

# Lake Union HERALD

FEBRUARY 2013

## YOUR FAMILY

THE MOST IMPORTANT MISSION FIELD

*Theology of Ordination and  
Women in Ministry:  
Special Report*

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



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## In every issue...

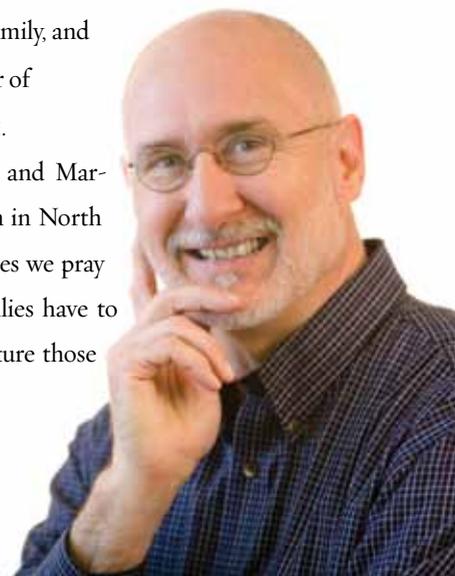
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## In this issue...

Not long after our Church was formed, Ellen White penned these words: “To every father and mother is committed a little plot of ground before their own door. ... Present to the church and to the world a well-disciplined family, and you present one of the strongest arguments in favor of Christianity.” —*Signs of the Times*, November 10, 1881.

February 3–9 is designated “Christian Home and Marriage Week” by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. In this issue of the *Herald*, we share articles we pray will cause readers to grasp the opportunities families have to take part in the mission of the church as they nurture those within their own homes.

Gary Burns, Editor



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## Worship and the Pitter-Patter of Little Feet

**A**s I write, we are about to join our daughters and their families for the holidays. One of the joys of such trips is the anticipation of driving to their homes, going to the front door, and hearing squeals of joy and little feet running as our grandchildren race to see Gamma and Gampa. Then, when the door opens and they rush to us with hugs and kisses, well, it just does not get much better than that. Our grandchildren are so filled with joy and so expressive of that joy that we feel very special and loved.

I guess the question arises: Is there anything about the way I, you, we worship our heavenly Father that makes Him feel even a little similar to the way our grandchildren make us feel?

On one hand, worship is very important for us, as simple mortal sinners, as we come to God to focus on Him, thank Him, adore, praise, reverence, sing, pray, acknowledge and submit to Him. All these acts of worship are vital for each of us to find focus outside ourselves and place attention on the King of kings, the Creator and Savior.

Each of these elements of worship brings us closer to our heavenly Father and, thus, has a sanctifying effect in our lives. So, in no way do I wish to minimize that side of worship and its personal blessing on each of us. But as we grow in Christ, a joy, eagerness and desire develops, in us, to come before God. We see evidence of this with Adam and Eve before sin, in Scripture. Enoch walked with God. Moses repeatedly climbed the mountain to be with God, and met with God in the Tent of Meeting, as one does with a friend. Daniel was with God every day, and the result was a powerful life of service and witness. Worship is a theme all the way through the Bible. But when you get to the back of the Book, it takes on a whole new meaning and level. It's clear worship will be a primary and focused part of our eternity.

I believe God craves the pitter-patter of the feet of His little ones. So, I hope you can indulge my imagination of seeing the look on the Father's face and, maybe, the feeling in His heart as He sees joyful, righteousness-seeking, repentant people come to Him in prayer, praise and, perhaps, even excitement. Could it be, in even a small way, a similar feeling my wife, Barbara, and I experience when we connect each time with our grandchildren?

In this new year, let's honor Him by giving God that joy, all the time.

"The soul may ascend nearer heaven on the wings of praise. God is worshiped with song and music in the courts above, and as we express our gratitude we are approximating to the worship of the heavenly hosts. *Whoso offereth praise glorifieth God* (Psalm 50:23). Let us with reverent joy come before our Creator, with *thanksgiving, and the voice of melody* (Isaiah 51:3)." —Ellen White

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Thoughts inspired from the chapter, "The Privilege of Prayer," *Steps to Christ*.



## Is Uncle Arthur's Village Gone Forever?

BY CINDY R. CHAMBERLIN

I grew up reading sweet “Uncle Arthur” and his bedtime stories. In his *The Children’s Hour* world, children roller-skated in and out of 1930s and ‘40s neighborhoods whistling, playing jacks and thinking up niceties like the “Surprise Package Company.” Mothers put on gloves to “go visiting.” Fathers drove big, shiny cars. Neighborhood grocers put goodies in your bag for the walk home. Everyone was home by dinnertime and had a front porch to sit on and watch fireflies.

Later, in Journalism 101, I learned Arthur Stanley Maxwell was only employing a rudimentary technique shared in a long bookcase of formula-smiths. But more than semantics, Uncle Arthur was drawing from what Tom Brokaw described as the “Greatest Generation.”

This generation survived the Great Depression, went through World War II, rebuilt their lives, and set about raising baby boomers. What they lacked in women’s equality and racial understanding, they seemed to compensate for in stable two-parent homes. Their Judeo-Christian values unarguably founded many of America’s modern libraries, museums, schools, churches and colleges today. They built schools, often giving up their farms to do so. They didn’t do studies to see if their projects would be popular but, in adversity, asked if it was their duty, then rolled up their sleeves and did it. Often, they were rewarded with *only* blisters.

Uncle Arthur’s *The Children’s Hour* chapters reflect much of that generation’s hard work, humility, integrity, obedi-



Cindy Chamberlin

ence, honesty, duty and conscience. Under his pen, “Prideful Ned Cuts Off His Nose,” “Gordon Does Good Deeds” and “Patsy’s Potato Patch” shows all. The village rules were fair and duty-filled: the jelly-filled doughnut, eaten without permission, receives the unmentionable punishment (time-out wasn’t invented yet); cause equals effect; good always wins; and order outwits chaos.

Have you noticed the village has gotten chaotic lately? Bad guys (negative choice-makers) don’t seem to get their

proverbial “spankings.” Hard work and loyalty are virtues, but only *if* they “feel good.” Post-modernist parenting books show preoccupation today with creativity, performance, quality time, play dates, ballet, sports, achievement and feelings. Today’s parent is more likely to ask, “Can it entertain?” rather than “Can it train?”

A story today about the “Two Carolines” would likely be a promo for same-sex marriage. “Aunt Bea’s” front porch would be in foreclosure, and the two boys not “washed for supper” are the two-tattooed teens munching Pop-Tarts,

wondering which divorced parents' couch to "crash" on tonight. Dinnertime is likely only a TV advertisement. And the word "family" is mere jousting fodder for late-night comedians.

Parents and schools fight one another for whose duty it is to raise the child. Schools, once responsible for academics, now must serve meals, snacks, summer lunches, offer health and safety education and more. Public schools, which used to fight "bubble gum battles," now must declare "No Drug," "No Firearm" zones. Teachers lament whole classes of students growing up with no books at home. Sunday and Sabbath school teachers fight to train children to sit still for just 15 minutes. On a recent trip to an L.A. school, I found I had to be "locked in" just to see students in a "normal" classroom. Recently, even in rural America, I witnessed a four-year-old girl left to herself all day in a park. The cry for adult intervention goes up around our country.

What would be absurd in Uncle Arthur's village doesn't just make a bad story, it makes a terrible village. Tom Minnery, senior vice president for Focus on the Family Action, agrees. "While no one can, or would want to, turn back the hands of time," he says, "the direction of our public policies and cultural trends continue to move further away from promoting stable families and sheltering vulnerable human life. The last 50 years have brought seismic social change to our communities, nation and world — so much that the days of 'Father Knows Best' are a distant memory."<sup>1</sup>

The "good old days" weren't "perfect old days." Our generation has learned to be more socially aware and to have more time and fun with our children. But what our grandparents' generation did well (and what we are not doing) is give moral village-fabric, secure fences and good role models.

In her blog, "Where Have All the Role Models Gone?" Sarah Hughes, a secular writer, tells youth the answer is to seek out and emulate adults with substance. Sarah encourages youth to pick out different role models than the ones being offered in pop culture.<sup>2</sup>

As Christians, we *must* stand in this void. We *must* step up to this stewardship-plate. We might not bring back the whole front porch, but we must bring back at least some of its bricks! We must reclaim our youth as our greatest asset. Become a role model. After all, it's what Uncle Arthur would do.

By the way, where can I find gloves like the kind mother put on to "go visiting?" They might come in handy while putting back some of these foundational bricks.

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Cindy R. Chamberlin is the director of communication for the Illinois Conference.

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1. Tom Minnery, *Focus on the Family Magazine*, January 2006.
2. Sarah Hughes, "Where Have All the Role Models Gone?" *Femail Online*, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/.../Where-role-models-gone...> Jul 13, 2009, accessed Jan. 2010.

In *The Adventist Home*, Ellen White directed these words to fathers, but she could just have easily included all parents: "Spend as much time as possible with your children. Seek to become acquainted with their various dispositions, that you may know how to train them in harmony with the word of God" (p. 222). Families are of inestimable worth in God's Kingdom. They are the only tangibles we take with us to Heaven. Guard these relations with your highest vigilance.

Here are some simple ways to guard your family:

- Refuse to give up on anyone. Our vow needs to be "Not one of our family goes down without a fight."
- It doesn't take a village, but it takes a praying, fighting, warrior-village.
- Talk to an "alien" teen; you'll both learn a new language.
- Make a minute; no one has one, so make it.
- Pray for every family member by name. (Pray twice for the ones with bad attitudes — yours might change, too.)
- If you love something, don't take it for granted; support it, massage it, prop it up, give it CPR.
- Remember, every worthwhile value takes every breath you have; give it everything.
- If someone trusts you, become worthy of that trust.
- The world doesn't need another poor role model. Decide to be a good one.

—Cindy R. Chamberlin



## We Have this Moment

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

“**T**his is the yuckiest experience of my entire life!” exclaimed our eight-year-old son upon encountering the Great Salt Lake in Utah. All the way from Pennsylvania, we each anticipated swimming in the Great Salt Lake. As a child, I had been told about the natural buoyancy of that salt water. Why, anyone could swim in the Great Salt Lake; it was just a matter of lying on your back. So, I was just as eager as the kids were to get there.

What we didn’t anticipate was the heat and the murky, warm, smelly, swarming-with-insects brine water and the fact that we had to wade more than two city blocks out into the lake to get into water even up to the kids’ knees. Truly, swimming seemed out of the question. Also, our legs burned from the salt water coming into contact with every mosquito bite and minor scratch. It was just so unbearably hot!

Was this fun? Not really. But it did create a memory we’ve held on to for all these years. It was one of those times, and we’ve had many as a family, when we “made a memory” even though the event didn’t meet our original expectations. In almost any event in life, we can remember the disappointing aspects or we can choose to “make a memory” and remember the event in a more positive way.

A friend once told me that one of the ways their family handled difficult situations, when their children were growing up, was to say, “Sometimes we get the bears, and sometimes the bears get us.” She said that helped them keep life in perspective.

Thinking of our Great Salt Lake experience reminds me of Chick Moorman’s list of ten things that can build family solidarity, which he shares in his book, *Parent Talk: Words That Empower, Words That Wound*. He suggests saying to a child, “Let’s put that in our family history file. It will help us remember what we enjoyed doing together at this time in our lives.” He made that statement in regard to parents’



responsibility to build family solidarity and to encourage parents to develop and use their skills to begin conversations and activities to get the family working, playing and talking together.

So, some memories are built unexpectedly by events, and others are initiated by parents taking note and

taking action.

Gloria Gaither recalls that the most valuable gift of her upbringing was the gift of a rich childhood and youth in a solid, loving, celebrating home. In the book, *Let’s Make a Memory*, Gloria shares, “The heritage of a family who loved God and each other, who greeted every new day with anticipation and openness, shaped my values and taught me that life was good. The healthy balance of discipline and freedom, the love of simple things, the respect for all kinds of persons, a deep reverence for God — all these were wrapped up in special moments and given to me in the package I call my childhood.”

*We have this moment to hold in our hands,  
and to touch as it slips through our fingers like sand.  
Yesterday’s gone and tomorrow may never come,  
but we have this moment today.<sup>1</sup>*

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

1. WE HAVE THIS MOMENT Words by Gloria Gaither. Music by William J. Gaither. Copyright © 1975 Hanna Street Music. All rights controlled by Gaither Copyright Management. Used by permission.



**Organic foods  
tend to have more  
disease-preventing  
phytochemicals.**

**Organic farming is  
more eco-friendly.**

## Organic Payoff

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

**O**rganic products continue to increase in popularity. About \$30 billion is spent annually in the United States for organic foods, with organic fruits and vegetables accounting for 12 percent of all produce sales.

People say they choose organic foods for one of three reasons. They believe they are healthier and more nutritious. Secondly, they say organic foods are virtually free of pesticide contamination and have less health risks. And, lastly, organic farming is viewed as being kinder to the environment, more eco-friendly and has a smaller carbon footprint.



Do organic foods have higher levels of nutrients? In about one-half of the studies, organic fruits and vegetables show slightly higher levels of nutrients, typically about ten percent higher. In addition, fresh produce has considerably higher levels of polyphenols and other antioxidants. These phytochemicals help to defend the plant against attack from microorganisms and, hence, delay spoilage. These compounds also provide good protection against chronic diseases.

In terms of health advantages, organic foods do expose consumers to fewer pesticides associated with human disease. However, no human study has yet demonstrated disease protection as a result of consuming an organic diet. Some of the fruits and vegetables that are typically contaminated with pesticides include apples, celery, strawberries, blueberries, grapes, cucumbers, sweet bell peppers, imported peaches and nectarines, spinach, lettuce and potatoes. They form what some environmental groups call the “dirty dozen.” Other produce with the lowest level of pesticides and, hence, less important to buy organic includes onions, cabbage, sweet peas, asparagus, sweet corn, mushrooms, avocados and sweet potatoes.

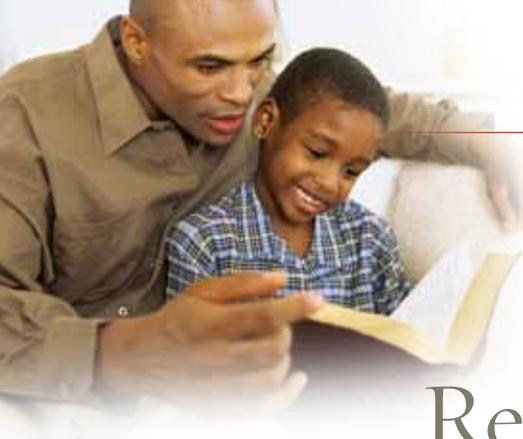
A major change of the past decade has been the large volume of produce imported during the winter months and early spring from Central and South America. This imported produce originates from countries that use more sprays than the U.S. Among those who are most likely to be affected by pesticide residues in food are young, growing children, pregnant women and elderly adults with chronic health conditions. Children especially are impacted, and have a higher risk of neurological and developmental problems.

Organic farming does not require large, intensive energy inputs that are required for the production of nitrogen-based fertilizers and pesticides. Synthetic nitrogen fertilizers help boost crop yields, but they also leach nitrates into groundwater and rivers and contaminate our drinking water.

Fruits and vegetables labeled “organic” means that the produce has been grown without synthetic pesticides and fertilizers; they have not been irradiated, and they have not been grown from genetically-engineered seeds. For dairy products to be labeled organic, at least 30 percent of the cow’s diet must have come from pasture grazing, no bovine growth hormone has been utilized to stimulate milk production, and no antibiotics or other drugs have been used.

While costing more, organic foods do have health and ecological advantages. In addition, farms producing organic fruits, tomatoes and legumes can produce as much per acre as conventional farms.

Winston J. Craig, Ph.D., RD, is chair of the Department of Nutrition at Andrews University.



# PRESENT TRUTH

*Following the Lamb wherever He goes*

## Ready Is Something You Are

BY THE EDITORS

*Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!" — Matthew 7:21–23 NIV*

**T**his past year many parts of the country have been subjected to high wind disasters, leaving thousands homeless, injured and even killed. Recently, some typical, sustained winds out of the northwest came across the Andrews University campus and snapped one of the old pine trees that lined what used to be the old College Avenue, now a walkway through campus. The tree looked healthy enough, but the winds revealed that it was rotten in its core.

In Revelation 7, we have the description of four angels holding back the four winds until the servants of God are sealed. The implication is that after God's people are sealed, the winds will come. The question is, "What will the winds reveal?"

Most may remember the children's action song, based on Matthew 7:24–27, about the foolish man who built his house upon the sand. *And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell — and great was its fall* (vs. 27 NASB). Jesus told this parable to illustrate that in order to survive the crisis, we need to act on what we know. *Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock* (vs. 24 NASB).

Matthew 25 is a call to readiness. The call is made through three parables where Jesus is portrayed as the Bridegroom, the Master and the King, better known as the parables of the Ten Virgins, The Talents, and The Sheep and Goats. The five wise virgins were ready to meet the Bridegroom because their flasks were full of oil. The faithful servants were ready for their Master to return because they had doubled what had been entrusted to them by putting it to work. The "sheep" were ready because they were sheep and had only done what was in their nature to do — follow (be like) the Shepherd.

The three parables appear to be progressive: 1) The wise virgins had their flasks full of the anointing oil of the Spirit; 2) The Spirit initiates, directs and empowers our spiritual gifts (talents of gold) for service and transforms us into the likeness of Jesus; 3) To be like Jesus means that by our very nature we do as He did — we give our food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, clothes to the naked; we open our homes to the alien, look after the sick and bring hope and encouragement to those in prison; 4) We hear the King say, *Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world* (Matthew 25:34 NIV).

This column is designed to promote searching the Scriptures on current topics — in community, through prayer. Invite others to join you in a prayerful response to these thoughts and questions:

- If the winds of strife blew today, what would they reveal?
- Compare the description of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25 with the call to God's people in Isaiah 58.
- What weight or importance does God put on our disinterested and unselfish service to the least of these?

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The Lake Union Herald editors

# A Private Meeting with the Father

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

*When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.* — Matthew 6:6 NIV

**F**ew things in life are more precious than time spent alone with God. The purpose is to build a deeper, personal relationship with Him. Within the seclusion of our private prayer lives, as we spend time with the Lord, we grow in love for Him and are transformed more and more into the image of Christ.

When Jesus says, *Go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father*, He is saying to go a private place where you can withdraw and commune with God in prayer. Today we call such a private meeting with God “daily devotions.” David prayed every morning (Psalm 5:3). Daniel prayed three times each day (Daniel 6:10). Anna and Simeon prayed daily in the temple (Luke 2:25, 36, 37). Paul prayed constantly for the new believers in the churches he founded. Jesus, who had perfect fellowship with the Father, found it important to have private times to commune with Him. Luke reports that *Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed* (Luke 5:16). The people I know who have the most vibrant faith have, like these devoted pray-ers, built their spiritual lives around a consistent time spent with God.

A disciplined, daily devotional life is not optional for a growing Christian. It’s a must. Prayer is the conversational part of a love relationship with God. Love relationships are built by spending time together. God wants us to have a close relationship with Him. When we do, we are the winners. God fills us with joy in His presence (Psalm 16:11).

But personal devotions are not simply a matter of our wanting and needing to spend time with God. *He desires* to spend time with us, too — as much time as possible. God took great joy in creating us and saving us. He knows us and loves us. He enjoys expressing His love to us as we spend time with Him. We are important to Him. David says, *The Lord has set apart the godly for himself* (Psalm 4:3). Zephaniah declares that God takes *great delight* in us, quiets us *with his love*, and rejoices over us with singing (Zephaniah 3:17). Our daily time with God is a time for Him to shower love on us. This gives God great pleasure. It can give us great pleasure too.

I never have met a person who regrets the time set aside for a private daily meeting with the Lord. Are you among this crowd?

## Reflect

- How are you responding to Christ’s command to *go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father*? Are you getting the “reward” He promised?
- Try to imagine the look on God’s face as He takes great delight in you. What do you suppose God does to quiet you with His love? Can you “hear” God’s song as He rejoices over you?

## Pray

- *Praise* God for His great love — a love for you, a person whom He knows by name.
- *Thank* God for giving you the opportunity to meet Him privately anytime you choose, and thank Him for His readiness to meet you.
- *Confess* any reluctance in your relationship with God that causes you to hold back.
- *Ask* for God’s help and guidance to improve on your personal devotional life.
- *Intercede* for family members and friends who need to spend more time with the Lord.

## Act

- Establish a *time* and a *place* to meet God each day.
- Make a *commitment* that is an appropriate response to Jesus’ words in Matthew 6:6, and act on your plan within the next 24 hours.

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.



## Peer Witnesses

BY WENDY KEOUGH

**T**he Peer-to-Peer Outreach mini-course helps Ruth Murdoch Elementary School junior high students touch the lives of many in their community and spread a positive Seventh-day Adventist message. Peer-to-Peer is designed to give junior high students the experience of working with special needs students who are their own age.

Blossomland Learning Center provides special education services. According to their website, “Blossomland Learning Center, located in Berrien Springs, provides comprehensive programs and therapeutic services for students with severe multiple impairments and students with moderate to severe cognitive impairments, ages 3 to 26.”

Chris Davisson, RMES junior high teacher, organized the course along with Blossomland officials. RMES students visit Blossomland two days each week and interact with their peers approximately one-and-a-half hours weekly. Activities include attending Blossomland assemblies, playing on the playground, taking photographs, participating in a field day on the RMES campus, learning about nature, cooking and more.

RMES students see the special needs other students have and use creative ways to reach those kids and help them learn. To prepare for this unique challenge, Blossomland teachers gave RMES students a three-day training session, covering topics such as physical and emotional disabilities, and led them through activities to make these disabilities more “real” for them.

While this may not be a traditional mission field, RMES students are deeply and spiritually affected by the experience. “This is what I would call ‘religion in shoes,’” says David L. Waller, RMES principal. “Our students aren’t just studying the Bible in a classroom and memorizing Scripture, but they



Kaily Iwasa (left) and Maya Turon, former RMES junior high students, participate in a training program to learn how tasks such as lacing and tying may be more difficult for those with special needs.

Wendy Keough

are actually out in the community, connecting with students who need that human connection. It’s a great mission opportunity for our students and for the Blossomland students as well.”

RMES parents express how they see improvements in student attitudes, grades and acceptance of others. “I distinctly remember having a parent recently thank me for helping to change their child

and make them less selfish,” Chris said. “I told them it was because of their student’s involvement with Peer-to-Peer.”

“Staff and teachers at [Blossomland] don’t know very much about the Adventist message,” Davisson continues, “but they are constantly impressed with our students and the courteous way they relate to the students there. I know that our group is sending a positive Adventist message to the adults involved as well.”

James 2:14–16 says, *What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, ‘Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well’ — but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? (NLT)*

RMES students are learning, through practice, to have that faith and give to others as well.

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Wendy Keough is the assistant to the principal at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



## El amor divino – La base del perdón

POR CARMELO MERCADO

*La ternura y la misericordia que Cristo ha revelado en su propia vida preciosa se verán en los que llegan a ser participantes de su gracia... No somos perdonados porque perdonamos, sino como perdonamos. La base de todo el perdón se encuentra en el amor inmerecido de Dios, pero por nuestra actitud hacia otros mostrarnos sí hemos hecho nuestro ese amor. — Palabras de Vida del Gran Maestro, 196*

Como es conocimiento de todos, el año 2012 terminó con una tragedia de tal magnitud que sacudió el mundo entero. Unos días antes de Navidad un joven entró en una escuela primaria en la pequeña ciudad de Newtown, estado de Connecticut, y usando un rifle de asalto mató a veintiséis personas, veinte de las cuales eran niños de seis a nueve años de edad. Es alarmante notar que han ocurrido varios casos similares en otras escuelas; pero este último incidente pareciera ser el peor debido a que la mayoría de las víctimas eran niños pequeños que comenzaban recién a asistir a la escuela. Como resultado de esta tragedia los padres de veinte niños han tenido que enfrentar de una manera inesperada y chocante la pérdida de sus tesoros más valiosos.

El día después de la tragedia, Robbie Parker, el padre de una de las víctimas, dio un testimonio increíble a los reporteros de CNN acerca de su hijita Emilie, su niña tan querida. Habló también acerca de las otras familias afectadas y dijo que estaba orando por ellas. Y lo que más me impresionó fue cuando él le ofreció sus condolencias a la familia del asesino y dijo que no le guardaba ni rencor ni odio. Francamente, cuando lo oí decir eso no pude retener las lágrimas; es obvio que la familia Parker es una familia muy espiritual.

En verdad, sus palabras me hicieron reevaluar mi vida espiritual porque, previo al testimonio de ese padre, mis sentimientos no eran muy favorables hacia el asesino, ni tampoco hacia su familia. En mi mente ellos no merecían ningún tipo de misericordia porque ese joven no había demostrado ninguna misericordia hacía sus víctimas. Y



no dudo que muchos hayan sentido lo mismo. Pensándolo ahora, lo que ese padre expresó era un sentimiento similar al de Cristo, quien en el momento de su más intenso dolor en la cruz no pensó en sí mismo, sino en los demás. Al ladrón que merecía su castigo le ofreció consuelo y esperanza. Cristo oró por

quienes lo maltrataban y colaboraban en su cruel muerte diciendo: "Padre, perdónalos porque no saben lo que hacen."

Doy gracias a Dios por las palabras de ese padre porque su testimonio es una evidencia innegable de lo que la gracia de Dios puede hacer cuando enfrentamos situaciones difíciles y crueles. Quiero desafiar a cada lector de esta página a que se una conmigo en pedirle a Dios que nos capacite para poder demostrar en nuestras vidas la maravillosa gracia de Dios en todo momento.

Carmelo Mercado es el vice presidente de la Unión del Lago.

# Living the Mission

GOD'S DREAM FOR OUR CHILDREN

BY ABRAHAM SWAMIDASS





According to Romans 8:29, God's dream for all of us, including our children, is to conform us to the image of His Son. Our goal as parents is to help each one of our children to become like Jesus. This goal has nothing to do with hairstyles and dress code. Neither is it about rigidly observing a set of rules. Our task is higher and more sacred than that. In fact, it will require God's help. The point is for our children to be kind like Jesus, disciplined like Jesus, and others-centered like Jesus — not because they have to, but because they love Jesus and want to be like Him. How, then, can we, as stewards, help our children become like Jesus? How can we cooperate with God in such a way that His dream for our children can become reality? There are three specific things we can do.

### **TEACH THE BEAUTIFUL, SIMPLE PLAN OF GOD'S SALVATION**

Teach your children that salvation is a gift from God and that it cannot be earned by good behaviors. But make sure they understand that Christ's sacrifice on the cross was costly, and that they should not condone sin. Make sure they understand that God's grace should never be trampled underfoot or His forgiveness taken lightly. Always underscore the goodness and the unconditional love of God. Teach them that we are loved not because of what we are but in spite of what we are.

One of the reasons I talk so much about the goodness of God is because my mother not only taught it but also modeled it. My father walked out on us and was not home for several years, but Mom took charge of things at home. My siblings and I were not perfect children; we made plenty of mistakes. But Mom never focused on our weaknesses nor on the problems. She always focused on the solutions. Mom constantly told us we were the best children in the world and God has a wonderful plan for every one of His precious children. We grew up secure, knowing that my mother loved us and believed in us. She was going to stand behind us through thick and thin.

By the way, research indicates that most children get their concepts of who God is and what He is like from their fathers. If the father is mean, critical and harsh, inevitably the children will grow up with a distorted view of God. If the father is loving, kind, compassionate and just, the child will better understand God's character.

I came across an interesting statement in an article, by Robbie Low, titled "The Truth About Men and the Church." In this article, Robbie pointed out the results of a survey that took place in Switzerland. Questions were asked to determine whether a person's religious practices influenced the spiritual practices of the next generation. What the survey discovered was interesting. Here is the major result of that survey: "It is the religious practice of the father of the family that, above all, determines the future attendance at or absence from church of the children."<sup>1</sup>

So, fathers, teach your children the beautiful, simple plan of God's salvation. Take them to church; don't send them. You have incredible spiritual influence on them.

### **BE CHRISTLIKE**

Since the goal is for children to grow up to act, look, think, live, speak and pray like Christ, the

method [for adults] is to be that example for them. We can preach to our children until we are blue in the face, but if Jesus Christ is not real in our lives, He won't be in their lives either. I have discovered that good modeling is not acting. We must not pretend or show off our good behavior. If our example is going to be effective, it has to be honest.

A few years ago, after a marriage seminar, my eight-year-old son approached me and asked, "Dad, how come you don't do all that you teach in your seminar?"

Jokingly, I asked, "Did Mom tell you to ask this question?"

But I was humbled. I responded, "Son, Dad is not perfect. I am praying everyday to become more like Jesus. Would you pray for Dad to look and act a lot like Jesus?"

"Okay, Dad," he answered. It became crystal clear that children have x-ray vision. They can see right through their parents' hypocrisy. Children see through us if we pretend, so be authentic.

**Authenticity is the goal, not perfection.** If being Christlike causes parents to feel an enormous amount of pressure, let me encourage you. You don't have to be perfect. In fact, you couldn't pass perfection down to your children if you wanted to; they are fallen human beings, just like you and me.

What you can do, however, is demonstrate how godly people handle themselves when they blow it. Let them see how you deal with failure as well as how you deal with success. You can demonstrate what it means to repent, to confess, to humbly accept responsibility for your mistakes, and to ask forgiveness. In fact, asking your child to forgive you for a mistake is one of the most powerful teaching tools we have.

It's not about having it all together; it's about living out what you believe day by day and responding appropriately when you miss the mark.

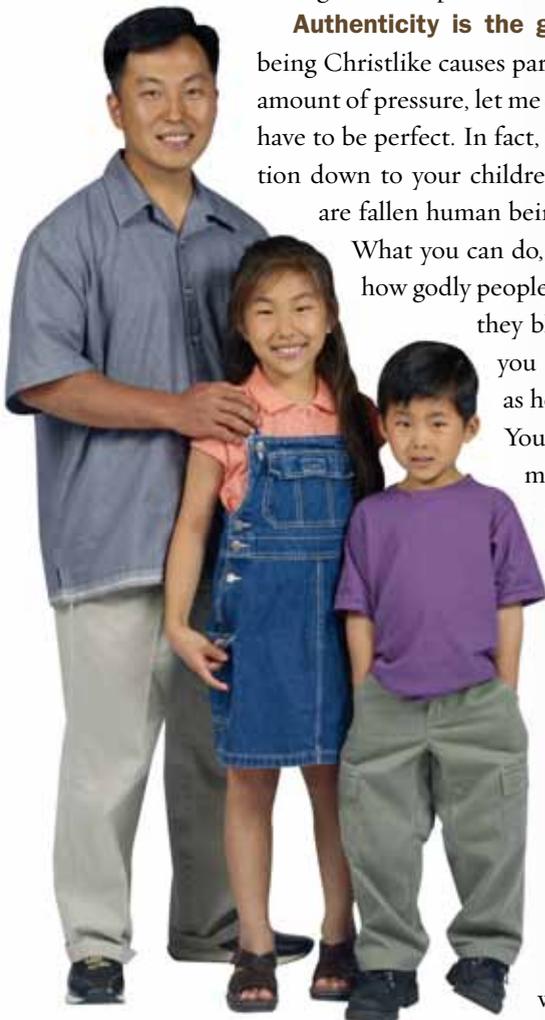
It's impossible for you to be perfect for your children, but anyone can be authentic. When Jesus said that *everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher* (Luke 6:40 NIV), He wasn't putting a heavy burden on people in teaching or parental roles. He was giving every parent and teacher an opportunity to nurture honest, genuine disciples. You can make lots of mistakes and still raise awesome children by showing them how God has mercy toward you and gives you hope. When children see change in their parents, it gives them hope that their failures are not final either. They grow up to be authentic human beings who are aware of their faults and embrace God's grace.

**Expose your humanness.** I can remember numerous times when I blew it in front of my children. My tendency was to get frustrated when they didn't follow clearly laid-out instructions. But when I began to see the effect of my reaction on them, I was compelled to repent and apologize, affirming that what I had said was appropriate, but acknowledging that I had said it in the wrong way. In time, I began to see them play out the same dynamic with me; they would take the initiative to apologize for their offenses toward me. Because I had shown them how I dealt with my failures, they began to imitate me in dealing with their own.

Ask yourself this question: Do I want my children to turn out like me? Can you honestly say that the way you live — your worship, lifestyle, prayers, devotion, habits, stewardship, generosity, love and kindness — is the way you want your children to live when they grow up? What we parents have to accept, whether we like it or not, is that there's nothing we can do to change this dynamic. It's as universal as gravity.

I think psychologist and author Carl Pickhardt had it right when he declared, "The power of parental influence comes to this: the example parents model (who and how they are) and the treatment parents give (how they choose to act and react with their child)."<sup>2</sup>

What if it's too late? What if I've already modeled many of the wrong things? Don't despair. God can take the most negative past and produce a positive future as we turn wholeheartedly to Him for help. Scripture promises, *Love covers over a multitude of sins* (I Peter 4:8 NIV). I can't tell you how many times I went to my children, privately met with them



in their bedroom, owned up to violating one of my own standards, and asked them to forgive me for the behavior I knew they'd just witnessed. My children didn't learn how to be perfect from me, but they learned how to be real.

Our parenting is about more than getting through the stages of development. It is an offering to our children, a gift that will help them to become Christlike, and an eternal relationship with their heavenly Father.

**Offer Unconditional Love.** Showing unconditional love requires three things:

**1) Let children see that you love your spouse.** Here's the first thing we want to show when it comes to modeling unconditional love: Parents must love one another and let their children see them express affection. My wife and I never fail to show our children that their mom and dad not only love them but they also love each other very much. Particularly after a conflict in our relationship, we make it a point to show a proper level of affection to one another in front of the boys. We don't have to fake it — and you can't fake it either!

We want our boys to know, through our mutual affection, that God loves us unconditionally and that we should forgive each other just as in Christ God forgave us (see Ephesians 4:32).

Through the years, I've learned a lot about forgiveness — not just in my relationship with my wife but in all of my relationships, both personal and professional. But recently, I've learned that there's a big difference between *reconciliation* and *conciliation*. Reconciliation means to bring things back to the way they were. Conciliation means ending things on friendly terms.<sup>3</sup>

Today, most couples don't want reconciliation when they are offering forgiveness — they want conciliation. They want to just go ahead and end the argument without dealing with the real issues. Sadly, some even choose divorce — a form of conciliation — because things may end “friendly.”<sup>4</sup> The greatest gift parents can give their children is reconciliation. Remember God's goal for all of us, including our children, is not to conform us to an ideal but to the image of His Son.

**2) Make sure your children feel loved.** This is not to say our children are always right about what they feel. However, when we focus on emotions, we

say to our children, “I care how you feel. Your feelings matter to me.” And when our children get this message, they feel deeply cared for. That's when they feel loved.

A few months ago, I was lying in bed and thought of a conversation I had with my son. He said he didn't feel as though I understood the pain and frustration he had gone through recently when I lost my cool with him. Actually, he reminded me that I lost my cool a few times. This was happening quite frequently, and he wondered if I really cared.

At the time, I didn't know the depth of his feelings. So before I went to sleep, I chose to walk in his shoes during the past month and experience it with my heart. So many feelings came to me; it was quite overwhelming. I felt his pain and, suddenly, understood how he could have felt. I became quite emotional.

I met with him two days later and shared what I had done, explained how I started to understand his pain, and asked him to forgive me. I believe it helped my son to know that I understand his hurt. Now if he was an adult, he would have looked at me and said, “That's all I needed from you.”

James gives this counsel: *But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger* (James 1:19 NIV). I think that is especially true for parents. Children will break your rules and your heart; but when you understand their feelings, a connection is established that makes healing a lot easier.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus related to people's feelings. When they cried, He cried; when they celebrated, He celebrated with them. This doesn't mean He was controlled by people's feelings but that He understood them and identified with them. As parents, we should not be slaves to our children's feelings; but at the same time, we should not send out signals that we don't care about how they feel.

**3) Love in the hard times.** Loving our children unconditionally means that no matter what they are, what they do, where they go, they're still ours. A story that came across the Internet, from an unknown source, illustrates the point.

Some time ago, a father punished his three-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight, and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree. Nevertheless, the little

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Parents must have a single focus and a daily prayer: "Lord, will You help me cooperate with You?"

girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy."

The man was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared again when he found out the box was empty. He yelled at her, stating, "Don't you know, when you give someone a present, there is supposed to be something inside of it?"

The little girl looked up at him, with tears in her eyes, and said, "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty at all. I blew kisses into the box. They're all for you, Daddy."

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and begged for her forgiveness. Only a short time later, an accident took the life of the child. The author also wrote that her father kept that gold box by his bed for many years and, whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.<sup>5</sup>

As believers in Jesus Christ, as men and women filled with the indwelling Spirit of God, you and I have the capacity to love without restraints or conditions. It is the supernatural love of God flowing through our weakness and powerlessness. And, let's face it, it's not always easy to love our children. Scripture tells us that real love *always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails* (I Corinthians 13:7, 8 NIV). That kind of love doesn't flow naturally from a parent's heart. It's a gift from the Holy Spirit. And if we belong to Him, that divine love can pour over the channels of our lives (see Romans 5:5).

### PRAY FOR AND WITH YOUR CHILDREN

There never has been a time when we needed to pray for our children more than today. They're fighting battles we can't imagine. They need to know that Mom and Dad are standing with them and praying for them. My wife and I make it a priority to pray with and pray for all three of our children.

If it's true that prayer changes things, what sorts of issues can we pray about regarding our families? How should we pray for our spouse and children? What petitions can we bring to God's attention?

Author Patrick Morley offers a list of concerns we parents can pray for regarding our children:

- Pray for a saving faith if they don't know the Lord.
- Pray for a growing faith if they're immature.
- Pray for an independent faith as they get older.

- Pray that they will be strong and healthy in mind, body and spirit.
- Pray for a sense of purpose and destiny in their life.
- Pray for a desire within them that they will have integrity, for a call to excellence.
- Pray that they would understand the ministry God has for them.
- Pray that they will set aside times to spend with God.
- Pray that they will acquire wisdom.
- Pray for protection against drugs and alcohol and premarital sex.<sup>6</sup>

If I had to summarize this, I would appeal to the story of Mary and Martha, in Luke 10:41, 42, where Jesus said, *Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed.* He was talking about her personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. If our children's personal relationships with Jesus are solid, most of the other stuff will settle in. So, I pray about my children's walk with God and their faithfulness to the Lord.

Parents must have a single focus and a daily prayer: "Lord, will You help me cooperate with You so we can work together on this gift You've entrusted to me? Will You help me prepare this vessel to be filled with your Spirit, so that in ten, 20, 30 years this child loves and trusts You, knows Your grace, and has values and convictions that reflect Your heart?" If you ever wanted to know how to get an "A" as a parent, this is it.

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1. Robbie Lowe, "The Truth About Men & Church: On the Importance of Fathers to Church Going," accessed December 29, 2012, <http://www.fisheaters.com/menandchurch.html>.
2. Carl Pickhardt, "Keeping Parental Influence in Perspective," accessed August 5, 2003, <http://www.carlpickhardt.com>. Quoted in Ed Young, *The 10 Commandments of Parenting*, (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 61.
3. Dr. Gary Smalley and Ted Cunningham, *The Language of Sex: Experiencing the beauty of sexual intimacy*, (Ventura: Regal Books, 2008), 189.
4. Ibid.
5. <http://help.com/post/91319-the-story-goes-that-some-time-ago>, accessed December 28, 2012.
6. Patrick M. Morley, *The Man in the Mirror*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1992), 97. Quoted in Dr. David Jeremiah, *Gifts from God*, (Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1999), 73.

# Mission Accomplished

BY RON KELLY

Growing up as a kid, I had the distinct disadvantage of a mother who knew I could do wrong, and I often did. She wasn't overly concerned about my self-esteem, but it did matter that I told the truth, chewed with my mouth closed, and said "please" and "thank you." She was different than most moms. She knew how to change the inner tube on my bike and even showed me how. The next flat tire was mine to fix. And I did. She was great, except for one thing — she never made excuses for me or got me out of trouble I deserved. What a mom!

Every neighborhood has a bully or two. In our case, it was the latter. They were twins — Ronny and Johnny. Their long hair and freckled faces were an odd combination, but they seemed to swagger in perfect harmony. Everybody on the block knew who ruled the neighborhood roost. Nobody liked it, but who could do anything about it? Who would?

One afternoon, I peered down the hill from my front yard and saw the twins playing basketball in their driveway. An ill-made plan was hatched in my pre-adolescent mind and, unfortunately, quickly put into action.

Pedaling my bike to the top of the hill, I gripped the handlebars and summoned my nerve. Pushing away, I stood on the pedals, attempting to produce as much speed as possible as I rushed toward their house on my bicycle. Tar bubbles popping under my rapidly-rolling wheels, the wind blasting past my face, I sped to my ill-advised confrontation. At just the right moment, certain that I could not be apprehended, I lobbed my one-word verbal assault onto the court: "Chickennn!"

They dropped their ball and chased in hot pursuit, but were no match for my momentum. I wheeled away to safety, pedaling all the way around the block to avoid capture. I had stood up to the bullies! During the next few days, I repeated the performance several times. Each one produced a greater determination in the hearts of the twins to catch me, and a greater adrenaline rush in me as they nearly did.

But my "victories" were costly. I now had to pay attention to their whereabouts at all times. Being outside in my yard was no longer a relaxing experience. Their surprise appearance could mean immediate retribution.

But the real crisis was created by my mother. I was to go to the store to make a purchase. Usually, it would have been a great diversion; but that day, I couldn't find any pleasure in it. You see, Ronny and Johnny were at a neighbor's house, which directly intersected my route to the store. I explained my dilemma to my mother but she was unmoved. I was going to the store even if it meant pulverization at the hands of the brothers.

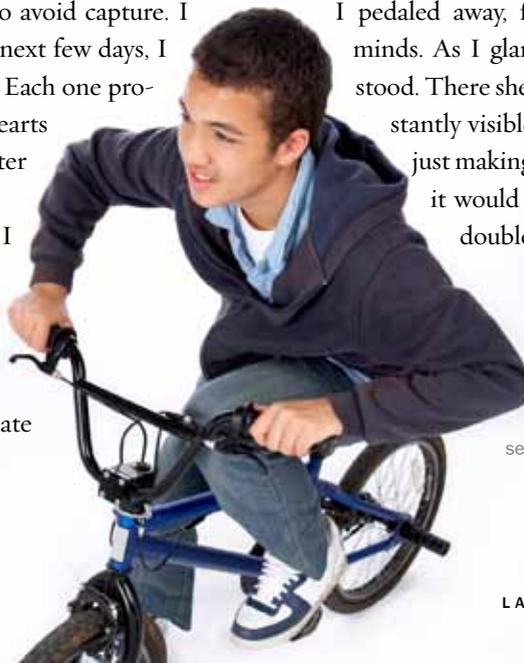
With each stroke of the pedals, I could imagine their knuckles descending toward my nose. I chose the sidewalk instead of the street as a clear signal to my enemies that I knew I was vanquished. My days of evading them were over. It was time to "pay the piper."

Ronny and Johnny strode out to the cement like lions licking their chops. They didn't even have to run. One straddled the front tire with his hands on the handlebars while the other poked his bony finger into my chest. Judgment had come. *Why were they prolonging the delivery of my sentence? When would the first fist fall?*

Finally, after one last menacing warning, they pushed away from my bike and slinked away. *Was I free?* Cautiously, I pedaled away, fearful they would change their minds. As I glanced over my shoulder, I understood. There she was with hands on her hips, constantly visible to the twins, though not to me, just making sure that if I got what I deserved it would be under "fair conditions" — no double-teaming.

My lesson in "accountability" was complete. Thanks, Mom, for fulfilling your mission.

Ron Kelly is co-director of family ministries for the Indiana Conference and senior pastor of the Cicero Church in Indiana.





# The Home Mission Field

BY ELLEN WHITE

**C**hristian parents, if you desire to work for the Lord, begin with your little ones at home. If you manifest tact and wisdom and the fear of God in the management of your children, you may be entrusted with greater responsibilities. True Christian effort will begin at home, and go out from the center to embrace wider fields. A soul saved in your own family circle or in your own neighborhood, by your patient, painstaking labor, will bring as much honor to the name of Christ, and will shine as brightly in your crown as if you had found that soul in China or India.

The Lord will not pass unpunished the neglect of parents to train their children for his service. By kind and judicious management, fathers as well as mothers should bind their children to them by the strong ties of reverence,

gratitude, and love, and should kindle in their young hearts an earnest longing for righteousness and truth. While the mother seeks to implant good principles, the father should see that the precious seed is not choked by the growth of

evil. His sterner discipline is needed that his children may learn firmness and self-control amid the allurements to sin which must be on every hand.

Let parents beware how they undervalue or neglect their work. Great is the reward of fidelity, terrible the penalty of unfaithfulness. One child wisely educated — trained to love and practice the right because it is right, may impart to thousands the blessings which he has received. Through his influence and example, the lessons of uprightness, purity, and devotion that shaped his own character, are permitted to shed their precious light far and wide.

How many faithful and honored workers for God and humanity have been given to the world as the fruit of a godly training in childhood. It was said of Timothy, the beloved co-laborer with Paul, that he knew the holy Scriptures from a child, and that the faith which dwelt in his mother and grandmother, was revealed also in him. The influence of faithful Christian parents can never lose its power. A young man when about to be ordained as a Christian minister, stated that at one time he had been well-nigh led to adopt the principles of infidelity. “But,” he added, “there was one argument in favor of Christianity which I could never forget, and that was the consistent conduct of my own father. Through that I was at length won to the Saviour.”

By neglect of duty, parents exert a far-reaching influence for evil. One ungodly, disobedient son, may lead many souls in the path of iniquity. Each of these will corrupt others; the evil traits cherished will be transmitted to posterity; and thus iniquity is constantly increasing and multiplying, and all because parents choose the way which is easiest at the moment, the way of gratification and indulgence, and look not to the misery in store for themselves, their children, and their children’s children.

The solemn warnings contained in the word of God, the judgments visited upon the indulgent father, and his rebellious sons, should arouse parents from their stupor, and lead them to see and feel their duty to give to their children, by right education and discipline, correct habits and sound principles. Christian father, labor kindly, patiently, for the welfare of your children. Seek to turn their hearts to the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. Teach them by precept and example, that the spirit of Christ is the spirit of doing good.

To every father and mother is committed a little plot of ground before their own door. It is their work to clear it from noxious weeds, and to mellow the soil that the precious seed may take root and flourish there. To do their work faithfully will be far more pleasing to God than to go

on a mission to some foreign land, leaving the home field neglected. The work of Christian ministers and parents, should begin with their own children. Present to the church and to the world a well-disciplined family, and you present one of the strongest arguments in favor of Christianity.

If parents who are following Eli’s example of neglect could see the result of the education they are giving their children, they would feel that the curse which fell on Eli would assuredly fall on them. The sin of rebellion against parental authority, lies at the very foundation of the misery and crime in the world today. In his holy law God himself speaks to children: *Honor thy father and thy mother*. Again, by the pen of an apostle he commands them, *Children, obey your parents*. The Old and the New Testament alike teach respect and obedience to parents, and also admonish all to reverence and honor the aged, to tenderly protect and cherish those whose heads are white, and whose steps are feeble. If children were trained according to the teachings of God’s word, they would manifest a deference for superiors, a propriety of deportment, and a beauty of character that would make them beloved by their associates, and beloved of God.

There is a cause for the spirit of insubordination that exists in the family and the State, and that threatens to overthrow the very foundations of government. It is to be found in the growing disregard for the law of God. In ancient times parents were commanded to diligently teach its sacred precepts to their children, that they might thus become acquainted with the character of God, and his claims upon them. But men have become wiser, in their own conceit, than their Maker. Many have set aside the law of God, and have followed their own judgment in preference to his revealed will. How terrible have been the results of this teaching upon the youth! Self-indulgence, dissipation, profanity, and even greater crimes prevail to an extent that is frightful to contemplate.

The Lord holds parents and guardians responsible for the children under their care. He has not left us in uncertainty concerning the characters that he will accept. Nothing less than purity in thought, word, and deed, will meet the divine standard. The word of God sets forth in unmistakable language the duties of parents. If they will faithfully perform these duties, his Spirit will crown their efforts with success. Those words of holy writ are as true now as when first uttered by the wise man, *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it*.

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Ellen G. White was a co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This article contains excerpts from the original document, which was published in “The Father’s Duty,” *Signs of the Times*, February 10, 1881.

# The Study on the Question of Ordination and the Role of Women in Ministry

This month, the Lake Union Conference Executive Committee is participating in the process of studying the theology, function and practice of ordination, particularly as it relates to women in ministry, at the invitation of the North American Division. It seemed good to us for our readers to be informed, included and invited to participate in our prayerful study of this subject. The following materials have been prepared to assist you in that process. —*The Lake Union Herald* editors

## CONTEXT

At its 2010 Session in Atlanta, the General Conference initiated a process for the study of the theology, function and practice of ordination that includes participation from the entire world field.

The General Conference Theology of Ordination Study Committee was formed in September 2012. Its chair is Artur Stele, an Adventist world church vice president and director of the Biblical Research Institute. Stele said steps are being taken to “ensure that the process will be open, fair and transparent.”

The committee’s steering committee already has met twice, and the first full meeting convened at the world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, January 15–17.

The committee’s drafts of documents for each task will be sent to local Biblical Research committees in each of the denomination’s 13 world divisions. Each local division committee will make recommendations and return their suggestions.

The committee likely will complete its work the summer of 2014, Stele said.

The denomination’s Executive Committee at the 2014 Annual Council may decide to recommend action to the 2015 General Conference Session.

“The Theology of Ordination Study Committee starts its work in total reliance on God’s guidance,” Stele said. “Please pray for the right spirit and openness for God’s leadership.” (Source: Adventist News Network, December 6, 2012)

The General Conference Theology of Ordination Study Committee has been assigned the task to:

1. Supervise the worldwide study of the theology of ordination and its implications, reviewing and analyzing data from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.
2. Review the history of the study of ordination in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

3. Develop a comprehensive agenda on the subject of theology of ordination and its implications for practices in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including the subject of ordination of women to the gospel ministry.
4. Receive (not later than December 31, 2013) and discuss reports from the division Biblical Research committees concerning their division-wide studies and conclusions ensuring that division Biblical Research committees address the comprehensive study agenda.
5. Request studies or solicit papers from committee members and/or non-members when further study is deemed necessary.
6. Develop a Seventh-day Adventist theology of ordination to recommend to the 2014 Annual Council for consideration.
7. Submit to the 2014 Annual Council, through General Conference administration, the full report of the worldwide study indicating areas of consensus and areas where consensus has not been obtained with respect to the theology of ordination and its implications for practices in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
8. Focus on potential solutions, in areas of disagreement, that support the message, mission and unity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In response to the General Conference’s request to all divisions, the North American Division has formed its committee for this study and to submit a report to the General Conference’s Theology of Ordination Study Committee. Information regarding both committees and a list of members is available online at <http://Ordination.LakeUnion.org>.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Many may be unaware of our Church history on the role of women in the church and the question of ordination.

Following is a brief history of actions taken regarding this issue, indicating a consistent advancement of the roles women play in ministry, including the ordination of women as elders and deacons. Copies of records, documents and statements are available online and referenced by number. We trust this information will be useful to you as you participate in our quest to discover God's will for His church.

1. At the 1881 General Conference Session, a resolution was put forth. "Resolved: That females possessing the necessary qualifications to fill that position, may, with perfect propriety be set apart by ordination to the work of the Christian ministry." This was discussed by eight church leaders and was subsequently referred to the General Conference Committee for consideration. There is no evidence that the resolution was addressed or acted upon.
2. In 1901, the question of the ordination of female evangelist and pastor Lulu Russell Wightman, of New York state, was addressed at the union Executive Committee. A.G. Daniels, then General Conference president, was present at the Committee and expressed his opposition "at least for now."
3. In 1968, Finland made a request to the Northern European Division to ordain women. The Division, in turn, referred it to the General Conference. This began a cycle of studies, committees and referrals.
4. The 1973 Annual Council received a report and recommendations on the role of women in the Church.
5. The 1974 Annual Council, while affirming previous actions encouraging women to serve the Church, asserted that "in the interest of the world unity of the church, no move be made in the direction of ordaining women to the gospel ministry" and called for further study.
6. The 1975 Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee, under the title, "The Role of Women in the Church," took action that made provision for women to be ordained as elders and "on the matter of the ordination of women to the gospel ministry we believe that the world church is not yet ready to move forward. Therefore, until this question becomes clearer we recommend that every endeavor be made to use women in the numerous positions many of them are well qualified to fill." Further, they recommended that "where Bible Instructors or other women with suitable qualifications and experience are able to fill ministerial roles, they be assigned as assistant pastors, their credentials being missionary license or missionary credential."
7. In 1977, the NAD Committee on Administration adopted the term "Associates in Pastoral Care" for those not on track for ordination.
8. The 1984 Annual Council, in response to a request to grant ministerial licenses to qualified women, referred

to a plan for each division to discuss the issue, and send two representatives to a commission that would report to the 1985 Spring Meeting.

9. The 1985 Spring Meeting made a recommendation to the 1985 General Conference Session "to take no definitive action at this time regarding the ordination of women to the gospel ministry"; "to maintain the church's present position"; and assign topics for further study.
10. The 1985 General Conference voted the recommendations of the Spring Meeting.
11. The 1989 Annual Council took action that female Associates in Pastoral Care be allowed to perform essentially the same functions as an ordained minister in churches where they were assigned, provided they met certain qualifications. This action became final with immediate effect. In addition, the Annual Council referred its recommendation not to ordain women to the gospel ministry to the 1990 General Conference Session.
12. The 1990 General Conference Session accepted the report of the 1989 Annual Council and affirmed "a significant, wide-ranging, and continuing ministry for women." In addition, it decided not to approve ordination of women to the gospel ministry on the grounds that there was "widespread lack of support" and to avoid "the possible risk of disunity, dissension and diversion from the mission of the church." At the same session, approval was given for women pastors to conduct baptism and wedding ceremonies.
13. The 1995 General Conference Session considered the North American Division request (referred to it by the 1994 Annual Council) to allow each division the right to authorize qualified individuals to the gospel ministry without regard to gender. The motion failed: 1,481 to 673.
14. The 2000 NAD Year-End Meeting revised the policies pertaining to ministers to provide a path from licensed to commissioned minister for women.
15. The 2010 General Conference Session provided for the ordination of deaconesses and initiated a process for the study of the theology, function and practice of ordination as the Seventh-day Adventist Church had not yet formed a theology of its own.
16. On March 8, 2012, the Mid-America Union Executive Committee voted "to support the ordination of women in the Mid-America Union," in principle, but no action to ordain women was taken.
17. On March 22, 2012, the Southeastern California Conference Executive Committee voted "to remove the term 'Ordained-Commissioned' on all ministerial credentials, regardless of the gender of the credential holder." This was effective immediately.

18. On March 29, 2012, the Southern Union Executive Committee voted to continue their commitment to support women in ministry “in harmony with the Seventh-day Adventist World Church as expressed by actions taken during the General Conference in business session.”
19. On May 15, 2012, the Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee, while stating their commitment to act in harmony with the decisions taken by the General Conference in business session, voted “that the Atlantic Union Conference, in harmony with scriptural mandates of the priesthood of all believers, is committed to supporting, empowering and celebrating women in ministry.”
20. On July 29, 2012, Columbia Union Conference delegates from its eight conferences voted to approve a recommendation from the union Executive Committee authorizing ordination without regard to gender at a specially-called constituency session. Subsequent to the session, 15 women were approved for ordination.
21. On August 19, 2012, the Pacific Union Conference delegates from its seven conferences voted to “approve ordinations to the gospel ministry without regard to gender,” at a specially-called constituency session. Subsequent to the session, 14 women were approved for ordination.
22. On October 10, 2012, at its regularly-scheduled meeting, the Lake Union Conference Executive Committee voted “to affirm its unity with the World Church and its commitment to the General Conference process of examining the theology of ordination, including a study on the issue of women’s ordination.”
23. On November 14, 2012, the North Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee, at its regularly-scheduled November 14 meeting, voted to engage Northwest members in a discussion on gender-inclusiveness in gospel ministry.

The various actions denying requests for ordination carry with them language that sites issues of readiness,

acceptance, unity, discomfort or no explanation at all. Many of the actions, especially the more recent ones, were a response to a recommendation or request from a committee or office in the field, and were voted after lengthy debates from the floor citing Scripture, both for and against.

Arguments against the ordination of women to pastoral ministry have typically drawn on the New Testament male-only references of authority and leadership and the idea of spiritual headship as described in the first publication on the subject in the April 22, 1862, edition of the *Review & Herald*.

“The husband is the head of the family, as Christ is the head of the church, and any course which the wife may pursue to lessen his influence and lead him to come down from the dignified, responsible position God would have him occupy, displeases God. It is the duty of the wife to yield her wishes and will to her husband. Both should be yielding, but preference is given in the word of God to the judgment of the husband. And it will not detract from the dignity of the wife to yield to him who she has chosen to be her counselor, adviser, and protector. The husband should maintain his position in his family with all meekness, yet with decision.” (Full article is available at <http://Ordination.LakeUnion.org>.)

Arguments for the ordination of women to pastoral ministry have typically referenced examples of women in authority and leadership in the Old Testament, along with the New Testament concepts of the priesthood of all believers and the “new order” of all-inclusiveness, i.e., Galatians 3:28, *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus* (KJV).

This inclusive language appears in the January 15, 1901, edition of the *Review & Herald*. “It is the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit of God that prepares workers, both men and women, to become pastors to the flock of God. As they cherish the thought that Christ is their Companion, a holy awe, a sacred joy, will be felt by them amid all their trying experiences and all their tests. (Full article is available at <http://Ordination.LakeUnion.org>.)

## OUR COMMITMENT TO SCRIPTURE

The 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church begin with our commitment to the authority and reliability of the Bible. We also have included those fundamental beliefs that may be particularly helpful in our study.

### Fundamental Belief #1 Holy Scriptures

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by Divine inspiration through holy men of God who spoke and wrote as they were

moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to man the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God’s acts in history. (2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 30:5, 6; Isaiah 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 4:12)

### Fundamental Belief #6 Creation

God is Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic account of His creative activity. In six days the Lord made the heaven and the earth and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of His completed creative work. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was very good, declaring the glory of God. (*Genesis 1; 2; Exodus 20:8-11; Psalm 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Hebrews 11:3*)

### Fundamental Belief #14 Unity in the Body of Christ

The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children. (*Romans 12:4, 5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Matthew 28:19, 20; Psalm 133:1; 2 Corinthians 5:16, 17; Acts 17:26, 27; Galatians 3:27, 29; Colossians 3:10-15; Ephesians 4:14-16; 4:1-6; John 17:20-23*)

### Fundamental Belief #17 Spiritual Gifts and Ministries

God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts which each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills, the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions. According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people. Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, apostolic, and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God's varied grace, the church is protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows

with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love. (*Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:9-11, 27, 28; Ephesians 4:8, 11-16; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11*)

### Fundamental Belief #23 Marriage and the Family

Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between partners who share a common faith. Mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility are the fabric of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, marriage partners who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving disciplinarian, ever tender and caring, who wants them to become members of His body, the family of God. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. (*Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:21-33; Matthew 5:31, 32; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10, 11; Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-4; Deuteronomy 6:5-9; Proverbs 22:6; Malachi 4:5, 6*)

### KEY TEXTS FOR STUDY

- Genesis 2:15-24
- Genesis 3:8-24
- Galatians 3:26-29
- 1 Timothy 2:8-15
- 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- Titus 1:5-9
- 1 Corinthians 14:34, 35

A full bibliography of published books, documents and additional resources are available at <http://Ordination.LakeUnion.org> and will be updated periodically. In addition, we invite the submission of responsible papers for inclusion on the website. Papers can be submitted via email to: [ordination@lucsd.org](mailto:ordination@lucsd.org).

The *Lake Union Herald* editors



## Work of a hospice chaplain is a blessing

*Branislav Dedic, better known as “Chaplain Branko,” has served as chaplain of Adventist St. Thomas Hospice in Hinsdale, Ill., for the last 11 years. Originally from Yugoslavia, he worked as an ordained Seventh-day Adventist pastor for 27 years — first in his country before becoming a missionary in Cameroon, a country in west Central Africa, and later as the pastor of the Yugoslavian Seventh-day Adventist Church in Chicago. He and his wife, Vera, have a daughter, Sara, and son, Zack. —Sheila Galloro, public relations specialist*

For 27 years, I enjoyed my life as a pastor and as a church administrator. But for the last 11 years, I’ve been blessed with the opportunity to work as hospice chaplain.

I have the privilege to visit terminally ill patients every day, either in their homes or in a nursing home, to hear about their pain, their fear, to pray with them and their families, and often to officiate at their funerals.

But there are also happy moments. A couple of years ago, I was invited to visit a new patient, a 76-year-old woman in the end stages of congestive heart failure.

As I walked into her room and introduced myself, she greeted me with a warm smile. Despite having to use oxygen and her labored breathing, she wanted to talk. I learned about her strong faith, her many years of dedicated work in her church and her more than ten-year struggle with her failing heart.

Then, she stopped and, with tears in her eyes, said, “I lived with my husband in this facility for [more than] 11 years in the independent living wing. Last week, my doctor told me that there is nothing more he could do for me. Yesterday, I



*Chaplain Branislav Dedic prays with a hospice patient in her home. Dedic serves as chaplain for Adventist St. Thomas Hospice in Hinsdale, Ill.*

moved to the healthcare wing. I am okay, but I am so worried for my husband. He has Parkinson’s and bad rheumatoid arthritis, and now he is alone. He must be so scared.”

She was very emotional and cried a lot. We prayed for her and her husband.

After leaving her room, I went to visit her husband. When I introduced myself, he became angry and wanted me to leave. “She is now on hospice, and you will kill her,” he said. But I calmed him down with my smile and humor.

He warmed up and talked about his love for his wife, who was his high school sweetheart. For the first time, they were not together; and the next day was their wedding anniversary. He cried and cried. We said a prayer, and I told him, “Chuck, I’ll be back tomorrow with an anniversary card for your wife, and I’ll take you to see her.” He was happy and grateful.

The next day, I returned with a hand-painted card and one red rose. His hand shook, and I had to help him write on the card in giant letters, “I love you.” It was hard to dress him and get him into a wheelchair, as he was a tall, large man in a lot of pain.

Somehow we managed, and we came to his wife’s room. She was sleeping. I tapped her and said, “Look, someone is here to see you.” In one hand, Chuck held the rose; in the other, the card. She couldn’t believe what she was seeing, and both cried and repeated to each other, “I love you. I love you.”

I gave them some privacy until they called me back to the room, thankful for giving them that special moment.

*Branislav Dedic, chaplain, Adventist St. Thomas Hospice, Hinsdale, Ill.*



Christopher Shuler, a member of Pioneer Memorial Church, annually reprises his role as a Roman guard in the Andrews University Passion Play.

## Passion Play returns to two-day format

The 2013 Andrews University Passion Play will return to a two-day format with rotations on both Sabbath, April 6, and Sunday, April 7. Tickets will be available beginning March 1.

The Passion Play is a stirring, interactive portrayal of Christ's final days on Earth. The production relies upon the concerted efforts of hundreds of students, faculty and community volunteers who spend countless hours converting the campus into a miniature New Testament world. It features live animals, biblical markets, Roman soldiers and well-researched character portrayals.

Tickets are free and in high demand so, if you plan to attend, don't delay in making a reservation. You can participate in the complete tour of performances within 90 minutes. Ticket holders are requested to arrive 30 minutes before their ticket time. Be sure to wear weather-appropriate clothes and walking shoes.

For news and updates about the Passion Play, to sign up as a volunteer or to reserve your ticket, go to <http://andrews.edu/passionplay> or call 269-471-3211.

## Andrews ranks on 'Overperforming School' list

Andrews University was recently ranked No. 11 on *U.S. News & World Report's* "Overperforming Schools in the Nation" list, with an overall score of +75. This concept measures the degree to which a university's overall position in the rankings exceeds or falls short of its undergraduate academic reputation rank.

This was the magazine's first-ever analysis of colleges in the national universities ranking category that are overperforming or underperforming their undergraduate academic reputations in terms of their overall "Best Colleges 2013" rankings.

"This report appears to support the reality that small, private/Christian institutions can — and often do — offer an environment of excellence and nurturing where students thrive and succeed, often beyond what might be expected," says Andrea Luxton, provost of Andrews. "However, it is also difficult for smaller institutions to find the resources to communicate that value widely, which inevitably leads to an underestimation of value. As far as Andrews is concerned, this report recognizes that our quality programs are very competitive with some of the best institutions in the nation."

In the study, the schools that were ranked performed well in key academic metrics such as selective admissions, financial and faculty resources, alumni giving, and graduation and retention rates. Andrews was the only institution in the Seventh-day Adventist

educational system to be recognized as an overperforming university.

"With the additional value of the element of our Christian community, we have a winning combination!" says Luxton.

For more information on the rankings, visit <http://www.andrews.edu/news>.



C. Adelina Alexe

## Seminary student wins sermon contest

C. Adelina Alexe, a graduate student at the Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, is one of 12 winners of a Stewardship Sermon Contest. The contest was open to North American active or retired ministers and graduate ministerial students. More than 100 sermons were submitted. The contest was sponsored by North American Division Stewardship and Ministerial Departments, and *Ministry* magazine. The 12 winning sermons will be published in a book and made available to pastors and church leaders.

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication



## Baptism Prayers

BY CINDY R. CHAMBERLIN

**J**im Nephew, pastor of the Iron Mountain Church in Michigan, prayed regularly for the Fornetti family whose home he passed frequently. Meanwhile, miles away, Jerry Lastine, pastor of the Paris/Danville district in Illinois, prayed for baptisms. It had been 12 years since the last baptism in his church. That baptism was Jacob Lynch, a cousin of Ben Wilson.

Meanwhile, Ben met a young woman, Angie, at a school-district event. Later, the two struck up friendship and began to date. Ben told Angie about his faith, and she became anxious to be baptized. On July 28, 2012, Angie was baptized in the Paris/Danville district. On August 11, 2012, she and Ben were married.

And the rest of the story... Angie is a Fornetti, daughter of the family Jim



Angie and Ben Wilson

prayed for throughout the years, while Ben is a member of the Paris Church where Jerry prayed for baptisms. Both pastors' prayers were answered.

"It was a delight to baptize Angie," says Jerry. "The biggest joy was being in the baptismal pool again."

Cindy R. Chamberlin is the communication director of the Illinois Conference.

## Balancing on the Fence

BY DOUGLAS GOW

**I**t's a few days before my baptism, and I'm having a dream. In it, I'm late and can't find the keys, need gas for the car, and getting there is one big hassle. Then I'm at the church and heading down some dark, twisting stairs to a level of the church where I've never been before. I'm walking through deserted office space which is a little musty and dusty, dark and worn, somewhat like Dante's journey. Behind me, someone says that this is where the conference offices once were. As I round a corner, sitting in a chair is a very obese, unkempt guy, as if from a Francis Bacon painting. I pass by that room, but I can hear from another office what I'm sure is a couple intimately involved. Then I'm in a closet-like area with a railing, like a witness box. The white, baptismal gown is wet from previous use, and the drain is clogged. Sitting down on a bench to change, the door in front of me swings open — and there's the congregation, hymnals in hand, joyfully singing ... and I wake up. This could not more accurately have reflected my feelings of ambivalence!

You see, for 26 years I balanced on the fence, navigating being a part of Adventism without exiting secular society. Raised in a Christian home, I was confirmed a

Methodist as a young teen but was not then convinced. Like many of my generation, my spiritual journey included a good dose of existentialism, pluralism, relativism, Plato's

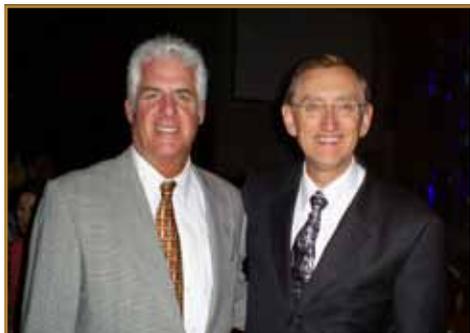
“Cave” and Pascal’s “Wager.” Also, a Scotch-Irish skepticism of religious institutions.

When I met Glenna, my wife-to-be, I never had heard of Adventists. But she had a strong faith, and I was in love. So when she asked me to attend church, I said, “Sure.” Fortunately, Denver First Church, in Colorado, had a dynamic speaker in its pastor, Stewart Harrison, and I found his messages appealing. There was a bonus — I didn’t have to mow the grass on Saturday.

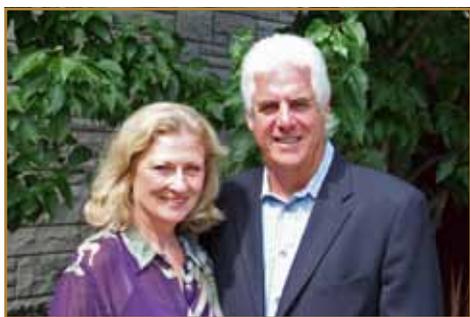
In 1989, after moving to Illinois and church-shopping, we soon started to attend the Hinsdale Church regularly. I was there, more than anything, to support my new bride’s transition to a new city and community. One day, while killing time before an appointment in a Loop bookstore, there on the sale rack was the book, *Seeking a Sanctuary*. It gave me insight into Adventist sociology and subcultures, Seventh-day Adventist theology, concepts of a spiritual transformation, and the Adventist “revolving door” in a way I could use to understand and relate to these “crazy people.” Early on, I tried to fit in; but, before I had “broken the code,” I was ousted by Sabbath school teacher Harry Hartsock who wryly asked, “Mr. Gow, do you consider yourself worldly?” I’ll never forget the “saints” slowly turning with smiles to see the “newbie” who thought it meant being educated and knowledgeable!

At one point, I decided that it was either Sabbath school or church, as attending both were just too much for one day. Glenna didn’t argue but wisely said, “Okay, Sabbath school,” knowing that, once there, it would be difficult for me to leave. We quickly found ourselves involved in a potluck group, signed up as greeters, and asked to lead the Social Committee.

We made many new friends, including the new pastor, Dan Smith. Like me, Dan was a boomer, athletic and loved sports, so we played golf, went to see the Jordan (Chicago Bulls) and became friends. I remember, at one Social Committee function, I donated my Bears tickets as a prize to raise money. Dan called and said, “No raffle, that’s gambling.” So Jerry Lofthouse and I fixed the drawing “Chicago style” so Dan won.



Douglas Gow and Ron Schultz, Hinsdale Church pastor



Glenna and Douglas Gow

Before he left, Dan gave it his all to get me to join the church. The seventh-day Sabbath made sense, the state of the dead — no problem, but not yet having made the leap of understanding by “faith,” I struggled with how to relate to an invisible God. Is it revelation or reason, literary or literal? What is the nature of biblical truth, knowledge and enlightenment in a post-modern world? In addition to Ellen White, I explored the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, C.K. Chesterton, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Rob Bell, to name a few of my favorites. But it had started, and I continued to invest intellectually and made progress, connecting at some personal and spiritual level.

Through the years when asked about getting baptized and joining, I would deflect and say, “I’m thinking about it” or “the SDA Church is just too fundamentalist for me” or that I certainly would join as soon as they end the hypocrisy and finally ordain women! I was satisfied being a “pending Adventist” and able to move within the church community comfortably, even assisting with the youth. Teaching and learning from them gave me the opportunity to work my way through the Bible and develop a personal faith in God and Jesus Christ — and own it.

Then, in 2011, I was asked to use my real estate experience and assist the church on the Housing Committee. It was a Board position; but since I still wasn’t a member, Glenna became chair and I was manager. Yet, in my heart, I knew God and the church had placed much faith in me, and it was now my turn to show my faith in kind and join. But I procrastinated and looked for the “perfect” opportunity — and time marched on. Soon my membership became an issue again, but this time I was “listening” and, through faith, knew it was now God’s chosen time for me to take the “plunge.”

I thank God for His love and patience, Ron Schultz, Hinsdale Church pastor, and the church members for their friendship, support and prayers through the years. Since being baptized, I have a greater sense of hope and peace for the future on this lifelong journey.

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Douglas Gow is a member of the Hinsdale Church in Illinois.

## [LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

### Tabernacle of Hope Church offers restoration series

Indiana—Tabernacle of Hope Church members, in Indianapolis, buzzed with excitement and anticipation in September 2012 as guests and members learned the 12 keys to living their best life now. Tricia Wynn, pastor, expounded the Word, presenting a different key each night during the “Live Now! Love Life.” restoration series.

Every ministry in the church was involved in preparing for different aspects of this restoration series. As a result of the collaborative effort, 13 individuals surrendered their hearts to Christ.

Hearts were already being restored on opening night when Zion’s Joy, with Richard Jackson, radiated the Tabernacle of Hope Church with a mini-concert. Sweet music filled the ears of those present each evening as different individuals sounded chords of praise to the Lord in preparation for receiving the Word.

To assist in retaining this spiritual knowledge, a quiz was planned each night. Quiz time was not typical in this house of worship; everyone actually welcomed the opportunity to determine just how much was understood and remembered from the teachings of the previous evening. It repeatedly proved to be an interesting discovery.



Baptismal candidates and those joining the Tabernacle of Hope by profession of faith assemble on the closing Sabbath of the restoration series, Sept. 29, 2012. They were called forward by Evelyn Robinson, Lake Region Conference Bible instructor, and local church elders, Catherine and Smart Mangozhe. Also pictured (far left) is Yvonne Collins, Lake Region Conference treasurer.

Cheryl Buchanan

The children had a whale of a time each evening in Kids Zone, as they learned about Jonah, sang, participated in skits, completed crafts, played Bible games and enjoyed wholesome food. They now know how important it is to do things God’s way. Together with the youth, the children hosted a program one Sabbath afternoon to showcase their God-given talents. The master of ceremonies, Lihwa “L.J.” Jubane, one of our own young people, spiced up the program with his own fascinating brand of humor.

In an effort to further reach out to the community, Wynn and Evelyn Robinson, Lake Region Conference Bible instructor, organized several literature distributions. There also were free health screenings for the church and community.

The series wrapped up on Sabbath, Sept. 29, with a full house. Wynn’s Philadelphia Church members, from Muncie, Ind., joined Tabernacle of Hope Church members for the worship service. Higher Praise mass choir, from Chicago, uplifted listeners’ hearts with melodious praise during the Divine worship service and concluded the restoration series with a joint concert at the Haughville Church that evening.

Many were truly restored — restored in heart, restored in mind, and restored to a deeper relationship with Jesus. With the new members, Tabernacle of Hope members move forward to “Live Now! Love Life.,” as challenged during the restoration series.

Cheryl Buchanan, Communication Department correspondent, Tabernacle of Hope Church

### God blesses Shirleta Breese as she honors the Sabbath

Wisconsin—Every time Shirleta Breese receives a paycheck, it is a testimony of God’s amazing care for her. Breese, a member of the Racine Church, has been a long-time employee of a national bank. Recently, the district manager announced a policy requiring employees to have “open availability.” For Breese, that meant having to work during Sabbath hours.



Shirleta Breese, a single mother, was asked by her employer to work during Sabbath hours to keep her full-time job. She opted for part-time hours, so she could honor God and keep the Sabbath. She says, “Month by month, God is taking care of us.”

Juanita Edge

“Nothing changed for about a month,” said Breese. “Then my boss called me into his office. He said he respected my strong beliefs and good work ethic. He also said he was supposed to terminate me 30 days earlier, but he was having a hard time doing it as I was a model employee. Even so, I was told I must be available to work Friday evenings and Saturdays.”

Breese’s boss then offered her two options. She could either continue her full-time employment with “open availability” or she could work

part-time, which meant three days a week, four hours a day. He knew Breese was a single mom and could not survive on a 12-hour-a-week job. He was stunned when Breese quickly said, "Okay, I'll take the part-time job."

Even though Breese has been employed part-time since then, each payday she has received a paycheck for full-

time work. The first month an employee left, giving Breese more hours. The second month another employee was fired, giving her more hours. The third month an employee took a better position, giving Breese more hours again.

"Month by month, God is taking care of us," said Breese. "My boss is puzzled, but I am not. The God I serve

says the battle is His, not mine. My testimony is 'God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good!'"

Juanita Edge, communication director,  
Wisconsin Conference



John Hender

Parker Cruz, a Marshall High School junior, has decided not to compete on Saturdays, his Sabbath. He reached his decision after hearing a sermon about the Ten Commandments, which convicted him that running could become a god if he put it ahead of God. He is pictured here at the Michigan Center Invitational Relays in August 2012.

## Marshall High School student-athlete Parker Cruz decides not to compete on the Sabbath

Michigan—"God made countries. God makes kings and the rules by which they govern. And those rules say that the Sabbath is His. And I, for one, intend to keep it that way," stated Scottish runner Eric Liddell in the 1981 film, "Chariots of Fire," on his decision not to compete in the 100 meters, his best event, at the 1924 Olympic Summer Games because the qualifying heats would be held on a Sunday.

Prior to his sophomore year, in the summer of 2011, Marshall High School student and cross-country runner, Parker Cruz, made a decision that he would no longer compete on the Sabbath.

Unlike Liddell, a Christian missionary who refused to compete on Sunday, Parker is a Seventh-day Adventist whose Sabbath is Saturday (actually sundown Friday to sundown Saturday), the day when many cross-country meets take place.

Parker says he reached his decision after hearing a sermon about the Ten Commandments.

"Most people would have thought that I'd focused on the Sabbath commandment, to keep it holy," said Parker, now a MHS junior. "But what struck me most was the commandment, 'Thou shalt have no other gods...'. The pastor was talking about how anything we had in our lives that we would put ahead of God, could become our god. For me that was running, because I started to eat, sleep ... do everything for running. ... That's when I started formulating that something was maybe not right about what I was doing."

Prior to the start of the 2011 cross-country season, Parker informed coach Mary Hovarter of his decision to run only in meets that took place during the week.

He said his decision became all the more difficult to stand by after realizing his running had vastly improved since his freshman year, usually posting the top times on the MHS team.

In fact, Parker says his best time this past season would have placed him in the top 15 at the regional meet and qualified him for the state meet, both of which are run on Saturdays.

"After my decision, it was hard at first; but then I realized I was doing the right

thing, so it became easier each day when it sometimes got harder to do, actually," said Parker.

The Adventist denomination grew out of the Millerite movement in the United States during the middle part of the 19th century and was formally established in Battle Creek in 1863.

The denominational headquarters were later moved from Battle Creek to Takoma Park, Md.

Parker's mother, Shelley, who also is an Adventist, says that the decision not to compete on the Sabbath was his to make.

"I told him, 'If you choose to participate on the Sabbath, that's your choice and I would support you,'" said Shelley. "But, I told him that I truly admire his decision to not run. ... I've had parents approach me and ask why I won't let Parker run on Saturdays or what could we do to change Parker's mind. I told them that Parker is a very strong young man and that I'm very proud of him."

Shelley added that her son has drawn inspiration from Kenyan runner, Abel Kirui, a Seventh-day Adventist, who won the silver medal at the London Olympics last summer and also has twice won the World Championship Marathon.

"I've tried to encourage Parker to try to contact that runner and tell him his story," she said. "It's kind of hard to stand alone sometimes."

Parker says standing alone gives him the opportunity to explain his religion.

"The whole focus is keeping it (Sabbath) holy," he said. "Trying to do things that don't take away from God on that day. You're supposed to focus on God every day but, particularly on the Sabbath, it's supposed to be all about your relationship with God."

Aside from refraining from athletic competition on the Sabbath, Adventist doctrine stresses a healthy lifestyle, including adherence to the kosher laws in Leviticus II, meaning abstinence from pork, shellfish and other foods proscribed as “unclean.”

The church discourages its members from the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs.

“Being Adventist is extremely tough,” said Parker. “I’ve had a lot of challenges. I try to have a higher moral standard. It’s hard in this world (as a teen) because everything pulls you away from that. There

can be peer pressure, but, I know in the long run, it’s better to not partake in some of the stuff that people do. ... I realize that might not be the best choice for me because that doesn’t help my relationship with God.”

Parker understands that not competing on Saturdays hurts his chances to garner any possible college scholarship consideration in cross-country and or track and field.

So, why continue to compete only during the week?

“I guess I’m one of those weird people who loves to run,” said Parker. “I also

feel a lot better now that I’ve made that decision. It now gives me something to run for because you kind of have to prove a reason why I’m still running even though I’m not running all the meets.

“It’s important (competing), but it’s not as important as my relationship with God. I’m comfortable with my decision. It’s part of my character. I am what I am. It’s up to people to accept or not accept.”

John Hendler, news editor,  
*Ad-Visor & Chronicle*

Parker Cruz is a member of the Marshall (Mich.) Church. This article, which appeared in the Nov. 24, 2012, *Ad-Visor & Chronicle*, was reprinted with permission.

## [UNION NEWS]

### WeCare mission trips change lives

Michigan—Have you ever thought about going on a mission trip? Have you ever thought about helping others? Have you ever thought about working outside of your comfort zone? Vern Byrd asked those same questions when he started planning short-term mission trips from his office at the Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE) some eight years ago. “My first short-term mission trip was to Belize, a country I never had heard of. That trip changed my life and the way I thought about mission trips, and changed me and those I was able to touch in so many ways,” Byrd stated.

Between March and August each year, the CYE office coordinates WeCare short-term mission trips for academy- to college-age students, and for conference youth departments. The mission groups include 15 to 45 students and adults who want to step outside their comfort zone to help others in need or to make that one contact that will change a child’s life forever. Plus, the trip is often a life-changing experience for the mission participant.

“I hear young people say, ‘This trip has changed my life’; ‘My mom made me come on this trip, but what an incredible trip this was’; ‘Wow! Great



Vern Byrd



Vern Byrd

Students from Chinook Winds Adventist Academy in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, build a kitchen at Ladyville SDA Primary School in Belize.

projects'; 'I love the kids at the school and orphanage'; and 'I have never seen so many kids in one school,' recalled Byrd. "The most important remark I often hear kids say is 'I have been brought closer to God.'"

The WeCare projects, completed during the past eight years, have included building additional classrooms, a kitchen, a new computer lab with computers, painting projects, installing new roofs for the school, constructing a new principal's office, offering evangelism to the community, providing medical clinics, working with Belize city governments to make playgrounds safe and clean, and developing an organic farm for the Liberty Foundation orphanage in Ladyville, Belize.

"Two of the locations that provide an environment for making the most memorable experiences which students have, and myself included, is working with the local orphanage and helping all those kids who do not have parents or who have been placed in custody for many reasons, and interacting with the students in the Adventist schools. We all have spent days there, and sometimes just a few hours; and when it is time to leave those kids, not one person has a dry eye. We look into those sweet eyes of those kids who long for a normal life and hope soon to be adopted by a family.

"Student missionaries who return the next year always ask the first question, 'Can we go to the orphanage?' When they do return, those same orphans, whom they met the year before, burst into tears [of joy] along with the returning mission participant," Byrd said. "At the end of each trip, one of the most rewarding gifts, in return for our work, is the smile seen on the faces of the orphaned children."

In addition to Belize, the CYE has also made a difference in Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica and locations in the U.S. mainland.

A few of the WeCare projects which will begin in 2013 include the following: building a new two-story school and church building in Belize and, most

important, providing evangelism experiences for participants.

"The CYE has been blessed with a small, 30-passenger bus, which was driven to Belize to be used during the short-term WeCare mission trips. Now, one of the pressing needs is a small, 4-cylinder-engine pickup truck, which gets great mileage," shared Byrd.



## Lake Union Executive Committee studies women's ordination

The Lake Union Conference Executive Committee has extended the time of its regularly scheduled meeting to begin on Wed., Feb. 13, and continue through Thurs., Feb. 14, to accommodate a number of scheduled presentations regarding the questions of ordination and the role of women in ministry, in addition to its regular agenda. The purpose of the presentations is to help inform the members of the Executive Committee on the broad spectrum of issues in response to an action taken at its Oct. 10, 2012, meeting: "To continue our Lake Union study process with the Executive Committee in February with an extended meeting time."

The LUC Executive Committee members have received materials for personal study and preparation for a committee consideration of women's ordination. The first day will begin with introductions, terms of reference and a season of prayer. There will be two one-hour presentations in the afternoon and two in the evening by four theologians: Darius Jankiewicz, associate

For more information about upcoming trips or to learn how you can help with mission trip needs, please contact the CYE office at 269-471-8384, email Byrd at [vernbyrd@me.com](mailto:vernbyrd@me.com) or call his cell phone: 269-208-7183.

Vern Byrd, operations director, Center for Youth Evangelism, and director, WeCare short-term mission trips, as shared with *Lake Union Herald* staff

professor of Historical Theology, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, presenting the history of ordination; Clinton Whalen, associate director of the Biblical Research Institute, General Conference, presenting on hermeneutics (how we interpret Scripture); P. Gerard Damsteegt, associate professor of Church History, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, presenting a biblical case for not ordaining women to ministry; and Richard M. Davidson, J.N. Andrews professor of Old Testament Interpretation, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, presenting a biblical case for ordaining women to ministry. The first day will conclude with a time to debrief before adjourning for the night.

On Thurs., the Executive Committee will reconvene to continue careful review of the presentations, small group study of the key biblical texts and principles, and to consider any conclusions that might be forwarded to the study process being conducted by the North American Division and the General Conference. The regular business agenda of the committee will also be addressed.

Please join your representatives on the Executive Committee in prayer and personal study of this important topic for the Church, by accessing the resources available to you on our website: <http://Ordination.LakeUnion.org>.

Gary Burns, director of communication, Lake Union Conference

# Announcements

Churches, schools, conferences, institutions and organizations may submit announcements to the *Lake Union Herald* through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the *Lake Union Herald* website at <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 <http://www.LakeUnionHerald.org>.

## Andrews University

### Ninth Annual Ellen G. White Issues

**Symposium:** We extend a general invitation to pastors in the Lake Union, religion and theology professors at Adventist colleges, scholars of Ellen White and Adventist studies, SDA Theological Seminary students, and other interested persons to attend the Symposium on Mon., **March 25**, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:45 p.m., in the chapel of the SDA Theological Seminary on the Andrews University campus. Our speakers and topics this year are Merlin D. Burt, presenting on Ellen White and Scripture; Jiri Moskala, presenting on prophets in the Old Testament; Jim Nix, presenting on the story of Harry Orchard; and Alberto Timm, presenting on Ellen White and culture. A devotional talk will be given by Benjamin Schoun.

**Howard Performing Arts Center Concerts:** Tickets are available by calling the Box Office at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560. More information also can be found on our website at <http://howard.andrews.edu>.

**Sun., Feb. 17, 7:00 p.m.:** Charles Reid, the newest faculty member of the Andrews University Department of Music, will be in concert. Reid is being recognized as one of his generation's leading lyric tenors. Pianist Trina Thompson, associate professor of music theory, will accompany him.

**Sun., Feb. 24, 7:00 p.m.:** The month of February will end with Christian veteran artist Kathy Troccoli. Her numerous accolades include 22 recordings, 17 number-one radio hits, two Dove Awards and three Grammy nominations. During this concert, she will

perform favorite Christian hits from her memorable career.

**Sat., March 9, 7:00 p.m.:** Multi-Stellar Award winner Jonathan Nelson is one of the brightest young faces in Gospel music. His Top 10 smash hit, "My Name Is Victory," won him a Dove Award nomination as Best New Artist of the Year in 2009. This concert is an evening of worship and praise.

**Sun., April 7, 7:00 p.m.:** The last concert of the season features Christian artist Laura Story. With hits like "Blessings" and "Mighty to Save," this four-time Dove Award winner continually presents a heart of worship. Join us for an uplifting evening of music and ministry.

## Illinois

**Broadview Academy Alumni Association/Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend** is **April 26-27**. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars. Call your classmates and start planning for this weekend now. Honor classes: 1943, '53, '63, '73, '83, '88, '93 and 2003. Weekend to be held at North Aurora (Ill.) Church. Friday night Vespers, Sabbath school and Church. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, we need your email addresses. Postage is too expensive. Send it to Ed Gutierrez at [edjulie1@att.net](mailto:edjulie1@att.net), or call

630-232-9034. More information to come. Don't miss it!

**The Hinsdale Men's Chorus** would like to invite area men's choruses to join them in a Men's Chorus Festival in Hinsdale, **Fall 2013**. For more information, please contact us at [HinsdaleMen@hotmail.com](mailto:HinsdaleMen@hotmail.com).

## Lake Union

### Offerings

- Feb 2** Local Church Budget
- Feb 9** Adventist Television Ministries
- Feb 16** Local Church Budget
- Feb 23** Local Conference Advance
- Special Days**
- Feb 2-23** Black History Month
- Feb 3-9** Christian Home and Marriage Week
- Feb 16** Health Ministries Sabbath

## Michigan

**Battle Creek Tabernacle Sacred Concert Series 2013:** Concerts will be held at 264 West Michigan Ave., Battle Creek. For more information, visit <http://www.battlecreektabernacle.com>.

**Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.:** Margie Salcedo-Rice, singer and violinist. Free concert. Rice is a vocalist, songwriter, violinist, music teacher and choral director. She has appeared on Three Angels Broadcasting Network and travels extensively, giving solo performances, leading youth music groups and conducting the Ukiah (Calif.) Symphony.

**March 16, 7:30 p.m.:** Buddy Houghtaling, singer and songwriter. Free concert. Houghtaling is from

Battle Creek and is well known in Michigan. He also can be seen on Three Angels Broadcasting Network as a solo artist as well as on the show, "Kids Time."

**April 13, 7:30 p.m.:** Buddy Greene, singer, songwriter and musician. Admission charged. Greene is one of the most versatile and talented musicians in Christian music today. In addition to his solid reputation as a singer, songwriter and guitarist, he has established himself as one of Nashville's finest harmonica stylists.

**The Jackson Church relocated,** effective **Jan. 5**. The congregation meets at their school campus, located at 3600 County Farm Road in Jackson. The congregation plans to build a new church at this location. Until the church is completed, the congregation will meet in the school gym. For more information, visit the church website at <http://www.jacksonsdachurch.org>.

**Marriage Commitment Retreat** is held at beautiful Camp Au Sable in Grayling, Mich., **March 8-10**. The purpose of this weekend is for you and your spouse to get away and take some time to reconnect with each other and God. There are five seminar sessions throughout the weekend, each one with topics designed to help strengthen your marriage. We provide lots of time to enjoy the natural beauty of the camp and fellowship with other couples as you eat and worship together. We will have planned activities for Sat. night and then a special marriage recommitment service on Sun. morning. This is a weekend that you

## Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23	Mar 2	Mar 9
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:59	6:08	6:17	6:26	6:37	6:45
Chicago, Ill.	5:04	5:13	5:22	5:31	5:43	5:50
Detroit, Mich.	5:45	5:54	6:03	6:12	6:23	6:32
Indianapolis, Ind.	6:03	6:11	6:20	6:28	6:38	6:46
La Crosse, Wis.	5:14	5:24	5:34	5:43	5:55	6:04
Lansing, Mich.	5:50	5:59	6:08	6:17	6:29	6:38
Madison, Wis.	5:08	5:18	5:27	5:37	5:49	5:57
Springfield, Ill.	5:17	5:25	5:34	5:41	5:52	5:59

won't want to miss. Make plans now to attend and do something great for your marriage. To register or for more information, call Alyce at 517-316-1543, or ask your pastor, family life leader or bulletin secretary for an application. You can also download an application at <http://www.misda.org> (Family Life Department).

## North American Division

**Union College Homecoming:** Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to Homecoming, **April 4-7**. Honor classes: 1943, '53, '58, '63, '73, '83, '88, '93 and 2003. Special events for those who studied science and math — remembering the people of Jorgensen Hall (Science/Math building). For more information, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503; 3800 S 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu).

**Washington Adventist University celebrates Alumni Weekend, April 12-14.** Visit <http://www.wau.edu/alumni> for a list of events and activities, or call 301-891-4133 for more information.

**Unwanted:** That's how blind individuals sometimes feel — even at your church. See the video on **April 13**, then reach out to those who can't see. Mark your generous offering: "Christian Record Services for the Blind." For more information, visit <http://www.CRSBGift.org>.

**La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend:** Celebrate our 91st year! We invite all former students, faculty, staff and supporters, **April 26-28**. Golf Tournament Sun. morning, **April 21**; Friday evening Welcoming Reception; Sabbath morning services on campus; campus potluck and reunions; and Ladies Gala Tea Sun. afternoon. Honor classes: 50+, '3s and '8s. For more information, call 951-351-1445, ext. 244; email [jnelson@lsak12.com](mailto:jnelson@lsak12.com); or visit LSA website at <http://www.lsak12.com/alumni>.

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 <http://www.LakeUnionHerald.org>. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

## Weddings

**Sarah Gane and Kevin Burton** were married June 3, 2012, in Millburg, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Roy Gane.

Sarah is the daughter of Roy and Connie Gane of Berrien Springs, Mich., and Kevin is the son of Stephen and Rebecca Burton of Shreveport, La.

The Burtons are making their home in Berrien Springs.

## Obituaries

**DOSS, Florence (Oss)**, age 89; born June 24, 1923, in Gregory, S.D.; died Oct. 16, 2012, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Norman L.; son, Gorden; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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

**HEIDTKE, Harold E.**, age 88; born May 27, 1924, in Rochester, Minn.; died Jan. 1, 2013, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

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

**HEILMAN, Lois A. (Caskey)**, age 78; born Jan. 12, 1934, in Southfield Twp., Mich.; died Dec. 16, 2012, in Plymouth, Mich. She was a member of the Plymouth Church.

Survivors include her husband, Phillip; sons, Phillip G., Randall R. and Neil A.; daughters, Colleen R. Ebersole and Anne E. Johnson; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by James Howard, and interment was in North Farmington (Mich.) Cemetery.

**JOCH, Leonard J.**, age 71; born Dec. 1, 1940, in Clintonville, Wis.; died Sept. 9, 2012, in Arpin, Wis. He was a member of the Bethel Church, Arpin.

Survivors include his wife, Glenda (Kasner); stepsons, Emil and Chadwick Zalabak; daughter, Christy McBeth; stepdaughters, Phelicia Wyant and Alicen Thomas; brothers, Bill, George and Tom; sisters, Rita Cepress, Rosie Loser, Ann Weigel and Sylvia Zimmerman; and nine grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Wendell Springer and David Scofield, and interment was in Bethel Church Cemetery, Arpin.

**NEUMANN, Lora G. (Wasenmiller)**, age 93; born Sept. 21, 1919, in Clinton, Mo.; died Oct. 16, 2012, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her husband, John; son, Ron; daughter, Karen Allred; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Arne Swanson, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

**SCHELK, Frederick H.**, age 75; born Aug. 9, 1937, in Marinette, Wis.; died Aug. 24, 2012, in Crivitz, Wis. He was a member of the Green Bay (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Sandi (Mextoxen); sons, Frederick and Donnie; daughters, Beverly Parker, Roberta Morency and Cindy Tank; stepbrother, Duane; stepsisters, Karen Buck, Gloria Wilde, Gladys Baun

and Cheryl Jensen; 13 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by William J. Ochs, and interment was in Holy Apostles Cemetery, Oneida, Wis.

**SHOTWELL, Richard G.**, age 71; born Nov. 17, 1941, in Whitewater, Wis.; died Nov. 17, 2012, in Marshfield, Wis. He was a member of the Marshfield Church.

Survivors include his wife, Donna; sons, Clint and Brett; daughters, Wendy Shotwell, Tacey Coine and Jody Villwock; brothers, Daniel and David Bubolz; sister, Patricia Paisley; and 13 grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by David Scofield, with private interment.

**WUTZKE, Willibald "Willie,"** age 78; born Nov. 4, 1934, in Siobodarka, Poland; died Nov. 10, 2012, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Sophie (Riess); son, David; daughter, Esther Penn; sisters, Selma Satonica and Isolde Trimarco; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Michael Hasel, and interment was in Grace-land Cemetery, Bridgman, Mich.

*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*

— 1 Thess. 4:16-18 NLT

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$35 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$45 per insertion for all others. A form is available at <http://www.LakeUnionHerald.org> for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at <http://www.LakeUnionHerald.org>.

## For Sale

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### RESOURCES ABOUT THE PIONEERS

of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are at Historic Adventist Village. We carry a variety of new and used books on our Adventist heritage. You can shop by visiting <http://www.adventistheritage.org>, by calling 269-965-5600, or by visiting us at 480 W. Van Buren St., Battle Creek, Mich.

## At Your Service

### HAVE YOU WRITTEN A CHILDREN'S BOOK,

life testimony, story of God's love or your spiritual ideas and would like them published? Contact TEACH Services at 800-367-1844, ext. 3, or email [publishing@teachservices.com](mailto:publishing@teachservices.com) for a free manuscript review.

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## Miscellaneous

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### FREE VOCAL MUSIC CONCERTS WITH PERSONAL LIFE EXPERIENCES.

A former voice instructor from Andrews University with his family will give free Sat. evening vocal music concerts with testimonies. Two music CDs and a DVD music video are available after the concert. For more information, contact Vladimir Slavujevic at 269-473-2826, or email him at [vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com](mailto:vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com).

### HYDROTHERAPY AND SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

weekend seminars in my home. Starts 5:00 p.m. Friday, ends 1:00 p.m. Sunday. Learn Russian steam bath, hot foot bath, cold sheet pack, uses for hot and cold, uses of charcoal. Weekends: Feb. 22-24, Mar. 15-17, Apr. 19-21, May 24-26. Cost \$125 per

person includes room, meals and teaching aids. For more information, call 269-471-4502 (afternoon or evening).

## Employment

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks Dean for School of Business and Management. A doctoral degree required. Will oversee the undergraduate and graduate programs. The successful candidate must have a strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, and be a SDA church member in good and regular standing. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Pat Coverdale, Director of Human Resources, at pcoverdale@southern.edu or Human Resources, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37363.

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** seeks applicants for a full-time faculty position focusing on Medical-Surgical Nursing on the Portland, Ore., campus to begin Sept. 2013. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** seeks applicants for full-time, tenure-track faculty positions in Art and Biology. For more information and application process, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. All positions will remain open until filled.

**ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM** is seeking a law student for a 6- to 8-week summer clerkship in 2013.

This position is limited to students who have finished only one year of law school. Ideal candidates would be in the top 25 percent of their class. Duties include legal research and other projects. Please send résumé and transcript to david.gordon@ahss.org.

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK** seeks full-time faculty. Candidate must have M.S.W. degree from a CSWE-accredited program and a Ph.D. in related field. Candidates should be able to demonstrate CBT skills. Must have a strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, the teachings and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, an SDA church member in good and regular standing. Please submit a curriculum vita via email to René Drumm (rdrumm@southern.edu), Dean, School of Social Work, Southern Adventist University.

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** seeks applicants for a full-time faculty position as dean of the School of Education & Psychology to begin July 2013. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

**SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST GUAM CLINIC** is seeking individuals in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Orthopedic Surgeon, Nurse Practitioner, Rheumatologist, Dermatologists, Pediatricians, Hospitalist, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapist, OB/



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## PARTNERSHIP with GOD

### Personal Stewardship

BY GARY BURNS



Recently, a long-time family friend contacted me regarding her desire to have me assist in preparing her book for publication. Beyond the actual preparation of the content, there are a number of other considerations – not the least of which are financial.

While doing some research on the financial aspects of publishing, I came across a great stewardship principle.

In the early years of our publishing work, some believed writers should turn over all rights and royalties to the conference or publishing houses. Regarding this practice, Ellen White counseled: "The ability to write a book is, like every other talent, a gift from [God], for the improvement of which the possessor is accountable to God; and he is to invest the returns under [God's] direction. ... In

shifting the responsibility of his stewardship upon other men, and depending on their wisdom, he is placing man where God should be. ... While it is right for [writers] to place a portion in the treasury, to supply the general needs of the cause, they should feel it their duty to acquaint themselves with the necessities of the work, and with prayer to God for wisdom they should personally dispense their means where the need is greatest. ... The Lord has made us individually his stewards. We are responsible to invest this means ourselves" (*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 7, p. 177*).

The great principle is that God wants to bring us into direct relationship with Himself. We are to have our own *personal* stewardship partnership with God.

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

## God Got on a Plane...

BY SARAH BURTON

“S he is so cute!” exclaimed my seatmate, smiling at a chubby baby in the row in front of us. I smiled at his enthusiasm and began to chat with him. By the time the plane lifted off the California ground, we were deep in conversation. He was a young man in his late teens with an Irish name and an infectious enthusiasm for life. I told him of my recent wedding, and he expressed a mixture of astonishment, joy and envy at my commitment to one man who I knew to be “the one.”

“Someday, I want that,” he said wistfully. He told me about his interest in eastern meditation practices and his passion for living a healthy and balanced life: achieved by good sleep, food and an occasional smoke of marijuana. Somehow, the conversation shifted from drugs to religion. When he expressed his view that religion was a kind of positive drug that made people feel comfortable, I objected.

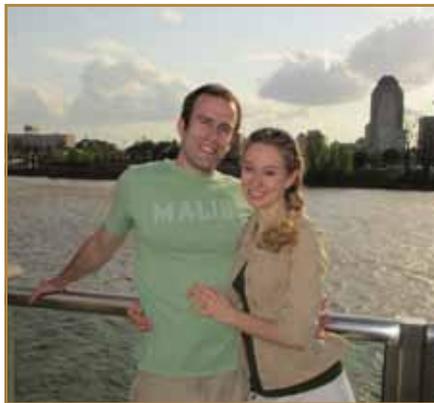
“Christianity, which is my religion, is anything but comfortable,” I said. “Christianity is about emptying yourself before God so He can fill you with Himself. It is about being completely naked and bare and vulnerable before God. There is nothing comfortable about that.”

He was silent.

“Being a Christian means taking up your cross and following Jesus, suffering with those who suffer and sacrificing when necessary.”

Tears began to well up in his eyes and stream down his cheeks. “I never thought of it that way,” he said softly.

His thoughts and concerns about religion, right and wrong, and his future came pouring out. While he had been raised a Catholic and attended Christian schools, the pursuit of his sport led him to form friendships with people whose



Kevin and Sarah Burton

morals he questioned. Disturbed by his love for his friends and his desire to make the right decisions in life, he wept openly.

“God put you here,” he said. And then, to my surprise, he began to talk to God aloud, thanking Him for placing me in his path.

I prayed with him, shortly before we landed in Chicago, and again he cried. “It’s been a really long time since I’ve prayed with someone,” he said,

wiping away his tears.

We parted ways in the baggage claim area, but I pray for him every day now. Our strange meeting affected him deeply, but it also affected me. At first, I kept the story to myself, as if it was too sacred to share.

See, something happened at that meeting: God was there. He took over the conversation and guided it, gave me the words to speak, and moved the heart of my seatmate.

I Corinthians 2:13 says that when we speak honestly about God, we speak *not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words*. And that’s a promise.

Sarah Burton, 21, is a senior at Andrews University where she is majoring in religion and anthropology. Sarah is a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

## Doing God's Work

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

**K**atie Hahn, a graphic design student at Andrews University, has been on two short-term mission trips and is active in the Andrews community. She enjoys doing God's work and has a passion for missions.



Katie Hahn

When Katie was a junior in high school, she and a group of teens volunteered for a two-week Ultimate Workout mission trip to Chile. Sponsored by Marathon Volunteers International, the students built a church and did community service in the country. The experience was so riveting that Katie went again the following year, this time to Ecuador. In Ecuador, the teens built a school and volunteered in a medical clinic.

"They make you realize what you really need and what you don't need," says Katie about the trips. "They let you appreciate more and be thankful for things you take for granted."

The experiences sparked something inside Katie, and she went on another trip during her freshman year at Andrews. She and several students from the Dietetics Department spent time studying the children's nutrition at an orphanage in Honduras. They also went to different villages and served food to the people.

The experience was exciting for Katie. Her home church, in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, had been raising money a long time for the orphanage, and now she was there.

"After the Honduras trip, I went back to the Reedsburg Church and saw thank-you letters [displayed] from the kids," she says. "It was so cool to see their pictures and actually know who they were."

Following the mission experiences, an interest in community outreach grew in Katie. Recently, she became director of youth Sabbath school at a local Hispanic church. She also has worked at Camp Wakonda and volunteered at a university Sabbath school.

One day, Katie aspires to be a long-term missionary and use her creativity and graphic design skills for Christ.

"Ever since my early missionary experiences, there's been something in my head that says 'I want to change the world,'" she claims. "I can do that through missions and someday, I want to do that."

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she is majoring in physical therapy at Andrews University.

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