. Second, we can offer hope with the assurance that forgiveness is generously extended to all, and that every

sin confessed is completely deleted from the record. Third, through our own testimony and acts of encouragement we offer hope of a better life through the power of the resurrected Christ by the indwelling Spirit. Fourth, we continue to pray for God’s power and blessings that they may experience victory in Jesus.

When we are quick to censure, judge and condemn, we reveal that our characters are more like that old serpent, the devil—the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12). How much better to pattern our lives after the example of Jesus—and to offer the prayer, “Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace...” (St. Francis of Assisi)

Cynthia and J.W. Warren co-founded Spring Hope Ministries to celebrate and promote the joys and benefits of the Adventist lifestyle. They have three children and reside in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

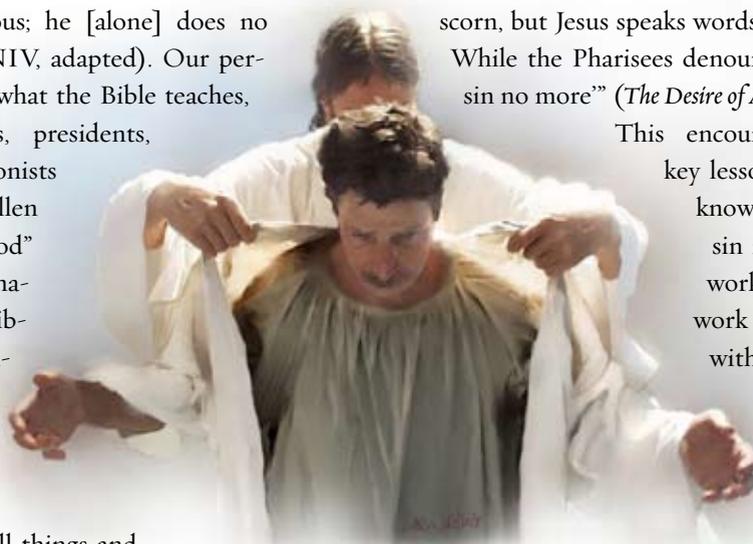


Illustration © Lars Justiner/GoodSalt.com

Planting Seeds and Warming Hearts

BY DIANE THURBER

In June, more than ten inches of rain fell on much of Indiana, causing evacuations, flooded highways, and submerged homes, businesses and farmlands. At last count 41 counties qualified for federal assistance, and shelters overflowed with homeless individuals.

As State representatives and the Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster president Kevin Cox scrambled to finalize disaster response plans, Kevin thought of Kathryn Ratliff, Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) Indiana coordinator. Kevin needed an organization to manage a site where donations for flood victims would be collected, organized and distributed to agencies helping flooded counties. So Kevin called Kathryn, who had notified him of her willingness to coordinate a local county distribution site. Kevin had another idea—a warehouse for the entire state.

As Kathryn looked out her front door, she saw flood waters inching closer and was concerned about losing her own home. However, she and her husband Clarence quickly packed a few personal care items, pillows and sleeping bags, ACS DR ID badges, and navy pants and “We Care” T-shirts—the uniform worn by all ACS DR volunteers. The Ratliffs’ neighbors pleaded with them to stay, since they were familiar with the type of help their church offers. But Kathryn had already committed to assist with the larger endeavor. She said, “It was difficult [to leave our neighbors and home], but we just had to trust the Lord to take care of our home. ... We knew we could help more people at the warehouse.”

Racing against menacing flood waters, Kathryn and Clarence made their way to Indianapolis before streets and highways were impassable. Kathryn mobilized Indiana ACS DR volunteers to assist at the warehouse, located at 6075 Lakeside Blvd., in Indianapolis. ACS



Bottled water, such as the pallets donated by Nestlé, are in constant demand. From left: Kathryn Ratliff, ACS DR Indiana coordinator; Gary Thurber, Indiana Conference president; Clarence Ratliff, ACS DR Indiana volunteer; and Terry Haight, ACS DR Georgia-Cumberland coordinator

DR volunteers from the Carolina, Georgia-Cumberland and Kentucky-Tennessee conferences also assisted as plans were made to undertake the monumental state-wide project. Joe Watts, ACS DR National director, also provided input and support.

Donations soon arrived from companies such as Nestlé, Coca-Cola and Feed the Children. Indiana Seventh-day Adventists responded to the needs at a special collection during the Indiana Camp Meeting. And sometimes residents just stopped by the ware-

house after learning about needs from the media. One little girl brought in five dollars, in an assortment of dollar bills and coins, because she “wanted to help someone in need.”

The State appreciates the ACS DR volunteers. Isaac E. Randolph Jr., executive director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, remarked to Gary Thurber, Indiana Conference president, on one occasion when Isaac visited the warehouse, “You’ve got a great crew here. They’ve been so self-sacrificing and very professional.” Isaac envisions the Seventh-day Adventists providing training for other faith-based congregations. He said, “Many have the desire to help, they just don’t know what to do.”

Clarence realizes what the volunteers are doing has eternal consequences. He told Gary, “Our job is to plant the seeds, to go out and warm the hearts up, and then your pastors can take over.”

Diane Thurber is the assistant communication director of the Lake Union Conference.

The Adventist ACS DR volunteers concluded their flood relief efforts at the warehouse on July 18.





LA ESPERANZA ES JESÚS

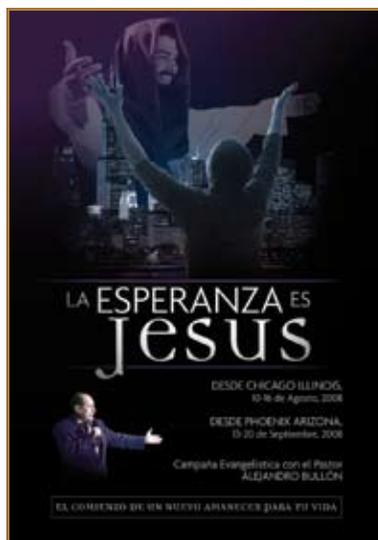
POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Desde su trono, el Cordero saludará al obrero fiel y al alma salvada por su labor y los conducirá al árbol de la vida y a la fuente de aguas vivas. ¡Con qué gozo contemplará el siervo de Cristo esos redimidos, que podrán compartir la gloria de su Redentor!” (Joyas de los Testimonios, tomo 2, pág. 264).

En el año 1969 tuve el privilegio de asistir a mi primera campaña evangelística, la que se llevó a cabo en el Bronx, en la ciudad de Nueva York. La campaña se realizó en una carpa y hubo muy buena asistencia. Lo que más me impresionó de ese evento fue el evangelista, que predicaba con mucho entusiasmo y poder.

Recuerdo muy bien los llamados que hacía y cuánta gente respondía. Seguí asistiendo todas las noches y al final hubo un gran bautismo con un buen número de personas. Esa fue la primera vez que vi a tantas personas entrar en las aguas bautismales. Lo que más recuerdo de esa ocasión es el ver los rostros de los candidatos al salir del bautisterio. Se veían tan sonrientes y felices, como si ese día fuese el más feliz de sus vidas.

Ya en pocos días las iglesias hispanas de nuestra Unión y de la División Norteamericana participarán en la gran campaña llamada *La Esperanza es Jesús*, la que será transmitida por medio del canal oficial de la Iglesia Adventista, *Esperanza TV*, desde la ciudad de Chicago del 10 al 17 de agosto de este año. No hay duda alguna que el Señor ha dirigido el establecimiento de este evento tan especial. Doy gracias al Señor porque las iglesias de la ciudad de Chicago, los pastores y los dirigentes de las asociaciones de Illinois y Lake Region han unido sus esfuerzos en preparación para este evento. Han dedicado muchos meses para hacer contactos, entrenar a laicos, dar estudios bíblicos y distribuir literatura y volantes. También han pasado muchas horas en oración. Todo este esfuerzo

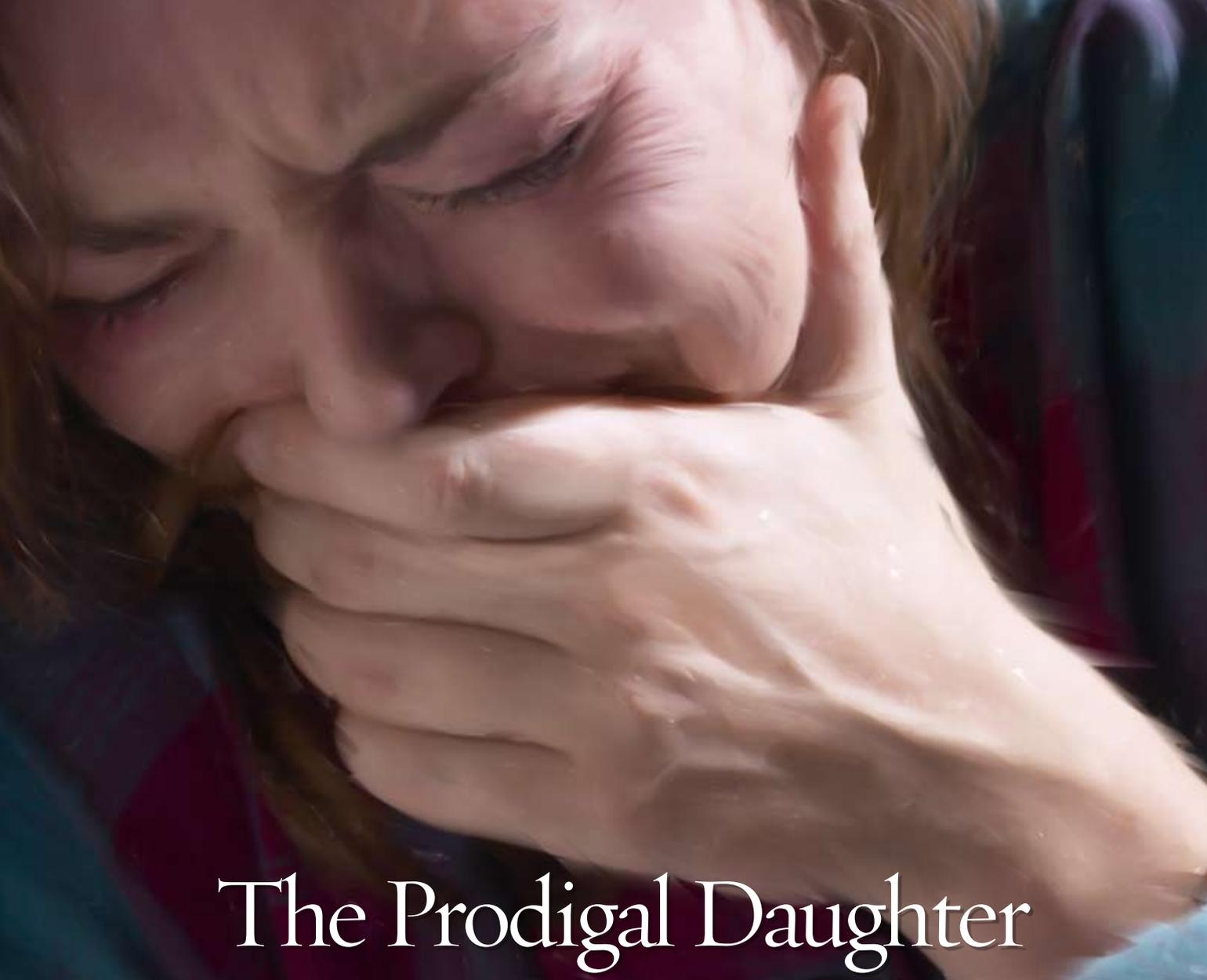


está ahora llegando a su culminación. Y la pregunta es ¿por qué? ¿Por qué gastar miles de dólares y poner tanto esfuerzo en esta campaña? Para mí la razón se encuentra en Mateo 9:36-38: “Y cuando vio las multitudes, tuvo compasión de ellas; porque estaban acosadas y desamparadas como ovejas que no tienen pastor. Entonces dijo a sus discípulos: “A la verdad, la mies es mucha, pero los obreros son pocos. Rogad, pues, al Señor de la mies, que envíe obreros a su mies.”

En esta hora de tanta incertidumbre el mundo necesita más que nunca recibir nuestro mensaje de esperanza. Millones de personas están preocupados por su bienestar y el de sus familiares y buscan la solución a sus inquietudes. Al enfrentar esta crisis de hambre espiritual, Dios nos llama a hacer todo sacrificio que sea necesario para guiar a estas personas a los pies de Jesús. No hay duda que cuando llegue el día de sus bautismos y cuando todos lleguemos al trono de Dios, tendremos la misma reacción—rostros sonrientes porque el Señor nos ha redimido.

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

Nota: Para obtener más información sobre la campaña vaya al sitio web www.laesperanzaesjesus.org.



The Prodigal Daughter

BY KASEY MCFARLAND

Seven years of wandering—hungry, dirty, alone and wallowing in the filth of the unclean, feeding scraps to the scavenging swine. Nothing for me—not even the husks of the pods. I know the pain of starvation—of realizing I’ve wasted my inheritance and enslaved myself as a keeper of the unclean. Stubbornly resisting the invitations to turn back to my father, I’ve lost so much. Does anyone care?

I hear his voice. I see the comforts of home. I think of my brother. The sounds of praise and adoration from my father’s servants in the fields are ringing in my ears. Starving and humbled, I realize my father’s servants have all the food they can eat. I will go to my father and confess my sin. I cannot presume to be his daughter again. No, I’ve gone too far for that! I’ll ask him to make me a servant.

Weak and determined, I place one dirty bare foot in front of the other, and begin the long humiliating journey. I wonder about love. Does my father’s love mean he will love me when it is convenient? Does he only love me when I behave properly, but when I don’t, he’ll turn away? Does he love me when I am useful, but when I fail he’ll turn to another? Does he love me when I make him proud, but when I dis-

I SQUANDERED MY SUBSTANCE, THE LOVE OF MY FAMILY, AND NEARLY MY OWN LIFE ON AN EXPENSIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE DANCE WITH THE DEVIL.

appoint him, he'll withdraw his love? Does his love waver, bend or break? Does his love hurt, desert or require? I hope for a love beyond belief. But even if it exists, I don't deserve it—not after what I've done.

The outline of my father's house on the horizon immobilizes my blistered and throbbing feet. He's there, standing by the gate. That's his robe, white and clean, shining brightly in the noonday sun. It's as if he has been waiting for me to come home. Surely not, why would he?

I take a cleansing breath. My heart begins to pound in my chest as I realize he's not standing, he's running—arms outstretched to embrace me. Tears spill from my eyes as he wraps me in his arms. Weeping, he kisses me as I try to blurt out my rehearsed speech. "I'm sorry. I have sinned against you. I have wasted my inheritance. I am no longer worthy to be your daughter."

I'm interrupted by his exuberant commands to his servants, "Bring the best, cleanest, whitest robe. Bring new sandals. Place my signet ring on her finger."

"But ... but..." I try to continue my speech, but it gets lost in his commands to make a sacrifice and prepare a feast. ... In my honor? Did I hear right?

My thoughts are jumbled as I try to understand my father's love. It is not earned, not deserved, not convenient or proud. It is unchangeable. He loves me because he chooses to love me. My father is love. And his unexpected actions are an expression of his love toward me. I begin to see it clearly for the first time.

The story of the prodigal daughter (son) is one the Holy Spirit brought to mind repeatedly as I wandered for seven of the longest years of my life. During that time, I squandered my substance, the love of my family, and nearly my own life on an expensive and destructive dance with the devil. Jesus began drawing me back to Him gradually, but the journey home really began after the birth of our second son in September 2002. I experienced what the birth of a child did to a heart, and I realized the unwavering love of a parent.

On April 17, 2006, at the Women's Ministries Retreat at Camp Au Sable, I finally rededicated my life to Jesus and entered into the gates of my Father's house. Through the healing effects of His Word, and the love and care I received from other women, my Father gave me the bread I had been craving, the balm I needed for my bruised and broken heart, and the living water that soothed my soul.

Each time the thought came to me that I couldn't go back, the Holy Spirit reminded me that my Father was waiting and watching with open arms, ready each moment to wrap me in His embrace and welcome me home.

Finally, I was right where I needed to be. I depended on His mercy and love, because I knew I had no goodness of my own to offer.

There were so many of my Father's servants involved in my journey home: the Health and Temperance leader whose exercise class brought me into the church doors without pressure or threat; my husband's aunt who invited me to the class and attended with me so I wouldn't feel uncomfortable; the women's ministries leader who invited me to the retreat and made me feel welcomed and comfortable about accepting the invitation; the Women's Ministries Board members and the amazing speakers whose love for Jesus and concern for women were more than evident; and, finally, the women I met whose pain and joy mingled into a portrait of my own experience.

Now I have the joy of serving my Father. I eat from His table and am satisfied. However, I am not just my Father's servant, I am also His daughter. I serve Him with love because He first loved me.

My Father has so many beautiful servants whose efforts were a symphony of love, composed to draw the soul of one lost prodigal daughter. If you are a prodigal daughter, wasting your inheritance in a far country, please go home. Go home to your Father's house. He is waiting for you with open arms.

Kasey McFarland is a member of the Women's Ministries Board in the Michigan Conference.



The Ministry of Kindness

BY KAREN PEARSON

No one liked Margot. She stood taller than any other girl in fifth grade and was stronger and meaner than anyone I'd ever met. She arrived like a whirlwind soon after the school year began. Her fierce red hair and freckles were enough to get her noticed, but it was her meanness that proved most memorable.

Pencils vanished, erasers and crayons snapped in two, and spit wads flew through the air with marksman-like precision. She seemed to enjoy being obnoxious. Even the soft-spoken Miss Walton sounded exasperated as cries of “Margot!” punctuated the once peaceful classroom. Recess became a nightmare, for Margot ruled the playground like a tyrant. Even the boys seemed intimidated.

In those days, needlepoint was still taught in school, and it was my favorite class. Every Wednesday afternoon Miss Vera taught us the intricacies of satin stitch and stem stitch as we embroidered tray cloths and pillow slips. As we stitched, she spoke to us about the roses in her garden and the books she loved to read. “Remember girls,” she'd say, “the only thing you can take to Heaven with you is your character.” I glanced pointedly at Margot bent over her tray cloth. *She won't have much to take*, I thought.

One week Margot fell ill and missed needlepoint class. As we sat stitching someone mentioned her name, and soon we all shared our Margot horror stories. After we'd finished, we waited to hear what Miss Vera would say. Threading a needle she said thoughtfully, “Margot has such beautiful handwriting.”

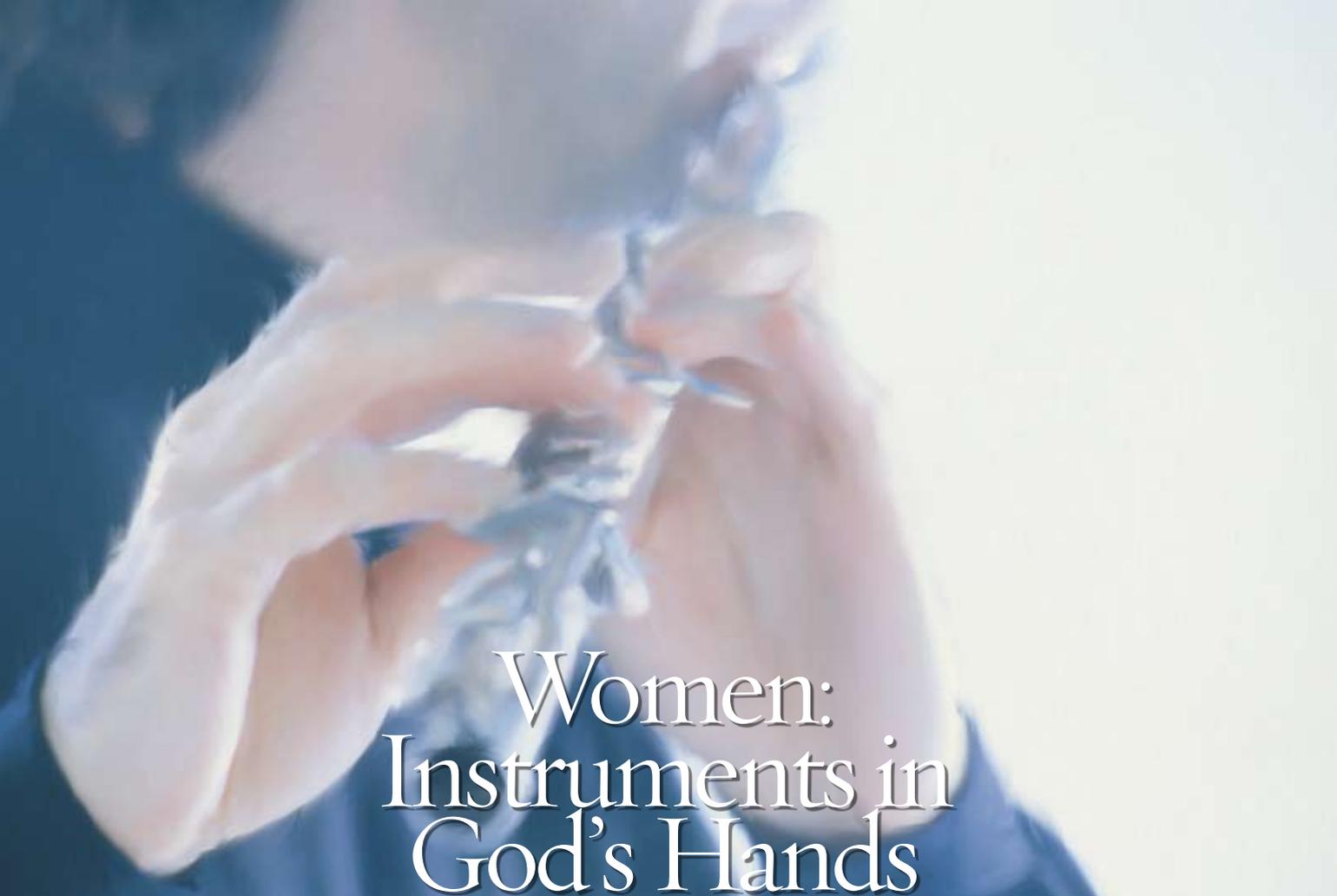
With those gentle words, Miss Vera did more than just find something nice to say about Margot. She showed us how to be kind. Instead of a reprimand, she quietly demonstrated how to love, and in the process gave us a glimpse

of Christ's loveliness. No one had ever shown me so clearly what it meant to be like Jesus.

We finished out the school year, and I completed my tray cloth. Miss Vera said my lumpy daffodil showed potential. Margot never returned to school, and memories of our troubled classmate eventually faded. As I grew older, however, I discovered a world full of Margots—wounded hearts in a wounded world—searching desperately for evidence of love. How do we reach these women? And the others? Single moms struggling to raise toddlers and teens; lonely women longing to know they matter to someone; tired women everywhere, who need a word of hope and encouragement.

Kind words are a balm for broken hearts. While not as glamorous as the public ministries of preaching or singing, kindness quietly reveals Christ's heart of love to the hurting women around us. As we minister in kindness an incredible power is freed to work within our own hearts, bringing healing and transforming our characters. Then, when we come across someone who may be harder to love, we are able to take a closer look. Perhaps, like Margot, they may have beautiful handwriting.

Karen Pearson is the communication director of the Lake Union Conference Women's Ministries Board, and she is an administrative assistant in the Department of Communication at Andrews University.



Women: Instruments in God's Hands

BY Z. KATHY CAMERON

Women's ministries first began in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the 1890s. Since that time, the need for a special ministry for and by women has become more evident. Today, if you travel throughout the Lake Union Conference, you will find women with different ministry gifts who serve through teaching, the arts, speaking, giving Bible studies, and in less obvious ways through prayer, a smile, giving a shoulder to cry on or just taking the time to listen. Some serve by making phone calls, driving neighbors to appointments, holding cooking classes, health screenings and much more. We recognize through all the various ministries of the church, God has chosen to give women special gifts of ministry to serve. Here are a few ways we see the Lord working through women in ministry.

ENRICHING RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Each conference hosts annual weekend or one-day women's retreats. Some are held at hotels, others at camps or conference centers. Whether in elegant or primitive settings, these retreats offer more than social interaction and a break from responsibilities. Women who attend are nurtured, enriched, challenged, inspired and encouraged to help others enjoy a similar journey.

One woman was impressed at a retreat by a "Friendship Evangelism" seminar presented by Staci Osterman. The woman later remarked, "It's interesting, because this was the same method Jesus used during His ministry on this Earth. Before He saved anyone, He drew that person to Him, ministered to his or her needs, and befriended them. When they realized what Jesus was like, He asked them to follow Him. ... [The] workshop inspired me to constantly be on the watch for the opportunities we are given to witness to others. I have

to say that it changed my perspective on socializing—I just don't want to have temporal friends on this Earth, but I want to make friends for eternity.”

Kimberly Purvis, Michigan Conference women's ministries director, received a note from a woman who wrote, “I have renewed direction, hope, and tools to make positive changes, and I've learned that I need to give God complete control of my life.”

Another wrote, “My husband always notices a difference in me after retreats. I always learn so much, and my life is changed in some small way every year for the better.”

Our members appreciate these retreats, but they are not the only ones. A number of our friends from the community look forward to these times of fellowship and spiritual growth each year.

CARING FOR SINGLE MOMS

Single moms have a special place in God's heart and several conferences are now offering an annual single moms and kids retreat. These events provide a mini-vacation for single moms and their children. The retreats are subsidized by the conferences, and most attendees are fully sponsored by their local churches or individual benefactors to a weekend oasis.

At the Indiana Conference retreat for single moms and kids, the moms especially enjoy the annual Friday Plus Lunch, a time when they can escape for some social time together while the Timber Ridge Camp staff cares for their children. Back at the camp, the moms also receive special treatment, household gifts, food items, and creative workshops and ideas. These retreats provide support, and many moms form lasting friendships with one another and stay in contact following the retreat.

BUILDING AND RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS

Throughout the day, Lake Union women are finding hurting and bruised women with whom to share the compassionate love of Jesus. They may encourage a friend experiencing the loss of a loved one, direct women to resources to cope with abuse or a crumbling marriage, or assure a disheartened friend that our caring God is still leading.

Time invested in relationships is truly making a difference. Healing begins when hurting and bruised women experience loving words from compassionate hearts as Lake Union women partner with Jesus. A note from one grateful heart reads, “Your ongoing kindness is very encouraging, and your ability to subdue the threats that accompany the storms of life are in-

spirational. I am grateful for the opportunity to know you....”

The women's ministries team in the Illinois Conference realizes that it may be difficult to touch the lives of everyone who may be hurting, but they have determined to send a caring message to those who have, for one reason or another, become discouraged and are missing from our fellowship. One way they accomplish this is by sending each one a complimentary copy of the magazine, *Women of Spirit*.

Heart Call, another reclamation ministry, seeks to reconnect women to Jesus Christ and fellowship with His church. In the Michigan Conference, 30 churches are currently involved in this outreach ministry. One church has reclaimed seven women, one of whom was away for 20 years. It is estimated that in Michigan alone more than 100 women have been reclaimed through the Heart Call program.

In the Wisconsin Conference, women are establishing lasting friendships through Bible studies and by seeking opportunities to meet people's needs in their community.

WITNESSING IN THE WORKPLACE

Jenny Tillay, a hospital chaplain in her 20s, has been surprised by the openness of her patients and their families. “In a crisis everything slows down and the simplest things acquire such meaning,” she reports. “I am always amazed how much a comforting word, a quiet presence and an uplifting prayer can mean to a person whose world has just tumbled down around them. In my work as a hospital chaplain, I love being able to walk alongside others in their spiritual journeys. ... If I have learned anything in the hospital, it is that none of us are granted tomorrow—today is it. My life needs to reflect this fact. Ministering in or out of the hospital must be my first priority. I am honored to be able to spend some time with our ever-faithful friend, Jesus Christ!”

NURTURING YOUNG GIRLS

Teen and mother-daughter retreats are offered by several of the conferences to provide an opportunity for Christian fellowship and mentoring. (Read about the recent Lake Region Conference-sponsored teen retreat on page 28.)

The Purity Circle (friends helping friends live pure) was established in the Michigan Conference two years ago. Based on a program authored by Dora Isaac Weithers, a certified Christian counselor, this ministry encourages young women age ten and above to “find the trail that leads to godly womanhood.” The curriculum includes 12 lessons with topics like: “You Have Been Chosen,” “Understanding Purity,” “Your Social Posture,” and “Know When to Run.” (Read more about

this initiative at www.lakeunionherald.org in the August 2008 issue online.)

PRAYING FOR POWER

Prayer initiatives are happening throughout our region. Women are setting aside specific times and designated places to pray. They are praying for leaders in ministry and leaders in their community. They are holding prayer breakfasts and conducting training events on how to pray. Kimberly Purvis says, "It is our desire to empower women to make prayer an important part of their daily life."

Just this year at camp meeting, Monique Gilbert of the Owosso (Michigan) Church purchased a new book, *The Radical Prayer*. She read the book and pleaded with God for answers to some challenging situations she was facing. She marveled at the Lord's quick response to her prayers that very week. Monique discovered the power of prayer and now is excited for others to experience it. (Read Monique's camp meeting miracle story at www.lakeunionherald.org in the online August 2008 issue.)

OUR UNIQUE CALLING

Woman are able to be effective in situations and areas where perhaps it may not be possible, or appropriate, for a man to venture. I'm encouraged by these words: "The Lord has a work for women as well as for men. They may take their places in His work at this crisis, and He will work through them. If they are imbued with a sense of their duty, and labor under the influence of the Holy Spirit, they will have just the self-possession required for this time. The Savior will reflect upon these self-sacrificing women the light of His countenance. ... They come close to the hearts of those whom men can not reach. Their labor is needed. ... The refining, softening influence of Christian women is needed in the great work of preaching the truth" (*Evangelism*, pp. 464, 471).

I encourage you to pray and ask God to lead you where He wants you to serve. Allow Him to draw you close, then take every opportunity He gives you to reach out and touch someone for Christ!

Contact the women's ministries director of your church or speak with your local pastor and be ready to be an instrument in God's hands.

Z. Kathy Cameron is the women's ministries director of the Lake Union Conference.

Note: The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America and the World Church women's ministries departments have published initiatives for our churches to help coordinate their women's ministries efforts. These initiatives are available at www.lakeunion.org in the August 2008 issue.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WOMEN

August 15–17, 2008

Michigan Hispanic Women's Retreat

Grand Rapids, Michigan

For information, call 517-316-1500 or visit www.misda.org.

August 23, 2008

North American Division Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day

Materials are available from AdventSource at www.adventsource.org.

or the North American Division women's ministries department website, www.nadwm.org.

September 19–21, 2008

Indiana Women's Fall Retreat

"Heart Mender" with speaker Sally Streib

Embassy Suites Indianapolis North

For information, contact Tammy Begley at 317-919-5318 or by e-mail at tammy.begley@gmail.com.

October 3–5, 2008

Illinois Women's Retreat

"Legacy: An Aroma of Grace" with speaker Karen Holford
Windham Lisle-Chicago, Lisle

For information, call 630-856-2850, visit www.illinoisadventist.org, or e-mail info@illinoisadventist.org.

October 10–12, 2008

Michigan Mother and Daughter Retreat

"Children of God—Waiting & Watching" with speakers

Diane Collins and Elizabeth Barnes

Camp Au Sable, Grayling

For information, call Kimberly Purvis at 517-316-1595, e-mail kpurvis@misda.org, or visit www.misda.org.

November 7–9, 2008

Wisconsin Women's Retreat

"A Time of Refreshing" with speaker

Norka Blackman-Richards

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

For information, contact Susan Boon at 262-878-5931, or e-mail boon@toast.net.

September 25–27, 2009

North American Division Women's Convention

"Free Indeed" with speakers Carla Gober, Hyveth Williams, Monica Reed and Elizabeth Talbot

Hilton Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas

For information, visit www.nadwm.org; to register, visit www.plusline.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MEN

September 6, 2008

North American Division Men's Day of Prayer

For information, visit www.e-mail.org.

September 20, 2008

Michigan Men of Faith

Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake

For information, call 517-316-1500 or visit www.misda.org.

October 16–18, 2008

National Operation Reachback Annual Thinktank Conference and Banquet

“Empowering Young Black Males at Risk to Succeed” with a variety of speakers

Doubletree Hotel Dearborn, Detroit

For further details and registration information, contact Eugenia Kent at 313-897-0506, or Helen Bryant at 313-610-3704. See also www.lakeregionsda.org.

(Note: Women are also welcome to attend.)

October 31–November 2, 2008

Illinois Men's Retreat

Camp Akita, Gilson

For information, call 630-734-0920 or visit www.illinoisadventist.org.

January 16–18, 2009

Wisconsin Men's Retreat

Camp Wakonda, Oxford

Speaker: David Smith of Union College

For information, call 920-484-6555, ext. 303

January 30–February 1, 2009

Michigan Father/Son Weekend

Camp Au Sable, Grayling

For information, call 517-316-1500 or visit www.misda.org.

Men's and Women's Ministries Resources

Books and other resources for men's and women's ministries, or for personal growth, are available at www.adventistbookcenter.com, or at your local Adventist Book Center, and at AdventSource, www.advent-source.org. Some resources are also available in French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Training resources for women's ministries in the local church are also available at www.nadwm.org and www.wm.gc.adventist.org.

Visit www.emale.org for training resources for men's ministries in the local church.





The Men

BY DICK DUERKSEN

The parking lot was filled with millions of dollars in tractors, combines and trucks. It was the annual Men's Ministry Weekend, and the guys were prepared to kick tires.

Lots of good happens at these weekend retreats. Men sing boisterous songs and tearful ones. Men study Bible men like Samson, Solomon, Daniel and Timothy, and Bible women like Lois, Mary, Sarah and Rebekkah. Men eat hearty meals, tons of salad and all the desserts. And men talk trucks, transmissions, load factors and wheels versus tracks. Then they return to the dessert table and argue over whether Brett Favre's cross-the-grain passes were as good as John Elway's.

A "Men's Ministries Weekend" is just that, a safe place for men to be themselves while talking about where their lives fit into God's ministry.

Sometimes the conversations are practical—focusing on the role of Christian men in a local congregation, Christian men at home and Christian men at work. Sometimes the topics are theological—Sabbath, planning for death or understanding the sanctuary. Always the weekend is personal, a time when men relax enough to share glimpses of their temptations in exchange for support in finding God's solutions.

One year my wife joined me at these weekends. I led the presentations and then Brenda would answer questions, "to set the record straight." The men loved her and probed her on several subjects that are never discussed in church.

One weekend stands tallest in my men's ministry memory, all because of a man I'll call Frank.

It was Sabbath afternoon, and the men were in small groups discussing the challenges they face as Christian men in an un-Christian world. After 30 minutes of dialogue the group came back together for an open discussion.

We talked about church board meetings and getting over the anger we sometimes feel toward power-hungry members.

We discussed what to say when coming home "later than she was expecting me to come home."

We practiced saying, "I'm sorry."

Then Frank raised his hand. Frank was about 35, wavy red hair, great full beard, jeans and a plaid wool shirt. I recognized him, and he stood, like a mountain of muscles in a room full of gladiators.

"I've been having some trouble with the women," Frank began. "I like looking at 'em. I like looking a lot."

Frank's words sucked the air from the room, leaving everyone unable to breathe.

"They look good on the poles. I know, 'cause I've spent a lot of time at the clubs and watched 'em dance and stuff."

No one breathed—like when an old nightmare is crawling out from under the bed.

"But about three months ago I learned about Jesus. Y'all know how He did with the women? He treated 'em like queens, like Cinderellas in waiting, like we'd all like our daughters to be treated."

Frank paused, and looked slowly around at each pair of eyes.

"Well, I've been clean now for three months, Jesus help me! And I've discovered that the ladies look best with clothes on!"

Frank sat down.

The room burst into the hoots, hollers, cheers and whistles that can only come from a hunkering of men who are giving a standing ovation to a brother.

Frank let the chaos of understanding quiet a bit, then he stood, tears moistening his red beard.

"Pray for me, fellows," Frank wiped his nose with a large handkerchief and then continued. "God's really working with me, and I know we're gonna win this one."

Dick Duerksen is the official storyteller for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact Dick at dduerksen@maranatha.org.



A-Men!

BY WALTER L. WRIGHT

That's it! Adventist-men. I was privileged to pastor a church many years ago that had a large number of men in the membership. The professions ranged from university professors to auto mechanics, from dentists to painters, and from clergy to building contractors. One of the men came up with the idea of forming a men's ministry to serve the needs of these men, and also to serve the greater needs of the church and community. Thus, the Frank Loris Peterson Society of Adventist Men was launched. It was called "A-men!" for short.

The idea was to mentor young men and model before them how a Christian man should conduct himself in service to God and our fellow man. The components of this ministry were spiritual, social, charitable and evangelistic. Each new man or boy coming into the church was taken under the wings of this group, trained and ministered to.

I shall never forget one of our annual events was the Sunday morning breakfast honoring the ladies of our church and the female guests they brought along. The men were very formal, even wearing top hats and carrying walking canes. When a lady drove up in her car, one of these men stepped forward, helped her from the car, parked that car and returned the keys.

The men prepared, served and cleaned up after the meal. Ladies were only allowed to enjoy. It was a high day. Much to our surprise, on clearing the tables, we discovered that the ladies had secretly conspired to leave bowls of cash tips on each table! This money was accepted into the treasury to further the work of A-men!

There was a banquet each year to help raise more funds for the ministry. Scholarships were given; I should say they were earned. Young people, both male and female, took part in A-men! projects like painting or cleaning an elderly person's home. Lawns were mowed, trash removed

and meals prepared for widows and single parents. A-men! provided scholarships for each participating student in Adventist Christian education.

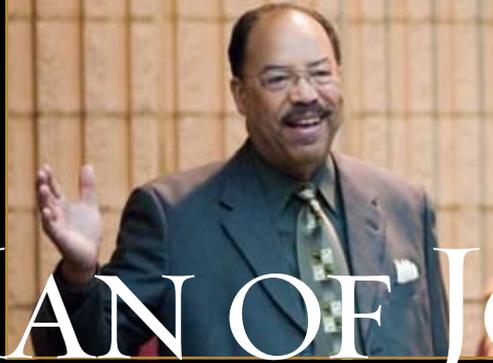
In the membership meetings there was such an air of comfort that any man could speak of his needs, whether they were domestic, economic or spiritual. These times were very uplifting and affirming, and they served to keep us focused on the mission. Men were winning men to the Lord Jesus Christ. The group included many church elders and deacons, and reminded us of the first group of seven chosen by the apostles to serve the needs of the widows and orphans (see Acts 6:1-6).

The men found new meaning in being church members. Young men were taught that ladies are to be respected and loved, not used and abused. Methods were taught on how to share a personal witness. I learned a rich lesson: There is nothing a Christian woman admires more than a man who conducts himself in the Spirit of Christ.

One little lady in our church said to me, "Pastor, where were all these kinds of men when I came along?"

I responded, "Sister, we can't fix the past, but we are definitely working on the future!" Amen and a big A-men!

Walter L. Wright recently retired as president of the Lake Union Conference. He returns to lay ministry where it all began after 38 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



MAN OF JOY

A TRIBUTE TO WALTER L. WRIGHT

BY GARY BURNS

At a general staff meeting on June 9, Walter L. Wright, president of the Lake Union Conference, announced his retirement, effective June 30.

Coming from a strong Wright family legacy of ministry, and inspired by working with C.D. Brooks in public evangelism, Walter began his pastoral ministry as a lay pastor in his home church in Germantown, Ohio. His rich musical heritage and ministry experience traveling and singing with the Wright Family Singers, managing the Germantown Church Choir, and serving as the host of his brother Harold's live weekly television program on WHIO-TV in Dayton, Ohio, had a profound effect on his pastoral ministry. Media professionals are amazed at his natural, unscripted, one-take ability in front of the camera, and music is as natural to him as breathing. One never knows when he will break into song. As one of his signature songs says, it's "Something Within."

Encouraged by his Bible worker mother and Adventist education supporting father, Walter applied to Emmanuel Missionary College after graduation from Germantown High. One would find it hard to believe that this gifted pastor, family life educator, union president, hospital system chairman and university vice chair was accepted and later denied when his picture arrived at admissions. Undeterred on his quest for an education, and with his emerging reputation as "a man of joy," he entered The Ohio State University and then established a successful career as a contract negotiator for Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

Known by his colleagues as "the preacher," Walter's desk was a gathering point for co-workers, and he was recognized by his superior as the source of improved office morale. After several of his co-workers accepted Jesus and were baptized, Walter resigned his civil position to enter full-time pastoral ministry. He continued to pastor full time and commute between home and Andrews University in 1973 to attend the Seminary "smorgasbord style."

After completing his M.Div. at Trinity Theological Seminary, the country preacher was transferred to an inner-city

church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the streets were transformed as drug addicts, prostitutes and criminal syndicate leaders accepted Jesus and became members of Walter's church. He then moved to Columbus, Ohio, and built the Ephesus Church while serving as a pastor/evangelist and departmental director in the Allegheny West Conference. Walter was then called to be church ministries director and vice president of the Southwestern Union, in Burleson, Texas. Walter came to the Lake Union in 1997 as executive secretary, and became president in July 2003.

Walter and his wife Jackie (Cook) have been married for 54 years, and together developed their "Marriage Maintenance Seminar." With a doctorate in psychology, a member of the Association of Adventist Family Life Professionals, and certified as a family life educator by the National Council on Family Relations and Andrews University, Walter has conducted family seminars and evangelistic meetings in 16 countries on four continents. In recent months, he conducted two evangelistic series, one in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the other in Gary, Indiana.

At a special dinner on Monday, July 7, Don Schneider, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, led a litany of testimonials from officers and conference presidents noting Walter's integrity, energy, spiritual leadership and partnership with Jackie in ministry to families.

After his recent bout with cancer, Walter praises God for what his doctors recognize as a miraculous recovery, and he now looks forward to continuing ministry while giving special attention to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren from his new home in Germantown, Ohio.

Blessings to you, Walter and Jackie, from your Lake Union family as you continue to bring joy to a troubled world.

Gary Burns is the communication director of the Lake Union Conference.



Young girl's philanthropic effort benefits hospital

For her tenth birthday, Mia Farrell didn't ask for Webkinz or Barbie dolls or the latest Wii game. Instead, the Bolingbrook girl told her friends and family she wanted them to donate to the Bolingbrook Hospital Foundation's first nursing scholarship. She raised enough money to fund a \$500 scholarship for a graduating high school senior headed to nursing school.

"Mia's philanthropic spirit helps us fulfill our mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ," said Rick Mace, chief executive officer of Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital. "It reminds me of what Jesus said: 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Mia recently presented the foundation's first nursing scholarship to Marielle Kopasz, a 2008 Bolingbrook High School graduate who plans to study nursing at Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill. Kopasz, 18, remembers first being bit by the nursing bug when her great-grandmother told her about her experiences as a visiting nurse traveling to patients' homes in semi-rural western New York. For a class project in middle school, Kopasz interviewed a neighbor who was a neo-natal nurse and was impressed when the woman described the wonder she felt while taking care of every newborn life entrusted to her care.

"It was at this moment that I began to desire this experience for myself," Kopasz wrote in her scholarship application. "Combining my admiration for these women and my personal fascination of the miracle of the human body and its healthy functioning, as well as a desire to use my traits of compassion and caring on a regular basis, has led me to Lewis University with the goal of getting my degree in nursing."



Mia Farrell meets with nurses and Robin Whatley, M.D. (far right), in Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital's labor and delivery unit.

The idea to donate her birthday money to charity came up when Mia couldn't think of anything she wanted for her birthday, which was Mar. 11. Parents James and Liza Farrell brought up the idea of reaching out to a charity. Mia loved the idea, so the family began researching local charitable donations. James suggested the Bolingbrook Hospital Foundation after meeting the foundation's executive director, Derek Cazeau, at a community event.

"I've always been interested in helping people," said Mia, who is heading to fifth grade this fall. "I chose the nursing scholarship because it's a new hospital, so they need more workers. And I thought the more workers there are, the more people could be cured from sicknesses."

Kathy Mitchell, chief nursing officer at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital, said she is proud Mia was able to present the scholarship to a deserving student.

"We wanted to honor Mia's generosity by giving her the opportunity to award the scholarship, allowing her to see firsthand how her donation will benefit another member of the Bolingbrook community," Mitchell said.

Cazeau expressed his gratitude on behalf of the hospital foundation.

"Perhaps Mia's actions will spur other young people to reach out to others in their community," Cazeau said.

Kopasz, who is active in student council, varsity pom-poms, dance, church youth group, and Girl Scouts, among other activities, was grateful to receive the scholarship. The funds will help offset her tuition costs.

To donate to the foundation's nursing scholarship fund, call 630-312-6000.

Lisa Parro, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health

Julie Busch

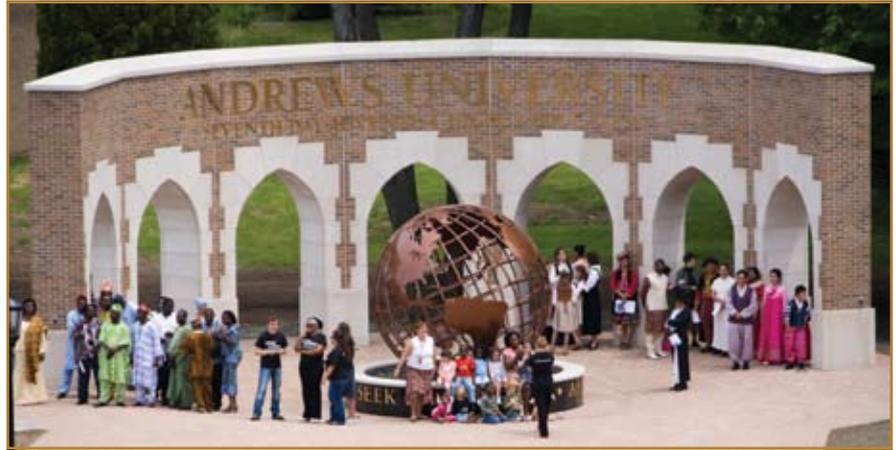
Andrews University rolls out the welcome mat

Ribbon-cutting held for new campus entrance on J.N. Andrews Boulevard

"This is the day," the day Andrews University officially rolled out the welcome mat and invited the community to step in, said Andrews University president Niels-Erik Andreassen. The grand opening of the new entrance to the campus marked nearly 30 years of planning and culminated with more than 700 faculty, staff, students, community friends and local officials taking part in the celebration on Mon., June 2.

Andreassen began the ceremony by sharing a personal reflection. "This new entrance represents the fulfillment of a personal dream for me. Ever since I first arrived here, I cringed at the cumbersome, unattractive, unsafe way this university welcomed its faculty, staff, students and guests through the back door, or the kitchen door as it were. But no more. We have a proper front door, and you are invited to come in."

Thanking the donors who made the dream of a new entrance become a reality, David Faehner, vice president



International students in costume participated in the ceremony. They assembled in front of the Welcome Globe, which is part of an area designed for visitor information and photo opportunities.

of University Advancement, took a moment to focus on three families in a special way. David Cromwell, an alumnus of the class of '63, and two families who aren't Andrews alumni, yet strong believers of Seventh-day Adventist education: John and Dede Howard, and the late William Colson and his wife, Bonnie, who provided the lead gift for the new entrance.

Richard Scott, director of facilities management, thanked the many individuals who were involved in the planning, design and construction of the new entrance, including a special thank you to Wightman Associates Inc. of Benton Harbor, the lead contractor and manager of the project.

Al Pscholka, district representative for Congressman Fred Upton, said the new entrance is a great front door. "Twenty years ago, when I came out here, I drove right past this place. I didn't know all the great stuff that was happening right here."

Heather Knight, provost for Andrews University, shared why the new boulevard was named in honor of J.N. Andrews, for whom Andrews University is named. Knight also pointed out the new globe photo opportunity feature complete with adequate parking, a much-needed asset to a university with a global mission and vision.

A prayer of blessing was offered by Gerry Karst, chair of the Andrews University Board of Trustees and vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, followed by James North, professor of pastoral care and chaplaincy, leading the crowd in singing the school song, "Our Dear A.U."

Following the ceremony, the crowd spilled out onto J.N. Andrews Boulevard and began putting the new globe photo-op to use. The Andrews University bus, carrying university administration and local officials, was the first vehicle to drive on the newly-opened boulevard.



More than 700 people attended the opening ceremony for J.N. Andrews Blvd., the new campus entrance.

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist,
Andrews University

[EDUCATION NEWS]

'He's been such an inspiration to me.'

Michigan—Kenneth Wilson smiled as he led the 14 seniors at Battle Creek Academy in one last recitation.

"We, we, we, we, all the way home," said Wilson, a 25-year teacher at the school.

"You say it," he said, turning to the students in mortarboards and gowns on their graduation day.

"We, we, we, we, all the way home," they recited.

It seems Wilson is the kind of teacher students want to follow.

In his commencement address at Sunday's graduation ceremony, Wilson never talked about the disease that has cut short his teaching career and left him stoop-shouldered and slurring his words.

Sure, Wilson might have gotten "a bad break," as Lou Gehrig said almost 70 years ago, when he, too, was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

But he wasn't going to let it interfere with his final speech to his students.

Speaking slowly, laboring over his words, the religion teacher and guidance counselor recalled how this year's senior class had won a canoe race as freshmen, despite breaking a paddle.



Student Megan Martin, 16, hugs her religion teacher, Kenneth Wilson, after graduation ceremonies at Battle Creek Academy on May 25.

He chose the children's book "Paddle-to-the-Sea" as the theme of his address.

The book depicts the adventures of a boy's miniature canoe and its hand-carved passenger as they live his dream voyage, wending their way from a small Canadian stream through the Great Lakes and on to the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Atlantic Ocean.

A message the boy carves in the canoe saves the day over and over: "Please put me back in water. I am Paddle-to-the-Sea."

"You may feel that Paddle is by himself," Wilson said. "Not true. Look at it more closely."

He drew four parallels from the book to the lives ahead of the graduating seniors.

"Your journey from here will be an adventure," Wilson said. "Someone is always watching you. ... Christ is always watching over you. ... And you can make a difference in this world."

He talked of the closeness of this year's graduating class, and noted the school's vision statements makes repeated use of the word "we," symbolic of the school's unity.

His mind undulled by his illness, Wilson appropriated a line from the toe-tickling children's verse to come up with "We, we, we, we, all the way home."

After the ceremonies, Wilson sat in his longtime classroom and talked about the effects of ALS and his outlook on life.

The neurological disorder causes progressive degeneration of motor neuron cells in the spinal cord and brain, according to the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association.

When he and his wife, Joyce, a physical therapist, realized he was exhibiting signs of the incurable illness, beginning in June 2007 with weakness in his grip in the morning and later a slight slurring of his speech, Wilson said, "I cried. I couldn't believe it."



Kenneth and Joyce Wilson are working together to deal with Kenneth's amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

"After that initial sadness, I determined to fight the onset of symptoms in every way I could—spiritually, mentally and, I guess, medically."

When his students realized something was wrong, one of them asked the ultimate question. "Mr. Wilson, are you going to die?"

"I said 'Yes, we're all going to die,'" Wilson recalled. "I just happen to have a diagnosis."

Finishing the school year was a goal Wilson set for himself.

"I felt that I had things to offer that others could not," he said. "So I wanted to be here to make the offering."

"So prideful," he said, reflecting on what he'd just said.

He said he'd miss "the stimulus to prepare material that I have been learning about my subject. When I learn I have to share."

He'll miss the students, too.

"I'll miss the questions," he said. "I'll miss their journaling. I have them journal every day."

Wilson stumbled over the word

“journaling.” He turned to his wife and said simply: “Say that.”

“I wouldn’t want this disease with any other person,” Wilson said of his wife of 33 years.

He’s 65, and had one more year of teaching in him, he said, but ALS has made him forego it. Now he’s looking forward to a late-June nostalgia tour along the route of the former US-66 from Chicago to California.

And he plans to work on a book with his daughter that preserves his religion-class teachings.

As he talked, former and current students stopped by to shake Wilson’s hand and see how he was doing.

“I’m great,” he’d reply.

Megan Martin, 16, who’ll be a junior in the fall, said she’ll miss Wilson terribly.

“I was really, really upset,” Martin said when she heard of Wilson’s illness. “I cried a lot.

“He’s been such an inspiration to me,” Martin said. “I wanted him to be here for my senior year.”

Robert Warner, news reporter, *Battle Creek Enquirer*

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Kenneth Wilson offered his e-mail address if anyone has questions about ALS or needs support. The address is kenandjoyce@email.com.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Haircut benefits other children

Indiana—Rebekka Stevens attends the Cicero Church. Her new hairstyle is the result of personal sacrifice. After reading of three girls who donated their hair to Locks of Love, Stevens decided to give her hair as well.

Stevens’ gift was 13 inches long, and her dad took many pictures before it was cut. Even though cutting her hair was hard to do, Stevens says, “I’m happy I did it. I want to do it again.”

Locks of Love is an organization

that provides custom-designed hair-pieces for children 18 years old and under who suffer from hair loss. Many of the children suffer from alopecia areata, while others may be under-

going cancer treatment or have been burned. The organization helps all children, providing assistance on a sliding scale or free, as the need demands. Hair must be at least ten inches in length, and in a ponytail or braid when it is cut. Six to ten ponytails are required to create one hairpiece for a child. Eighty percent of the hair donated to the organization is valued from \$3,500 to \$6,000.

To learn more about donating hair to children, visit www.locksoflove.org.



Rebekka Stevens recently got a haircut so she could donate 13 inches of her hair to Locks of Love. She says, “I’m happy I did it. I want to do it again.”

Collene Kelly, Cicero Church correspondent

Primary Class learns to be a blessing to others

Indiana—Sabbath afternoon, May 3, found eager Primary Class members assembled at Maple Park Nursing Home in Westfield. Walking from room to room, the children gave the residents smiles, hugs and cheery flower arrangements. Each bouquet came in a paper cone the class decorated in Sabbath school with reminders of God’s love written on them.

After distributing the flowers, the children sang Sabbath school songs for the

residents who gathered in the activity area. One of the residents told a nurse, “This is the best entertainment we’ve had all year!”

The first Sabbath of April found the Primary Class counting used eye glasses. Gathered in a semi-circle around their teacher, Mary Ann Smith, one by one the children placed the glasses in a basket. The last count ended at 64! Twenty pairs of glasses were donated by a woman who read about the project in the Clay City (Ind.) newspaper. Julie Kelly’s grandma, Phyllis Wrate, promoted the project at the Lewis (Ind.) Church, and a member put it in the church’s weekly news column.

The glasses will be donated to Give the Gift of Sight, an organization which repairs, classifies, distributes glasses and provides vision care to those in need around the world. According to the organization’s website, since the program’s inception in 1988, Give the Gift of Sight has helped more than 6 million individuals “see their world more clearly” (see www.givethegiftofsight.org).

Each year, Primary Class leaders look for ways to teach the children how to be a blessing to others. Last year, the students raised money to purchase items from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency’s *The Original Really Useful Gift Catalog* (see www.adra.org).

Collene Kelly, Cicero Church correspondent, and Diane Thurber, *Lake Union Herald* managing editor



The Cicero Church Primary Class recently visited the Maple Park Nursing Home where they gave residents smiles, hugs and cheery flower arrangements in paper cones decorated in Sabbath school by the children.

Sister church assists with church improvements

Indiana—When Ron Kelly, Cicero Church pastor, heard from Ernie Peckham, Terre Haute Church pastor, of the need to put a new roof on the Terre Haute Church, Kelly offered his services and sought volunteers to support the endeavor. Responding to the same missionary spirit, Peckham encouraged Terre Haute Church members to support through donations to the Cicero Church's India church building and evangelism mission initiatives.



Gary Holman brings a board for a roof jack.

they wheeled to the giant dumpster and discarded.

"This is beginning to feel like work," a tired roofer joked as the sun-drenched day waned. A second shift would have been welcomed, but with

Those who saw the job to completion were bone-tired, but no one had been seriously injured—an answer to prayer! A feeling of relief as well as accomplishment accompanied the faithful laborers as they dragged themselves home.

To the Cicero Church members, the Terre Haute Church members would like to say, "Thank you for giving so generously of your time and abilities to help us make this huge one-day project a success. We couldn't have done it without you!"

Karen Peckham, Terre Haute Church correspondent

[WOMEN'S NEWS]

Teen Girls Retreat focuses on purity and building a relationship with Jesus Christ

Lake Region—On Fri., Apr. 18, the Lake Region Conference (LRC) women's and youth ministries departments held their first "Teen Girls Retreat" in Syracuse, Ind. More than 256 teens and 50 chaperons participated.

The retreat theme was "Polishing God's Treasures," and programs focused on purity and preparing young women for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The opening message, "Jewels-R-Us," was delivered by keynote speaker and event facilitator Dora I. Weithers, author of Purity Circle. She embraced the teens with information on self-esteem and restoration.

The teens also attended workshops. "The Good and Bad About Dating" workshop was designed to discourage teen girls from spending time one on one with male friends without supervision, until they are ready to consider a serious relationship leading to marriage. The "Five Years from Now" workshop stimulated their thinking about purpose and destination (God's will for their lives).



Working side by side all day, the work crews from the Cicero and Terre Haute Churches were able to enhance God's house in Terre Haute.

On Sun., May 4, Kelly and a caravan of mission-minded roofers from the Cicero Church arrived at the Terre Haute Church to assist church members as they re-roofed their 52-year-old church. Charles Schlunt and Ralph Willis of the Terre Haute Church had made many preparations leading up to this moment. The ambitious plan was to tear off two layers of deteriorating shingles and apply an entire new roof in a single day! In addition, the dedicated workers patched the roof where air conditioning units had been previously. Soon others kept busy cleaning up the old roofing as it dropped, which

no relief in sight, the weary volunteers pressed on, with the aid of refreshing water, snacks and meals provided throughout the day.

"This is so good for our church," remarked Sylvia Middaugh, a Terre Haute member. Many hands uniting in a combined effort to make the burden lighter was an inspiring sight.

As the day progressed, Terre Haute Church members rejoiced over the transformation. At 5 p.m., only one side of the church roof was completed. Racing the setting sun, the crew doubled their efforts and worked until dark to shingle the remaining side.



The first LRC "Teen Girls Retreat" held in Syracuse, Ind., was attended by more than 250 young women and 50 chaperons.

Another message by Weithers, "Full Price; No Discounts," encouraged the girls to remain pure and receive the joys and advantages of living such a life.

On Sabbath afternoon, a scavenger nature hunt was offered. The teens were divided into groups to search for particular items in nature. Afterward, the groups re-assembled for praise reports. Each group related what they found to a Scripture verse. This proved to be a fun and encouraging event, since all wanted to share how the Lord had blessed.

The girls then refreshed and relaxed, and prepared themselves for dinner and the evening meetings, which began with a panel discussion entitled "The Complex Religion of Teens."

This turned into a very informative discussion on their needs and concerns about parents, friends, siblings, the church and other challenges that teens face. Afterward, representatives from all the churches participated in a talent show. It was an awesome night, and everyone stayed and enjoyed the presentations. The night ended with an ice cream fellowship social.

One of the retreat highlights was the "Teen Power! Prayer Hour!" held each morning from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., hosted by Symone Cole from Conant Gardens Church. On Sabbath morning, 56 signed in for "Teen Power! Prayer Hour!" and more than 28 on Sunday morning.

The retreat concluded with a final

message by Weithers, "Maintaining the Shine." She admonished the girls to take heed of the spiritual weapons they received during the weekend and use them to ward off the enemy, and to know that God is always there with them and for them to help maintain a life of purity.

Rita Taylor, Lake Region Conference women's ministries area leader and Teen Girls Retreat coordinator

Iraqi women celebrate despite hardships

On June 14, the Women's Ministries Emphasis Day was celebrated in Baghdad, Iraq, as 13 church members fellowshiped together and enjoyed the women's ministries program, "Show Me the Saviour—Then I Shall See."

In spite of the Adventist church in Baghdad being closed for the last two years due to severe damage by bombs, church members are still gathering for worship in homes every Sabbath.

"When we think back on how our church was filled to capacity before the war in 2003, it saddens our hearts that we would end up being just a small group meeting in private homes. We are praying for strength and

courage until the day when the situation will improve and our many church members can return to their beloved church, to their houses and their jobs," said Basima Nahab, women's ministries director in Iraq. And she adds, "Thank you for your many prayers. I ask that you will continue to pray for the Church in Iraq..."

The president of the Middle East Union, Kjell Aune, says: "Many of our members in Iraq have for safety reasons fled to western or neighboring countries. I have personally met them in different parts of the world and know their dedication, their love for Iraq and the Church, and their longing [to return] back to their country. The Iraqi church used to be vibrant, and we have good church facilities. We pray for the day when people can return home, where we can meet in our churches without security risks, and when daily life can go back to normal without fear of bombs, snipers and kidnappings. I am inspired by the fact that our sisters in Baghdad could celebrate and focus on the Saviour in the midst of so many distractions. It reminds us all of the importance of lifting our heads and [looking] beyond our problems. As I have done before, I will again urge the world family of believers to carry their Iraqi sisters and brothers onwards on wings of prayers."

B. Nahab and A.M. Wollan, staff, TED News Bulletin, Trans-European Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church



A group of Adventist women from Baghdad gather together for support and fellowship.



[NAD NEWS]

Operation Whitecoat 35th anniversary/reunion slated

On Sept. 19–21, the Frederick Seventh-day Adventist Church in Frederick, Md., will host the 35th anniversary/reunion of Operation Whitecoat. During the 1950s, hundreds of Seventh-day Adventist men, aged 18–26, were drafted into military service. They wanted to serve their country and cooperate with compulsory military service but still be obedient to the Scriptures, which as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian included Sabbath-keeping and noncombatancy. In late 1954, the U.S. Army Medical Unit (USAMU) and the Office of the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army met with officials of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a highly unusual request. The two entities wanted to see if the Seventh-day Adventist Church would support an Army proposal to use Adventist draftees as volunteers for human trials of defensive vaccines and antibacterial medicines.

A subcommittee was formed, and within weeks a favorable endorsement was given and entitled “Statement of Attitude Regarding Volunteering for Medical Research” and was forwarded to the USAMU. The four-paragraph statement concluded that “any service rendered voluntarily by whomever in the useful necessary research into the cause and treatment of disabling disease is a legitimate and laudable contribution to the success of our nation and to the health and comfort of our fellowmen.”

Thus Operation Whitecoat was born. Soon after, USAMU personnel began to interview draftees for Operation Whitecoat during the basic training at Fort Sam Houston; meetings

were held that gave an overview of the research program along with a description of its benefits and risks. Seventh-day Adventist Church representatives were also on hand to describe its relationship with the Operation Whitecoat program. USAMU based selections of the draftees on overall general health and skills acquired in civilian life. Most who were chosen to participate had also completed one or more years of college and 27 percent had completed a bachelor’s degree. Operation Whitecoat members were then assigned to Fort Detrick in Frederick, Md., to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, or to the Center Annex in Forest Glen, Md., as medical research volunteers. Their duties included medical technicians, medical corpsmen, clinical aides or animal caretakers.

During its 19-year-long existence, Operation Whitecoat members were tested with some of the world’s most dangerous biological agents such as Queensland (Q) Fever, Tularemia, Sandfly Fever, Typhus Fever, Typhoid Fever, Rift Valley Fever, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Yellow Fever, Plague and Eastern, Western and

Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis. The “Eight Ball,” a huge, spherical chamber at Fort Detrick, was a chamber in which scientists would discharge bacteria or viruses.

Operation Whitecoat volunteers wore a breathing apparatus that allowed them to inhale the affected air. USAMU records maintain that although the volunteers were made seriously ill, none died during the studies nor was there documented permanent health damage.

Approximately 2,300 Seventh-day Adventist Army veterans served as Operation Whitecoat volunteers. Each year at the Frederick Seventh-day Adventist Church, fellow Operation Whitecoat members come together for a reunion/celebration of their service to their country and to their God. Many of the servicemen were active members of the Frederick Church during those years as Operation Whitecoat volunteers. The Frederick Church served as a church home for other members who were not from that area.

George Johnson Jr., associate director, Office of Communication, Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America



Each year Whitecoat volunteers get together for a reunion/celebration of their service to their country and to their God. This is a picture from the 2003 celebration.

Within the Lake Union, the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Forms are available in print format, or they can be filled out and submitted directly online. Milepost forms are available at www.lakeunionherald.org. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

Weddings

Patricia S. Slifer and Wallace Cooper were married Mar. 20, 2008, in Denver, Ind. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Blake Hall.

Patricia is the daughter of Howard and Nellie Slifer of Twelve Mile, Ind., and Wallace is the son of the late Robert and Jane Cooper.

The Coopers are making their home in Morenci, Mich.

Mary L. Wray and Richard C. Higby were married Apr. 27, 2008, in Hinsdale, Ill. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Kenneth Parker.

Mary is the daughter of Beryl Wray of Victoria, Australia, and Richard is the son of Robert and Shirley Higby of Peoria, Ill.

The Higbys are making their home in Joliet, Ill.

Obituaries

BOOTH, Frank W., age 94; born Nov. 17, 1913, in Mio, Mich.; died Jan. 31, 2008, in St. Louis, Mich. He was a member of the Mio Church.

Survivors include his son, Darrell; daughter, Marilyn Butcher; brother, Pete; sister, Edna Pierce; three grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor James Micheff Sr., and interment was in Kittle Cemetery, Mio.

CADY, Della, age 105; born Sept. 5, 1902, in Shennington, Wis.; died Feb. 17, 2008, in National City, Calif. She was a member of the Clear Lake (Wis.) Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Ron Olney, and interment was in the Lutheran Cemetery, Shennington.

CASIMIR, Taccara S., age 19; born Nov. 28, 1988, in Chicago, Ill.; died June 2, 2008, in Olympia Fields, Ill. She was a member of the Shiloh Church, Chicago.

Survivors include her father, Harry Casimir; mother, Hildegard (Douyon) Casimir; brother, Nathanael Casimir; and sisters, Giovannie and Nasthalia Casimir.

Funeral services were conducted by Edwin McBride, and Pastors Famous Murray and Marlon Reid. Interment was in Mount Hope Cemetery, Chicago.

CHAPMAN, June M. (Presteen), age 91; born Aug. 7, 1916; died May 26, 2008, in Green Bay, Wis. She was a member of the Green Bay Church.

Survivors include her husband, Roy; stepson, Wayne Chapman; daughters, Cynthia (Cayo) Goddard and Jaclyn (Cayo) Breedis; stepdaughter, Mavis A. Whitman; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Delmar Austin and Michael Tuionetoo, and interment was in Shrine of the Good Shepherd Cemetery, Green Bay.

FONTENOT, Elizabeth A. (Dixon), age 69; born Dec. 7, 1937, in Louisiana; died Nov. 23, 2007, in Lake Charles, La. She was a member of the Greenwood (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Brent W.; daughters, Sherrell Cummings and Cari Billedeaux; brothers, Johnny Lowe and Travis Dixon; sisters, Judy Furr and Mary Polk; 16 grandchildren; and ten step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Jerry Fletcher, and interment was in Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery, Lake Charles.

HENRY, David N., age 90; born Nov. 26, 1917, in Panama, Canal Zone; died May 21, 2008, in Bellevue, Wash. He was a member of the Shiloh Church, Chicago, Ill.

Survivors include his wife, Lilly N. (Fairclough); sons, David Jr., Rolando and Ricardo; brother, James; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. For a more detailed biography of David Henry and a guest book, visit www.mem.com.

Funeral services were conducted by Eugene Lewis, and interment was in Greenwood Memorial Park and Cemetery Mausoleum, Renton, Wash.

HODGE, V. Lucille (Robinson), age 94; born Feb. 3, 1914, in Holton, Ind.; died June 7,

2008, in Ossian, Ind. She was a member of the North Vernon (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, George D. and Gary W.; daughters, Roberta L. Blackburn and Judith A. Richardson; 19 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; four step-great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Manuel Ojeda, and interment was in Holton Cemetery.

JONES, Chester A., age 91; born Oct. 2, 1916, in Evansville, Wis.; died Apr. 8, 2008, in Waterford, Mich. He was a member of the Waterford Riverside Church.

Survivors include his wife, L. Janette (Berry); daughters, Judith Hiiter and Jana Thompson; brother, Paul; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Marshall McKenzie, with private inurnment.

KLOOSTER, Audrey M. (Van Beukering), age 85; born July 10, 1922, in Oshkosh, Wis.; died Feb. 28, 2008, in LaPorte, Ind. She was a member of the LaPorte Church.

Survivors include her son, John C.; daughter, Janet L. Klooster; brother, Anthony "Tony" Van Beukering; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Joshua Lizarraga, and interment was in Salem Cemetery, Salem Heights, Ind.

LAUDE, Zora Mae (Andrews), age 89; born Jan. 11, 1919, in Juniata Twp., Mich.; died Mar. 31, 2008, in Cass City, Mich. She was a member of the Vassar (Mich.) Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Lyle Davis, and interment was in Riverside Cemetery, Vassar.

LINDSTROM, Velma, age 95; born July 29, 1912; died Apr. 8, 2008, in Warren, Ind. She was a member of the Marion (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her sister, Agnes Gillie. Funeral services were conducted by Javier Quiles, and interment was in Syracuse (Ind.) Cemetery.

LOWDER, Sarah J. (Churchill), age 63; born May 24, 1944, in Jackson, Mich.; died May 10, 2008, in Jackson. She was a member of the Jackson Church.

Survivors include her son, Michael A. Sr.; daughter, Mitch A. Churchill; brother, David A. Churchill; sisters, Mary E. and Marlet Churchill; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by elder Don Harris, with private inurnment.

NODLAND, Eleanor L. (Anderson), age 88; born June 29, 1919, in Dayton Twp., Ill.; died Apr. 25, 2008, in Beloit, Wis. She was a member of the Beloit Church.

Survivors include her sons, Jesse Jr. and Charles; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Meredith Burrington, and interment was in Baldwin Cemetery, Beloit.

OLDHAM, Esther Mae, age 88; born May 19, 1919, in Findlay, Ohio; died Apr. 30, 2008, in Littleton, Colo. She was a member of the Urbandale Church, Battle Creek, Mich.

Survivors include her brother, Harold L. Oldham; and sisters, Ruth Merrill, Miriam Mellish, Thelma Burton and Grace Green.

Memorial services were conducted by elder Irwin Burton, and interment was in Olinger Chapel Hill Mortuary, Littleton.

SCHOUN, Mary Elizabeth (Forsythe), age 83; born Dec. 21, 1924, near St. Francis, Kan.; died June 8, 2008, in Laurel, Md. She was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her son, Benjamin D.; daughter, Elizabeth Ann Cunningham; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Kermit Netteburg on June 14 in Md., and Pastor Benjamin Schoun and Chaplain Ron Forsythe on June 25 in Berrien Springs, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

WIGHTMAN, Ruth M., age 94; born July 3, 1913, in Pierre, S.D.; died Apr. 29, 2008, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her brother, Roy R. Wightman.

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

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: \$28 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$38 per insertion for all others. A form is available at 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.

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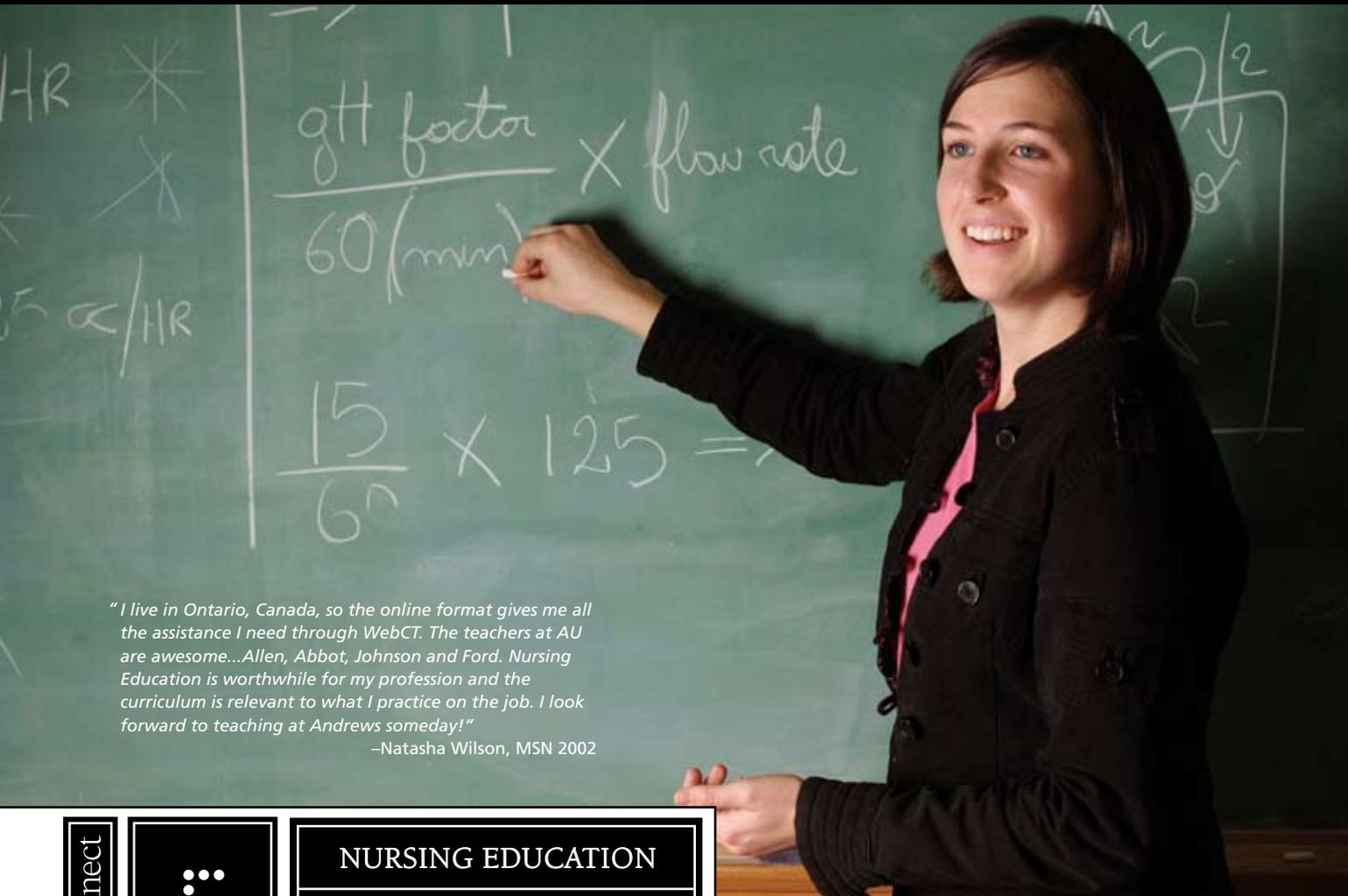
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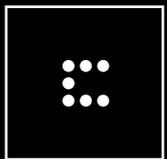
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Sunset Calendar

	Aug 1	Aug 8	Aug 15	Aug 22	Aug 29	Sep 5
Berrien Springs, Mich.	9:04	8:55	8:46	8:35	8:25	8:14
Chicago, Ill.	8:10	8:01	7:52	7:41	7:31	7:20
Detroit, Mich.	8:53	8:44	8:34	8:24	8:13	8:02
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:59	8:51	8:42	8:32	8:22	8:12
La Crosse, Wis.	8:29	8:20	8:10	7:59	7:47	7:36
Lansing, Mich.	9:00	8:51	8:41	8:31	8:19	8:08
Madison, Wis.	8:20	8:11	8:01	7:50	7:39	7:28
Springfield, Ill.	8:13	8:05	7:56	7:46	7:36	7:26

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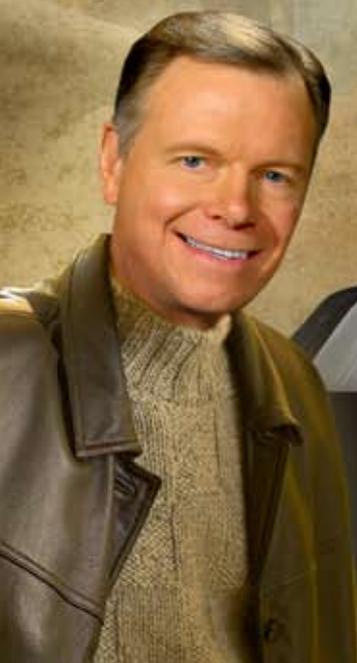
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Jan Paulsen (BA'57, MA'58, BD'62, MA'83)
Lynne Waihee (BA'68)

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Announcements

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

Illinois

Women's Ministries Retreat, "Legacy: An Aroma of Grace," will be held **Oct. 3-5** at Wyndham Lisle-Chicago, 3300 Warrenville Rd., Lisle, Ill. Featured speaker will be Karen Holford, associate director of family and children's ministries for the South England Conference. For more information, visit www.illinoisadventist.org and click on Women's Ministries under Departments.

Indiana

The North Vernon Centennial Celebration will begin **Fri., Aug. 8**, at 7:00 p.m. and will continue **Sab., Aug. 9**, with a special Sabbath school at 9:30 a.m., followed by the worship service at 11:00 a.m. Bring food for a fellowship dinner. There will be an afternoon program with music and the history of the church. The church is located at 3105 North State Highway 7, northwest of North Vernon. All former members and friends are invited to come and celebrate this milestone together. For further information call Mary Perkins, communication secretary, at 812-591-3805, or Manuel Ojeda, pastor, at 812-342-6292.

Home School Outdoor Education Week is for all home-school families, **Aug. 18-22**, at Timber Ridge Camp. Experience outdoor education classes, crafts, recreation (horseback riding, canoeing, swimming, sea sled, etc.), workshops and a talent program. Parents from different areas have an opportunity to dialog on their curriculum and teaching successes. Contact Dean Whitlow for additional information and registration at 812-829-2507 or dwhitlow@hughes.net.

Hispanic Family Retreat is **Aug. 29-31** at Timber Ridge Camp. Contact Antonio

or Wanda Rosario for additional information at 317-856-5770.

One-Day Health Seminar with speakers Dr. Hans Diehl, developer of CHIP; Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn, author of *Reversing Heart Disease*; and Dr. Antonia Demas, a leading authority on children's nutrition. Indiana Healthy Choices is sponsoring this event, **Sept. 19**, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in Anderson, Ind. For registration information, contact Susan Landess at 765-621-7557 or susan_landess@yahoo.com.

Women's Ministries Fall Weekend Retreat is **Sept. 19-21** at the Embassy Suites Indianapolis North with guest speaker Sally Streib. Must register by Sept. 1. For details, contact Tammy Begley at tammy.begley@gmail.com or 317-919-5318.

The Indiana Academy (IA) Alumni Association welcomes all graduates/attendees to the IA campus for Alumni Homecoming, **Oct. 10-11**. Honor classes are 1958, '68, '83 and '98. In addition, the classes of 1978 and 1988 will be recognized. Special recognition will be given to the golden-age classes of 1929-1957. For more information, contact Jimmy Arnett, alumni president, at 219-629-1177 or jimmy_arnett@vfc.com. Or you may contact Bill Hicks, principal, at 317-984-3575, ext. 228, or bhicks@isda.org. As part of the weekend activities, the 18th annual Alumni Golf Classic and Auction will be held **Fri., Oct. 10**. For information regarding the golf/auction event, contact Lawrence Johnson at 765-649-7256 or ljohnson@mustinbuilders.com.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Aug 2** Local Church Budget
- Aug 9** Oakwood College/Andrews University/Loma Linda University
- Aug 16** Local Church Budget
- Aug 23** Local Conference Advance
- Aug 30** Union Conference Designated (Evangelism)

Special Days

- Aug 30** Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day

Michigan

The Burlington Seventh-day Adventist Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Sabbath, **Aug. 9**, in a tent on the church grounds. Celebration includes: 9:30 a.m. Sabbath school; 11:00 a.m. Worship Service; potluck dinner; afternoon musical program and historical presentation; supper; and 7:00 p.m. meeting. This celebration will be the beginning of a week-long revival series. All friends and former members of the church are invited to attend. For more information, contact Dennis Todd at 269-965-6788, or Mark Howard, pastor, at 517-238-6030.

Remnant Publications Rally Weekend: Join Remnant Publications **Aug. 28-30** for our second annual Remnant Rally at the Dearth Community Center in Coldwater, Mich. During this Spirit-filled weekend you'll experience power-packed speaking, plus great Christian fellowship, music that speaks to your soul, delicious food and free tours of the Remnant Publications press facilities. Speakers include Danny Shelton, Stephen Bohr, Dwight Hall, Christian Berdahl and Mark Howard. To register for this event or for more information, call 800-423-1319, ext. 18, or go to www.RemnantRally.com.

Notice is hereby given that the 31st session of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Cedar Lake Church in Cedar Lake, Mich., **Sept. 21, 2008**, with the first meeting called at 9:30 a.m. Reports of the previous five years will

be rendered, proposed constitutional changes may be considered, the election of conference officers, departmental directors, and members of the executive committee will take place, and any other business will be transacted which may properly come before the session. Delegates are those duly elected by the various churches of the conference and delegates-at-large as provided in the constitution. Each church in the Michigan Conference is entitled to one delegate for its organization, and one additional delegate for each 100 members or extended fraction thereof, determined by the membership as of Dec. 31, 2007. As provided by the bylaws, the organizing committee (composed of one member from each church, plus one additional member for each 500 members or major fraction thereof, as of Dec. 31, 2007) will meet on Sept. 20, 2008. The meeting will begin with vespers at 7:30 p.m., at the Cedar Lake Church.

Jay Gallimore, president
James Micheff Jr., secretary

Andrews Academy Homecoming Weekend: All alumni of Emmanuel Missionary College Academy, Andrews University Academy and Andrews Academy plan now to join us for special services on Fri. evening and all day Sabbath, **Oct. 17-19**. Honor classes are 1939, '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99 and 2004. For more details, contact the Academy Alumni office at 269-471-6140 or e-mail acadalum@andrews.edu.

North American Division

The Berkeley Springs (West Virginia) Church will commemorate the 40th anniversary of its founding with special all-day services (including a fellowship luncheon) on Sabbath, **Aug. 16**. All former pastors, members and friends of the congregation are especially invited to participate in the fellowship. In addition to attending, if you have any stories, articles or pictures for a public display, or for more information, contact Denise Mayberry at 304-258-6679 or denifrakin@aol.com; or Mark Hann at 304-258-3888 or hann@pennswoods.net.

Oak Park Academy Alumni: Return to Gates Hall, Nevada, Iowa, **Sept. 19 and 20**, for a great time with classmates and friends. The honor classes are 1933, '38, '43, '48, '53, '58, '63, '68, '73, '78 and '83. For more information, go to www.opainiowa.com.

Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend will be held **Oct. 2-5** in Centuria, Mo. Honor classes are: 1948, '53, '58, '63, '68, '78, '83, '88 and '98. Activities start with the Silver Showcase, Thurs. evening, Oct. 2. For additional information, call 573-682-2164 or visit website www.sunnydale.org.

College View Academy Alumni Weekend is **Oct. 10-12**. Honor classes: 1948, '58, '68, '78, '83, '88 and '98. Special feature Sat., Oct. 11, 11:00 a.m., is Bill Chunestudy, class of '68 and vice president for Academic Administration for the California Preparatory College in Redlands. All former students welcome. Come enjoy a great

weekend. For more information, visit www.collegeviewacademy.org.

Health Summit West-English, 2008, Loma Linda University: The North American Division, Pacific Union and Loma Linda School of Health announce the 4th health certification training program, **Oct. 17-28**. "Tell the World Christ Brings Health and Wholeness" will present featured speakers Jose Rojas and Hyveth Williams, pastors. Six "train-the-trainer" seminars will be conducted. For more information, go to www.nadhealthsummit.com.

Corrections

Traci Jackson, author of "Historical Message of Hope" in the July 2008 issue, was inadvertently identified as Traci Jacobs. Michael Horton, pastor of the Hyde Park Church, was incorrectly identified as a local church elder in the article, "Conference leaders discuss strategic stewardship plans." We regret these errors.

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD In the Spirit

BY GARY BURNS



It was a full and wonderful day of fellowship and renewal. As the sun slid down behind the trees casting a shadow in my parents' living room, Uncle Walt realized it was time for him and Aunt Jackie to head home. He placed his hands on his knees and said, "Well, we need to get back to Columbus."

Uncle Walt began to rise from the couch. "But Gary, before we go, there's something I've got to say." He sat back down. "When are you going to get about doing what God called you to do? I don't know how long God is going to be patient with you, but my patience has just about run out."

For the next hour and a half, Uncle Walt reflected on my life, my experiences as a young boy at Germantown and the things he had observed regarding the gifts God had given me.

On our way home I turned to my wife Maryann and said, "Well, what do you think about what Uncle Walt said?" Without a moment's hesitation she replied, "I think he's right." A few months later we were in a three-church district in northwest Ohio, assigned to Uncle Walt as my mentor in ministry.

Uncle Walt mentioned he had not planned to say anything that day, but as he began to stand up, the words came out.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to be his partner in ministry on your behalf, for his faithful partnership with God and for his willingness to risk living "in the Spirit." I'm going to miss our former president, and I know you will too.

Gary Burns is the communication director of the Lake Union Conference.

A Move to Remember

BY BENTON BAKER

At the General Conference Session in 2004, my dad was looking for an Adventist school for my younger sister and me to go to before I reached my freshman year. This was really a major ordeal for him, because he didn't get an Adventist education and he really wanted my sister and me to have one. So we asked a reliable source for their opinion of the top ten boarding and day academies. The list included Shenandoah Adventist Academy, Mile High Adventist Academy, Battle Creek Academy and several other well-known academies in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

When we returned home to Oklahoma after the General Conference Session, my dad still hadn't made up his mind where to go, so he decided he would just let God lead the way. That next week there was a job opening advertised in one of my dad's pharmacy journals for a pharmacist position in Denver, Colorado; this would allow us to go to Mile High Adventist Academy. My dad was really psyched up about this, because he has always wanted to live in Denver. But again, there was also an opening for a position in Battle Creek, Michigan. Again, my dad decided just to let the Lord lead.

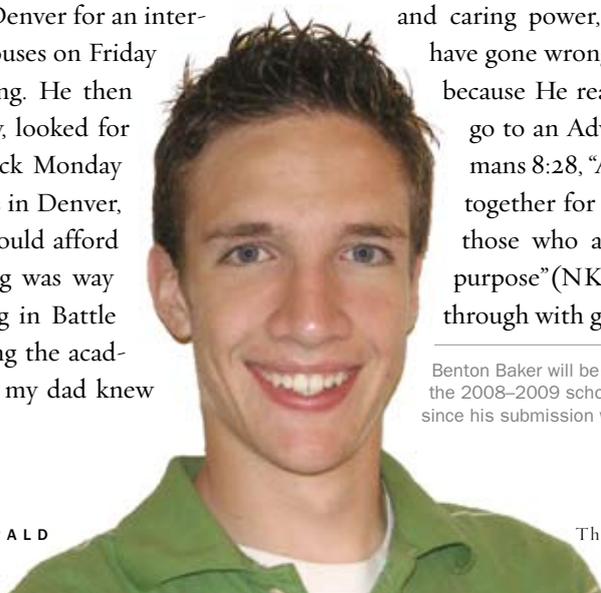
So one week he flew out to Denver for an interview on Thursday, looked for houses on Friday and flew back on Friday evening. He then flew to Battle Creek on Sunday, looked for houses on Monday and flew back Monday evening. After looking at houses in Denver, he knew there was no way we could afford to live there. The cost of living was way too high. But after interviewing in Battle Creek, looking at houses, touring the academy and listening to the band, my dad knew

that if he was offered the job in Battle Creek that is where we were moving.

Sure enough, later that month, my dad was offered the job. One of the many things my parents worried about was the finances for us to go to Battle Creek Academy, but the new job also came with a new salary—just enough to match my dad's old salary plus enough to cover the two tuition costs. This really eased the burden on my parents, because it was one less thing they had to worry about once they got here.

The move to Michigan really demonstrated God's love and caring power, because everything that could have gone wrong didn't. It's like God stepped in because He really wanted my sister and me to go to an Adventist academy. Just like in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (NKJV). This passage really came through with gusto during our move.

Benton Baker will be a junior at Battle Creek Academy during the 2008–2009 school year. He received a \$100 scholarship, since his submission was selected for publication.



Kara “Karie” Baxter, 18, is a 2008 graduate of Peterson-Warren Academy (PWA) in Inkster, Mich. A member of the Maranatha Church in Detroit, Kara is an extremely talented, Christian young lady who was active in her church and is remembered for her willingness to help at school. “Whenever she was asked to lead out or assist, the answer was always ‘Yes!’” said Nettie Gray, school counselor. Kara is well rounded and was a featured speaker for the “Elijah Project,” sponsored by her church. A gifted singer, Kara has delivered special music for various programs.



Kara Baxter

Kara was a member of the R.D. Barnes Honor Society, and she maintained a 4.0 GPA since eighth grade. Kara was Student Association president. The most important thing she learned in academy is to “put all my trust in God. ... I know for a fact that I would not have made it through high school without God’s unending grace and mercy.”

The eighth grade elocution class at PWA was Kara’s most memorable experience. There, Kara was able to speak on abortion at an annual speaking competition hosted by the school.

Kara’s favorite class was Black History. She loved “learning about my ancestors and what they went through to make their dreams come true. The plight of the Black race is really inspiring, because it shows that you can come from nothing and become somebody.”

After graduation, Kara plans to attend college. She will major in history and political science, and plans to eventually become a lawyer and then a judge.

Kara is the daughter of David and Renée Baxter of Eastpointe, Mich.



Dominion Burch

Dominion “Nikko” Burch, 20, is a 2008 graduate of Peterson-Warren Academy (PWA) in Inkster, Mich. A member of the City Temple Church in Detroit, Dominion may be best described as a cooperative, gentle person and a gifted artist. According to school counselor Nettie Gray, “He [got] along extremely well with his classmates and adults.

With each passing school year, I have watched Dominion mature both academically, socially and spiritually.”

A member of the PWA school choir, Dominion also sings with his church choir. He is involved in other aspects of the church.

Dominion says he enjoyed the music festival at Andrews University in 2008. “It was awesome singing with students from the other academies. The music was a taste of how the heavenly choir must sound.”

While Dominion has always loved art and computer animation, the introduction of a robotics class at PWA soon became his favorite. He says, “I enjoyed participating in the robotics competition with my fellow team mates and seeing the creations of other teams.”

This fall Dominion plans to attend Oakwood University where he will major in computer animation and music.

Dominion is the son of Herman and Lorraine Burch of Detroit.

Address Correction

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

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THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

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

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

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Adventist Midwest Health Julie Busch Julie.Busch@ahss.org
 Andrews University Rebecca May RMay@andrews.edu
 Illinois Glenn Hill gpteacher@yahoo.com
 Indiana Gary Thurber GThurber@indysda.org
 Lake Region Ray Young LakeRegionComm@cs.com
 Michigan Michael Nickless MNickless@misda.org
 Wisconsin James Fox JFox@wi.adventist.org

CORRESPONDENTS

Adventist Midwest Health Lisa Parro Lisa.Parro@ahss.org
 Andrews University Keri Suarez KSuarez@andrews.edu
 Illinois Glenn Hill gpteacher@yahoo.com
 Indiana Judith Yeoman JYeoman@indysda.org
 Lake Region Ray Young LakeRegionComm@cs.com
 Lake Union Bruce Babienko BBabienko@luc.adventist.org
 Michigan Jody Murphy JMurphy@misda.org
 Wisconsin Kitty Crary KCrary@wi.adventist.org

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

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

President Walter Wright
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LOCAL CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONS

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

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

Illinois: Ken Denslow, president; Kyoshin Ahn, secretary; 619 Plainfield Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527-8438; (630) 856-2850.

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

Lake Region: Jerome Davis, president; Donald Bedney, secretary; 8517 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60619; (773) 846-2661.

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

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

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

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