

# Lake Union HERALD

AUGUST 2011



FOLLOWING  
JESUS  
He's All You Need

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



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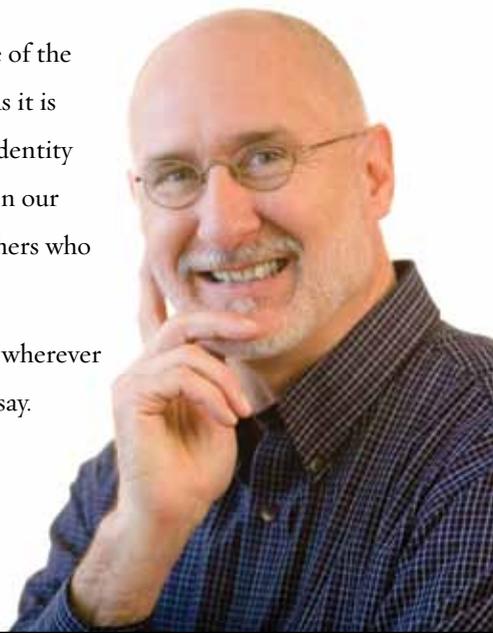
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## In this issue...

If it is true that Jesus is the express image of the Father and that our truth is only the truth as it is in Jesus, then Jesus must be central to our identity as Seventh-day Adventists. If He is not, then our truth is as distorted as the truth of the teachers who crucified Him.

To be a disciple of Jesus is to follow Him wherever He leads and to embrace all that He has to say.

  
Gary Burns, Editor



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## The Death of Osama Bin Laden

**S**o, how did you feel about the death of the man who was the mastermind of 911 and other terrorist attacks against Americans—a man who is responsible for more than 3,000 innocent lives taken in numerous attacks around the world, a man who changed the American way of life forever? Do you ever think of Osama Bin Laden when you go through the hassle of security checks or when you see the added blockades around government buildings, and experience other additional restrictions to our movement and freedoms in this country?

I was quite taken aback when I saw the images of literally tens of thousands of mostly younger Americans who took to the streets in huge throngs of celebration because the enemy that dominated much of their brief history was dead. Maybe you were one of the millions who was overjoyed by the news and the realization that at least Bin Laden was no longer a threat to our national security, nor would he be able to mastermind another national disaster. After all, didn't Bin Laden get what he deserved?

If ever an American had the right to celebrate the killing of a human being, this might be the time. But what should a follower of Christ feel in his or her heart? Should some level of relief brought on by the absence of a threat ever become reason to celebrate the death of someone who, it seems, did not know Christ as a personal savior?

When you read the gospels and the book of Revelation, the theme of judgment and the destruction of sin is a recurring topic. In the book *The Great Controversy*, Ellen White gives a graphic description of the final scenes when God brings the New Jerusalem to this Earth and brings the ultimate end to sin, the author of sin and those who choose to follow him.

While I find no clear description of God's reaction to that horrific scene, the consistent revelation of God's character in Scripture and the numerous descriptions of His interaction with sinners lead me to believe that as His purging, unveiled presence cleanses this Earth of sin and sinners, our Heavenly Father will be crying His eyes out: "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused" (Hosea 11:8 NIV). Only this time, there is no way of escape. All that could have been done has been done, with every expression of redemptive love being rejected.

And what about Lucifer—once Christ's closest and most honored companion outside the Godhead? How will the Father's heart of relentless and boundless love break at Lucifer's final end? How will He weep at the loss of His children for whom He died—who choose death rather than life forever with Him?

God is calling us to share His heart of love and compassion to all His children, and especially those who have made decisions against Him based on a misrepresentation of His character. When we are His, our hearts compel us to be ambassadors of life to those who are choosing death—and our hearts will weep with His at their loss.



# When We Needed the Church the Most

BY MICHAEL PARADISE

“Jesus, help!”

Sometimes, the most important prayers—the ones prayed with the most earnestness—are also the shortest. My wife and I experienced a few tense moments of panic and pleading recently when Isaiah, my three-year-old son, was fighting for his life.

On a very normal Friday, my wife was at home with Isaiah as I was at work. She called me toward the end of the day, sharing that he started feeling a little warm. I got home an hour later, and Isaiah’s fever was getting quite high. Within a few minutes of my arrival at home, I heard my wife scream.

I rushed into the living room to find Isaiah in her arms, shaking violently with his eyes rolled back. He was having a seizure, and we didn’t know what to do! We dialed 911, and tried desperately to get Isaiah’s seizure to stop. Unfortunately, he also stopped breathing throughout the event, and we were afraid we would lose him.

We cried out to God in that moment, begging Him to save Isaiah—even as we attempted to keep him alive. Our prayers were short. “No! Jesus, help!” was all that needed to be said at that time; and while it wasn’t very eloquent, we are positive He heard us.

While my precious boy struggled to take a breath, we felt as though we were running out of time. Isaiah went without breathing for a couple minutes, turned purple and suddenly went lifeless as I held him in my arms. For a few seconds, I held a child I believed had died. In that moment, I, too, wanted to die.

But then, something happened. I cannot explain why, but Isaiah jolted back to life with a gasp as he opened his eyes!



Michael Paradise and his son, Isaiah

He started to breathe normally, and I felt as though God answered our prayers. During the next minutes, Isaiah seemed stable as he rested; and the ambulance soon arrived.

The doctors told us Isaiah had a febrile seizure, which is the result of a drastic change in body temperature in small children. We were told that while it is not normal for a child to lose his breath during a seizure, it turned out that the lack of oxygen is actually what cut off the abnormal brain activity. Isaiah recovered rather quickly, and the experts do not believe he has a high potential for

experiencing that kind of episode again.

But while kids tend to bounce back fast, parents sometimes do not. My wife and I found it hard to move past the trauma of the experience, and we couldn’t escape the visual of Isaiah in such a grave state. We discovered we were actually in a state of grieving, although we had not lost our boy. It was a strange condition of confusion, caught between gratitude for the miracle God provided for us and the horror of the event. Immediately, after we came home from the hospital, we were depressed.

There were a few things that happened during the next few weeks, however, that helped us to see God leading us into a place of stronger reliance on Him, and on the fellowship of the church.



The week of that event with Isaiah we were participating in the “iPerceive” evangelistic series with Dwight Nelson, pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. The seminars were taking place at the South Bend First Church in Indiana. When the people of the church heard about our emergency room trip, they came together in prayer on our behalf. Anyone who has ever had a group of people earnestly praying for them knows it is a powerful way for the church to show support. We received text messages, phone calls, e-mails and cards as the church family wrapped their arms tightly around us in our time of need.

At the end of the series, I shared our testimony and relayed how appreciative my family was for the prayers of the church. After my testimony, dozens of people came up to share similar experiences, to cry with us and to pray for our family. I heard from a seminary professor whose daughter had been through a seizure. I spoke with a gentleman who lost his son at a young age. A young couple brought gifts to the hospital and dinner to our home.

If I ever had any doubts about the value of church membership, they were erased in those moments. God spoke clearly to me through the actions of the people in His church.

For the past couple years, I have been involved in leading worship at Pioneer Memorial Church. Throughout that time, I saw the beauty of congregational worship in a powerful way. When the platform is filled with young adults lifting their voices and playing their instruments for the glory of God, I cannot help but think of the fact that there are millions around the world each Sabbath praising the Lord in their own way. When we come to church, we come together.

God knew we would need each other for support, encouragement, accountability, stabilization and camaraderie.

What I received in the weeks following Isaiah’s seizure was exactly what my family needed.

That is the greatest thing we can offer as a church. Jesus provides the forgiveness, the Holy Spirit provides the direction, and the church provides the community. We need to be perceptive of what our fellow church members need, I believe. In order to accomplish that, we need to intentionally seek those who are depressed, struggling financially or are in need of someone to talk to. If we can reach these people in our community of faith, there will be a strong presence of the love of God among us.

Even as we labor to bring individuals to Christ, it is vital to show them what a blessing it is to be a part of a congregation. People around our communities will find our fellowship irresistible if we are able to meet their spiritual and emotional needs. We ought to be thinking about what we can do to help our neighbors in their times of need.

My family’s recent traumatic experience led me to better recognize the role of the church. We all need each other in order to experience more fully the love of God. Thanks to our Lord, we have a vibrant, healthy little boy now. And thanks to the people who helped us, our perspective will forever be changed.

Thank you, church family, for your support, and I will do what I can in order to support you.

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Michael Paradiase recently graduated from the Seminary at Andrews University with a Master of Divinity degree. He is now a young adult pastor for the College View Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Prior to graduation, he served two years as worship coordinator for Pioneer Memorial Church. Michael has been married to Alana for six years; their son, Isaiah, is three-and-a-half years old.

## Why Don't You Understand?

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

**W**e often find ourselves at odds with those whom we care about the most. Sometimes we don't understand someone just because we aren't really listening. Sometimes we don't understand because we really don't want to. And sometimes we don't understand because, although we speak the same language, we use different thinking styles (the ways we process information). Understanding how your own, your family members', and your friends' and colleagues' thinking styles differ can smooth communication and help solve problems.

Let's consider the four thinking styles explained by Susie Walter in her book, *Why Don't You Understand?* Think which may be easiest for you:

- Logical style thinkers focus on facts, want a logical reason based on data to do things, like to use numbers, manage money and have a clear bottom line.
- Practical style people get things done, like orderly instructions, make detailed plans, and are reliable, neat and organized.
- Relational individuals focus on maintaining relationships, being supportive and seeing that everyone's needs are met. They value conversations that are meaningful and even intimate.
- Creative style thinkers connect things in original ways, are willing to take risks, are imaginative, and can be spontaneous and flexible.

Most of us have one or two preferred styles, perhaps biologically programmed. All four are good, strong, helpful and necessary for clear problem solving and healthful living. Each has a negative side if it is carelessly exaggerated or rigidly overdone.

Let's consider, briefly, how these styles are evident when parents provide discipline: When using a healthy perspective, the logical parent holds firm limits and gives clear directions. The practical parent explains how to do things with a step-by-step approach and develops ways to track progress on goals (having a sticker chart, for example). The creative parent uses humor appropriately to lighten things up and makes everyday chores and tasks fun. The relational parent encourages effort and improvement—not just results—and notices and gives attention to positive behavior, avoiding giving negative attention.

The logical parent may yell and threaten, is rigid and rarely negotiates. They debate, trying to convince rather than discuss an issue. The practical parent may resist necessary changes, forget to make fun and playing with children a priority, struggle with do-

ing “messy” children's activities, and is overly responsible, taking over children's responsibilities. The creative parent can be inconsistent and make too many exceptions, may minimize children's negative behavior, and avoid holding children accountable for their behavior. The relational parent may try to negotiate everything rather than hold firm on issues of health, safety and respect; use emotions to manipulate; and can't stand children being sad or mad, giving in to relieve their own uncomfortable feelings.

No style is better than another, but it's important to recognize the different styles in others and adapt to them. Then, we are less likely to assume we are right and others are wrong. As parents, when we differ in our thinking we can compromise on approaches that respect the preferences of one another and our children. In this way, we can show respect for each family member's preference, learn to recognize and speak each other's languages, avoid misunderstandings and recrimination, and communicate effectively.

I am reminded of Ellen White's statement, “It is in the order of God that persons of varied temperament should associate together. When this is the case, each member of the household should sacredly regard the feelings and respect the rights of others. By this means mutual consideration and forbearance will be cultivated, prejudices will be softened, and rough points of character smoothed. Harmony may be secured, and the blending of the varied temperaments may be a benefit to each” (*The Adventist Home*, p. 427).

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Susan Murray is a professor emeritus of behavioral sciences at Andrews University, and she is a certified family life educator and a licensed marriage and family therapist.

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For further reading: Weller, Susie Leonard. *Why Don't You Understand?: Improve Family Communication with the Four Thinking Styles*. Parenting Press: Seattle, Washington (2009).

Blueberries may help keep you mentally younger.

## Blueberries: Big on Health

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Blueberries may reduce colon cancer risk.

**B**lueberries stand out in the marketplace since blue is not all that common among fruits and vegetables. But blueberries not only provide rich color, they are also big on health. Native to North America, blueberries belong to the heath family which also includes cranberries, azaleas and rhododendrons.

Blueberries range in size from a small pea up to about one-half inch in diameter. When ripe, the berries range in color from blue to maroon to dark-bluish purple. The skin surrounds a semi-transparent flesh that contains tiny seeds. Cultivated berries have a mildly sweet taste when mature, while wild blueberries are a little tart and have a tangy flavor. Wild blueberry bushes are normally smaller species and are known as low-bush blueberries.



berries, these compounds play a role in protecting against certain cancers and cardiovascular disease—and may slow cognitive decline in aging. Blueberries may help keep you mentally younger. Diets rich in blueberries can significantly improve both the learning capacity and motor skills of aging animals.

Eating blueberries may reduce the risk of colon and other cancers. Blueberries contain a variety of polyphenolic flavonoids such as pterostilbene, anthocyanins, ellagic acid, kaempferol and resveratrol, which block metabolic pathways that can lead to cancer and inhibit cancer cell proliferation. Levels in wild blueberries do exceed the values found in commercial high-bush species.

Blueberries can be consumed fresh, dried or frozen, or they can be processed into jelly, jam or pies. Blueberries are also commonly added to muffins, cereals and snack food items. Blueberries have virtually no fat and are very low in calories. With only 80 calories per cup of berries, they make a delicious dessert. They contain good levels of vitamins C and K, and manganese. They are a good source of soluble fiber and have a low glycemic index. This makes them a good fruit for those with diabetes. They also contain a good level of the carotenoids lutein and zeaxanthin, which are necessary for good eye health. Regular consumption of blueberries and other fruits rich in these carotenoids can lower your risk of age-related macular degeneration, the primary cause of vision loss in older adults.

Blueberries contain the same pigments found in cranberries that help prevent or reduce urinary tract infections. These pigments reduce the ability of *E. coli* bacteria to adhere to the mucosal lining of the urinary tract.

The anthocyanins in blueberries, which give the berries their reddish-blue color, possess anti-inflammatory properties and are powerful antioxidants preventing free radical damage in cells. Along with many other antioxidants in blue-

berries, these compounds play a role in protecting against certain cancers and cardiovascular disease—and may slow cognitive decline in aging. Blueberries may help keep you mentally younger. Diets rich in blueberries can significantly improve both the learning capacity and motor skills of aging animals.

Animal research has shown that blueberries may also help to lower blood lipids and maintain normal blood pressure levels. The anthocyanins help blood vessels relax, and increase production of nitric oxide essential for blood pressure regulation. Feeding blueberries to animals lowered brain damage in experimental stroke. With dried and frozen blueberries available, one can eat blueberries all year long.

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



# EXTREME GRACE

## What More Could I Want?

BY DICK DUERKSEN

This Sabbath there's a 900-person baptism beside a leaky Zambian swimming pool, and for one man this is a personal victory party.

Stain Musungaila has three jobs. He is an executive with Sun Hotels—Zambia, a husband and father, and a layman in the Falls View Church. Today's baptism is a celebration of his third job, the one that consumes much of his time and heart.

"Let me tell you how it works," Stain says. "Every morning I wake up at 5:30 and pray for about 45 minutes. I ask Jesus to direct me to someone I should talk with that day. My to-do list comes from my prayer."

A group of more than 50 people crowds around Stain at the baptism. His wife and children are with him, hugging soggy new members and singing victory songs.

"It's not easy to find the people God wants me to find," Stain says, "but I search for them every day. Sometimes I go back to their house three, four or even six times before they let me start Bible studies in their home. After the second study, they always begin inviting neighbors; and before you know it, we have a new church in the neighborhood!"

Stain's family is now planting their fourth new church in Zambia.

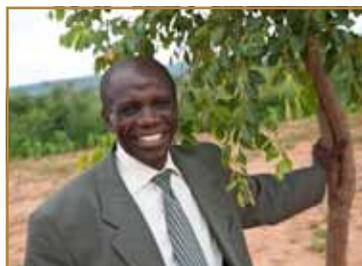
Stain has not always lived this way. When he graduated from high school, he knew nothing about God and had no interest in the "poor, foolish people who needed religion."

His philosophy of life was simple: "I lived to make money, and thought if you didn't have money you were just lazy."

Stain successfully begged a job in a cruise ship's catering department, worked hard and for several years sailed the world as the Culinary Catering boss.

In 1981, Stain returned to Zambia and became the food and beverage manager for a chain of five-star resorts. "I flew all over the country," he remembers. "With just a phone call, anything could be on my plate."

He never even thought of church. That was only for foolish, poor people.



Stain Musungaila

Dick Duerksen

Traveling home with a terrible hangover one day, he stopped at a hotel and walked in on an evangelistic crusade.

"A big choir was singing, 'There's power in the blood of Jesus!' I had never heard any such thing. Then a doctor presented about high blood pressure and food. She was talking about *my job!* What kind of church is this, I

thought, *that talks about my job?*"

At home, Stain picked up one of his wife's books, *Back to Eden*, and read it three times. This, too, was about his job!

"I asked my wife if the book had something to do with the church she attended sometimes. She said, 'Yes,' and took me to church the next Sabbath.

"It was like I was the only person there, and every word was for me! I was so excited that we went for eight straight Sabbaths. Then I joined the baptism class and stayed there for three-and-a-half years."

During those years, Stain was changing completely. He gave up cigars, whiskey and everything else God told him to get rid of. "All I learned," he says, "was only one thing. Obedience. So, by God's grace, I obeyed."

Obedience had catastrophic results. Within three months he lost everything except his family, his Bible and a pair of sandals.

Down to "nothing," Stain listened even closer and "obeyed" even better. One day God gave him a new job where he could be part of his dream church, "under a tree."

"I wanted a church that was not under a roof. Maybe I could help in a small church.

"Look," Stain declares from beside the baptismal pool, "I have seen all this world has. Now I only want to go where I find souls being won for Jesus. This excites me!

I am going to Heaven, what more could I want here?"

Dick Duerksen is the "official storyteller" through words and pictures for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact the author at [duerksen@maranatha.org](mailto:duerksen@maranatha.org).

# Jesus, Man of Prayer

BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.* — Mark 1:35

**P**rayer was absolutely central to everything in Jesus' life. E.M. Bounds says of Jesus, "Prayer was the secret of His power, the law of His life, the inspiration of His toil, and the source of His wealth, His joy, His communion, and His strength."

In some ways it is surprising to think that prayer was necessary for Jesus. After all, He is the Son of God, the very One who today hears and answers our prayers. But prayer was necessary for Jesus during the days of His ministry on Earth because He was truly human and shared wholly in our humanity, except that He did not sin. In taking our limitations on Himself, He accepted even the limitation of depending on the Father and having to communicate with God in prayer.

Jesus clearly loved to pray. For Him it was a lifestyle. He prayed at every major milestone of His life. Jesus prayed at moments of joy (Luke 10:21) and when His heart was troubled (John 12:27–28). He gained victories in advance through prayer (John 11:41–42) and averted temptation after His victories through prayer (John 6:15). He prayed so much that He had a reputation as a man of prayer (Matthew 19:13).

Jesus' prayer life was full of variety. He prayed early in the morning, at the end of a long day and often in between. He prayed in solitary places, on mountainsides, in the wilderness, in a garden and indoors. One time He is described as kneeling in prayer (Luke 22:41), at another time prostrate (Matthew 26:39) and at another time standing with eyes fixed on Heaven (John 11:41). He prayed in private (Luke 9:18) and in public (John 11:41–42).

Jesus also knew how to listen in prayer. In John 7:16 He says, "My teaching ... comes from Him who sent me." And later He noted that the Father commanded Him "What to say and how to say it," and that whatever He said was just what the Father had told Him to say (John 12:49–50).

Jesus' prayer life did not end with His earthly journey.

Today, He "is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us" (Romans 8:34). And "because He always lives to intercede" for us, He is able to save us completely (Hebrews 7:25).

Do you want to be like Jesus? Then learn to pray like Jesus! There is no better way to pray.

## Reflect

If someone wrote a brief history of your life, would prayer be a prominent theme in it? Consider what areas of your prayer life most need improving if you are to become more like Jesus.

What kind of priority do you think Jesus wants prayer to have in your life?

## Pray

*Praise* Jesus for modeling a strong, positive pattern of prayer for us.

*Confess* any shortcoming in prayer that you are aware of by comparing your prayer life to that of Jesus.

*Thank* the Holy Spirit for His ability and willingness to purify our prayers and to help us when we don't know how to pray very well (Romans 8:26).

*Ask* Christ for the grace to pray as He prayed.

## Act

Read and meditate on the Scripture passages referenced in today's devotional reading. As you read each reference, ask the Lord what He wants you to learn from it and to take into your own prayer life.

Alvin J. VanderGriend is co-founder of the Denominational Prayer Leaders Network and currently serves as evangelism associate for Harvest Prayer Ministries in Terre Haute, Indiana. This article is an excerpt from his book, *Love to Pray*. Reprinted with permission.

## Reaching Urban Youth

BY DIANE THURBER

According to the National Study of Youth and Religion, only 36 percent of Black Protestant youth claim to attend church service weekly. Absence of religion in the lives of urban young people often leads to teen pregnancy, gang violence and drug abuse.

Believing the low percentage reported is a result of outdated and ineffective resources, and a traditional approach to ministry in a nontraditional environment, a new grassroots nonprofit ministry was organized in 2010: Elijah3 Ministries. Leaders of this new ministry desire to bring the gospel to urban youth and young adults with culturally relevant ministry resources, according to Muta Mwenya, executive director. These resources include Bible study curriculums, gospel tracts, video productions, music, training and workshops. Pastors and other ministry leaders volunteer to conceptualize, write and edit ministry resources.

“To catch different kinds of fish, you need different kinds of bait. I believe Elijah3 is breaking through to an unreached group, which is urban youth,” said Jason C. North, pastor, Emmanuel Praise Center, Lake Region Conference.

“It used to be that young people had a healthy fear of God back in the day; now you have influential rappers telling our youth that ‘Jesus can’t save you, life starts when the church ends,’” stated Hayward Penny III, founder, Elijah3 Ministries, quoting lyrics by Jay-Z, an urban rapper also known as Jay H.O.V.A. “Elijah3 is a call for young people to return to the faith.”

Elijah3 Ministries believes in a three-prong approach: INSPIRE youth to gain a deeper understanding of the Bible and develop their faith; EQUIP them with training and resources to evangelize; and encourage youth to TRANSFORM their local churches, schools and communities.

Muta has a personal interest in this ministry. “I grew up in the church, but in my teenage years walked away from the faith. I dropped out of high school and was involved in gangs, selling drugs, sexual promiscuity and even faced jail time.” He later “cleaned up,” graduated from college and enjoyed a success-



Muta Mwenya (center), Elijah3 Ministries executive director, now works full-time reaching urban youth. “God has shown me that this is where He wants me at this point in my life.”

ful career in business. Muta started a small ministry at the Highland Avenue Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Not finding relevant urban ministry materials, he developed new resources. Muta soon heard the voice of Jesus calling him to join Elijah3 Ministries. He now works full-time with the ministry, uncompensated. “God has shown me that this is where He wants me at this point in my life, and I have peace knowing I am submitting to His will,” Muta stated. “This has been a faith journey for me. I finally get to utilize all my expertise and experience in this organization.”

A newly developed resource produced by Elijah3 Ministries is a gospel tract, “Who Is God?” This tract will be accompanied by an 8-week “Who Is God?” Bible study curriculum, which Muta has been using in a small youth group. He says, “Their enthusiasm to learn more about the Bible and how they can grow their faith has been wonderful.” Recently, all but one stepped forward to request additional Bible study, so now Muta conducts a weekly study in his home with urban youth.

Terrence Woods, 17, attends Muta’s weekly study. He said, “I think it’s a great way to learn about God. It makes it very interesting to me. It helps me to realize how the Bible relates to my life.”

For additional information about Elijah3 Ministries, visit [www.Elijah3.com](http://www.Elijah3.com). The “Who Is God?” tract is available free in limited quantities to those involved in urban youth ministry. Larger quantities can be ordered through the ministry’s online store, Engage: <http://engage.elijah3.com>. Also available is a free digital music EP entitled, “Eleventh Hour: Watchman Edition,” by Elijah3 artist Rogelio David, also known as Odd Insyte.

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



## ¿Qué es FE?

POR CARMELO MERCADO

*La fe es lo que HACES cuando CREES. De esa manera es importante PRIMERO, ¡CREER!*—José Vicente Rojas

Para el artículo de este mes invité a Sabas Salgado, presidente de la Federación de Sociedades de Jóvenes Adventistas (FeSJA) de la Asociación de Illinois, para que diera un informe de la convención de líderes de jóvenes que se llevó a cabo en el mes de junio.

Durante los días 3 al 5 de junio del año 2011 la revista *Gente Joven*, dirigida por el pastor Sergio Torres (“El Padrino” de Liderazgo Juvenil) en asociación con el pastor Carmelo Mercado, realizó un fin de semana de capacitación, motivación y movilización para líderes de jóvenes bilingües.



*Jóvenes asisten a la convención de Gente Joven en la Academia Andrews.*

Alrededor de 350 líderes jóvenes, la mayor parte de ellos adolescentes, se reunieron para escuchar y aprender de los líderes más dinámicos y llenos de experiencia en este ministerio juvenil. “El Padrino” formó un equipo compuesto de oradores llenos del Espíritu Santo de todo el país, quienes tuvieron presentaciones impactantes, por ejemplo Manny Cruz, Director Asociado de la División Norteamericana; Richard Guerrero, pastor de la iglesia “The Vineyard” en Orlando, Florida; Annie Pérez, doctora en psicología y profesora adjunta en la Universidad de Phoenix; Alvin Payne, pastor y director de Playground (PG) Ministries. Estos y muchos más equiparon a nuestros jóvenes líderes. Además, el pastor José Vicente Rojas tuvo tres poderosas presentaciones que sin duda dejaron huellas en los corazones y mentes de los participantes.

Los días comenzaban a las 6:44 de la mañana con Salsa Picante (tiempo de alimentación del alma y fortaleza del espíritu). Escuchábamos música de alabanza dirigida por Sebastián Zaldívar, un concierto por Calls of Worship o interpretaciones de Denar Almonte, y terminaban cerca de la media noche con los Conciertos Nocturnos de Amner Fernández que resultaron muy divertidos.

Es la primera vez que se realiza en esta Unión una convención dirigida por nuestros jóvenes líderes bilingües. Al usar la expresión “líder juvenil bilingüe”, enfatizo la palabra bilingüe, pues encuentro que es un reto gigantesco el estar preparado o equipado para atender las necesidades de jóvenes como yo, que nacimos en este país de padres emigrantes, crecimos con dos

idiomas y dos culturas, hablamos Spanglish, y nos sentimos, a veces, fuera de lugar.

Nuestros jóvenes aman a Dios, creen y tienen fe en él y desean hacer su obra. Yo presencié ese fin de semana la manera en que los jóvenes adoraban de todo corazón y con mucha alegría a nuestro Salvador. Vi cuánto deseaban aprender y equiparse para realizar esta obra. Ellos forman el ejército que llevará a cabo el cumplimiento del mandato de Jesucristo. Les pido a los adultos: POR FAVOR—NO DETENGAN A LOS JÓVENES. Aunque ellos tengan ideas que a veces parezcan diferentes, denle su apoyo total. Aunque ellos demuestren su fe en maneras que a los adultos les resulten no acostumbradas o simplemente extrañas, apóyenlos.

Éste es el plan ideal de Dios; así lo ha diseñado. Y este fin de semana me ha ayudado a entender que para llevar a cabo este ministerio juvenil bilingüe, se necesita mucho amor, comprensión, fe, y sobre todo, creer. Creer que Dios puede alcanzar y utilizar a cada joven para su gloria y creer que el joven desea servir a Dios; al Dios que entiende español e inglés; al Dios del Spanglish.

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

# Jesus. All.

FOR THE ONE

BY JAPHET DE OLIVEIRA

I was probably about eight years old the first time I read Ellen White's vision of Jesus, the one in which He appeared in her room and assured her of her call. I used to pray a prayer every night, begging Jesus to come into my room and let me see Him, too. No words, just a quick glimpse. I cried myself to sleep quite a few nights simply hoping. I knew that I loved Jesus, and I wanted to be with Him. I didn't know it was called "being a disciple"; I just knew I wanted Jesus in my life.

I spent the summer before I turned ten assisting my dad as a colporteur in Scotland. It would come as no shock then, that when my parents asked me later that fall what I would love for my tenth birthday I replied, "Can I have my own copy of the *Confrontation*?" It was actually *The Great Controversy*, just with a new funky cover and title. I think, in my life, I have probably seen it re-branded at least a zillion times.

Following my family tradition and training, I took the book with ruler and pen and started to underline everything that was important. I was 50 pages in before I realized I had underlined every sentence. It was insane! I could not keep it up, plus it defeated the point of highlighting extra-significant portions. The book was phenomenal; it

scared the life out of me. And at the same time, it helped me continue to find Jesus. I really wanted to follow Jesus; I really wanted to know how I was going to survive the last days.

I think I was 12 years old when my public school English teacher, Mrs. Edge, asked us to submit an essay about "The spoiling of your best day." It did not take me long to decide Sabbath was my best day. Of all the ways that day could be spoiled, the one that I chose involved 666, the Mark of the Beast, Sunday laws, and even a picture of the Pope's crown, with the inscription "*Vicarius Filii Dei*." After all, when the Sunday Law is enforced, my Sabbath will be spoiled. I remember handing it in to Mrs. Edge with pride. That lasted

To place for the first time in a long time Jesus first, family second and work third; to realize we are not alone but stand side by side with so many who love Jesus first—that’s my Church.

until I saw her at the supermarket a while later and noticed she walked the other way; she looked at me petrified. I really was trying to follow Jesus.

Through my teen years, my passion to serve Jesus was not diminished. I dreamed of being a missionary or a pastor working in Africa or South America. This passion grew to the point that, when I was 16, I broke up with my girlfriend. And I know you won’t believe me, but I did it because her complexion was like the classic English rose. I thought, *How would she survive in the sun and heat of the equator?* I was going to follow Jesus, and no person or thing could get in the way. It was a bizarre conversation which involved a lot of “Really? No, seriously, are you hiding something?” Totally embarrassing. I had placed Jesus into a little box and was apparently content limiting Him.

At 20 years old, I was studying at Newbold College preparing myself to be a youth pastor one day. A new professor joined the faculty: Gunnar Pedersen, a Dane by birth but a real follower of Jesus by his new birth. He opened up the Sanctuary teachings and revealed Jesus. He quoted the Gospels and *Steps to Christ* in practically every breath. He was following Jesus, and he wanted us to experience the same thing.

It was July 2009, and the International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, loomed overhead. I had practically camped out at the Center for Youth Evangelism office for the past two months as we worked on the final elements to bring to life the witness of Esther in every part of the evening program. I stopped by my local medical practice for a quick physical, and that’s when Daniel Reichert, my physician, noticed a small lump in my neck. Within the next three weeks, I had all the scans and biopsies. A phone call that arrived the Monday before the International Camporee explained it was thyroid cancer, and it was alive. I am sure my physician used many more technical terms that I had to have Google translate for me. It was surreal. Thankfully, because I was too busy during the following weeks, it

did not really sink in. They cut most of it out and zapped me with radiation (again, I am sure there are more appropriate technical terms here). I sensed death creeping at my door. For the first time in my life, I did not feel invincible anymore.

Sure, I can share countless times when Jesus held me through disasters and wonderful miracles; but in the back of my mind, I always had the thought, *I am still alive. I have my body and my mind, and I will conquer and overcome it this time.* But now this was a new day!

A month later, I met the senior pastor for Walla Walla University Church, Alex Bryan. He was the keynote speaker for the Week of Spiritual Emphasis at Andrews University. Thursday afternoon, September 17, 2009, we sat together enjoying some Japanese food and talking for hours about life and Jesus. That was the start of multiple conversations leading to our first mini-gathering. Alex and I later invited Tim Gillespie, Sam Leonor and Terry Swenson to join us in Denver for two days. The earliest date we were all free was July 18–19, 2010!

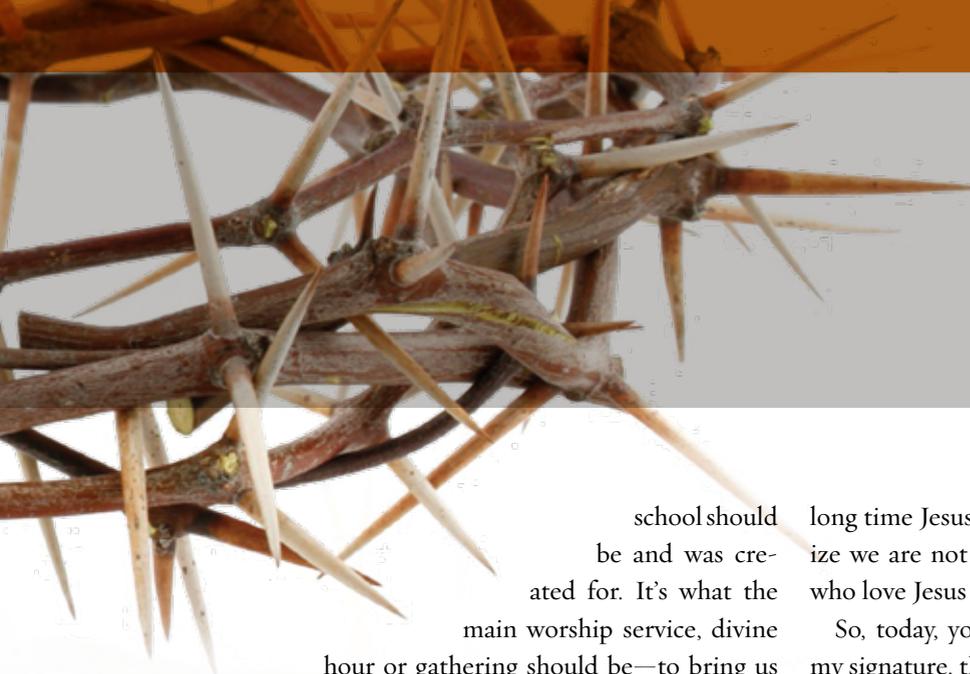
I read quite a few books in preparation for this meeting. Simon Sinek’s book, *Start with Why*, was a clear conversation starter. Sinek proposed that all successful companies have a good answer for the “why” before they even consider the “how” and “what.” I saw the parallel in John 3:16, where God clearly articulates His “why” first:

**Why** — God so loved the world

**How** — that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him

**What** — should not perish but have eternal life

Those two days were filled with laughter, tears, prayers, honest and fresh conversation, communion and anointing. My personal “why” and our collective “why” was and is Jesus. The strength of a community gathering together can never be underestimated. It’s one of the reasons I go to church. I also learn in community. I live in community. We were created to be community—for each other. It’s what Sabbath



school should be and was created for. It's what the main worship service, divine hour or gathering should be—to bring us closer to Jesus by listening to each other. Following Jesus has so many options, so many different walks. I crave to hear yours as we add to each other.

I have a mantra for my life that has been tugging at my heart for so long. I use it when I train youth or young adult leaders: “For the One,” based on the passage in Luke dealing with the lost coin, sheep and son. It was the late Jim Cress who preached a sermon many years ago in my church and showed how Jesus’ heart is for us to connect everyone, no matter what path they have chosen. I really believe that all we do is for the One, Jesus, and for the one who is finding their path with Jesus. So, during those two days in Denver full of spiritual renewal and commitment, we vowed among the five of us to gather every year and remind ourselves in community of Jesus first. It was in that hotel room in Denver that the five of us dreamed up the One Project. Tim Gillespie came up with the tag line, “Jesus. All.” It’s so simple, yet incredibly deep. The implications are far-reaching for myself, or anyone, to truly admit. Jesus. All.

I can’t even remember how many people I called or e-mailed and invited during the next few months, since I wanted everyone to experience the same thing I had just gone through in Denver with four brothers in Jesus. All I know is that between us we had 172 people traveling from Australia, Europe and North America to Atlanta, February 6–8.

Honestly, we did not know what exactly was going to happen next! We asked everyone to read the four Gospels and *The Desire of Ages*. What took place during those two days superseded Denver completely. For myself, I quite needed it. It’s hard to describe what it meant for me to earnestly recall my first love for Jesus. To place for the first time in a

long time Jesus first, family second and work third; to realize we are not alone but stand side by side with so many who love Jesus first—that’s my Church.

So, today, you will see at the bottom of my e-mails, in my signature, the phrase, “For the One,” since I still believe that is what I am about. But, I have also found a new place to be with others who believe and are willing to take time out—not over a weekend, but two weekdays a year. Leaders from all walks of life, of all ages and depths, with the purpose to celebrate the supremacy of Jesus in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. After all, we have one life, one gathering, one Jesus. Come join us in Finland, Seattle or Sydney. For more information, visit [www.the1project.org](http://www.the1project.org).

Below are just a few quotes from those who joined us in Atlanta earlier this year:

“Thanks for spearheading a great gathering. We were very blessed and encouraged. As a result, we are changing our sermon topics for most of the year. We are going to be focusing on some of the topics covered at the meeting and then heading into the Gospel of John for most of the year. After the meeting, we were all convicted we need to have our people more in the Word—specifically the gospel.”—*David Achata*

“I am so encouraged that my Adventist family wants to lift up Jesus as ALL—His supremacy in our midst is our salvation and hope. He is the only One worthy, and this project will honor Him and the Adventist Church as we unite to glorify our Savior.”—*Chris Bullock*

“I am praying for all the leaders that God would bless your works and gifts to bring forth the faith expression that this generation needs to fill the world with the love of Christ. Pray for me that I may be strong enough through Christ to do whatever He has for me. That, above all, God’s will in my life, would be ultimate.”—*Tyler Cantrell*

“It [has] been more than a week since our gathering in Atlanta, and the blessing is still with me. And that’s because more than experiencing some kind of conference

# I am so encouraged that my Adventist family wants to lift up Jesus as ALL—His supremacy in our midst is our salvation and hope. He is the only One worthy.

super high, I encountered the love and heard the voice of Christ afresh. It has changed my heart. Thanks for inviting me; but, more importantly, thanks for being obedient to the Spirit and creating a space for us [to] remove the clutter and give our undivided attention to the One. Jesus. All.”—*David B. Franklin*

“I took away a strong desire to have a better relationship with Jesus Christ. I want to attend Sabbath school now.”—*Erin Hotelling*

“Never let the urgent crowd out the important—the motto I chose when I started ministry. But it’s hard, and sometimes I look around and look forward to when I’ll get to what’s important. The One gathering in Atlanta reminded me that Jesus is ‘what’s’ important, and nothing is too urgent to make Him wait. I pray that I will be better at making that real in my ministry and in my personal life as well. Looking forward to Finland and Seattle. I know He will make sure we have stories to share when we get there. Jesus. All.”—*Thomas Rasmussen*

“I chose to attend the One Project because I truly believed that Jesus was working in the lives of its leaders. I wanted to be a part of that; I saw it as a chance to see Jesus in a new light. After going and experiencing Jesus as my All, I will never look at Christianity the same. I truly have a friend in Jesus, how amazing is that!”—*Leah Rodriguez*

“When our faith, mission and personal lives are centered and oriented on Jesus, we can joyfully anticipate the One who is coming. It is my hope and desire that more and more local churches may be transformed into real “Jesus communities.” I believe that the One Project may encourage and facilitate such a move. Be blessed, and I praise God for the many gifts you have!”—*Stephan Sigg*

“The One Project brought me to the throne room of Jesus where I saw His awesomeness, power and unmerited free grace!! It was where the Holy Spirit showed up and showed out. Where Elohim was praised!!!”—*Cheonmeth Strickland*

“In Atlanta, at the One Project, we spent time at a gathering—discussing, conversing and rediscovering a Friend: Jesus. Because He is all, because He paid it all, all to Him I must give. I realized that I want [the me I am today] to be completely destroyed, to become a me that I do not recognize, and to live completely for Jesus. My career path is of little consequence. The call is still the same—the burden for sinners, the devotion to Jesus, and a commitment to prayer. Because, well, Jesus. Is. All.”—*Keren Toms*

“The One Project was a refreshing experience to witness—Seventh-day Adventists of all different ages, from all over the world, coming together with the intention of unifying over one important love we all share: Jesus Christ. My husband and I found it invigorating to hear genuine testimonies of faith and passion, as we were inspired to make an effort in our own lives to reflect a Christ-centered faith to the world.”—*Brittany Woods*

“It was wonderful to spend time dreaming and worshiping with kindred spirits. The conference as a whole put a lot of hope in my heart for our church, and I know it did the same for numerous friends.”—*Zane Yi*

“It was an incredible blessing to be in Atlanta. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve with you and the rest of the team. I plan to be at every gathering possible. Celebrating the supremacy and centrality of Christ is not like other ministry ideas (great as they may be). The One Project is simply affirming the way things are, whether or not we recognize them as such. Thank you for your leadership in helping our church get on board with the reality of God’s kingdom. I have no doubt that Christ will use [the One Project] to change our church. He’s already used it to change me.”—*Nick Zork*

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# They Heard a Voice

J E S U S   I N   A D V E N T I S T   H I S T O R Y

BY SAM LEONOR

*This article is adapted from one of seven presentations at The One Project in Atlanta, February 7, 8. —Editors*

**T**he earliest record of Adventist history is in Genesis 1. The supremacy and authority of Jesus is evident in the Creation story. He spoke, “Let there be light,” and the result was immediate—there was light. The Creation story begins and ends with His voice. “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth,’” and here we are (see Genesis 1:28).

So that’s the earliest record of our Adventist history, and I think we should always begin there.

Later, the Beloved Disciple, John, described the coming of God to the world by saying, “The Word,” this same Word, through and by whom we were made, “became one of us.” And then this Word, Jesus with us, began to call us. His voice began to call us—ordinary men and women. He said to them, “Come,” and He says to us, “Come, follow Me.”

He didn’t then, and He doesn’t now, call people to follow a religion, a denomination, a congregation, a preacher, a cause or a movement. He calls them to Himself.

Matthew 4:19–21 (NIV) reads, “‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men.’ ... At once ...” See, this is what’s so cool, “At once,” it’s like an instinctive reaction. It’s like they knew, they recognized, they obeyed. They knew that Voice. “At once they left their nets and fol-

lowed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John.”

They were in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. Jesus called them “and immediately,” there it is again, “and immediately they left the boat, and their father, and followed Him.”

Before they behaved right, before they believed right, they recognized a Voice and they knew—this Man, I will follow. I will belong to Him. All they had was Jesus. They left everything behind. All they had was Jesus. They didn’t know where they were going, what they were being called to. They weren’t sure who He was, but they were attracted to this Person. They recognized something in Him.

Paul, when he was called, it went something like this (see Acts 9): “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

Paul says, “Who are you?”

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”



His transformation was so incredible that Paul writes to the Corinthians, “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2 NIV).

And then, from prison, his body broken from years of beatings, stonings, lashings, etc., Paul writes to the Philippians as he is about to die, “And my God will meet all of your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19 NIV). We have all we need!

This past summer there was an exhibit of Jean-Léon Gérôme’s work at The J. Paul Getty Museum. I took my kids, and we were walking around looking at this art. Suddenly, we came around a corner and there it was, “The Christian Martyr’s Last Prayer.” I fell apart at the Getty, weeping. It’s so painful. I looked into the faces of the people, the Christians who are about to die, and there’s a girl about my daughter’s age. I kept thinking, *What were they hearing at that moment? What could they see?* I believe they heard a Voice, and the Voice was the voice of Jesus saying, “You have all you need. You have Me.”

The Reformers heard a Voice. So many of them were burned at the stake and died horrible deaths. One example is Jan Hus (also known as John Huss) who led the Reformation Movement in what is now the Czech Republic, where the Reformation actually failed. During his trial, Jan was about to be burned at the stake and was offered a way out. “You know, do it our way and things will turn out okay.”

During his rebuttal, Jan quoted Paul: “God will meet all my needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.”

“When the body of Huss had been wholly consumed, his ashes, with the soil upon which they rested, were gathered up and cast into the Rhine, and thus borne onward to the

ocean, his persecutors vainly imagined that they had rooted out the truths he preached. Little did they dream that the ashes that day borne away to the sea were to be as seed scattered in all the countries of the earth; that in lands yet unknown it would yield abundant fruit in witnesses for the truth” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 110). You cannot bury the truth!

William Miller heard a Voice, he recognized the Voice and he followed It. While studying the Bible he concluded, “I had to admit that the scriptures must be a revelation from God. They became my delight and in Jesus I found a Friend.” Of Jesus he said, “God opened my eyes and what a Savior I discovered Jesus to be. My sins fell from my soul. The Bible spoke of Jesus. He was on every page.”

So, William gathered his people and his followers on October 22, 1844. And on that day they did not have the Sabbath. They did not have the Trinity. We were heretics for years! We didn’t have the State of the Dead. We didn’t have rules about pork, coffee, gluten, soy, cheese, chicken, beef. We didn’t have Blue Zones. We didn’t have conferences or unions or divisions or the General Conference. Before Ellen White had her first vision, we were about one thing. We had an all-consuming, irrepressible, irresistible, overpowering, radical desire to be with Jesus.

“Although I have been twice disappointed, I am not yet cast down or discouraged. I have fixed my mind upon another time and here I mean to stand until God gives me more light; and that is today, today, today until He comes and I see Him for whom my soul yearns,” William said. He did not speak about streets of gold, friendly lions, mansions and crowns; His soul yearned for Jesus—for the One.

What does our soul yearn for? As a people, as Adventists, what do we yearn for?



We can argue all we want about 1888, but I think two guys, Ellet J. Waggoner and Alonzo T. Jones, heard a Voice and they were right about one thing. They were right about Jesus. While we were still confused about the nature of Jesus. We were still Arianists. Ellen White called their message “a most precious message. A message that was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Savior—the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in surety and invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ.” Ellen heard the Voice! She’d been hearing It, but here things got serious for her and she recognized It. The next couple of years she began to point out that the Church was more focused on herself than on Jesus. The brethren didn’t like this. For that and other reasons she was sent down under to Australia to encourage the work. She was already in her 60s, and the average life expectancy for a woman in the 1890s was mid-60s.

They exiled her. They tried to silence her, but you cannot silence truth. She was ill. She had a hard time adjusting to the culture. She was homesick.

William Warren Prescott visited her. William shows up at a camp meeting in Melbourne, Australia, and something happened to her while he preached. William explained that a change had come to him like a personal revelation—like a person speaking to him. He no longer believed that the thing to do was to prove the doctrines, to simply demonstrate their truthfulness. Doctrines needed to be presented as the gospel rightly understood. They should grow out of a belief in Jesus Christ as the living Savior. Adventists, he believed, needed a total re-orientation of their belief structure. Christ must be the center of everything.

They used to publish sermons from camp meetings. The brethren refused to publish this one. They felt it was

too controversial. But this sermon series so effected Ellen that with Marian Davis and William at her side, she began to compile work she had been putting together from the 1850s, sensing it was time for *The Desire of Ages*.

In 1895, the General Conference was practically begging her to come back. She said, “No.” The main reason given was that she was in financial problems. But I think it’s because now she had all she needed. She had Jesus. It took Stephen N. Haskell to convince her to come home to help with some pressing issues.

*The Desire of Ages* book had such an effect on us. For one thing, this line on page 530, “For in Christ there is life eternal, unborrowed,” finally settled the Arianist question. Carlyle B. Haynes preached at the 1926 General Conference Session, “The inmost central glory of the gospel therefore is not a great truth nor a great message nor a great movement, but a great person. It is Jesus Christ Himself. Without Him there could be no gospel. He came, not so much as to declare a message, but rather that there might be a message to proclaim. He Himself was and is the message, not His teachings, but He Himself constituted Christianity.” That’s us! You can’t bury the truth!

Blanca Pol is 101 years old. She loves Jesus so much. She didn’t finish high school. Never read Barth, Moltmann, Schaeffer, Lucado. She loves Jesus so much that she heard His Voice; and in 1934, she went to Antonio and Josefa Rivera’s house. Antonio was a poor carpenter; and while listening to Blanca, he and his wife heard the Voice, too, and they followed. They were my grandparents. In 1972, my parents—crazy people—went to Nicaragua to work in developing healthcare missions. I told my dad—once I learned about things, about history... I told him, “You were nuts! In 1972, Central America was in the middle of a civil



war. There were people dying on our campus. There were bullets flying around. What were you thinking?”

And he simply says, every time I ask him this question, “We heard a Voice. We were called.” They heard a Voice, and they had to respond.

Me, I was hanging on a cross at Nosoca Pines Ranch one day—a cross made from cheap planks, catsup on me for blood, fire ants crawling all over me, the cross leaning over. I heard a Voice. It’s hard to explain what it felt like. I read Chris Blake’s book, *Searching for a God to Love*, and he says it so beautifully and it’s actually how I felt: “I realized my love affair with Jesus was not like an arranged marriage to a demanding partner.”

Hanging on the cross that day, playing the part of Jesus, I realized, “It was more like a rollicking adventure,” says Chris, “like otters in the ocean we swim in the assurance of deep, safe love.”

Do you hear it? Shhhh. Jesus calls us. He calls us. He calls our Church. You can’t bury this Voice, you can’t bury truth.

Last January, a student was brought to me. She was in a wheelchair because she contracted something that began to deteriorate her nervous system. She couldn’t walk, and during a period of two years she lost her sight almost completely. They brought her into my office, and she just wanted to talk about what her future was going to be like. For four or five months, every week, we talked and prayed together. We prayed for healing; and eventually, I began to say to her, “Do you have Jesus? If you have Jesus, Paul says that’s all you need.”

At the end of the school year, she came by my office and dropped off a card written in Braille. She had my secretary write a sticky note that read, “I have all I need. I have Je-

sus.” The card written in Braille read, “We walk by faith, not by sight.”

In September, when school began again, my office was loud. I was talking to somebody; and then suddenly, the room fell completely quiet. And you could sense someone looking. Everyone turned to the doorway where there was a girl weeping. She pointed at me and said, “You are Pastor Sam. I’ve known your voice. I can see you!”

During the summer, her medical team figured out her problem and began treatment eventually cured her. She could see now!!

I believe there is a day coming when we will all stand in the Presence. We will hear the Voice, and we will say, “It’s you! I have known your Voice. I can see you now!”

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Sam Leonor is pastor for the La Sierra University campus in Riverside, California.

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## Double Blessings

**I**t was 2008. I, Sally Kuehnel, felt my life was surely over. An abusive marriage was ending. The experience drained me emotionally, and I didn't want to attend church. I felt I was going to be lost. That's when God placed someone in my life who offered hope.

I met John Kuehnel at a nursing home where I was a CNA. John was there to receive rehabilitative therapy. I found John easy to talk to, and soon opened up about my hopeless situation. I shared with John my belief at that time that Jesus had left me because of my past mistakes. John encouraged me by sharing that he believed Jesus had never left me, and offered to go to church with me when he was released. Because of my difficult marriage, I found it hard to trust and didn't believe John would follow through with this offer.

When John was released from care at the nursing home, we found a church to attend together. Before long, John and I were married. Soon, I transferred to a new job where I met Ed Grenke. Since Ed was studying for the ministry, we were able to talk openly about Bible topics. I introduced Ed to John, and it wasn't long before Ed asked if he could order a Bible study for me. I learned a lot from the study, and found the Bible easier to understand. The DVDs included were a great help. I enjoyed them so much that I requested studies for friends. Now they, too, are studying the Bible.

I discovered God's plan for His children to keep the Sabbath day holy. The person sending me the Bible studies was Ken Davis, a Bible worker from the Belvidere Seventh-day Adventist Church in Illinois. He shared with me the blessings of the Sabbath and encouraged me to talk with Carlos Peña, pastor. Since I often worked on Sunday, I thought worshipping on Sabbath might be okay. After talking with Ken



*John and Sally Kuehnel (left) are surrounded by Carlos Peña, Belvidere Church pastor; his wife, Elena Peña; and their children, Omar, Deci and Yvonne. The boy and girl in front are Ken Davis' children. Ken sent Sally Bible studies.*

and Carlos, I wanted to visit the Belvidere Church and desired John to come alongside me. So I called Carlos and asked him to explain the Sabbath to John, and he did.

Soon, we visited the Belvidere Church. We had not yet met Ken and Carlos in person, so we were so happy to be introduced when we visited the church. We know the Father brought us to this church, and we are very close

to those families. That's a blessing only the Father could have put together Himself.

I finished the Bible studies; and on February 19, John and I joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church on profession of faith. The Lord has led me all along the way.

I encourage others to remember that even if you're on your last leg and think Jesus Christ is not there, all you have to do is ask Him to come into your life. He will come into your life and start from the inside cleaning house. I thank my heavenly Father for keeping me on the right path now.

I realize I can't change my past or some of the choices I made, but I cherish the personal relationship with my Father and count my blessings. I desire to one day be reunited with my children I put up for adoption, so they wouldn't go through the abuse I went through in my previous marriage. I found my Father holds true to all His promises; and so far, He gave me double for everything I lost because of my hurtful marriage.

Sally Kuehnel is a member of the Belvidere Church in Belvidere, Illinois. Story adapted for publication by Lake Union Herald staff.

# Prayer Brings Peace

It was a hot 92 degrees Sabbath afternoon, June 4, when Ayumi Uchino declared publicly her love for her Savior, Jesus, and was baptized. Ayumi had seen a picture of a baptism at Camp Au Sable on the camp's Web site, and it was her desire to be baptized in a lake. Jim Howard, pastor, arranged to baptize Ayumi in Whitmore Lake. Along with many members watching from her new Metropolitan Church family in Plymouth, Michigan, were numerous Japanese friends from Ayumi's work and her various musical pursuits.

Following is a portion of the testimony Ayumi presented to the Metropolitan Church earlier that morning:

"My parents were not Christians, but I had opportunities to visit church when I was small. My grandmother was a Catholic, so she took me to her church sometimes. Christians are a minority in Japan, but my close friends in elementary/middle school happened to also be Christians. So I had chance to attend church services. In my college years, I was involved in a Christian choir, and I also had my wedding ceremony in church. I believed in the existence of God, but I never knew who He was, and I didn't even try to know Him.

"Soon after my marriage, I moved to America. Not knowing English, I distanced myself from the church—but God still guided me. I was given the opportunity to perform ballet in the church with my friends. Even though God led me to the church so many times to open my eyes, I was only satisfied with the atmosphere of the church.

"Until then, I didn't have any struggles—and I had peace in my life. But suddenly, things went wrong. The baby I was anticipating to deliver ended up in a miscarriage. The next year, I had a divorce problem. At that time, I was carrying a seven-month-old baby in my womb. I lost everything that I relied on, and I was left with fear and anxiety. I could not



On June 4, in Whitmore Lake, Ayumi Uchino declared publicly her love for her Savior. Ayumi is welcomed to the church family by those who helped lead her to Jesus. From left: Fumio Narita, Ayumi Uchino, Sion Sung and Jim Howard

solve them by myself. The only thing I could do was pray.

"I thought prayer was 'one-way' talk, but I realized for the first time that prayer brings peace in my heart because He listens. Even though I have ignored God's message, He didn't give up on me—and He even filled me with abundant blessings and love."

Ayumi met Metropolitan Church member, Mika Kuramochi through music, and Mika encouraged Ayumi to study the Bible with Bible

worker, Sadako Tokuno. Ayumi says, "I was able to learn about God, His love, His greatness. And soon after, I confessed my faith."

Guided in Bible studies by Sion Sung, a pastor, and Metropolitan Church member, Fumio Narita, Ayumi decided to become a Christian through baptism.

She said, "By dying on the Cross, Jesus Christ atoned all of our sins and He was resurrected. He has changed my life, and I believe that He will continually be with me. He has taken away my fear and anxiety, and blessed me with the peace and a little girl, Mayi. I thank God for that."

Ayumi also expressed appreciation to the Japanese members, all the church members, everyone who prepared for her baptism, and especially her father and mother who prayed for her.

Joy Hyde is the communications secretary for the Metropolitan Church.



Colleen Narbone is a chaplain at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.

## Healing vs. curing: Faith in the patient's journey

Working as a hospital chaplain, I have been blessed with many awe-filled moments. I still remember one of my first visits with a patient on the Oncology floor. I walked into a room of a man in his 80s and introduced myself as a chaplain. I asked if there was anything I could do for him. I looked right into his tear-filled eyes as he gently spoke with a smile, and told me he was “ready to die.” I certainly felt overwhelmed in this moment of grace as he went on to describe what a wonderful life he had lived. He described his beautiful marriage, his beloved children and their spouses, and treasured grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In the moment of suffering from illness and near death, this man had found peace. His faith in God alleviated any fear of death. This was the first time I learned an important lesson: One can be healed without being cured.

It is a journey to be able to welcome death or accept illness with an openness and peaceful heart. One definition I have heard for healing is the “transcendence of suffering.” Many people will not benefit in their lifetime from a cure for their rare disease, mental illness, grief or pain. They may, however, in moments of grace, feel a sense of peace and hope in eternal life. I think of the woman in her late 40s who was diagnosed with cancer. She was now taking care of her dying mother, and I was called into a conference with the siblings. The sister-in-law tearfully apologized because she was not there for her when she was diagnosed and wanted to be there more for her and her mother in this time of need. The apology was graciously accepted, and the daughter went on to hug her sister-in-law and said she was even thankful for her cancer because it brought her closer to God. I was moved at the healing that took place in this family. This time of death also became a great moment of forgiveness and love.

Not everyone turns to faith when they are looking for a cure or to be healed. One afternoon, on my daily rounds, I walked through the open door of a room occupied by a patient in her 50s. I went to introduce myself and she quickly shooed me out. She explained that she used to be very religious but since she was diagnosed with a rare disease, she now only believes in medicine; her doctors are her only “form of religion.” She was very angry at God and felt like the more she prayed, the more things got worse for her. In this moment, I couldn’t help but think, *Even if the doctors were able to find a cure for her, would she always hold onto this anger? In this case, would she be cured without being healed?*

Even Jesus asked God “If it is possible, let this cup pass from me” as He knew His fate of suffering and death that lie ahead. With prayer and His

faith, He was able to face suffering with a sense of peace as He continued, “Yet, not as I will, but as you will” (Matthew 26:39). God’s healing may not always consist of finding a cure for the illness or heartache that plagues us in the moment, but rather finding peace in the midst of suffering. Healing may take place over many years—perhaps even coming to us only in our last moments of life. Being diagnosed with a terminal illness can bring families together and can promote forgiveness among enemies and a new outlook on life. Regardless, if and when a cure is found healing can take place. Witnessing firsthand the faith in patients I minister to every day has shown me the importance of not just looking for a cure, but rather seeking the infinite possibility of healing that can come to those who allow it through the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Colleen Narbone is a chaplain at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.





DANIEL HESLOP

Brent Geraty, Andrews Academy Board chair (left), presented the Alumni Award for Excellence in Education to Steven Atkins (right) at the Andrews Academy Commencement on Sunday, May 29.

## Atkins wins Alumni Award for Excellence in Education

For 30 years, Steven Atkins has taught in the Adventist educational system. His passion for science combined with encouragement of scholastic achievement prepared hundreds of students for college. During the Andrews Academy Commencement service on May 29, Atkins was presented the Alumni Award for Excel-

lence in Education in recognition of his service.

The Alumni Awards Foundation has promoted excellence in Adventist education since 1996. Every year, they acknowledge ten teachers in the North American Division who demonstrate an exemplary commitment to outstanding education.

Atkins' commitment is extraordinary. In addition to teaching earth science and biology, he is also licensed to teach chemistry and algebra. During his time at Andrews Academy, Atkins instituted the senior portfolio as a graduation requirement. College preparedness begins early in Atkins' classes. As a part of his earth science class, freshmen begin assembling their portfolios. In this subtle way, Atkins encourages each student to begin thinking about college, encouraging higher education. He also shares his lab notes with teachers across the country, and students throughout the years recall his spiritual applications drawn from the day's lesson. On top of all that, he sends out regular "AA Updates" to current students, alumni and parents.

Cleon White, then principal of

Andrews Academy, nominated Atkins for the award in early February. The Alumni Awards Foundation receives hundreds of nominations each year, which are then separated into tiers. Melissa Cechota, communications coordinator, noted Atkins' nomination and statement of purpose stood out to her. "He represents what makes Adventist education successful." Atkins' emphasis on college preparedness also stood out: "He elevates the sciences in [Andrews] Academy to serious levels of academic achievement."

"On a scale of one to ten where ten is the highest," said White, "I'd give him an 11." On behalf of the Alumni Awards Foundation, Andrews Academy Board chair, Brent Geraty, presented Atkins with a medallion and \$2,000 for his own use.

Upon presentation, he received a standing ovation. "It's a joy to work at the Academy, and to be able to tell people about God as my job is the greatest thing," says Atkins.

Samantha Snively, student news writer, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

## BEST Organization hosts first research symposium

High school seniors in the BEST Early Research Program presented their research projects on Wednesday, Apr. 27, at the first BEST Organization Research Symposium. With complete confidence, the students described their projects in the field of organic chemistry—a subject not usually covered until the second or third year of college.

This first symposium was "a milestone on the path to universal adoption of early research participation," says Desmond Murray, assistant professor of chemistry and the founder and CEO of the Building Excellence in Science and Technology (BEST) Organization. These students attended the Berrien County Math &



Students from the Berrien County Math & Science Center demonstrate their research projects at the first BEST Organization Research Symposium.

Science Center at Andrews University for four years and participated in an independent research period their senior year.

In 1998, Desmond Murray began incorporating independent research periods into organic chemistry classes. In 2001,

two high school students joined him to perform research during the summer. Six years later, 12th graders were regularly involved in research and BEST officially became a nonprofit organization. To date, more than 650 students have been involved in early research projects through the BEST Organization.

Murray and the students participating in BEST Early Research garnered national recognition in the form of more than \$370,000 in grant monies from the National Science Foundation, American Chemical Society, the State of Michigan and other foundations. Earlier graduates from the BEST program who continued in scientific disciplines discovered the advantage of participating in early research.

Samantha Snively, student news writer, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

## [ EDUCATION NEWS ]

### NAS students raise money for missions

Michigan—Most of the 62 Niles Adventist School students participated in a bike-a-thon on May 19 to raise money for their mission project, “Bikes for Ukraine Pastors.” Including donations and pledges, approximately \$2,400 was raised for this worthy project! Their goal was \$1,000. Students also brought in close to \$250 in coins, almost filling a large glass jar for the project. The Ukrainian Union Conference president, Victor Alekseenko, was very appreciative of the students’ efforts to help the 620 pastors in the Ukraine who take care of about 900 churches.

According to information from Doug Fattic, project director, pastors and other service workers in the Ukraine need bikes to more effectively reach their church members. Their average salary is about \$375 per month. Personal visits are more necessary because phones aren’t common. Not many have cars; but even if they do, gas costs \$4.75 per gallon. Since public transportation doesn’t go when and everywhere needed, having a bike is important because biking is three times faster than walking. Bicycles are made in the Ukraine to assist the local econ-



Niles Adventist School students prepare to begin a bike-a-thon on May 19, organized to raise funds for bicycles for pastors in Ukraine.

omy as much as possible. The bikes cost approximately \$400 to make.

For more information, go to [www.ukrainebicycletours.com/Project%20Outline.htm](http://www.ukrainebicycletours.com/Project%20Outline.htm). If you would like to donate to this project, you may send a check made out to NAS to 110 N Fairview Ave., Niles, MI 49120; or give online at [www.nileswestside.org/onlinegiving](http://www.nileswestside.org/onlinegiving).

Gina Meekma, editor, Niles Westside News



John Kent, Niles Adventist School fourth grader, participates in the May 19 bike-a-thon where nearly \$2,400 was raised.

### Mission trip experience yields blessings

Indiana—Spring break 2011 was a very blessed one for me. My home church in Cicero, Ind., along with some students from my school, Indiana Academy, traveled to Saint Lucia—a small volcanic island country in the eastern Caribbean Sea. There we took part in construction at the local Adventist elementary school.

At the job site, 11,000 square feet of tile was laid, giving the Saint Lucia



Participants of the mission trip enjoyed seeing Saint Lucia’s most famous landmark, the beautiful Pitons.

students two new floors. This wasn’t an easy job to accomplish. It took the skill of about 30 people, led by the expertise of Matt Gallimore, a professional tile man from Noblesville and also a member of the Cicero Church.

Although our construction crew worked hard, so did the kitchen crew, the Vacation Bible School workers and the medical team. The VBS crew visited several of the surrounding Adventist elementary schools. During one of the trips they had the opportunity to witness to a school of another denomination located near one of the Adventist schools. The VBS crew sang

songs with the kids, put together arts and crafts, and listened to Bible stories.

Our medical team, led by David Bolin, a medical doctor from the Cicero Church, reached out to several neighboring villages. They set up triage units and gave out free medical supplies to about 150 people each day.

Excursion day is a time I always look forward to on mission trips. This year our group went sailing on a very large catamaran. The most exciting part of the excursion was viewing Saint Lucia's most famous landmark, the beautiful Pitons, and snorkeling in the area. The day ended with a beautiful sunset showing us the way home.

Blessings were abundant—not only to the locals, but to everyone who participated in the mission trip. Although I would do it again in a heartbeat, it made me more thankful for hearth and home—and for the wonderful God we



Some of the younger participants of the mission trip to Saint Lucia assisted Collene Kelly, a member of the Cicero Church, in preparing items for the Vacation Bible School.

serve. John Evans, an Indiana Academy sophomore student at the time of the trip, said, “I have never felt a more genuine brotherly love and unity than

from the people of Saint Lucia. I am glad that I was able to serve them.”

Mitchell Griffin, 2011 graduate, Indiana Academy

## [ LOCAL CHURCH NEWS ]



Phillip Willis Jr., pastor, teaches the young men how to shave and have proper grooming at the Man College, offered by the Brunswick Heights Church in March.

## Man College teaches life skills to at-risk young men

Lake Region—In the church and community surrounding the Brunswick Heights Church in Gary, Ind., are many young men and boys who may be identified as at risk, or who are being raised predominantly in single parent homes by mothers, grandmothers or older sisters. Church leaders observed several areas of concern, according to Phillip Willis Jr., pastor: 1) Because of the lack of mascu-



Leander Ervin teaches the adolescent boys how to change a tire on any car and how to identify engine parts at the Man College.

line influence in the home, some boys were observed to demonstrate feminine characteristics and mannerisms; 2) Without a father figure in the home, there was no male role model to show these young men how to be a man. They were learning this information on the street or television; and 3) There appeared a tendency to react to conflict with anger and violent behaviors. “Clearly, there was a need for values-based and conflict management training,” said Willis.

A series of leadership workshops was planned. “Man College: How to Be a Real Man” was offered over three weekends in the month of March at the church. Classes presented included: 1) How to be a man in your style (how to dress for success, tie a tie, proper grooming, etc.); 2) How to be a man at work (how to apply for a job and have a successful interview); 3) How to be a man spiritually (how to have personal devotions); 4) How to be a man physically and mentally (how to shave and take care of your body); 5) How to be a man around women (how to treat and respect women); 6) How to be a man around cars, tools and tires (how

to change oil and a tire); and 7) How to behave when stopped by a police officer (conflict management).

A total of 22 young men attended Man College. Two-thirds of the attendees were from the church, Willis said. The other one-third were from the community. A graduation service was held at the end of the series, and those who completed the coursework and attended all the training sessions received a certificate. Seven young men from the community earned a certificate. Daren Barnett, 17, later expressed his thoughts on the experience: "My experience at Man College was the greatest experience I ever had. I learned how to fix a car, how to tie a tie the right way and also how to shave with a blade and cream. One of the most inter-

esting [things I learned] was how a man is supposed to greet others and dress for success. I had so much fun learning how to be a man. I think this is the best way to show other young men how to be men and get ready for life and fatherhood. Man College was very good for me."

"Because we had such positive feedback from parents, we plan to have another seminar later this year and follow up on training for young women and girls," stated Willis. "Man College Part II will be offered in the fall with an additional component for the single mothers in the church and the community."

Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference



Daren Barnett (right), a newly baptized member, proudly displays the certificate he earned at the Man College in March at the Brunswick Heights Church. Gerald Hall (left), head elder, taught several classes including how to be a man around women.

## Home health nurse sees ministry opportunity

Indiana—Ingrid Jacobs, a member of the Cicero Church, works as a home health nurse and cares for a home-bound, quadriplegic high-school age boy. One of her duties is to take the boy to school each day.

At the school, Jacobs met and became friends with his speech therapist, Audi Chapart. In their conversation, Chapart mentioned she had two sons in the service; one was in Afghanistan. Chapart shared that as her son was on patrol, he was shocked to see that the poor people in the schools and clinics had nothing. As Chapart continued to talk, things began to click for Jacobs, and she asked if it would be possible to send some things to Afghanistan for Chapart's son to give to the people. "I was interested when Audi told me about the needs that her son was seeing in Afghanistan and thought that through him we could share in making a difference in the lives of the children over there," Jacobs commented.

Arrangements were made, and soon Jacobs began sending boxes of items to Afghanistan. She placed a

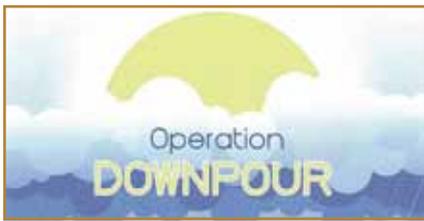


Jon Gusky (left), Cicero Church elder, prays with Ingrid Jacobs (right) who coordinated items to send overseas to Afghanistan families in need. At the time this article was written, 14 boxes had already been shipped to Afghanistan, and the receiving box in the church foyer was again full of items to be sent to Afghanistan's poor.

receiving box in the Cicero Church foyer and invited the church members to participate by bringing items and sharing in the expense of the shipping. School items, non-medicinal items for the clinics and personal hygiene items are packed in APO boxes that

cost \$12.99 each. So far, 14 boxes have been packed and sent to the delight of the poor people in Afghanistan. Jacobs and those who are participating in this project thank God for the opportunity to serve.

Ramona Trubey, member, Cicero Church



## Operation Downpour to impact Indianapolis

Indiana—Perhaps you've longed to be part of a Holy Spirit operation that is bigger than life!

On Sabbath, Sept. 24, the Indianapolis Outreach Coalition networks with the Chapel West Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Indianapolis Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church

to commence a door-to-door outreach of the zip codes in western Indianapolis. This is the first step in a systematic door-to-door invitation to residents in Indianapolis inviting them to seminars, ministries, Bible studies and fellowship with the nearest Indiana Conference Seventh-day Adventist Church. "The invitations will be bilingual," encourages Antonio Rosario, Hispanic Ministries director, Indiana Conference.

"Intentionality" is the buzz word for Van Hurst, president, Indiana Conference. "If we are not going to receive the Holy Spirit after praying for Him, then we need to ask ourselves why we are praying for Him at all."

Hundreds of volunteers—urban missionaries—are needed to embrace the work for the selected zip codes:

three hours (2:30–5:30 p.m.), one Sabbath afternoon, a Holy Spirit blitz! The starting point will be the Chapel West Church, located at 3819 Mann Rd. in Indianapolis.

If you are coaxed by the Holy Spirit to participate, then go to this Chapel West Web site ([www.chapelwestchurch.org/operation-downpour](http://www.chapelwestchurch.org/operation-downpour)) to register, so your packets will be boxed and ready when you arrive! "All areas will be pre-assigned for each carload of volunteers," assures Steven Manoukian, pastor, Chapel West Church.

For additional information, call 317-856-7449 and leave a message for a prompt callback.

Judith Yeoman, correspondent, Indiana Conference as shared by Van Hurst, president, Indiana Conference

## [WOMEN'S NEWS]

## Women of Strength conference announced

Lake Region—The Grand Geneva Resort & Spa, located in beautiful Lake Geneva, Wis., is the site for the 2011 Lake Region Conference Women's Retreat, Oct. 27–30. This event is open to women ages 18 and older. According to Doris Gothard, Lake Region women's ministries director, "Attendees will join hundreds of Adventist women who will help make a positive difference in Lake Geneva. They will be inspired, encouraged and challenged by dynamic plenary speakers, outstanding music and intensive prayer time."

The conference theme is "Women of Strength." Throughout the conference, sermons, seminars, morning manna praise and worship sessions are all designed to satisfy your thirst for more strength and lead attendees into a spiritual revival that will last long past the retreat, says Gothard. She adds, "The Bible says, 'The joy of the Lord is your strength' (Nehemiah 8:10). Now is the time to explore how



Gina Spivey Brown



Helen Bryant



Carlton P. Byrd



Z. Kathy Cameron,  
Spanish seminar  
presenter



Dorothy Davis



Robyn Edgerton



Rosita Gabriel,  
musical guest



Doris Gothard



Tiki Harris,  
musical guest



Lady Tramaine Hawkins,  
musical guest



Judith Warren Hawkins



Susie Hill

the joy of the Lord is the strength of a woman.”

A dynamic group of speakers has been assembled to bless conference attendees, including: Gina Spivey Brown, Ph.D., vice president, Washington Adventist University; Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., pastor of the Berean SDA Church in Atlanta, Ga., and speaker/director of the Breath of Life television broadcast; Judith Warren Hawkins, J.D., judge, Leon County, Fla.; Heather J. Knight, Ph.D., president, Pacific Union College; Shelley Quinn, speaker and co-director, Word Warrior Ministries and program development manager, Three Angels Broadcasting Network; and Monica Reed, M.D., CEO, Florida Hospital Celebration Health. Many other workshop presenters will share insights from God’s Word.

Z. Kathy Cameron will offer a seminar in Spanish.

Professional recording artists Rosita Gabriel, Shellie “Tiki” Harris and Cynthia Palmer will provide messages in song throughout the conference, accompanied by G. Ian Fisher-Curley, Lady Tramaine Hawkins, renowned international gospel vocalist who sang with the Heavenly Tones, Northern California State Choir, Andrae Crouch and the Disciples, Edwin Hawkins Singers and the Walter Hawkins Love Center Choir is the featured musical guest for the Saturday night concert.

While this conference is a women’s ministries event, husbands of attendees are welcome to participate in all sessions. A special invitation is



Heather J. Knight



Nicole LaBeach



Mary Mbiya



Cynthia Palmer, musical guest



Monica Reed



Maydis Skeete



Deborah Spence



Shelley Quinn

extended to pastors and their wives. A seminar is scheduled for husbands, according to Gothard. “The resort is large enough for us to be in the same environment without anyone feeling the other should not be there,” says Gothard. “Ellen White says that to finish the work it will require both men and women working together,” she added.

Special pricing is available through Aug. 31 for young women (ages 18–22), and women and their husbands. Conference fees increase after that date. The cut-off for registration is Oct. 13. Visit <http://www.plusline.org/eventdetail.php?id=1066791> for complete event registration information. Additional information is also

available in both English and Spanish at the Lake Region Conference Women’s Ministries Web site: [www.lrcm.org/home.html](http://www.lrcm.org/home.html).

Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference



The Grand Geneva Resort & Spa, in beautiful Lake Geneva, Wis., is the site for the 2011 Lake Region Conference Women’s Retreat, Oct. 27–30.

## [ NAD NEWS ]

### SAC connects communication professionals for ministry

Has anyone ever invited you to join the Society of Adventist Communica-

tors (SAC)? If not, consider this your official invitation! Maybe the question on your mind right now is, “Exactly what is SAC?” Unlike other organizations in the world whose names bear the title “society,” SAC is not some elite or exclusive group. On the contrary, SAC is comprised of a variety of committed Adventists who have a passion to share our message through their unique areas

of media ministry—whether through the printed page, photography, television, radio, the Internet, social media, music, art or a host of other creative outlets. In short, if you are involved in—or want to be involved in—communicating to others the message of the Adventist Church, then you should be a part of SAC.

So what is SAC all about? It’s about



Gerry Chudleigh

The 2011 Society of Adventist Communicators convention will be held this year in Lombard, Ill., Oct. 20–22. Don't miss this unique opportunity to network and learn from people who share a passion for spreading the Adventist message.

connecting with other communication professionals and growing from one another's knowledge, expertise and passion for ministry. It's about being enriched and energized by attending SAC's annual convention and returning home ready to put your newly-acquired knowledge into action. It's about networking and making new friends—people who will become a source of spiritual and

professional support for years to come. If you're a communication professional, it's about using your talents and acquired knowledge to mentor a young person. And if you're a novice, it's an opportunity to connect with a specialist in your field whose wise mentoring can help you to grow professionally.

SAC is comprised of people from all facets of the communication field,

including television producers, writers, editors, graphic designers, Web designers, photographers, social media experts, public relations specialists—and the list goes on. Membership is open to students and working professionals who are employed by the church or the secular media, and those who are self-employed.

“As a member of SAC, my desire to collaborate in ministry projects with colleagues has increased, and I feel I have grown professionally through association with this organization,” says Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference.

SAC offers a mentor/mentee program, a communication certification program, SAC Awards of Excellence, job postings and an annual convention. There's a lot more to say about SAC, but the only way to really know what SAC is all about is to join, attend the annual convention, and see for yourself what a great organization it is. For membership information, please visit [www.adventistcommunicator.org](http://www.adventistcommunicator.org) and click on the Members Only link. We hope to see you (and your colleagues!) at the next SAC convention in Chicago (Lombard, Ill.), Oct. 20–22!

Pat Humphrey, associate director of communication for the Southwestern Union and vice president for recruitment for the Society of Adventist Communicators

## [WORLD CHURCH NEWS]

### Griggs University moves to Michigan

During the weeks of June 20–July 18, Griggs University & International Academy physically moved its operations from Silver Spring, Md., to its new home on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

In Nov. 2010, Andrews assumed ownership of this more-than-a-century-old international distance education institution. When operations officially transferred to Berrien Springs in July,



several new employees for Griggs University & International Academy joined the Andrews University community as part of a newly-established School of Distance Education.

The School of Distance Education operates out of the Lake Union Conference Headquarters, which Andrews recently purchased. On June 1, Andrews

University took ownership of the Lake Union Conference building, but will share it with the Union until the Union builds a new facility for their operations. The wing occupied by Griggs will be named Griggs Hall in honor of Frederick Griggs, a leading Adventist educator at Andrews and elsewhere. When the Lake Union Conference relocates, Andrews will begin utilizing the entire building, and the building in its entirety will be renamed Griggs Hall. In addition to housing Griggs, the new Griggs Hall will also house the School of Distance Education and other University services.

Griggs educates more than 4,400 students ranging from preschool to university graduate level in the United States and around the world, including locations such as Africa, India, Central America and Asia. Now that Griggs is owned by Andrews University, the number of students that the University educates in southwest Michigan and around the world approaches more than 10,000.

“While it’s difficult to leave our Maryland home, it’s exciting to move to Michigan and join with Andrews University in pursuing a variety of distance education initiatives that employ the best in distance teaching methods, that make use of affordable emerging technologies to serve all students, whether it is a young preschooler in Michigan, an M.B.A. student in Vietnam or senior citizens in Venezuela. Already, Andrews offers a rich heritage of diversity as one of the Top Ten ethnically and internationally diverse universities in the country. Now, with our partnership, Griggs and Andrews can implement a whole world policy—by making Adventist education truly accessible and as affordable as possible to people wherever they are,” said Alayne Thorpe, interim president of Griggs University and dean of the proposed Andrews University School of Distance Education.

The majority of operations at Griggs University in Md. closed on July 14 and resumed on the campus of Andrews University on July 18. However, Griggs will keep a small office open in Md. to oversee Griggs’ contracts with Job Corps both in Md. and across the United States. Job Corps is a government-run program that offers high school diplomas and job skill training to at-risk students.

As this significant transition takes place, students and other contacts of Griggs can expect some communication and shipping delays throughout the process, even as the institution remains committed to consistently and effectively responding to the students and families they serve as best they can. Current departmental mail addresses



*Griggs University & International Academy is now located in a wing of the Lake Union Conference office building, which Andrews recently purchased. After completion of a new facility for the Union office, Andrews will utilize the entire building.*

for Griggs ([griggs.edu](http://griggs.edu)) will remain active and continue to be processed for several months after the move. The toll-free phone number for the institution remains the same: 1-800-782-4769. Additional contact and other transition information updates will be posted at [www.griggs.edu](http://www.griggs.edu) and [www.andrews.edu/distance](http://www.andrews.edu/distance).

Last November, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists transferred ownership of Griggs to Andrews University. During the past several months, a transition team prepared both campuses for the physical move led by Patricia Mutch, a former Andrews University academic vice president who came out of retirement to oversee the transition. Along the way, key hires were made for Griggs, and some of those new employees played a central role in the relocation planning and moving logistics.

In 1901, it took 16 boxcars to relocate Andrews University to Berrien Springs from Battle Creek, Mich. In July, it took at least five moving trucks to transfer Griggs to Andrews University. Packed away in those moving trucks were nearly every piece of Griggs and its history, including Griggs’ archives that date back to 1909.

Several individuals joined Griggs at its new Michigan location, and two

previously announced hires began their duties. La Ronda Forsey is associate dean and principal of Griggs International Academy, and Janine Lim is associate dean for university-level use of teaching technologies. In addition, the following have also been appointed: Lynley Bartlett, director of affiliation & extension programs (replacing Charles Tidwell); Loring Bearce, bookstore supervisor; Glynis Bradfield, director of Student Services; Steven Fox, assistant registrar/testing; Ethan Jones, project manager; and Stephen Rivers, associate director of affiliation & extension programs.

Thorpe concludes, “Andrews University and Griggs University are setting a new whole-world policy for Adventist education—every interested student in every corner of the globe deserves access to a quality, values-based Adventist education. Now, we can offer them that access from Griggs and Andrews, institutions that share the same goals and mission to serve the world field. To quote Shakespeare, this is a ‘Perfect marriage of true minds.’”

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist,  
Office of Integrated Marketing &  
Communication, Andrews University



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

## Indiana

**State Fair Outreach** is **Aug. 5-21**. During this year's Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, there will be a replica of the sanctuary on display with people dressed as high priests and hosts greeting those who walk by and seek information. The goal is to share the gospel with people in a 3-5 minute presentation and invite them to register for seminars at Adventist churches in their areas. Approximately 300 volunteers are needed, both Spanish and English. Contact your local pastor if you are gifted in greeting and evangelism and can donate your time to this outreach project.

**Campestre Hispano 2011:** Hispanic Camp Meeting is **Sept. 2-5** at Timber Ridge Camp. For additional information contact Antonio Rosario, Indiana Conference Hispanic coordinator, at [prarosa@iol.com](mailto:prarosa@iol.com) or 317-856-5770.

**Heartland Health & Wellness Conference** is **Sept. 15-16** with world-class speakers who inspire attendees to initiate change in their lifestyles. This year's guest list includes: Chef AJ; Dr. Hans Diehl; Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn; Dr. George Guthrie; and Dr. John Kelly. To register, contact Susan Landess at 765-621-7557, or visit [www.lifestyle4health.org](http://www.lifestyle4health.org).

**Annual Elders Training** is **Sept. 17**. This year it will be held at the Carmel Church, 14535 Carey Road, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Antonio Rosario, Indiana Conference Hispanic coordinator, will share strategy and case studies that confirm the benefit of small groups for growing churches. A meal will follow. Registration is necessary to determine material and meal supply. For further information or to register, contact the Indiana Conference Ministerial Department at 317-844-6201.

**Project Downpour:** On Sabbath, **Sept. 24**, a three-hour Project Downpour is planned in two zip codes on the west side of Indianapolis. Eight hundred volunteers are needed to hand out literature from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. In order to have your territory and materials ready for you when you arrive at the Chapel West Church on the afternoon of the 24th, please pre-register the number of cars, name of driver and how many teams per car who are coming from your church either through your pastor or directly to the conference office via Sheri DeWitt at [sdewitt@indysda.org](mailto:sdewitt@indysda.org) or 317-844-6201.

## Lake Region

**Lake Region Conference annual TLT retreat,** "Born Leaders—Raising the Bar," will be held **Nov. 4-6** at Camp Wagner in Cassopolis, Mich. There will be worship, training and development as TLTs start on a path toward true leadership. Deadline for submission of forms/fees is Oct. 1 (first-come, first-serve basis; all quad occupancy). For more information, contact Aaron Edwards at [aaron\\_edwards94@yahoo.com](mailto:aaron_edwards94@yahoo.com); Khris Jones at [khrimich310@yahoo.com](mailto:khrimich310@yahoo.com); or a local area TLT coordinator: Weata Powell, MCA; Dr. Pat, Chicagoland; Kim Henley Michiana; and Barbara Woods, Illiana.

## Lake Union

### Offerings

- Aug. 6** Local Church Budget
- Aug. 13** Oakwood/Andrews/Loma Linda Universities
- Aug. 20** Local Church Budget

## Aug. 27 Local Conference Advance

### Special Days

**Aug. 27** Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day

## Michigan

**Fall Fellowship Retreat** weekend, **Sept. 8-11**, is provided for single adults ages 18 and up to come together for fun, fellowship and spiritual growth. This year, along with all of the great activities Camp Au Sable has to offer, the focus is outreach and missions—and how to get involved and make a difference for Christ in this world. There will be something for everyone; so come be challenged, inspired and equipped for service. Bring a friend or come and make new ones. Everyone is welcome! For more detailed information or to download an application, go to [www.misda.org](http://www.misda.org) (Family Life) 2011-2012 Brochure, or ask your Family Life leader, bulletin secretary or pastor for an application. You can also register by calling Alyce at 517-316-1543.

**The annual Health Professionals Retreat** will be held at Camp Au Sable, **Sept. 15-18**. Guest speaker will be Mark Ranzinger, M.D., FACS, a surgeon practicing in Goshen, Ind., and member of the Benton Harbor Fairplain Church. Michigan Conference Health Ministries is partnering with AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network), a national organization of Christian physicians and dentists whose purpose is to share Christ in their workplace through medical evangelism, to sponsor this family retreat. For registration information, please call 517-316-1527 or e-mail [schristie@misda.org](mailto:schristie@misda.org).

**Crystal Mountain Marriage Retreat**, scheduled **Nov. 11-13** at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, Mich., is a wonderful opportunity for couples to get away together for the purpose of renewing and

refreshing their relationship. The facilities are very conducive to a romantic weekend alone together, and the seminar sessions are designed to help encourage and strengthen your marriage. Our presenters this year are Ritchie and Timi Brower from Chattaroy, Wash. For more detailed information or to download an application, go to [www.misda.org](http://www.misda.org) (Family Ministries), or ask your Family Ministries leader, bulletin secretary or pastor for an application. You can also register by calling Alyce at 517-316-1543.

## North American Division

**Sheyenne River Academy/Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, Sept. 30-Oct. 2**, at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, N.D. Come renew your friendships! Honor classes: 1942, '47, '52, '57, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92, 2002, '07. For more information, call 701-258-9000, ext. 236, or visit our Web site at [www.dakotaadventistacademy.org/alumni/alumnivevents](http://www.dakotaadventistacademy.org/alumni/alumnivevents).

## Wisconsin

**150 Years of Gospel Ministry at Oakland (Wisconsin) Seventh-day Adventist Church:** Friends, former members and neighbors are invited to attend this celebration, **Sept. 2-3**. We hope many former pastors, teachers and church members will be able to share in this milestone celebration. For more information, see page 31 of this issue, or contact event coordinators Joan Carlson at 920-563-8503, Lois Elmer at [loiselmer@yahoo.com](mailto:loiselmer@yahoo.com), Michael Larson at [larsonmichael60@yahoo.com](mailto:larsonmichael60@yahoo.com) or Shelby Molina at 262-473-5705.

# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Aug 5	Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 26	Sep 2	Sep 9
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:59	8:50	8:40	8:29	8:19	8:07
Chicago, Ill.	8:05	7:56	7:46	7:35	7:25	7:13
Detroit, Mich.	8:48	8:39	8:29	8:17	8:07	7:55
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:55	8:46	8:37	8:26	8:17	8:05
La Crosse, Wis.	8:25	8:14	8:04	7:52	7:41	7:29
Lansing, Mich.	8:55	8:46	8:35	8:24	8:13	8:01
Madison, Wis.	8:15	8:05	7:55	7:44	7:33	7:21
Springfield, Ill.	8:08	8:00	7:50	7:40	7:31	7:19

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

## Obituaries

**CRABTREE, Jack W.**, age 90; born Aug. 9, 1920, in Anderson, Ind.; died Mar. 28, 2011, in Chesterfield, Ind. He was a member of the Anderson Church.

Survivors include his sons, David and Dennis; daughters, Lisa Shively and Vicki Price; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Terry Nennich, and interment was in Anderson Memorial Park Cemetery.

**GAFF, Richard L.**, age 79; born June 20, 1931, in Elkhart, Ind.; died Jan. 22, 2011, in Mishawaka, Ind. He was a member of the South Bend (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Judythe A. (Feldbauer); daughters, Kris K. Gaff and Karen K. Boehmer; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Elders Michael Nickless and Throstur Thordarson, and interment was in St. Joseph Valley Memorial Park Cemetery, Granger, Ind.

**HARDY, Debra M. (Tharp)**, age 53; born Aug. 22, 1957, in Lafayette, Ind.; died Mar. 21, 2011, in Lafayette. She was a member of the Lafayette Church.

Survivors include her sons, Wesley Kuns, Charles Hardy and Walter Green; daughters, Willa Hardnett and Charde Hardy; mother, Geraldine (Wamsher) Tharp; sisters, Peggy Richie, Linda Hood and Alberta Thompson; and nine grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Clinton Meharry, and interment was in Morning Heights Cemetery, Delphi, Ind.

**HIGGINS, Gladys (Johnson)**, age 98; born July 15, 1912, in Montcalm Cty., Mich.; died Mar. 12, 2011, in Battle Creek, Mich. She was a member of the Urbandale Church, Battle Creek.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Stanley W. Cottrell, and interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Battle Creek.

**LA ROSA, Salvatore R.**, age 89; born June 6, 1921, in Little Ferry, N.J.; died Feb. 12,

2011, in Chattanooga, Tenn. He pastored the Charlotte, Alma, Three Rivers, Mendon and Sturgis, Mich., Churches.

Survivors include his wife, Laura N. (Meliti); son, Julius D.; daughters, Carol Anne Buhler and Susan L. Maehre; five grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be conducted at a later date, and interment was in Chattanooga National Cemetery.

**MALONEY, Curtis R.**, age 89; born May 22, 1921, in Shennington, Wis.; died Apr. 8, 2011, in Amery, Wis. He was a member of the Clear Lake (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Olive B. (Janke); sons, Dale C., Delmar C. and Dennis O.; foster children, Ronald C. Olney and Darlene R. (Olney) Current; brother, Calvin; 13 grandchildren; 11 step-grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and 21 step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ron Olney, and interment was in Wagner Cemetery, Whitehall, Wis.

**MAYCOCK SR., Simeon Harold**, age 85; born Aug. 8, 1925, in Soso, Miss.; died Apr. 14, 2011, in Inkster, Mich. He has been a member of the City Temple (Detroit, Mich.), Ecorse (Mich.), Inkster Sharon and Cherry Hill Churches.

Survivors include his sons, Simeon Jr. and Stanley; daughters, Cynthia Dukes and Debra Howard; sisters, Audrey Spencer and Etta Dudley; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Antoine Maycock and Rich Constantinescu, and interment was in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Mich.

**MYERS, Raymond C.**, age 85; born Aug. 18, 1925, in Pleasant Lake, Ind.; died Feb. 3, 2011, in Angola, Ind. He was a member of the Angola Church.

Survivors include his wife, Janis F. (Sheets); son, Scott R.; daughters, Nancy B. Pujols, Julie A. Hicks and Patti G. Tribble; seven grandchildren; five step-grandchild-

ren; two great-grandchildren; and nine step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Arlin Cochran, and interment was in Circle Hill Cemetery, Angola.

**PELTON, Raymond**, age 90; born Jan. 22, 1921, in Hot Springs, S.D.; died May 9, 2011, in Loma Linda, Calif. He was a member of the Hinsdale (Ill.) Church. He began his work at the Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital and later was administrator for the White Memorial Hospital (Los Angeles) and New England Memorial Hospital (Stoneham, Mass.). He served from 1970-1990 as associate director of the Department of Health for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia (Carter); son, Ron; daughter, Cynthia Pelton; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Dan Matthews, and interment was in Montecito Cemetery, Colton, Calif.

**ROSEN JR., Melvin**, age 88; born Feb. 20, 1923, in Chetek, Wis.; died Apr. 16, 2011, in Evergreen, Colo. He was a member of the Hinsdale (Ill.) Church. Mr. Rosen was principal at the Flint (Mich.) Elementary School and the Detroit Southfield Junior Academy. He was also Education Superintendent in both Wisconsin and Illinois. He served as educator for 43 years.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce (Allred); sons, Larry, Bob and Terry Durham; daughters, Marcia Jones and Patsy Middaugh; sister, Helen Bissegger; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Chaplain Ed Christian, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs, Mich.

**SCARAVILLI, Jane E. (Simpson) Cox**, age 76; born Oct. 15, 1934, in Eaton Rapids, Mich.; died Dec. 6, 2010, in Greenville, Mich. She was a member of the Lakeview (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph Sr.; sons, Gary and Randy Cox; stepson, Joseph Scaravilli Jr.; stepdaughter, Mary Scaravilli; brother, Paul Simpson; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Graveside services and interment was in Rosehill Cemetery, Eaton Rapids.

**SLAYTON, Doris M. (Winright)**, age 95; born Sept. 17, 1915, in Calhoun Cty., Clarence Twp., Mich.; died Nov. 6, 2010, in Sheridan, Mich. She was a member of the Frost Church, Stanton, Mich.

Survivors include her sons, Edwin and Dale; daughter, Jan Wheeler; 12 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Jan Wheeler, and interment was in Onondaga (Mich.) Cemetery.

**SNYDER, Stuart C.**, age 86; born Mar. 29, 1924, in Prattville, Mich.; died Mar. 19, 2011, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Berrien Springs (Mich.) Village Church.

Survivors include his wife, Marjorie A. (Kidder); sons, William S. and Donald L.; daughter, Sharon L. Scheuneman; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elders Larry Lichtenwalter and Fred Earles, and interment was in Richland Twp. Cemetery, Vestaburg, Mich.

**TEMPLE, Charles R. "Bob,"** age 71; born Sept. 2, 1939, in Silverwood, Mich.; died Apr. 21, 2011, in St. Helen, Mich. He was a member of the Gaylord (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Karen K. (Anderson); sons, Rob and Tom; daughter, Sherri Isaak; sister, Joanne Greeley; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor George Dronen, and interment was in Fairview Cemetery, Gaylord.

**ZALABAK, Wilbur**, age 85; born June 16, 1925, in Sara Sea Island, Fla.; died Mar. 29, 2011, in Marshfield, Wis. He was a member of the Marshfield Church.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth (Kingman); son, Ralph Zalabak; stepsons, David and John Zalabak; daughter, Wilma Zalabak; sisters, Naomi Zalabak, Genevieve Hook, Helen Palmer and Edith James; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Wendell Springer, and interment was in Bethel Cemetery, Marshfield.

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## Miscellaneous

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# LET'S MOVE! DAY

## Sunday, September 25, 2011

HELP US REACH OUR 1 MILLION MILE GOAL IN ONE DAY!

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Whether you host a 5K run/walk, join a community event, or organize other activities, consider how your team can involve as many people as possible in physical activity. Invite your community to join your church, school, or hospital as we move together and promote a healthier lifestyle.

Find resources and information at [www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org](http://www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org)



Let's Move Day is an event of Adventists InStep for Life. It is sponsored by the North American Division Health Ministries Department in partnership with Adventist Community Services, Children's Ministries, Education, and Youth Ministries.

setting. Has attached garage and 24x40 out building with finished floor. Additional land available. Close to Adventist church and school. Can be viewed at MannRealtors.com (11381 Braun Rd.), or contact 877-428-8388 for details.

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Illustration by Brian Manley (BA '99)

## We would love for you to join us.

**Alumni Homecoming 2011**  
September 29–October 2, 2011

### 2011 HONORED ALUMNI:

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To make arrangements for lodging, contact Guest Services at 269-471-3295 or [visitors@andrews.edu](mailto:visitors@andrews.edu). For up-to-date information, schedule of events, and to RSVP and access forms, please visit [alumni.andrews.edu/homecoming](http://alumni.andrews.edu/homecoming).

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### Highlights of the weekend will include:

- Homecoming Banquet
- FLAG Camp (for children ages 5–14)
- Wes Christiansen Memorial Golf Outing
- 24th Annual Homecoming Parade
- International Flag Raising Ceremony
- Homecoming Gala Concert
- Basketball Game
- Tours of the new Undergraduate Learning Center
- 1K, 5K & 10K and Beach 2 Bank
- Ride for AU motorcycle ride *and much more...*

## PARTNERSHIP with GOD

### Seed or Graft?

BY GARY BURNS



When we lived in Plantation, Florida, we had several beautiful avocado trees lining our driveway. We love avocados sliced and placed on a fresh slice of sprouted wheat bread with a splash of fresh lime and a dash of sea salt. Mmmmm!

We were so looking forward to the bounty of avocados that would be forthcoming from our little grove. Nine months passed and still no avocados! What a disappointment. After some investigation, we learned that avocado trees produced from avocado seeds rarely produce avocados. In order to get an avocado tree that produces avocados, you must graft from an avocado-producing tree.

I guess on rare occasions an avocado seed will end up producing a tree with avocados, but I've never known of an

instance when a self-determined people seed has produced a Christian.

It's amazing to me that so many find Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* approach to religion so attractive. What they end up with is a powerless list of aphorisms, leaving Jesus at a powerless distance.

Jesus modeled the gospel to us when He said He could do nothing by Himself (see John 5:19, 30).

My experience with the disappointing avocado trees reminds me of Jesus' vine and branches metaphor (see John 15). When we allow the Father to graft us into the life of His Son, we have life. Working in partnership with His nourishing and transforming power, we bear fruit. Why go it alone—lifeless and fruitless?

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

## Answers from His Word

BY KEITH HACKLE

I'd known for more than a year and a half that my family and I would move to Berrien Springs, Michigan, in May of this year. My wife was behind me 100 percent and had worked with me to explain the transition to our two children, ages 8 and 7. We had going-away parties, received a wonderful sendoff from our home church, all the furniture was in the house where we'd be staying, and classes began on Monday.

God demolished every obstacle that appeared to stand in our way—from the transfer of our home in a bad real estate market to arranging acceptance into Andrews to funds for the move. Yet, here I sat on the bedroom floor feeling lost.

I never resided outside Cincinnati in my entire life. I'd never been more than 30 minutes away from my extended family. I'd never in my adult life not been the primary provider for my family. I was used to being involved in my church back home, where our church family greeted us with a smile. Was I really in Berrien Springs? What had I done?

As I sat there on the floor close to tears, I called out to God. "Father, you've called us here and I know it's for a purpose. Help me to find peace in this transition. Help us to get acclimated in the church that you would have us go to, help us meet new people, help this experience to bring my family closer together, help this experience to glorify You."

To start off my day, I began reading the book of Matthew. If I wanted to know how to deal with being away from home in a foreign land, there was no better place to go than to the life of Jesus. One day, I read Matthew 3, which tells of Jesus baptism; and because of His obedience, God spoke from Heaven: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well



Darren Heslop

pleased." Through His Holy Word, God allowed me to see He was pleased that I had been obedient to answer His call to come to Berrien Springs.

Another day I read Jesus' words in Matthew 4:19: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"; and in verse 23, "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." Obedience through faith brought me here, and I will receive world class training and witness God do amazing

things not only in my life but others.

Yet, another day I read Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Each of the things I asked for have been answered in just the first month at Andrews University. God is with us wherever we are. Sometimes the road may not be clear or look like we expected, but God knows the plans He has for us. We just have to answer the call.

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Keith Hackle, 27, is the proud husband of Nishina Hackle and father of a son and a daughter. He is enrolled in the Seminary at Andrews University. When not studying, Keith likes to spend time with his family and friends, play sports and write short stories. He just completed a book geared toward inner-city youth.

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## The Power of Witnessing

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Wisconsin Academy graduate Lance Gates knows the power of witnessing. In 2010, he participated in the Illinois Youth Challenge magabook program—a canvassing opportunity for high school and college students. He was placed in a Rockford, Illinois, residential area and spent the summer going door to door with the message of salvation. Lance claims the experiences were life changing.



Lance Gates

“At that time, I was beginning to feel like I didn’t have a connection to God, but I really wanted to regain it,” he says. “My first two months in the program, I still felt that way. But in the last two weeks, I realized how much I needed Him. Everything changed.”

Lance had many experiences that summer that brought him back to Christ. One day, he was impressed to give someone a *Keys to Happiness* book (also titled *Steps to Christ*). Though the lady seemed uninterested, Lance felt impressed by God to return to her house and give her the book. When he handed it to her, she began to cry and told Lance of her hardships and the recent death of her child. She thanked him again and again for the book, and assured Lance he was making a difference. Lance also met a family who began Bible studies after reading the same book.

Experiences like these taught Lance to completely trust in God. Hoping to share this passion with others, he attended Wisconsin Academy in 2010–2011 and was named the senior class pastor and dorm pastor. In the dorm, he created a small Bible study group “to help everybody grow spiritually together, not just by themselves,” and “to get people reading their Bibles more and understanding God’s Word,” Lance says.

At weekly meetings, the boys studied Scripture and topics like prayer and the Sabbath. They also talked about God’s blessings and what they were encouraged by that week. The meetings led more than one student to begin an active prayer life and inspired Lance to stay focused on God.

“Personally, I’ve been blessed by a lot of things that the guys say and the encouragement they’ve given me during the school year,” Lance says. “Since we’ve come together for this, we’ve been able to see each other in a more Christian light and have fellowship. ... It’s just amazing. Praise God.”

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan. She is a physical therapy major at Andrews University. Lance Gates is a member of the Carbondale Seventh-day Adventist Company in Carbondale, Illinois.

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