The background of the cover is a close-up photograph of two young women. The woman in the foreground is on the right, looking slightly to the left with a bright smile, showing her teeth. She has dark hair and is wearing a yellow garment with a dark patterned collar. The woman behind her is on the left, also smiling, but her face is out of focus. The overall tone is warm and positive.

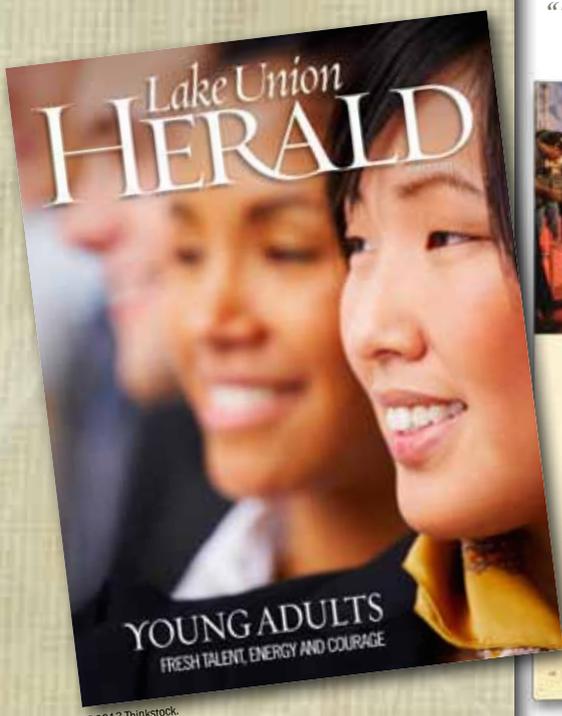
Lake Union
HERALD

AUGUST 2013

YOUNG ADULTS

FRESH TALENT, ENERGY AND COURAGE

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



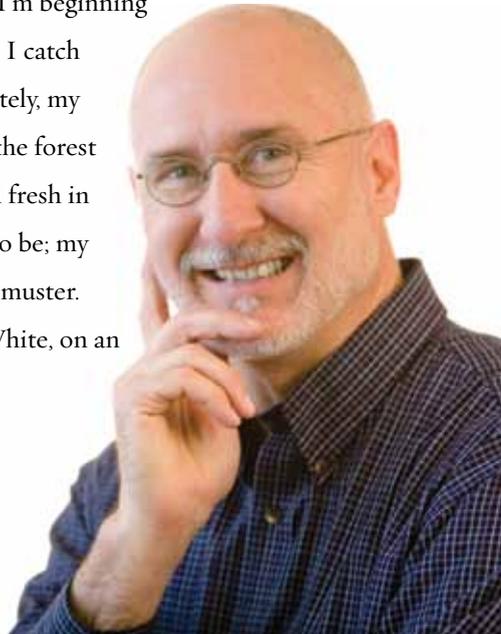
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In this issue...

Now that I qualify for senior discounts, I'm beginning to feel like one. What's really scary is when I catch myself, at times, thinking like one. Fortunately, my days of trying to blaze a new trail through the forest of church leadership and traditions are still fresh in my memory. But *I'm* not as fresh as I used to be; my energy has waned and courage is harder to muster. So I'm casting my vote, along with Ellen White, on an army of workers like today's young adults.


Gary Burns, Editor



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Our True Identity

All around us, we see people signaling their identity in various ways such as bumper stickers, logos and graffiti on garments, tattoos, styles of clothing, cars, motorcycles, houses, and many more. Some companies consider their marketing successful when people wear a garment with their logo on it; some businesses have a significant number of loyal followers who will go further and get a tattoo of the company logo.

Each of us have several components to our personal identity. Some of mine are Christian, Seventh-day Adventist, husband, father, grandfather, minister, administrator and American. Some past identities included athlete and youth director, identities that have necessarily diminished or passed with age.

Another strong, lifelong identity is that I am a male. Although we men are far from perfect, it's an identity with which I'm quite happy, so you can imagine my chagrin a couple of months ago when an airport TSA officer pointed out a problem on my driver's license. Under the designation for sex, my license had the letter "F" instead of "M." For nearly four years, I've been trotting all around the country showing my ID to airline agents, security people, merchants and even a police officer, unknowingly misrepresenting myself as something I'm not. How embarrassing! At least most of them didn't notice, I hope!

Unable to fix this online, I presented myself at the Secretary of State's office. You would think the clerk could just look at me and tell I'm a man and fix the mistake. Oh, no! I had to produce my birth certificate or passport to document I am a man! I had to prove what I considered obvious.

So what is your true identity? We project certain identities in the ways we present ourselves. While our true identities may be hinted at by our self-presentation, they are really wrapped up in our values and how we act on them. Our values can be tracked by our priorities, which are revealed by our schedules, wallet, conversations, how we spend our time, resources and the focus of mind and heart. How many of us are running around year after year with false IDs, portraying ourselves to be something we're not?

Just as taking inventory is important for businesses, we may need to conduct a spiritual inventory — taking stock of the activities of our daily life, the resources expended, and the influence brought to bear that have eternal value to our own life and the lives of others.

Again and again, Jesus identified with His heavenly Father. Other identities included teacher, prophet, healer, forgiver, church planter, discipler, intercessor, life-giver and, of course, our Savior. Jesus pointed us to godly priorities in Matthew 13:44, *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field* (NKJV). To our heavenly Father, you and I were the treasure in the field of this Earth; He gave all to obtain what He valued. We reveal that our true identity is found in Christ when we give all that we have to obtain the treasure of life, now and for eternity.



Adventism Gave Me Wings

BY JASON LEMON

Sometimes it seems very easy to find things about which to complain within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Growing up fully immersed in the community has often greatly disillusioned me. It is not uncommon for discussions of religion with friends to be tainted by complaints about the Church. When is the Church going to figure out the women [issue]? Why are they so opposed to the music we like? What are they going to do about the documentary, “Seventh-Gay Adventists?” Why are we graduating with equal or greater amounts of debt than students who attend secular institutions? Why do they talk about Ellen White so much? The list can go on and on.

Perhaps there is some validity to our frustrations. As the next generation of the Church, we will eventually formulate the direction the denomination will go, and it is important we learn to dialogue about controversial topics. Lately, however, I have been realizing that maybe I have been spending so much time focusing on the negatives that I have not given enough appreciation where it is deserved.

I am completely and entirely the product of a moderately-conservative Adventist upbringing coupled with a full education, through the university level, within our denominational schools. Though I often have lamented this as having sheltered me too strongly, I have been realizing in some ways it is actually the opposite.

Adventism and Adventist education has provided me with opportunities of which the average American young person often only dreams. In academy, I participated in two international educational tours and two international mission trips. During university, I had the opportunity to take



Jason Lemon traveled to the Patagonia region of Argentina during spring break while studying at Universidad Adventista del Plata. El Chalten mountain is in the background.

study tours to Europe and Tanzania, and also to study abroad in Argentina and France. Now, post graduation, I am living and working in Lebanon at Middle East University, our Adventist higher education institution within the MENA region.

Not only did I have all of these invaluable opportunities, but I also was given the incredible privilege of growing up and being educated in the multi-

cultural community of Berrien Springs, Michigan. Only recently have I realized how living in that community profoundly formulated my global perspective. A close friend who grew up similarly to me once commented how he never even realized that his best friend was Black or different from him until he was in the sixth grade and someone pointed it out. Living and learning in such an environment makes it difficult to harbor the feelings of prejudice, which are still all too often common within the United States.

Distinctively different from the mainstream culture, our denomination brings international diversity together in unprecedented ways; it also provides us with a global



Jason Lemon (right) stands with students attending Middle East University. From left: Talat Fahmy, Simon Lasu, Malak Goda



Jason Lemon visits Versailles with Kelsey Curnutt during the summer of 2011 while they studied at the Adventist University of France – Collonges.



Friends Jason Lemon and Nicholas Reichert toured Venice during the 2011 Summer European Spanish Tour offered by Andrews University.

mindset that is not always the norm within society. Working in Chicago briefly, before moving to Lebanon, I talked about my international experiences to the amazement of the people I met and with whom I worked. This was an interesting realization for me because all of my friends, with whom I had grown up and studied, had similar experiences to mine. It is not unusual for us to talk about studying abroad or visiting foreign countries or to have an internationally diverse group of friends; all of this is simply normal for us.

I do not believe this kind of experience is wholly unique to Adventism, but I do believe that Adventism facilitates and promotes it in a way unique unto itself. When I wanted to study, travel and work abroad, it was never complicated. Even traditional cultural differences are often trumped by the pervasive unity and culture of our denomination.

Furthermore, Adventism has not only created a uniquely diverse community in my home village of Berrien Springs, but has spread the same culture globally. During my studies abroad, I did not merely have the opportunity to become friends with people from the country where I was living. For example, while studying in Argentina, my close friends represented Zambia, Panama, Paraguay, Venezuela, Brazil and Peru. In France there were students from Estonia, Germany, Finland, Switzerland and Mexico; the dorm deans were Tahitian, Portuguese and Spanish.

Coming to Middle East University, for some reason, I didn't expect to find the same experience; but, of course, my expectations were far from accurate. Since traveling to Lebanon almost ten months ago, I have daily interacted with a multicultural church, staff and student community, representing a widely-diverse range of countries, including

Latvia, Russia, Egypt, England, Argentina, Iraq, Hungary, Finland, Switzerland, Canada, Jordan, Indonesia, Armenia, Turkey, South Korea, Brazil, Dominican Republic, South Sudan, the Philippines and Peru. When I go out in public with a group of friends, it is normal for anywhere from eight to ten countries to be represented. When I stop and reflect on these everyday facts of my life, I can't help but realize how immensely privileged and blessed I am to have grown up and to live in a community that exists in this way.

Adventism truly has given me many blessings and gifts throughout the course of my relatively short life. Gratitude must be returned to this community that has given me so much. My closest friends come from countries throughout the world; I am able to communicate well in two languages and get by in two others and, wherever I go, I know I can easily find a community of people who will accept me readily, with the ability to immediately find a connection within the culture of our mutual denomination.

So, what I am saying with all these words is that, despite problems I may see or complaints I may have, I am learning to appreciate the amazing gift that Adventism has given me. Our educational system and our international presence is something truly to be admired regardless of one's personal religious views. It is my hope that this inherent promotion of a global mindset will be the wings to move us forward as a denomination — just as it has given me wings and allowed me to fly.

Jason Lemon graduated with a B.A. from Andrews University in 2012 and currently works as the deputy director of communications for Middle East University in Lebanon. He plans to pursue graduate studies at the American University of Beirut in the fall while continuing to work full time.



Look for the Helpers

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Beginning with his first PBS broadcast in 1968, Fred Rogers taught grownups and children alike many important life lessons. I had the privilege of meeting Fred (affectionately known as “Mr. Rogers” by his viewers) in person at a conference some years ago. There he recalled that when he was a child and saw scary things on the news, his mother would say, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” To be observant, to be hopeful and optimistic, to find the calm in the storm — these are life skills his mother taught him. He also learned he could be a helper!

Research verifies what we know from life experience. Hopeful kids aren’t passive bystanders! Some children are born with more easy temperaments — and these children have a higher probability of growing up hopeful, but parents really impact the ways they think about themselves and the world. If parents can give any gift to their kids, it should be hope.

Parents often struggle with how much to say and how to say it when explaining difficult and scary news. “Put tragedies in context. Tell your child that despite horrible events, some things remain sacred and can’t be destroyed, such as your love and caring for each other and your faith in God,” suggests Kenneth Pargament, whose research focuses on the role of religion in times of trauma.

Specific, developmentally-appropriate conversations need to take place throughout the years as children grow up. Seek out everyday situations to build your children’s hope and awareness levels. Listening to the wind, the leaves rustling in the breeze, the songs of birds, even the flow of traffic attune young children to their environment. Alerting children to the effects of temperature and the sun and helping them understand how their body works to insulate itself are also confidence boosters. Certainly, these are also powerful ways to recognize a creative, creator God.



Providing children opportunities and allowing them to make a difference is also a strong component of helping children to be hopeful, and offers countless opportunities for building awareness of their surroundings. Even enlisting a child at home for help rather than just chores can convey that you see your child as a valuable

family member, rather than just a kid doing work for an allowance or because he was told to.

When children believe the world will be a better place because they are in it, they are hopeful, confident and productive. They are then free to serve a living God. Being part of a helping community also gives us opportunity to show them that, in the world, there are more good people and kind acts than bad people and evil deeds.

We do live in a world of sin and Satan terrorizes people, but God does not want that for us. He does not desire for us to live in a spirit of fear. His desire for us and our children is to live in His light and to light the way for others with a spirit of optimism and hope. And He gives us helpers along the way!

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.

Optimism makes you feel resilient and energetic.

Gratitude Is an Attitude

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Grateful people have fewer health problems.

How we cope with life's difficulties *does* make a difference. A positive mental attitude goes a long way toward keeping us healthy. People with a positive outlook are reported to live 7–8 years longer than those who are not optimistic. In another study, elderly men who were optimistic about the future, observed during a 15-year study period, were found to be 55 percent less likely to die of heart disease or stroke than those who were concerned about the future.

Ellen White mentions that nine-tenths of the diseases from which people suffer have their foundation in mental illness (*Counsels on Health*, p. 324). Since our mental health affects our body in significant ways, it is important that we harness the power of the mind. Having a positive outlook is often a prerequisite to having fulfilling work and marriages, satisfying relationships, better health and longevity. People who rated themselves high on a happiness scale were observed to have lower blood pressure readings and lower cortisol (stress hormone) levels.

Being optimistic does not mean life is without complications, but it does make one more resilient and strong. An optimist confidently sees problems as opportunities, while a pessimist sees those same problems as insurmountable barriers. Optimistic thinking not only promotes a positive mood and a high morale, but also energizes you. Those who are optimistic about the future will invest effort in reaching their goals and don't easily give up.

Gratitude is a real antidote for negative emotions. It is a neutralizer of worry. It's hard to feel sad or angry when one feels grateful. The more inclined a person is to be grateful, the less inclined they are to be anxious and depressed. Expressions of gratitude tend to make people feel more optimistic and more satisfied with life, they report fewer

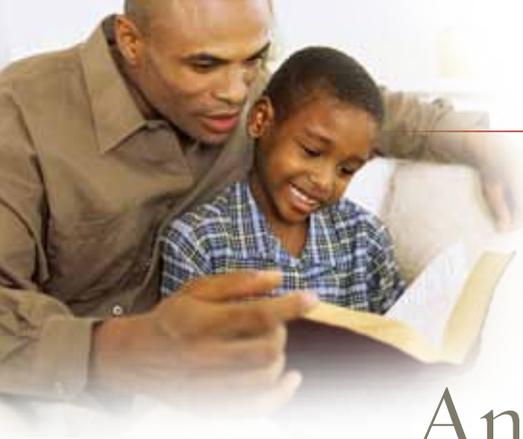


headaches and other health problems, have more hours of quality sleep, and are more likely to report helping someone in need. We learn that nothing promotes health more than a spirit of gratitude and praise (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 251).

Sonya Lyubomirsky, in her book *The How of Happiness*, describes how gratitude boosts one's happiness in a number of ways. Gratitude bolsters self-worth when one reflects on how much people have done for you. It helps one to positively interpret stressful life experiences. Expressing gratitude during personal adversity can help one adjust and move on. People encouraged to be grateful for a specific act were more likely to help strangers and others, even when it involved doing an unpleasant, tedious chore. When someone realizes the value of friends and other people, they are more likely to feel connected with them and treat them better.

When people were asked to write down, once a week, three to five things for which they were grateful or thankful, they reported significantly higher levels of happiness after only six weeks of journaling. Paul admonishes us to *rejoice always and in everything give thanks* (see 1 Thessalonians 5:16, 18).

Winston J. Craig, Ph.D., M.P.H., RD, is a professor of nutrition and chair of the Department of Health and Wellness at Andrews University.



PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

An Army of Workers

FRESH TALENT, ENERGY AND COURAGE

THE EDITORS

A young adult who relocated to a small city commented to his parent about the one church there. “Dad, almost everyone in this church is as old as you are. If we don’t get some new members soon, the church is going to close. We’re going to have to start making more friends in the community.”

“We should educate the youth to help the youth, and as they seek to do this work they will gain an experience that will qualify them to become consecrated workers in a larger sphere. Thousands of hearts can be reached in the most simple, humble way. The most intellectual, those who are looked upon and praised as the world’s most gifted men and women, are often refreshed by the simple words that flow from the heart of one who loves God, and who can speak of that love as naturally as the worldling speaks of the things which his mind contemplates and feeds upon. Often the words well prepared and studied have little influence. But the true, honest words of a son or daughter of God, spoken in natural simplicity, will open the door to hearts that have long been locked....

“The children and youth, with their fresh talent, energy, and courage, their quick susceptibilities, are loved of God, and he desires to bring them into harmony with divine agencies. They are to obtain an education that will help them to stand by the side of Christ in unselfish service.

“Of all his children to the close of time, no less than of the first disciples, Christ said, ‘*As thou hast sent me into the world,*’ even so I have also sent them into the world, to be representatives of God, to reveal his Spirit, to manifest his character, to do his work....

“There is no line of work in which it is possible for the youth to receive greater benefit. All who engage in ministry are God’s helping hand. They are coworkers with the angels; rather, they are the human agencies through whom the angels accomplish their mission. Angels speak through

their voices, and work by their hands. And the human workers, cooperating with heavenly agencies, have the benefit of their education and experience. As a means of education, what *university course* can equal this?

“With such an army of workers as our youth rightly trained might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!” (Ellen G. White, *Review & Herald*, May 16, 1912, *adapted*).

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:

- Fresh talent, energy, courage and quick susceptibilities appear to be listed as attributes that are often lost among older adults. In what practical, structural and organizational ways can these attributes be encouraged and employed in the local church to accomplish its mission?
- Church leadership typically has been reserved for the older, experienced members. What would happen if young people were given leadership responsibilities as co-workers with angels?
- Describe how God’s representatives, of any age, would look, act and sound if they revealed Christ’s spirit, manifested Christ’s character, and did the works that Christ did. How would these representatives appear to non-believers? How would they be described by the media?

The Lake Union Herald editors

Jehoshaphat

VICTORY THROUGH PRAYER

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

Jehoshaphat ranks very near the top of my heroes-of-prayer list. His prayer leadership won the day. The first thing Jehoshaphat did when Israel was under attack by a large coalition was to call for a fast. Then, standing before the people, he led them in a most remarkable prayer — a prayer that acknowledged God’s adequacy and their human inadequacy. It began with the words *Power and might are in your hand* and ended with these words: *We have no power. ... We do not know what to do.* Humble prayer is our supreme weapon against the devil’s schemes.

Jehoshaphat then “hears” a word from the Lord, who speaks to him and the people through a prophet: Listen ... *Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s* (2 Chronicles 20:15 NIV). Jehoshaphat didn’t have a clue how God was going to fight the battle, but he trusted that God would do what He promised. God’s word is always trustworthy.

We know Jehoshaphat and the people trusted God because from that moment on they stopped asking and started praising. So thoroughly did Jehoshaphat and the people trust the Lord that they did what was militarily unthinkable: They put a choir at the head of the army, praising God for the splendor of His holiness and singing, *Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever* (20:21). Those who really trust God do not always do things in a conventional way.

As the people marched out praising God, the Lord, true to His promise, confused the enemy so completely that they ended up destroying themselves. God, moving in response to the prayers of His people, always delivers what He promises. That’s the confidence we can have when we pray.

This remarkable prayer experience of Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel ended where it began, in the temple, with another praise service.

There is only one successful way to face a crisis, and that is through prayer — but not just any old prayer.

This kind of victory calls for prayer that begins with, moves out obediently with, and ends with praise.

Reflect

- Have you ever been so sure of God’s intervention that you stopped asking and just started praising? Praise has a way of focusing our eyes on God and encouraging trust.
- Have you ever started, continued and ended a prayer with praise?

Pray

- *Praise* God for His power and might that no one can withstand.
- *Thank* God for His readiness to hear prayer and to deliver those who trust in Him.
- If you have neglected praise, *confess* that to God.
- *Ask* God for a praising heart.
- *Pray* that the church may be delivered from enemies rallied by the evil one.

Act

Read 2 Chronicles 20:1–30. Note that it was Jehoshaphat’s knowledge of God and of His victories and promises of the past that gave him boldness in prayer. What do you know about the nature, activities and promises of God that can undergird your prayers?

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.



Divine Timing

BY BETTY EATON

As the podcast came to an end, David* heard someone walking up his driveway. Turning around, he saw a young man carrying a bag coming toward him. “Hey, perfect timing!” he said. “I just finished listening to a sermon podcast.”

The young man introduced himself as Clayton. He was selling books to earn an educational scholarship. The two talked briefly before David asked Clayton to show him what he had. Clayton proceeded to share his books — *The Great Controversy*, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, a couple of cookbooks, some kids’ books, CDs and DVDs. With each item, Clayton explained briefly the benefits and spiritual background that made it special. David was interested.

They shared together what God had done for them. David told an amazing story of how God had led in his life. He had been born with cerebral palsy. The doctors told his mother not to expect much from him. He never would be able to walk or grow up normally as other children did. He would lead a very limited life.

As a little boy, David remembers crawling on the ground and crying out to God. He begged God to heal him. While David didn’t say exactly how it happened, he said that God healed him. He went on to live a normal life, and had just celebrated his 41st birthday on June 9.

David had become an esteemed elder in his church. He worked with young people and continued to follow God with all his heart. He was impressed with the books Clayton was selling. He purchased *Christ’s Object Lessons* and *Steps to Christ*, and then bowed his head in prayer as the



A group of students display some of the books and DVDs they sell door-to-door.

two talked to God and asked His continued guidance and blessing.

Clayton says, “It was such perfect timing! The Holy Spirit was working in this man’s life, and his heart had been prepared when I walked up his driveway. Working with magabooks is a very faith-testing work. There are times when you are at your lowest and don’t know if you

want to continue. But, then, God will do something special and put you in the path of a Divine appointment where your faith will be uplifted and strengthened. It makes everything worthwhile.”

Clayton, a junior at Indiana Academy this school year, was one of 17 young people who went door-to-door in Indianapolis this summer, sharing Adventist literature. Their work is much the same as the Waldensians did so long ago — getting the gospel into the homes and working together with the Holy Spirit to lead people to search the Scriptures. Every day, during the nine weeks of the summer program, three or four people requested Bible studies and many purchased books that can lead them to a saving relationship with the Lord. Please continue to pray for blessings on the books and the homes they are in.

Betty Eaton is the correspondent for the Indiana Conference.

*Actual name withheld



La División Norteamericana pone énfasis en Indianapolis en 2014

POR CARMELO MERCADO

¡Mirad las ciudades y cuánto necesitan del Evangelio! ... ¿Quién se preocupa por ellas? —Testimonios para la iglesia, tomo 9, p. 80

Recuerdo la sorpresa y el gozo que sentí cuando recibí el llamado para ser pastor en la Asociación de Indiana. Al comenzar mis estudios en la Universidad Andrews mi plan original había sido ser médico misionero y para prepararme para esa carrera decidí tomar el tercer año de mis estudios libre e ir a Bolivia como estudiante misionero para ayudar a un médico en su clínica rodante. Sin embargo, al último momento me cambiaron el llamado y me pidieron que me dedicara a pastorear una iglesia que estaba sin pastor. Aunque esto era algo que jamás había pensado hacer, acepté el desafío y pasé once meses en esa aventura.

Cuando regresé de Bolivia sentí el llamado del Espíritu Santo para la obra pastoral y oré para tener la dirección de Dios. Y sucede que el presidente de la Asociación de Indiana buscaba a un pastor hispano para que ayudara a un evangelista en una campaña en la única iglesia hispana que existía en ese tiempo. Después de entrevistarme el



En el Día de Hermandad de la Asociación de Indiana los pastores Luis Rivas y Fernando Pizarro presentan a doce personas para ser aceptadas como miembros de la Iglesia Adventista.

presidente me invitó a trabajar con ellos durante el verano y ofreció pagarme mis estudios en el seminario y darme la oportunidad de trabajar como pastor en Indiana cuando graduara. A pesar de no tener mucha experiencia pastoral sabía que Dios me llamaba para ser ganador de almas.

Al pensar en las doce iglesias en el estado de Indiana que he tenido el privilegio de pastorear durante los últimos veinticinco años puedo dar gracias a Dios que en cada una de ellas hubo fruto de almas ganadas para el Señor. Esta realidad me ha convencido que hay mucho potencial para una gran cosecha en las ciudades de nuestra unión. Es interesante que la División Norteamericana haya escogido la ciudad de Indianapolis como su lugar de enfoque de evangelismo para

el año 2014. Como fruto de esa decisión los dirigentes del Hispanic Advisory de la División Norteamericana han tomado recientemente la decisión de compartir sus talentos y recursos y de unirse para apoyar la campaña de evangelismo en la ciudad de Indianapolis y en otras ciudades del mismo estado.

Los hermanos y pastores en Indiana están trabajando arduamente para cumplir con la gran comisión que nuestro Señor les ha dado. Al ver los bautismos que hubo en el Día de Hermandad en la ciudad de Cicero, Indiana recordé las palabras de nuestro Señor: “Ya la cosecha está madura” (Juan 4:35). Lo que falta son más obreros para trabajar en la viña. Quisiera animar a los que leen esta revista que si sienten el llamado del Espíritu Santo para ayudar a los hermanos y pastores de Indiana a ganar almas para Cristo en el año 2014, que se sientan libres de contactar el Departamento Hispano de la Unión para obtener más información.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



My Divine Appointment

BY LOUISE ERNST

Our little church in Central Lake, Michigan, had closed its doors for the winter, so my husband and I went to the Traverse City Church for these months, where I heard a sermon about praying for Divine appointments. I was so inspired, I went right home and began to pray for my own Divine appointments.

I got up one pretty fall day. I mapped out my route to the stores and errands I would run, ending up with buying gas on the way out of town. I heard a Voice say very clearly, "Go to the gas station and get your gas first."

I answered, "No, I don't want to go to the station first."

The Voice said again, more firmly, "Go get your gas first."

I replied, "I need to get my gas after I finish my chores, so I'm not backtracking."

The Voice was more persistent, and louder, "Go get your gas now!"

So I turned in to the gas station. I tried to pay at the pump, but it wouldn't take my credit card. I was so upset that I had to go inside to pay my bill.

Once inside, I went up to the counter. My grandson's aunt was working as the gas station attendant that day. She



Louise Ernst

asked me if I had seen my grandson's football game Friday night. I replied, "No, I don't go to the games on Friday night as it is my Sabbath."

A nice-looking gentleman, standing next to me, asked, "Are you a Seventh-day Adventist?" He continued, "I have always wanted to study the Bible with them!"

Our little church had just opened the doors again, and so I invited him to attend our Revelation prophecy series. He accepted my invitation, and I was so excited. As I left and got in my car, tears were falling from my eyes because I almost missed my Divine appointment.

The man I met at the gas station has been attending our church. I pray the Holy Spirit will lead him to all Truth. "Thank you, Jesus, for answering my prayer."

Louise Ernst is a member of the Central Lake Church in Michigan.

Finding Freedom

BY RACHEL SKAIFE

From the time she was young, Gayle Brunt knew there was a God but wanted something more. Her search for a deeper understanding of God led her in and out of several churches, yet she never stopped caring about Christ. "I wanted to find strength and stability in my Christian life," said Gayle. "I wanted it to be real in my life."

Gayle asked her friend, Melvin Sheire, if his pastor would study with her. Pastor Nate Skaife agreed.

“We studied hard and deep,” recalls Gayle. “I got answers to the hard questions — the kind that make you grind your teeth.”

Two years later, Gayle is grateful she never gave up her search for a deeper understanding of God. “It is such an exciting feeling to talk to others about finding Christ. I can now actually say, ‘He’s always there,’



Gayle Brunt (left) was baptized at Southside Adventist Fellowship on March 30. “I can feel the difference. I never had that kind of feeling before,” she remarked. Also pictured: Nate Skaife, pastor

and know that it’s true from personal experience.”

On March 30, Brunt was baptized at Southside Adventist Fellowship. “I can feel the difference. I never had that kind of feeling before. It is so wonderful! Since being baptized, my mind feels lifted. I’m so happy. I just want to say, ‘Hallelujah!’ I feel so full!”

Rachel Skaife is a member of the Southside Adventist Fellowship in Wisconsin.

Keeping a Promise

BY RACHEL SKAIFE

As a young man, Mark Clark developed a love for the Lord, attended church regularly, studied the Bible, and was baptized. He enjoyed the peace and joy that only God can give.

Through the years, however, Mark made choices that led him away from the Lord. He got caught up in the street life and was involved in the drug and alcohol scene. Those lifestyle choices took their toll on his health. Several years ago, he was hospitalized with a life-threatening illness. “God saw fit to get me to a safe place,” Mark recalls.

During his hospital stay, Mark remembers talking to God and saying, “Lord, I will trust You.” That was when Mark’s life began to get better.

“I started going back to church as soon as I got out of the hospital, and have been going ever since,” said Mark. “I remembered the joy and peace I had when I was younger, and wanted that again.”

In the last few years, much prayer, study, support from the Veteran’s Administration, and utilizing his education in Human Services has resulted in major changes in his life.

On April 6, Mark was re-baptized as a celebration of his new life in Christ, and became a member of Southside Adventist Fellowship. On April 8,



Mark Clark wandered from God and his earlier commitments to Him. While hospitalized for a life-threatening illness, Mark made a promise: “Lord, I will trust You.” When his condition improved, Mark honored his commitment to God and was re-baptized.

Mark celebrated two years of sobriety. “I’ve learned how much God loves me,” said Mark. “I don’t want to be a part of the world any more; I just want to be close to God.”

Today, Mark volunteers at the Veteran’s Administration, utilizing his degree in Human Services and certification in substance abuse counseling. “I’m able to help others through the same things I went through, and speaking at the VA helps to keep me focused,” he stated.

Rachel Skaife is a member of the Milwaukee Southside Adventist Fellowship in Wisconsin.



Young Adults Speak Faith - Mission

BY GARY BURNS

It was a real joy to travel around the Lake Union, meeting with and interviewing young adults. We were encouraged by so many who have an active faith and a personal sense of calling and mission. Here are some excerpts from those interviews. — Editor

One of the reasons I still go to church is because I have an active relationship with God and, for me, I think it's extremely important as a Christian to keep that relationship. If I believe God is real, then I'm not going to just believe He's real, I'm going to actively do something about it.

I believe in God, so therefore I believe in everything He says He is. I want to get to know Him better, this Person who created me, this Being who created me. I want to get to know Him better and understand who He is. —*Adam*

Unfortunately, the church I was going to during my teen years didn't really have the best impact. They weren't really focused toward the youth. It was very easy for me to wander away because it didn't seem like they cared at all.

We moved to a different church right when I [turned] 18, and that started the process of me growing closer to God again. They were really focused on the youth. I started singing in the choir, so I was at the church more often, and I felt like they cared.

[To churches], I would say reach out to your youth without pointing a finger, but by love and creating programs where they can be involved and where they can see Christ for who He is. —*Alaina*

I used to be one of them that went "Huh-uh" when it came to church until I realized that when young people say "Huh-uh" to the church, it's usually because they're thinking of one, two..., I don't know, specific members in the church who they feel are hypocrites. And they say to themselves, If that person

is in the church, then I don't want to be a part of that church, when they are completely forgetting the fact that the same person that's in the church is human. We all make mistakes.

I believe Jesus tells us we're not to look at other humans. It doesn't matter if they're the deacon, elder, even the preacher; we're not supposed to look at other humans. The only other person who we're supposed to look on is Jesus. So when people start thinking about not wanting to be like other people, then they kind of lose the focus of what it is to be a Christian. They start comparing themselves with other people. When you start to lose the focus on Christ, then, of course, you're not going to want to be a part of the church, because then it's just like a fashion show or who's more spiritual than the others. But it's not about that. It's just, and always has been, about Jesus. —*Ray*

My mom calls me her "seeker," like I'm always trying to figure it out for myself. When eighth grade came, I was part of my public school's symphonic band and played a bass clarinet. We had a band contest that [was to take] place on Sabbath morning. My mom told me, "I'm not going to tell you what to do. You're old enough to decide for yourself whether you're going to keep the Sabbath or go to the band contest."



I was really torn up about it the entire time, like the entire week before... Then I ended up deciding to stay at church and not go to the band contest. [I] ended up having to report on Mozart. That was ten years ago. In the ten years since, it's been kind of crazy, in an awesome way, what God has done because I took that step. It was my decision, and I think that was part of it. Because it's been my decision to do the things I have felt God has called me to do, it [has] helped in building that relationship between Him and me. That's why I'm [in church] — because it's personal and not somebody else's faith. —Ashlee

A lot of our leadership don't necessarily know how to empower young adults. It's limiting. There are probably two main reasons. One of the reasons is the worship experience can be dry at times. When churches are unorganized, doing the same thing, it's really difficult to hold one's attention. So your ministry platform or presentation at the local church becomes irrelevant, on top of the young adult or young person not being engaged, active, coached, given tasks or assignments. It's inevitable they don't really find a place.

My encouragement to the local church would be to intentionally seek God. I really believe in the power of prayer. I believe in imagination, dreaming and creativity. I believe that if we really pray and ask God for revelation on being relevant, that ministry will connect. I think there is a success that is found in sincerity. There's a success found in authenticity, collaborative leadership, collaborative planning, and a willingness not to make an idol out of tradition. I think certain aspects of ministry have become idols, as it were, sacred cows; don't touch them. And biblically, it's not the case. And I think our young people are smart enough, wising up and realizing that it's not the case. And that there is just a deal-breaker. —Justin

I started Campus Ministries at Central Michigan University, and that was a big deal. I started out with maybe five people, and I think we can't go a weekend without at least 20, 25, 30 people now. And, mind you, whether or not they are Adventist is not the point. The point is we're just bringing the Word of God to their lives. And obviously, if we're having that many people come out, people are craving it. —Bianca

At a young age, my parents started doing morning worships with me, reading me *The Bible Story* books. I was eight years old,

and they made me read *The Great Controversy*. I had no idea what the words meant, but they had me read it anyway. When I was a senior in high school, I had to go to public school for financial reasons. For English class, one time, we had to read Dante's "Inferno," and it's about hell and stuff like that. The teacher asked us to write a response to it. I wrote 30 pages on the state of the dead. The teacher was in awe, saying, "I never heard anything before like that, Bible verses and everything that go along with it."

I was in study hall one day, in the library, and a teacher walked up to me and said, "Are you Jim?"

It's like, *Oh, no!* I wanted to know if I was in trouble or not. And I said, "Yeah."

He's like, "Come with me, please."

It's like, *Oh, man!* I was trying to think..., *Did I do something wrong?* I couldn't think of a thing.

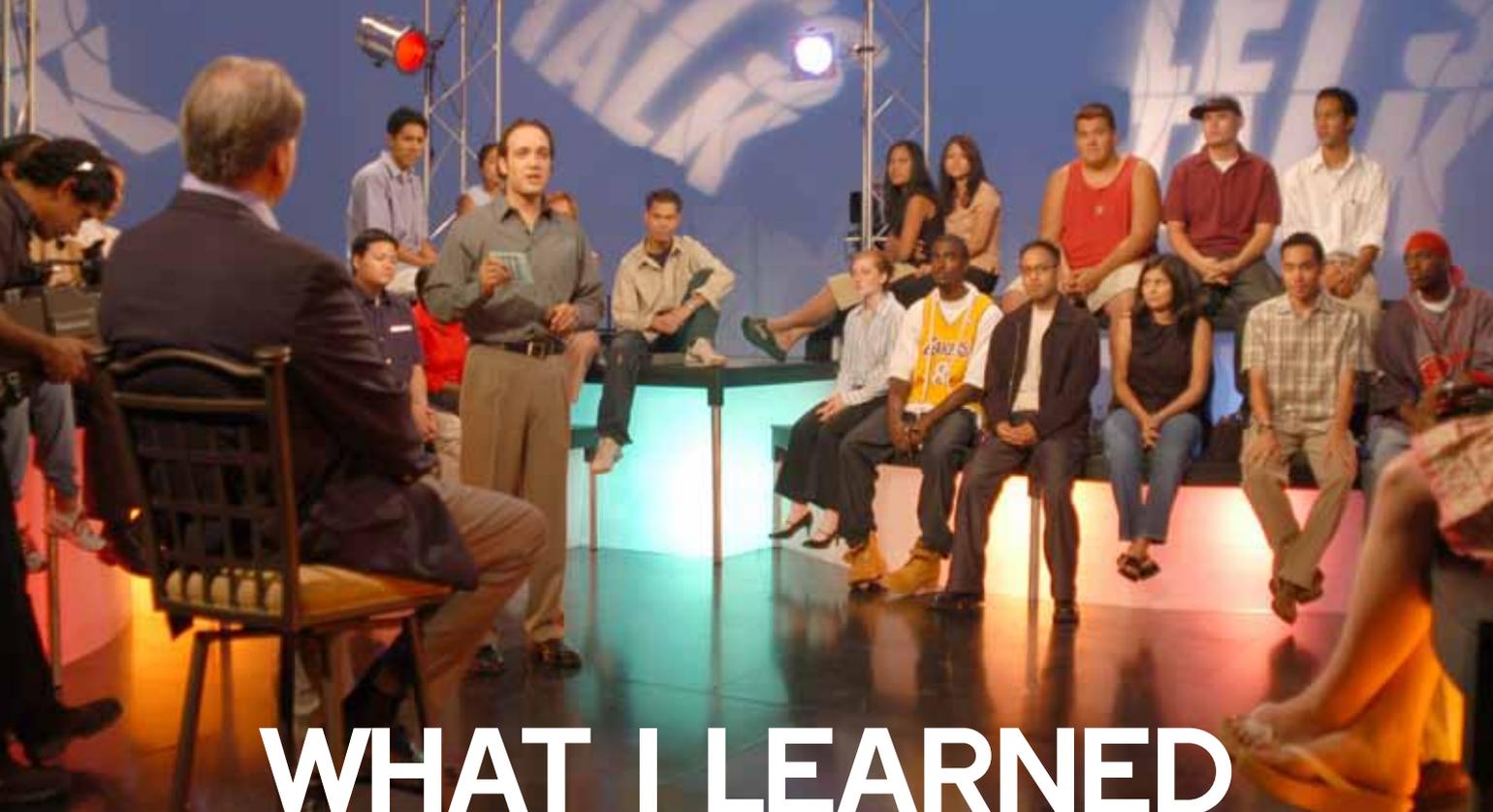
So, they brought me to the teachers' lounge, and there were a bunch of teachers with photocopies of my report on "Inferno." And there were some 20 teachers asking me Bible questions about the state of the dead because of my paper on "Inferno."

All those years I had taken for granted what I had known about the Bible. I saw a world that didn't have it, and I knew that I could offer it to them. —Jim

For a while, honestly, [going to church] was for tradition, and it was just very habitual and something I just followed. In college, I started realizing what was I doing. I started questioning myself as to why I was there. And then I started reading the Bible more [and thinking about] what I would like to become — more like Jesus.

[Now], I find the church to be a place where you come together — and not just fellowship, but you grow in each other. You speak of blessings; you share things with each other as in prayer requests — things you'd like the church to help you with. It's a place where not just the pastor is educated or educates, but it's where the pastor can be educated also. So I go there to learn, actually. —José

The testimonies of the young adults were recorded by Tibor Shelley, freelance media producer, as interviewed by Gary Burns, editor of the *Lake Union Herald*.



WHAT I LEARNED FROM THE YOUNG

BY JAN PAULSEN

Are we familiar with the current “youth culture” of the Adventist Church? Do we understand the forces of technology and social media that are shaping the thinking of the young men and women in our churches? Are we aware of the specific ideas and passions that, for them, define what it means to be Seventh-day Adventist in the 21st Century?

I suspect the answer is, “Not so much.”

In more than 30 live broadcasts and through the Let’s Talk website, I hear our young people say, “Do you really hear us? Are you listening?”

Here are seven important lessons I have learned from our young people that we would all do well to remember.

1. The value of openness.

Young people possess an urge, a hunger, to find things out for themselves. They have a yearning for freshness, a desire to look openly at everything they encounter and to develop a sense of personal ownership of their faith.

How will young people react if their partners in conversation come to them with closed minds, seeking to coerce rather than engage? They’ll step back, and meaningful communication will become impossible.

2. Human beings are more important than knowledge.

Being kind is more important than winning a debate about rights and wrongs. We may be able to eloquently defend many positions, statements and opinions. We may be skilled in interpreting God’s Word. But it’s all meaningless unless we’re actually helping guide men and women into God’s future.

At the end of the day, the only thing that really matters is the salvation of individual sinners, each one deeply loved by God. Remember, it’s people, not ideas, who will inhabit the earth made new.

3. It’s critical to keep the conversation going.

It can be extraordinarily difficult to keep communication alive with those who are divided from us by age, experiences or expectations.

So, how do we keep the conversation alive? Young people have taught me that there are a number of guaranteed conversation killers we should avoid at all costs.

Communication will come to a grinding halt if we fail to extend to each other the courtesy of trust. We have to be willing to accept each other's sincerity. This is fundamental, yet it's often so difficult! It doesn't mean giving up our own opinions, but it does mean acknowledging the right of other people to hold a different point of view.

4. Young people taught me to restrain my "superior knowledge."

As a young college professor, some of my students brought out the best in me; some brought out the worst. One student who definitely fell into the latter category once said to me, "Perhaps my little knowledge has made me ignorant, but your greater knowledge has made you arrogant."

Those of us from the older generations must never wield our "superior" knowledge like a trump card that can be thrown down whenever we want to cut off discussion. The silence that follows won't be the silence of agreement; it'll be the sound of minds closing, attitudes hardening, and communication coming to an abrupt end.

5. Don't be too severe.

I'll never forget one particular young woman I encountered during my time as president of Newbold College in England. She was a handful, and then some. I met her again decades later. Now a fine professional, committed to the Lord and supportive of her church, she could look back on her youthful indiscretions and be thankful the chapter didn't end there.

She thanked me for allowing a rebellious kid to live and find herself. Sometimes kids are kids, and they do stupid things, and often they learn more from their mistakes and stumbles than from anything we can tell them.

6. Exercise the gift of remembering.

At Newbold College in the 1970s, there was still a functioning farm connected with the college. One morning, as I entered the worship hall, I was confronted by a cow tied to the pulpit. On another morning, a Morris Minor was parked on the platform. I suspect that neither beast nor car had been brought into the hall as an "offering unto the Lord."

The young have often reminded me that life is made up of all kinds of moments, and not all of them should be serious. Yes, sometimes kids are irresponsible or worse. But we all need to exercise our memories — each one of us was young once, and yet, somehow, miraculously, we've grown and moved on. So will today's young Adventist men and women.

7. My "access" to the mind of God isn't necessarily better than theirs.

Through the years, I've held many elected offices, and I can attest to the fact that status within the church doesn't suddenly endow you with the ability to know the mind of God. Do we who are older and "wiser" sometimes act as if we've earned an inside track to the Divine? That we now have the right to interpret His will for others?

One of the most important lessons I've learned is that I don't have a more ready, reliable access to God's mind than anyone else.

Our touchstone must always be God's objective Word — a reference point that can be seen by all and which will always give us the clearest, safest revelation of God's purpose for His community and for each of us, personally.

One lesson above all

As I look back, I'm struck by the richness, beauty, and balance of what young Adventist men and women have taught me through the years. Through our conversations, I continually met my Master Teacher, who never tired of teaching and re-teaching me the immense value of every person for whom He died. For that, I love Him more than I can describe, and I love the young people of this church who've helped me understand that this is the most important lesson of all.

Jan Paulsen served his church for more than five decades as pastor, teacher, missionary, college president, theologian, church administrator and, ultimately, as leader of the Seventh-day Adventist world church. As General Conference president from 1999 to 2010, he led the church through an era of unprecedented growth and unique challenges. Among the hallmarks of his administration were his commitment to worldwide church unity, his ongoing conversations with youth and young adults of the church, and his efforts to expand the church's mission reach and community presence around the world. Jan Paulsen has written numerous articles and scholarly works, including three books: *When the Spirit Descends*, *Let Your Light So Shine* and *Where Are We Going?* He and his wife, Kari, have three children and three grandchildren. This article is an excerpt from his book, *Let's Talk: Conversations With Young Adventists About Their Church*. *Let's Talk* was published by Pacific Press Publishing Association and is available at all local Adventist Book Centers, online at <http://www.AdventistBookCenter.com> or by calling toll-free 800-765-6955.



PHOTOS BY PAPA

An Invitation

BY THROSTUR THORDARSON

“Pastor, can we invite the elders out for dinner some Saturday evening?”

It was an unusual request, one I had not heard before. The one asking was a young adult member of my congregation and a leader in the church. I decided to prod a little.

“What do you mean? What do you have in mind?”

“Well, the young adults would like to visit with the elders and ask them to mentor us in visitation and in the work of the elders. We have saved up some money and we will pay for the meal.”

So a Saturday evening was selected, reservations were made at a local Indian restaurant, and the elders were invited to come. Fourteen elders and 14 young adults came. The tab was more than \$700, paid by the young adults, and the evening was a wonderful experience for young and old alike.

Seldom do so many elders sit down to a meal with so many young adults to talk about life, church and God. As the evening wore on, one young adult brought up the purpose of the meeting and asked if the elders would be willing to take the young adults out for visits in order to teach them and mentor in visitation.

The elders really got excited, calendars were brought out, every elder was partnered with a young adult, and all began to make visitation plans. This was a key moment for major changes at our church.

Sometime before this exchange, I had been introduced to a new concept promoted at the Center for Youth Evangelism. Churches of Refuge (COR) were proposed as a safe place for young adults to worship and participate as they begin to set a foundation for their personal and professional life following college. The churches of refuge were proposed on the principle of the cities of refuge found in early Israel. The obvious difference was that while a city of refuge was a safe haven for one accused of a crime, a COR was to be a safe place for young adults who are often not found in Seventh-day Adventist churches on Sabbath mornings.

What I loved about the COR concept was that this was not a program, but a set of values that guided a local church process. It was up to the church members themselves to look back at their history in light of biblical values, and begin to set plans for what they wanted to do with each of the nine COR values

in order to create a welcoming space in their church. So I decided to present the idea to my elders and the church board.

The elders liked the idea, but had many questions. In the same way, the church board liked the concept but, initially, members were not sure if this was a wise course of action for them. By the end of the church board meeting, it was decided to invite Ron Whitehead, Center for Youth Evangelism director, to preach at our church and spend the afternoon with the congregation, providing an opportunity to explore, reflect and ask questions before deciding what to do.

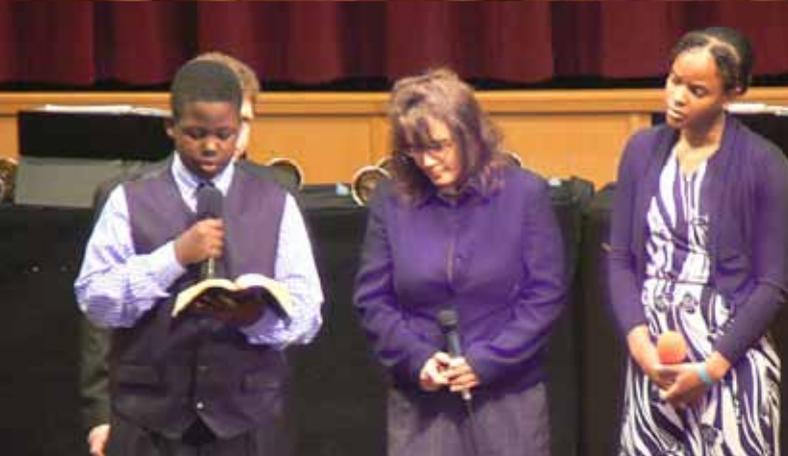
A large group of church leaders, members and young adults turned out for the worship service and afternoon meeting. Many questions were asked, some of them hard and personal. At the end of the day, I was delighted when one of our elders who had voiced wise yet skeptical questions, said, “This is not just for the young adults. I want this, too.”

The church board voted unanimously to form a committee of elders and young adults to evaluate carefully how we were doing on each of the nine COR values, and to present concrete plans that fit our congregation and would provide a ministry that was firmly based on Biblical values.

A year later, after careful planning, thorough review and an affirmative vote by the church board, a master plan was presented to the church at a specially-called business meeting. The plan was accepted unanimously. Since then, we have continued our desire to look for ways to strengthen ministry for the young adults. At a subsequent church business meeting, we voted to set a goal of mentoring young adults into leadership, with the goal of young adults occupying half of all our leadership positions by the year 2020.

One of the concerns voiced was that a COR church would become lopsided and that the older members, children and teenagers would get left out. Some questioned whether we should focus on the children instead of the young adults. But what we have discovered, in practicality, is that by focusing on the young adults, our ministries to children and teens are

Photos by South Bend First Church



growing as well. One outcome is that we no longer have a separate children's church, but include children and integrate them into our worship service every Sabbath.

It is not always easy to make changes and shift focus. Some have a hard time letting go of leadership roles. Others resist change in how to make decisions or how we worship. Some are not comfortable going throughout our community, visiting and sharing our faith from door to door, and some are unsettled about having a dedicated room to foster and encourage prayer.

Church is to be a safe place to worship, seek and learn to love God.

Perhaps the most difficult change is the simple acceptance of others through God's grace. Young people, and let's include older ones, too, often live lives that, at times, can be messy and unconventional. Values and practices of each are questioned and challenged by the other. It is not uncommon to hear a warning that we must not lower our standards or that we cannot allow immorality to linger in the church. That is when we need to be reminded that God accepted and worked with a lying and fearful Abraham, calling him "His prophet!" Or look at the ten sons of Jacob who sold Joseph as a slave and lied to their father about it and who also committed genocide in Shechem, robbed the place and kidnapped children and young women, yet God lists their names of honor on the city gates in the new Jerusalem. If that's how God treats imperfect sinners, then we should do so as well.

The reality is that no one can come into the presence of God and remain unchanged. By inviting our young adults to come to a church where they do not feel condemned or prejudged about their value or worth, they, along with older and younger generations, will have the opportunity to meet God in community and see His Glory. Together, we experience His transforming work as He changes every person from glory to glory into the image of Jesus Christ.

We believe that church should be the best place in town to come and find acceptance and friendship. It is our goal to greet and connect with every person who comes in our doors. It makes no difference if they are a first-time visitor or one who is struggling with sin after 40 years of attendance. We want to make sure they feel welcomed to come and experience the power and the presence of God.

The amazing thing is that we witness God at work in young people's lives again and again. Real victories are experienced, testimonies are shared and hope is brought to all generations. God brings people to church, and we bear witness to the saving power of God. One young lady shared her testimony at prayer meeting and told that she had started to use tobacco as a ten-year-old girl. As a young mother, she had tried multiple times to quit, but could not. She did not know God, but decided to experiment and see if God truly existed and cared for her. So, one evening she prayed, "God, I do not know if you exist, but if you do, can you help me to quit smoking because I can't do it on my own."

The next evening she realized she had not smoked a single cigarette all day. So she went to God again, and asked, "God, this was cool. Can you do this for me again tomorrow?" Needless to say, she has not smoked a single cigarette since, and has no desire to smoke. As a result of this experience, she came to church, and our members welcomed her with open arms.

An immigrant college-aged man needed someone to welcome him to the new, strange world. He was new to the culture as a whole, and new to the language as well. He easily could have hung out with his classmates from the public university who are mainly irreligious and spend their time at a local bar. However, he was accepted by the church members just as he was and welcomed as one of their own family.

He said, "I remember how, in that cold winter of 2009, I always looked forward to a Friday evening where I could join other young people at my church for singing and fellowship. I easily could have started to learn the new language from the movies and curse words, but I remember how I used big vocabulary from hymns that I read on the church screen. As a busy senior in college, working hard to go to medical school, my church is the only place of refuge I look forward to, so I can escape the hectic schedule for a while and grow spiritually. Frequently, my friends ask how I juggle all the things that I do, but I find that when I pause and rest on the Sabbath, I get refreshed."

Acceptance also includes giving the opportunity and the freedom to seek and study the Bible by asking deep questions and exploring our faith. We are a people of the Book, and we have no creed except the Bible. Therefore, we do not have to be afraid of challenging questions. Young adults want to explore and test the teachings of the Bible and the culture of our church.

Sometimes, we simply regurgitate our fundamental beliefs as if they were Scriptures. Doing so may come across as stale spiritual food or a warmed-up, microwaved diet. Too many members have grown up on a spiritual fast-food diet and, as a

Church of Refuge Values

result, are spiritually unhealthy and obese. Our young people want more. They want an authentic experience where they can build a relationship with a God who wants to engage their minds.

The Bible is a secure, safe guide for our faith, and our young adults will find God as they study His Word. Thus, we encourage and welcome the questions our young people bring. Church is to be a safe place to worship, seek and learn to love God.

Today, young adults are increasing in numbers in our church. Young adults already hold numerous leadership roles: Sabbath school superintendent, adult Sabbath school teachers, head deacon and Pathfinder director, to name a few, and they serve on the finance committee, church board and school board. They are the driving force in our worship service, prayer meetings and prayer ministry. They continue to seek roles in visitation and evangelism. They lead our church in going door-to-door, encouraging our Sabbath school classes to become evangelistic again. They bring life, energy and faith to our church community.

Our prayer room is used more than ever before. Young and old gather there during the week and on Sabbaths to seek God in solitude or to pray for one another. It is common to find members and visitors praying together, claiming the Spirit of God, through the symbol of the oil, on a Sabbath day. Testimonies are heard and miracles experienced.

It began with an invitation — an invitation to be a young-adult-friendly church. Or perhaps it began with an invitation from God to live as Jesus lived. Now this invitation is being extended to others, to anyone who comes through our doors, “Come, experience and witness the power of God.”

I believe this invitation is being extended to every congregation and every member in the Lake Union. People need the Lord. Our young adults need to find churches that allow them to seek and savor the grace of Jesus. Our adults and our children need the same experience. Here in South Bend, Indiana, COR has been an effective vehicle to guide our congregation as we attempt to minister to one another and to our community. Perhaps your church can accept this invitation.

To read a more thorough explanation of COR and to begin the process for your church to become a COR congregation, go to <http://www.cye.org/COR>.

Thorstur Thordarson is the pastor of the South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Bend, Indiana.

1. **Sabbath:** Churches of Refuge are committed to providing a meaningful Sabbath experience by offering time and space for collective study, worship and socializing.

2. **Discipleship:** Churches of Refuge are committed to following Jesus Christ in all areas of life by helping young people to grow in their relationship with Jesus and by training them to live for others as Jesus did.

3. **Acceptance:** Churches of Refuge are committed to accepting people just as Jesus did by embracing all humanity regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, personal history, appearance, odor or other characteristic.

4. **Community:** Churches of Refuge are committed to building a caring and friendly community by incubating healthy, active relationships.

5. **Support:** Churches of Refuge are committed to supporting youth and young adults with their life challenges by providing a physically and emotionally safe environment for people to deal with life's stresses and their deepest questions.

6. **Service:** Churches of Refuge are committed to demonstrating God's love through acts of service by actively engaging the community in practical and relevant ways.

7. **Leadership:** Churches of Refuge are committed to youth and young adult leadership by developing leaders and by involving individuals with leadership potential in ministry and administration.

8. **Budget:** Churches of Refuge are committed to investing money in youth and young adult ministry by financially supporting young adult ministry by budgeting a set amount per person in this age group.

9. **Change:** Churches of Refuge are committed to change that leads to improved youth and young adult ministry by recognizing that new programs, methods, styles and services always will be needed.



Volunteer gives back to hospital that saved her life

Every Wednesday and Friday, Harriet Vlna comes to Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital to volunteer at the front desk.

Her commitment goes beyond fulfilling her promise to volunteer. Harriet returns to the hospital to give back to those who helped save her life a little more than two years ago.

Harriet spent three weeks in intensive care at Adventist La Grange Memorial in 2011, suffering from massive pulmonary embolisms. She had to be resuscitated not once but twice. In all, she was immobilized for two months.

With much medical care, support and prayer, Harriet recovered. As she left the hospital, still facing recovery time at home, a staff chaplain suggested her survival meant God had something special for her to do still.

“The only thing I can do is be a better wife, a better mother, a better grandma and the best volunteer I can be,” Harriet said.

She remembers the night, in February 2011, when she took ill. Her husband, John, was making dinner. Harriet remembers standing before him and saying, “Something is wrong.” Then she collapsed.

She does not remember much else. The rest of the story Harriet knows from others.

“I ended up with massive pulmonary embolisms, one in each lung,” Harriet said. “My husband had to call the paramedics, and they took me to Adventist La Grange Memorial.”

During her three weeks in intensive care, doctors discovered an enlargement of Harriet’s heart, and placed her in a medically-induced coma.

Throughout Harriet’s time at the hospital, John and her family remained at her bedside; neighbors and friends visited often. Local churches offered



Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital volunteer Harriet Vlna (left) stands with chaplain Colleen Narbone in the hospital lobby. Vlna volunteers at Adventist La Grange Memorial every week as a way to thank its staff for helping save her life.

frequent prayers for her recovery, some coming to her bedside to conduct prayer circles.

Such prayer for wellness is in line with the teaching offered in James 5:15: *And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven (ESV).*

“That’s what pulled me through — love and prayer, and people who cared about me and my family,” Harriet said.

Her fellow hospital volunteers also did their part, keeping her husband company during the long days he spent at Harriet’s bedside.

“John said he has never hugged so many people in pink smocks that he didn’t know, because almost every volunteer in the world stopped by to see how I was and to offer him love and prayers,” she said.

The dedication of all who stood by Harriet’s side throughout her illness is a testament to God’s love, said Colleen

Narbone, Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital chaplain.

“We’re reminded of how powerful it is to see these dedicated loved ones supporting her,” Narbone said.

Upon her return to her volunteer duties, one of the first things Harriet did was to thank those who helped save her.

“I trotted myself down to the ER to talk to Dr. Geoff Crabb, the doctor who saved my life,” Harriet said. “I walked in, stood in front of him, and said, ‘I’m here.’”

“He said, ‘Oh, my! I never thought I’d see you upright again.’”

“I said, ‘Can I come around and hug you?’ and we both started crying.”

Christopher LaFortune, public relations specialist, Adventist Midwest Health



UNKNOWN

Janet Ledesma

Ledesma guest edits award-winning journal issue

The *Journal of Adventist Education* won the Distinguished Achievement Award for Whole Publication Design for its theme issue, "Principalship and Administration" (Oct./Nov. 2012), from the Association of Educational

Publishers (AEP) on June 4. Janet Ledesma, associate professor of leadership and Educational Leadership coordinator, guest-edited and coordinated this issue.

Ledesma spent most of the 2012 spring semester assembling articles, arranging for peer review, conducting research, and doing editorial duties, including writing a guest editorial. Ledesma worked closely with *Journal of Adventist Education* editor Beverly Robinson-Rumble and leadership doctoral student Evelyn Savory to construct the issue.

"I am extremely grateful for Dr. Ledesma's assistance in bringing this project to fruition," says Robinson-Rumble, "as it had been stalled for several years, and I had nearly given up on ever getting the issue into print." Robinson-Rumble and Ledesma submitted the issue to both the Association of Educational Publishers and the Associated Church Press.

At the 2013 AEP Awards Gala, in June, in Washington D.C., Robinson-Rumble accepted the award, accompanied by Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, General Conference director of education, and Harry Knox, JAE art director. The *Journal of Adventist Education* also placed as a finalist in three categories: Learned Article, Whole Publication Design, and Feature Article.

The *Journal of Adventist Education* has won AEP awards on multiple occasions, including Distinguished Achievement Awards for separate articles, feature articles and entire publications.

The *Journal of Adventist Education*, begun in 1978, is a resource for Christian K-12 teachers, university professors and administrators of all levels. The *Journal* is published eight times annually, and includes practical and theoretical articles on praxis, pedagogy and integrating faith in the classroom.

Samantha Snively, graduate writer, Division of Integrated Marketing and Communication

School of Health Professions offers two new online degrees

The Andrews University School of Health Professions will offer two new online degrees this coming academic year: a Master of Public Health in Nutrition and Wellness and a B.S. completion program in Nursing.

The Department of Public Health & Wellness, formerly known as the Department of Nutrition & Wellness, has received approval from the Board of Trustees to offer a Master of Public Health in Nutrition and Wellness, beginning fall 2013.

This new program is the first and only online M.P.H. program in Nutrition and Wellness offered in the country. Also offered at a 50 percent tuition discount, this new program will prepare health professionals for service in the church

and community by building knowledge and skills necessary to enhance the health of human populations and promote a healthy lifestyle through personal and community efforts.

Emmanuel Rudatsikira, dean of the School of Health Professions, says employment opportunities are expected to grow by 37 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations (14 percent), according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"This prediction translates into about 23,200 new jobs for public health professionals during the next ten years," says Rudatsikira. "According to the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), there are 62 accredited online public health programs in the United States. However, there are only two Master of Public Health programs in nutrition. Our program, with emphasis on vegetarian lifestyle and wellness, is unique and presently the only one of its kind."

For more information visit <http://www.andrews.edu/publichealth>.

Due to a growing demand for nurses with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, the Department of Nursing is offering an online B.S. completion program in Nursing, beginning spring semester 2014. Many hospitals and healthcare facilities now require that their nurses hold a B.S.N. in order to practice, and the industry estimates that by 2020, 80 percent of nurses will have a B.S.N.

The online program, offered at a 50 percent tuition discount, is a total of 125 credits, 68 of which come from a previously earned associate's degree. The remaining 57 credits can be completed in four semesters. Materials and other information are available at <http://www.andrews.edu/shp/nursing/programs/bs-nursing-completion>. For more information, contact Myrna Constantine at 800-877-2863 or email myrnac@andrews.edu.

Pat Spangler, FOCUS editor and editorial manager, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Good News Market Farm offers life-changing benefits for students

Michigan—On the beautiful campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy in Cedar Lake, you will find a farm that was started with the desire to create a place where the school could “do the best we can to give our students a physical, mental, and spiritual training that will fit them for usefulness in this life, and prepare them for the future, immortal life” (*Spalding and Magan Collection*, p. 265). Its goal is to follow the principles laid out through inspiration “to so train youth that they will love to work upon the land, and delight in improving it,” to give them a “new moral taste in love of work” (*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 355).

To facilitate this, the staff and students at Good News Market Farm use cutting-edge technology combined with old-fashioned common sense, attention and care for plants. With one acre of climate-controlled greenhouses, an acre of high tunnels, and some outdoor field crops, the farm produces nearly 50 varieties of certified organic vegetables and fruits. Everything is veganically grown, meaning animal products such as manure, fish fertilizer, blood meal or chicken litter are not used. This decreases chances of exposure to food-borne illnesses such as salmonella and *E. coli*. It also reduces exposure to the heavy metals and antibiotics that are so commonly and profusely found in the animal waste products usually used for soil fertility.

The farm sells its delicious produce directly to the backdoor of high-end restaurants and grocery stores such as Whole Foods. It’s really exciting because the stores have signs stating where the produce was grown. In the restaurants, the farm’s name is right on the menu so people can go to the website (<http://www.goodnewsfarm.org>)



Clay Maciel tends to plants at Good News Market Farm on the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy in Cedar Lake, Mich. He was a junior at the academy when this picture was taken.

and learn more about the farm and school. It’s such an amazing opportunity to reach people with the message that Adventists believe the Earth belongs to the Creator and, as a result, have a God-given responsibility to use our intelligence to devise and improve sustainable farming practices that will enable us to enrich people’s health with nutrient-dense food.

But it gets even better. In April this year, the farm launched FarmBox! Now people can order produce direct from the farm’s web store. Their order is placed in a FarmBox and delivered to the pickup location nearest them. There are so many incredible things about providing this service. One is the opportunity to create relationships with people. By demonstrating that the farm family cares about taking care of our bodies and the environment, it automatically makes them want to know more. The farm has barely started, and already received questions like, “Would you mind explaining your belief system to me?” Questions like this give the staff a chance to explain veganic and organic farming.

The farm provides myriads of life-changing benefits for the students. By growing multiple crops, the students have the potential for tremendous

learning opportunities that will stay with them for life. By offering them the privilege of being directly involved in agriculture-based health evangelism, they will be encouraged to make more healthy lifestyle choices.

It’s a humble start, and every day the farm family faces so many new challenges. But God has given the promise: “We should so train the youth that they will love to work upon the land, and delight in improving it. The hope of advancing the cause of God in this country is in creating a new moral taste in love of work, which will transform mind and character” (*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 355).

There is good news happening at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. It is a work of transforming characters one plant, one vegetable, one FarmBox at a time.

To sign up for a FarmBox, purchase veganic produce, or to be a local church dropsite, visit <http://www.goodnewsfarm.org>. For more information about Great Lakes Adventist Academy, visit <http://www.glaa.net>. Tell your friends about the FarmBox. They will be glad you did.

Aimee Smith, member of the management team, Good News Market Farm (*adapted*)



Michael Jakobsons

Biking in America for Ukraine pastors

Michigan—Students at Niles Adventist School were privileged to participate in a mission project to raise money for bicycles for Ukraine pastors. For a number of years, Doug Fattic, a bike builder, Niles Westside Adventist Church member and Niles Adventist School Board chairman, has sponsored bikes trips to raise money for pastors in Ukraine. He came to Niles Adventist School to ask

if the students would like to be a part of this mission project.

Fattic explained to the principal and School Board that pastors in Ukraine make very little money and regularly have three or four churches to pastor within 30–50 miles of their home. A bike that would last more than ten years gives each pastor the ability to travel to their churches quicker and minister to more of their members on a regular basis. Each bike is equipped to handle the roads in Ukraine and includes a basket to carry materials and a lock to secure the bike while not in use. Each bike costs roughly \$300 American dollars and is built in Ukraine under Fattic's supervision.

Three years ago, NAS accepted the bicycle initiative as their international

mission project for the spring semester, and had a goal to raise enough money for four bikes. With every student participating, in some way, whether counting laps or riding, they raised more than \$3,000 for ten bikes for ten pastors in Ukraine. This year the goal was doubled, and NAS students again came through with God's blessing and raised enough money to provide 12 bikes for 12 pastors in Ukraine. On May 10, the weather held up enough for students to get out and bike for the Lord on the parking lot and dirt circle road that runs alongside the school and church.

For additional information about Ukraine Bicycle Project, visit <http://www.ukrainebicycletours.com/>.

Michael Jakobsons, principal, Niles Adventist School



Dawn Kingman

Parents, School Board members and NAS staff along with Sunimal Kulasekera, associate superintendent of education for the Michigan Conference, break ground for two new classrooms at the school on May 31.

Niles Westside Church adds classrooms to God's school

Michigan—On May 31, Niles Westside Adventist Church broke ground for the fifth time and added to their school. Niles Adventist School has been growing the last five years and has experienced growth from their robust children's program at the church and continued growth and strength of their current teachers. God truly has been blessing NAS through the years, and the students, staff, board members and families were excited to be present for the groundbreaking on the last day of school.

In 1954, the Niles Church began by building two classrooms to support their children. In 1963, they added another classroom. Four years later they built a large gym. In 1992, the church again added a classroom to provide for Kindergarten. This year, with two classes of 12 and 13 students, NAS no longer could contain three grades in a classroom.

A corporate donor and friends of the church put up \$150,000, and the church members and families raised another \$150,000 through pledges during the next ten years. God truly is good and owns all the cattle on every hill (see Psalm 50:10). Adventist education is important to the members of Niles Westside Church, and it's truly a blessing to be a part of this church and school for God.



Jenni Coffey

Brian and Emily Lucas, Niles Adventist School kindergartners, donate their summer fair money to help with construction of the two new classrooms at the school. Also pictured: Michael Jakobsons, principal

Currently, on June 20, builders are in the 21st day of construction and plan to be finished by Aug. 19, the first day of school. Two classrooms will be added, one for the fifth grade and sixth grades, and another for music, art and science classes. Please continue to pray for Adventist education everywhere as teachers, administrators, staff and boards try to bring as many students to Christ as possible through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Michael Jakobsons, principal, Niles Adventist School



Philip Willis Jr.

Students at Mizpah School, in Gary, Ind., received eight weeks of etiquette training taught by retired educator Dorothy Davis (far left). After the training, the students tried out their new skills at Gamba Ristorante in Merrillville, Ind.

Mizpah School students offered etiquette training

Lake Region—Students at the Mizpah School in Gary, Ind., ended the 2012–2013 school year auspiciously and deliciously. After spending eight weeks in etiquette training taught by retired educator Dorothy Davis (wife of current Lake Region Conference president), students were provided an opportunity to practice their newly-honed skills at the Gamba Ristorante located in Merrillville, Ind. The owner, Bennie Gamba, graciously opened the restaurant doors for this event and the graduation dinner for the third consecutive year.

“The etiquette instruction is an essential, basic social skills training that all youth need,” says Philip Willis Jr., founder of Man College and pastor of the Mizpah Church in Gary.

Davis has a passion for helping youth in the inner city learn these essential social skills — table manners, writing thank-you notes, how to

introduce oneself and others properly, how to properly set a table and how to fold a napkin in various shapes, preparing them to compete for tomorrow’s leadership positions. What is especially unique about this training model is that each instructional class is based on a Bible lesson that corresponds with the etiquette subject.

Principally, Bible-based instruction is the foundation of each instructional day at the Mizpah School that ranges from kindergarten through eighth grade. Smaller classroom sizes allow for teachers to reinforce one-to-one teaching opportunities that surrounding public schools cannot afford. This type of educational experience translates to higher quality instruction time.

If you are interested in learning more about the etiquette class or having your child attend Mizpah School, please contact Pastor P. C. Willis Jr. at garymizpah@gmail.com or call 219-855-2982.

Philip Willis Jr., pastor, Gary Mizpah Church, with *Lake Union Herald* staff

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



Steve Poenitz

Pastor Erik Freking and Joyce Blake burn the church mortgage during Sabbath services, May 18.

New Albany burns church mortgage

Indiana—How sweet it is to finish something! Sabbath, May 18, was a high Sabbath for the New Albany Church members as they celebrated the payoff of their church mortgage. During the service, Eric Freking, New Albany Church pastor, and Joyce Blake presided at the mortgage-burning ceremony.

Members have worked together with Freking to renovate much of the church facility. A recent sale of church property provided the finances to finish paying off the church debt.

The celebration service included Ann Freeman’s baptism and profession of faith by Amy Moore. The church witnessed their vows of commitment as first elder Roman Giordana read them. Following the service, a fellowship lunch was shared by members and community guests as they rejoiced in God’s goodness to the church and, especially, the new members.

The New Albany Church originated in 1922 as a house church with 41 charter members. Later, the congregation met in rented facilities near the Ohio River. In 1923, a building was purchased and remodeled as a church, consisting of one classroom and the sanctuary. More than 30 years later (1956), the church moved into new quarters after purchasing a former Methodist Church in downtown New Albany. In the fall of 2005, the congregation moved to the current building located on Silver Street.

Steve Poenitz, ministerial director, Indiana Conference

Columbus Church celebrates 40th anniversary

Indiana—Sabbath, June 1, was a day to remember for the members of the Columbus Church. Emotions were high as members greeted long-time friends, former pastors and Indiana Conference officers. All were gathered to celebrate 40 years of the Columbus Church in its present location and 79 years since its inception.

In 1938, a colporteur couple came to Columbus. They spent a whole year canvassing the town several times, knocking on every door and selling Adventist books to interested people. Later, in early summer, an evangelist came to town and set up a tent for a series of meetings. Speaking six nights a week, Wililam W. Ellis presented the Adventist truths throughout the summer and fall. Finally, on Sept. 17, 1938, the first baptism with 64 converts was conducted. Ruby Heiner Reder was the second person baptized. She became a charter member of the Columbus Church, and was an honored guest at the anniversary celebration.

Through time the church has grown, changed locations, pastors and members, but it always has remained a dynamic center for evangelism and community outreach. Besides operating a school, daycare and community service program for many years, the church has had a strong Pathfinder program and vacation Bible school outreach. The youth of the church feel treasured, and the Youth Department is vibrant and active.

Twenty-one-year-old Kim Carlyle was baptized during the anniversary celebration worship service. Harvey Kornegay, current church pastor, presented Carlyle to the church and led out in her baptism and dedication. The worship message was presented by Gary Case, Indiana Trust Services Department director and former Columbus Church pastor. He focused on the quote, “We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord



Church elders and Indiana Conference officers join Harvey Kornegay, Columbus Church pastor, in a dedicatory prayer for Kim Carlyle following her baptism on June 1.



Ruby Heiner Reder was honored as the only charter member of the Columbus Church present for the anniversary celebration service on Sabbath, June 1.

has led us, and His teaching in our past history” (*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, Jan. 29, 1893).

Fellowship, food and laughter followed the worship service. The bountiful church potluck included a wide array of entrees and salads, which crowded several tables while two more tables held desserts. The centerpiece for the desserts was a lovely cake decorated



A beautiful cake adorned with a picture of the church and a celebratory message was the focus of the dessert table at the potluck following the worship service.

with a picture of the church and a congratulatory message.

In the afternoon, a number of visitors and members stayed for a fun trip down memory lane. Pictures of church activities from the past were interspersed with testimonies and experiences shared. It was a beautiful way to bring together the elements of joy, pride and warm remembrances of this Sabbath celebration experience. May the Columbus Church members continue to remember the Lord’s leading in the past as they look to the future.

Betty Eaton, communications secretary,
Indiana Conference

Friend introduces friend to CHIP

Wisconsin—“You have to do something about your triglycerides or you’re going to end up with a lot of problems.” Carmon Pine could see concern in her doctor’s eyes, and knew something needed to change.

“I was fed up with the pain in my back and knees,” Pine said. “I was tired of being tired. That’s when I prayed, ‘Lord, I need your help. I can’t keep living this way.’”

At lunch one day, Pine noticed her friend, Brenda Giles, ordered only a



Brenda Giles (right) introduced her friend, Carmon Pine (left), to the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). Carmon now says, “I feel like a different person.”

Juanita Edge

salad — without the chicken. Giles has multiple sclerosis and was always in

pain, but now she feels great. “Go online and sign up for CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program),” Giles advised.

Pine attended one class and said, “Sign me up!”

“My prayers have been answered,” Pine said. “I’ve tried it all: Weight Watchers, Atkins, Miami Beach, even cabbage soup, but they are just diets. This is a lifestyle change, and I feel like a different person. It’s fantastic! I tell anyone who will listen.”

Juanita Edge, communication director, Wisconsin Conference



Sabrina Thompson

Abby Taylor recognized the need for a pianist in the Alpena Church, so she started taking piano lessons nearly two years ago with the hope that someday she could use this gift to play for her church family.

Alpena Church is blessed by young musician

Michigan—Think about all the things we do each day, all the things that we hear each day. We get so used to doing certain things or hearing certain things that we can end up taking many for granted — the sun coming up every day, the songs of the birds, the right to make choices. How many go to church and hear beautiful music when we walk into the door? We don’t think much about it. We just go about taking off our coats and greeting each other. We’re not thinking about the music we hear. It’s just there.

The Alpena Church experienced a change last year in just this simple,

expected art. After many years of playing the piano and many other instruments, the church pianist, Dorothy Cross, moved out of state. After her absence, when we walked into church, we noticed the lack of music. What is the saying, “We don’t realize how much we miss something until it’s gone”? We realized we missed our music.

Nine-year-old Abbigail “Abby” Taylor felt a need among her church family; she felt the loss, as we all did, and wanted to help. Abby started taking piano lessons one-and-a-half years ago, with the hope that someday she would be able to use this gift to play for her church family. Little did she know that that day would come sooner than she thought.

Last year, Abby started to play the piano for our church services with the

support from her parents and church family. She practices 2–3 hours per week to prepare for church services. Abby also plays for the Sabbath school classes for the children. If that wasn’t enough, she also plays the organ. She has learned to fit her practice time in between her school work, Adventurers and Bible labs (service learning activities). Now when we walk into the church in the morning, we are greeted again with a most pleasant melody coming from the organ.

When asked why she puts so much time and effort into this, Abby says “It’s my mission work.” Although Abby doesn’t play for the entire church service at the moment, it won’t be long before she will be.

There is a need to help others, and sometimes it can be right in our own backyard.

The Lord wants to do wonderful things in our lives, if we just allow Him. He is more than willing to provide for our needs and desires. We must be faithful and trust in Him. What an amazing story of unselfish love for Jesus. But Jesus said, *Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven* (Matthew 19:14 NKJV).

Sabrina Thompson, associate director of communications, Alpena Church



Photos provided by the Slikkers family

From left: Grayson and Colter Slikkers have started a blog to encourage other kids to sell their Legos. They send the proceeds to The \$10 Church.

Brothers build churches with Lego sales

Michigan—Colter and Grayson Slikkers, 13 and 10 years old, have supported The \$10 Church since they were very young. But even today, they are still finding new and creative ways to raise funds to build churches for God.

Their family began supporting The \$10 Church because it was an achievable goal for the children and a way for the family to do a mission project together. Each month, the family was excited to receive a picture with the story of the church they helped to sponsor. Each new story goes up on the fridge to remind them of what they have accomplished.

The family has undertaken many different projects to raise money for the program. They began by selling the eggs from their chickens to neighbors, always

using the proceeds for Maranatha. They also have collected bottles and cans.

Says Grayson, “Some of our extended family would give us cans to return for deposits and tell us to buy ourselves a treat. But we made a family goal that all deposit returns would go for this project. It was fun to go return bottles and come back with enough money to build a church! It puts things into perspective when we could buy [either] a church or buy a treat.”

This past fall the family had a garage sale. The boys decided that if an item had been given to them, and they enjoyed using it, they would sell it and use the proceeds to bless someone else. They put up a sign by the items where the proceeds would go to missions and quickly realized that customers were less likely to haggle about the price when the money was going to a good cause. “At our last garage sale we helped build three \$10 Churches,” says Colter.

Recently, Colter and Grayson have started a new project to raise money. The boys love Legos and decided to sell them on eBay to use the profits to build \$10 Churches. Colter and Grayson take leftover pieces and parts from their Legos and create lots, scenes or groups. They take a picture, and their dad lists the items on eBay. The proceeds for the month are sent to The \$10 Church program. Their goal is to send at least \$10 a month. They named the project “Legos4God.”

“It is a weird feeling to pray over Legos before posting, but we ask God to sell them by acknowledging that everything is His, and He can help us help others,” says the boys’ mother, Ingrid.

Colter and Grayson have started a blog to encourage other kids to sell their Legos and send the proceeds to The \$10 Church. “Then please post about it on the blog!” adds Colter.

Read about how Colter and Grayson are supporting the Maranatha mission by going on their blog at <http://www.legos4god.blogspot.com>.

To join The \$10 Church program, go to <http://www.tendollarchurch.org>.

This story by Karen Poole was originally published in *THE Volunteer*, Spring 2013, a publication of Maranatha Volunteers International. Reprinted with permission (adapted). The Slikkers attend the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



[UNION NEWS]

Illinois Conference focuses on home mission field

Illinois—This spring, Illinois Conference pastors and staff launched Go and Tell, a new evangelism initiative with

the sole purpose of taking the gospel to the Illinois mission field. Evangelism funds will be raised to hire another Conference Bible-worker trainer, increase subsidies to Illinois churches and grow more church plants.

The seeds of this ministry began a while back, when leadership from the Alton Church had a vision for what

could be done with their empty school facility. They decided to host a team of student colporteurs during the summer of 2011. Ten students, under the direction of Artem Dmytriiev, cooperated with the Alton and Oak Hill churches for a ten-week evangelistic campaign from June–August 2011. They committed to prayer and hired a seasoned Bible



A team of student colporteurs prepare to knock on doors in an Illinois neighborhood. From left: Yuna, Maka, Joelle, Yurin, Scott and David

worker. Yet, no one dreamed of the results.

One Sunday morning as the team was working in Alton, Dmytriyeu asked for a special volunteer. There were four churches in session along one side of the street where the team was working that morning. Joelle Acre finally raised her hand, saying, "Here am I, Lord; send me."

Acre was given a "Divine appointment." At one church, she canvassed the pastor, Catherine Casey. Casey was so impressed with Acre that, as she puts it, "I bought all her books, and when she asked me if I would be willing to sign up for someone to visit me for Bible study and for prayer, I said, 'Sure! I'm always up for prayer.'"

Dan McGee, Alton Church Bible worker, followed up on the contact Acre made. As they completed that first study, Casey invited McGee to share with her congregation. The study was on the Sabbath, the seal of God and the mark of the beast! Casey told McGee, "I have been a Christian and have studied the Bible all my life, including attending a Bible college, but I have never heard anything so clear and compelling from the Bible as what you have just shared with me." Thus began a weekly event where McGee led the midweek prayer service for The Word of Truth United Church of Christ.

As the weeks continued, the studies broadened to include all 28 fundamental Adventist Church beliefs. The flock began accepting and applying truths as they unfolded. Eventually, Casey and the church officially voted, in December



This sign was displayed outside The Whole Truth Church of Christ in Alton, Ill., where Catherine Casey is pastor.

2011, to become a seventh-day, Sabbath-keeping congregation.

Concurrently, Evan Gomer, a young man who was remodeling a property when another student canvasser sold him books, signed up for Bible studies. He eagerly devoured the Bible studies and volunteered to run the sound system at the midweek prayer meeting services at Casey's church. Later, he was baptized. Since his baptism, he continues to assist with other Bible studies from the contacts made by these student colporteurs.

Another story emerging from the Illinois Youth Challenge is of a deacon from River of Life Assembly of God Church in Alton. He was visited by a student colporteur, purchased books and signed up for Bible studies. Throughout the studies, the deacon asked for additional lesson copies. McGee always gave the man the extra copies. Little did he know the deacon was giving them to the pastoral staff at his church.

As a result, McGee was invited to conduct a prophecy seminar at the River of Life Assembly of God Church. The 900-member church has its own television ministry which broadcasts to more than one million homes in the greater St. Louis area. The church asked McGee to secure digital, broadcast-quality programs for their station. Since that time, Amazing Facts has sent Prophecy Code programs for airing.

The Lord continues to bless the follow-up by McGee on the hundreds of "blue card" interests generated by Dmytriyeu and the Illinois Youth Challenge



Members of the Illinois Youth Challenge offered The Great Controversy and other books to those they encountered this past summer. From left: Joelle, Maka and Yuna



This image shows the inside of the main sanctuary of The Whole Truth Church of Christ, whose members discovered the Bible truth of the seventh-day Sabbath and officially became a seventh-day Sabbath-keeping congregation.



Artem Dmytriyeu (standing), student colporteur team leader, attends a training session in the fellowship room of the Greater Alton Church in Illinois.

colporteurs. There is yet a third congregation in the greater Alton area which has corporately begun worshipping on the Bible Sabbath. This is all because a praying church stepped out in faith and opened the door for student colporteurs in their community.

As administration prayerfully begins this campaign, they expect many will be led to know Jesus in the home mission field. Watch for forthcoming events.

Cindy Chamberlin, communication director, Illinois Conference, with Ron Clark, literature evangelism coordinator, Illinois Conference



Pastors Esther Knott, Van Hurst, Throstr Thordarson and local elders participate in the commissioning prayer for Carolyn Strzyzkowski on May 18.

Chaplain's life and ministry affirmed at commissioning service

Indiana—For 23 years, Carolyn Strzyzkowski has served as a chaplain, ministering to the needs of hurting people in hospital settings. During these years, she has assisted and encouraged people who face some of life's most difficult fears and challenges. Whether it involves a dying family member, an impending surgery, a medical crisis or just fear of the unknown, Strzyzkowski finds that people are open to prayer. "They are looking for hope and comfort. I work alongside the doctors, nurses and other staff to bring a sense of peace and calm to the patient," she said.

On Sabbath, May 18, the South Bend First Church celebrated and honored Strzyzkowski's work by hosting her commissioning service. "After more than 20 years of successful ministry in chaplaincy, we are delighted to recognize how God has led in Carolyn's life," stated Van Hurst, Indiana Conference president, who participated in the ceremony.

Commissioning program participants also included Throstr Thordarson, South Bend First Church pastor; Esther Knott, associate director of the

Ministerial Department of the North American Division; and Makayla Williams, Strzyzkowski's granddaughter who offered special music. Thordarson gave the commission message, in which he conducted an experiment with seven young children to see which person they chose as the one most significant in giving them love. Six of the seven children chose their mothers. Thordarson said this demonstrated that women are endowed with capabilities of showing love to others as Jesus wants us to.

Strzyzkowski's life and ministry are evidence of her desire to share God's love with others. She has successfully offered a listening ear, a word of hope and a caring presence in Jesus' name.

For Strzyzkowski, the commissioning service was a confirmation and affirmation of her spiritual calling. "It was a huge blessing," she said. "I had never seen a commissioning service before. I felt honored, validated and appreciated. It was lovely. I am glad the program was able to be part of the worship service so the women of the church could better understand that they have a recognized and important part in the ministry of the church." The North American Division granted ministerial credentials to Strzyzkowski.

Betty Eaton, communication secretary,
Indiana Conference



EMMAUS evangelism and lifestyle center begins in Indiana

Indiana—According to Ellen White, "One worker who has been trained and educated for the work, who is controlled by the Spirit of Christ, will accomplish far more than ten laborers who go out deficient in knowledge, and weak in the faith" (*Evangelism*, p. 109). In response to this statement and others supporting lay training, members of the IOC (Indianapolis Outreach Coalition) generated the idea of an evangelism training school for lay people that would serve all of Indiana. It was believed that such a program was needed to equip students in personal evangelism, public evangelism and health evangelism. Students prepared through this program could serve to facilitate and energize their churches and communities in uplifting the simple truths of the gospel.

At this time, plans have been laid for an initial pilot program. Pastors and teachers from Indiana and professors from Andrews University will comprise the teaching personnel. Instructors will include pastors Bryce Bowman, Stephen DeLong, Mark Eaton, Eric Freking, Van Hurst, Steve Jencks, Ron Kelly, Harvey Kornegay, Steve Poenitz, Alex Rodriguez and Antonio Rosario. Matt Hasty (Magabook coordinator) will assist in literature distribution training. Other guest speakers also will be a part of the program.

Subjects of discipleship, evangelism, preaching, personal devotions and

prayer life, church governance, church history, SDA Bible doctrines and more will be featured during the 13-week intensive training course. Practical ministry will occur on the weekends and in the afternoons as students apply the principles they are learning.

Lodging will be provided for students who live outside the Indianapolis area. Classes will take place at the Carmel Church. The school, which will

begin Aug. 25 and conclude the Sabbath before Thanksgiving, is anticipated to serve a maximum of 20–25 students.

The school has been named, “EMMAUS,” drawn from the story in Luke 24 where Jesus walked with His disciples and expounded the Scriptures to them. EMMAUS is an acronym for Evangelism & Medical Missionary Anchored Upon Scripture. It is hoped this pilot program will assist church

members in laying an entering wedge for evangelism in their communities.

For more information about costs and application information, visit the EMMAUS website at <http://www.emmausministry.net>.

Betty Eaton, communication secretary, and Steve Poenitz, ministerial director, Indiana Conference

Lifestyle Expo helps others discover a better life

Indiana—“Thank you so much! I am so happy to learn more about my health,” exclaimed two women from Kentucky as they were counseling with Alex Rodriguez, Carmel Church pastor. The women were visiting the Adventist Lifestyle Expo program during the Second Annual Latino Expo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

The opportunity to share the Lifestyle Expo program once again came as an outgrowth of the Channel 13 Health Expo held April 27, 28. A member of the board of directors for the Latino Expo who attended the April Health Expo was so impressed with it that he expressed a strong desire for the program to be a part of the Latino Expo as well. As a result, 30 Hispanic and other bilingual Adventists committed to train and work in the program all day Sabbath, June 15.

About 150 people went through the complete Lifestyle Expo program. Stations were positioned so that attendees could move easily from one station to another. Stations included participatory activities for each of nine health concepts: sunlight, nutrition, air, exercise, water, rest, temperance, health age and trust, plus welcome and resource areas. The resource/literature table was set up to be the last station, arranged to face the aisle so passersby who did not participate in the program could still take literature if they wished. A number of people were seen doing this.



Bon Mantilla, of the Indianapolis North Hispanic Church, assists a man taking a breathing test at the Lifestyle Expo, June 15.

During the Expo, several other exhibitors showed an interest in the Lifestyle Expo. It was colorful, thoughtfully constructed and very impressive. The *Indianapolis Star* used a picture of people visiting the Lifestyle Expo program as its main picture for the event.

Several further opportunities emerged for the program to reach other populations. Early in the day, a Community Hospital spokesperson asked what hospital the program represented. He was surprised when he learned that it wasn't a hospital, and said they were very impressed with the program and wanted to partner with Lifestyle Expo in the future. The Women's Wellness on Wheels (WOW) bus also was an exhibitor at the Latino Expo. Their bus was located a short distance from the Lifestyle Expo booths. They also asked if Lifestyle Expo would partner with them in the future.

Individuals participating in the Lifestyle Expo program were given a chance

to indicate their interest in additional programs. Reducing stress was the area of greatest concern; other high-interest topics were weight management, fitness, cooking classes and heart disease prevention. Some interest also was shown in diabetes, depression recovery and stop smoking. Ten people indicated a desire to participate in a Bible correspondence course. Ten more wished to participate in personal or group Bible studies. About 40 people asked for DVDs or other resources that could help them experience a healthy lifestyle.

The Latino Expo occurred on the same day as the yearly Adventist Hispanic and English camp meetings. Those who worked in the Lifestyle Expo sacrificed the blessings of their yearly convocation to serve others looking for a better life. May their gifts of time and effort result in bringing many to eternal health and happiness.

Betty Eaton, communication secretary, Indiana Conference



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.herald.lakeunion.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.herald.lakeunion.org>.

Lake Region

Fourth Annual TLT Boot Kamp is coming to Camp Wagner, **Sept. 27-29**. TLT Boot Kamp is under the direction of the newly-instituted Lake Region Conference TLT administrative team. This year's theme, "Raising the Bar 3 – Mentorship," is primarily targeting Pathfinder directors, staff and parents around the Conference. The weekend attire is white t-shirt and navy blue sweats on Friday; Class A dress Sabbath morning; white t-shirt and gray sweats Sabbath afternoon and evening; black sweats and red TLT t-shirt on Sunday. For more information on meals, lodging and activities, contact Angie Gardner at 313-915-8758 or email gardner.angelina@yahoo.com.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Aug 3** Local Church Budget
- Aug 10** Oakwood/Andrews/
Loma Linda Universities
- Aug 17** Local Church Budget
- Aug 24** Local Conference Advance
- Aug 31** Conference Designated:
 - IL Conference-wide evangelism
 - IN Indiana Academy
 - LR Campground development
 - MI Good News Market Farm
 - WI Church planting

Special Days

- Aug 24** Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day

Michigan

The annual **Health Professionals Retreat** will be held at Camp Au Sable, **Sept. 13-15**. Guest speakers are Brian and Lyndi Schwartz, physicians from Kettering Medical Center in Ohio. The Schwartzes have been involved in numerous ministries, sharing the gospel both in the U.S. and abroad at ASI, through AMEN (Adventist Medical Work Network), in weeks of

prayer, evangelistic outreaches and while doing volunteer medical work. They love to share the gospel and the importance of the medical missionary work, especially in these times. Michigan Conference Health Ministries is partnering with AMEN, a national organization of Christian physicians and dentists whose purpose is to share Christ in their workplace through medical evangelism, to sponsor this family retreat. For registration and lodging information/availability, please call 517-316-1527 or email sch Christie@misda.org.

Notice is hereby given that the 32nd session of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Cedar Lake Church in Cedar Lake, Mich., **Sept. 29, 2013**, with the first meeting called at 9:30 a.m. Reports of the previous five years will be rendered, proposed constitutional changes may be considered, the election of conference officers, departmental directors, and members of the executive committee will take place, and any other business will be transacted which may properly come before the session. Delegates are those duly elected by the various churches of the conference and delegates-at-large as provided in the constitution. Each church in the Michigan Conference is entitled to one delegate for its organization, and one additional delegate for each 100 members or extended fraction thereof, determined by the membership as of Dec. 31, 2012. As

provided by the bylaws, the organizing committee (composed of one member from each church, plus one additional member for each 500 members or major fraction thereof, as of Dec. 31, 2012) will meet on **Sept. 28**. The meeting will begin with vespers at 7:30 p.m., in the Cedar Lake Church.

North American Division

Festival of the Laity free virtual conference: Get equipped for effective ministry with no registration, travel or hotel expenses! The North American Division Adult Ministries Department is offering *free* online training for Sabbath school, personal ministries and prison ministries leaders through the virtual Festival of the Laity, **Sept. 11-14**. Attend from the comfort of your home, church or office – all you need is a computer with Internet access. All church leaders can benefit from these live broadcasts, presented by globally-respected facilitators. To sign up, visit <http://www.festivalofthelaity.com>.

Oak Park Academy will hold its alumni homecoming weekend **Sept. 27-28** in Nevada, Iowa. The honor classes of 1963 (50 years) and 1973 (40 years) will lead out in the Friday evening vespers and Sabbath morning worship services. Michael Porter ('71) will speak Friday evening; Ron Karr ('63) will speak during the 11:00 a.m. worship service; and Teresa Hoover ('73) will speak at the Sabbath evening vespers. Jaime Jorge, internationally-known violin virtuoso, will present a concert Sabbath afternoon. For more information, contact Michael Porter at mporteratp@gmail.com or 202-746-0744.

Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, Oct. 3-6. Honor classes are: 1948, '53, '58, '63, '68, '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, 2003 and '08. Activities begin Thurs. evening with the Silver Showcase Banquet and continue on Friday with a Career Day. The Sabbath speaker is Ron Scott, class of 1959, former youth director of the Iowa-Missouri Conference. Sunday is the Alumni Golf tournament and 5K walk/run. For additional information, call 573-682-2164 or visit <http://www.sunnydale.org>.

World Division

United for Mission: 150 Years. This year is a special celebration for the Seventh-day Adventist Church – from the Great Disappointment to the General Conference. To learn more about the history of the forming of the General Conference and its different departments, to see what events are planned throughout the year, and to see what other anniversaries our Church is celebrating this year, visit <http://www.adventist.org/150/>. There are also slide-show resources that can be downloaded for use in your church to celebrate 150 years of being "United for Mission!"

2015 General Conference Session: The North American Division Music Committee for the 2015 General Conference Session (July 2-11, 2015, in San Antonio, Texas) is accepting applications from musicians/groups who desire to perform at the 2015 General Conference Session. Applications may be downloaded at the 2015 General Conference website: <http://www.gc-session.org>. Click the "Music Application Packet" tab and follow all directions. Applications will be processed through **Dec. 31, 2013**.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Aug 2	Aug 9	Aug 16	Aug 23	Aug 30	Sep 6
Berrien Springs, Mich.	9:02	8:54	8:44	8:34	8:23	8:12
Chicago, Ill.	8:08	8:00	7:50	7:40	7:29	7:18
Detroit, Mich.	8:52	8:43	8:33	8:22	8:11	8:00
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:58	8:50	8:41	8:31	8:20	8:10
La Crosse, Wis.	8:28	8:19	8:08	7:58	7:46	7:34
Lansing, Mich.	8:59	8:50	8:40	8:29	8:17	8:07
Madison, Wis.	8:19	8:10	8:00	7:49	7:37	7:26
Springfield, Ill.	8:11	8:04	7:55	7:45	7:34	7:24

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.herald.lakeunion.org>. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

Weddings

Victoria Bakewell and Gregory Musselman were married May 26, 2013, in Plymouth, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Jim Howard.

Victoria is the daughter of Vera Bakewell of Cleveland, Ohio, and stepdaughter of Leona Bakewell of Livonia, Mich., and Gregory is the son of Jim and Kim Musselman of Indian River, Mich.

The Musselmans are making their home in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Anniversaries

Jeremias and Virginia Zabát celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 5, 2013, by a renewal of their vows at the Hinsdale (Ill.) Church in the presence of all their children, grandchildren, friends and relatives who traveled near and far to celebrate this wonderful sacred occasion with them. A luncheon followed at the Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, Ill. They have been members of the North Shore (Ill.) Church for 25 years.

Jeremias Zabát and Virginia Drapiza were married Jan. 8, 1963, in Metro Manila, Philippines, by Dan Ocampo. Jeremias served 20 years as literature evangelist to associate publishing director at Central Luzon Mission of SDA Church. Virginia was a dressmaker and literature evangelist. When they migrated to the U.S. in the late 1980s, they worked at New Trier High School in the cafeteria and physical plant.

The Zabát family includes Eva and Ariel DeSagun of Naperville, Ill.; Carol and Erwin Manlongat of Skokie, Ill.; James and Anniepet Zabát of Naperville; Joseph and Armie Zabát of Skokie; and seven grandchildren.

Obituaries

BROTHERS, Ruth M. (Yoho), age 103; born

Dec. 25, 1909, in Meade Cty., Ky.; died May 7, 2013, in Tell City, Ind. She was a member of the Tell City Church since 1928.

Survivors include her son, David; daughter, Sharon Brown; brother, Roy Yoho; sisters, Helen Yoho and Nettie Seibert Hall; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Susan Brown, and inurnment was in Lily Dale Cemetery, Gatchel, Ind.

FERNANDEZ, Jose A., age 83; born July 20, 1929, in Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic; died May 16, 2013, in Grand Blanc, Mich. He was a member of the First Flint (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Maria (Quevedo); sons, Jose A. Jr. and David; daughters, Miriam Pellerito and Mildred Hickman; sister, Dolores Tripp; and 10 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Justin Ringstaff and David Salazar, and interment was in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Mich.

GREVE, Karen (Hopson) Potter, age 69; born Dec. 7, 1943, in Holly, Mich.; died May 9, 2013, in Holly. She was a member of the Holly Church.

Survivors include her husband, Floyd L.; son, Robert L. Potter; daughters, Linda L. (Potter) Cansler and Lori L. (Potter) Thorne; brothers, Ernie, Gary and Norm Hopson; sisters, Evelyn Keway and Mary Torres; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Michael Szykowski, Bob Benson and David Salazar, and interment was in Fairview Cemetery, Linden, Mich.

MOON, Donovan L., age 67; born Nov. 13, 1945, in Carson City, Mich.; died May 10, 2013, in Ann Arbor, Mich. He was a member of the Plymouth (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Margarete (Mehner); sons, Kenyon and Craig; daughter, Holly Beckermeyer; brothers, Barry and Darryl; sisters, Gyl Bateman and Jean Gustavsen; and one grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Royce Snyman and Fred Earles, and interment was in South Lyon (Mich.) Cemetery.

MORICK, Kenneth, age 95; born June 22, 1917, in Sandusky, Mich.; died April 19, 2013, in Calhoun, Ga. He was a member of the Metropolitan Church, Plymouth, Mich.

Survivors include his stepson, Scott Clarke; daughter, Pam DeArk; two grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Jim Howard, and interment was in Lakeville (Mich.) Cemetery.

RITCHIE, Kay Ann (Schanzenbach), age 69; born Jan. 31, 1944, in McLaughlin, S.D.; died May 20, 2013, in Rice Lake, Wis. She was a member of the Rice Lake Church.

Survivors include her husband, Leland; son, Chad; daughters, Shannon Buettner and Tara Ritchie; father, Melvin Schanzenbach; brother, Dennis Schanzenbach; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Curtis Denney, with private inurnment, Rice Lake.

RUIZ, Wilfrida T. (Tenorio), age 91; born Oct. 12, 1921, in Ica, Peru; died May 19, 2013, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her daughters, Luz Ruiz and Willyta Wamack; brother, Raul Fernando Tenorio Bendezu; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

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

SCHWARZ, Richard W., age 87; born Sept. 11, 1925, in Wataga, Ill.; died May 16, 2013, in Kaneohe, Hawaii. He was a member of the

Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce (Anderson); sons, Richard P. and Dwight L.; daughter, Constance K. Smith; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Dan Augsberger, and inurnment was in Punch Bowl National Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii.

SHEPARD, Carole (Prather), age 60; born Nov. 4, 1952, in Niles, Mich.; died Dec. 29, 2012, in Noblesville, Ind. She was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Christopher; half sisters, Nancy, Dorian and Kim; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Ron Kelly, with private inurnment.

SZEKELY, June (Smithback), age 98; born March 29, 1915, in Cottage Grove, Wis.; died April 12, 2013, in Indianapolis, Ind. She was a member of the Glendale Church, Indianapolis.

Survivors include her daughters, Eve Parkhurst, Gail McKinley, Merri Mulkey and Cheryl Fuller; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Van G. Hurst and Steve Jencks, and inurnment was in South Bend (Ind.) Cemetery.

Correction

HUSTED, Ruth E., age 101; born April 5, 1911, in Holton, Mich.; died Jan. 4, 2013, in Daytona Beach, Fla. She was a member of the Holland (Mich.) Church. Ruth was a teacher in the Lake Union Conference for 43 years, mostly in Michigan.

Survivors include her sister, Beverly Doll. Memorial services were conducted, and interment was in Holton's Oakwood Cemetery.

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.herald.lakeunion.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.herald.lakeunion.org>.

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Miscellaneous

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MASTER'S DEGREES in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit <https://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies>.

FREE VOCAL MUSIC CONCERTS WITH PERSONAL LIFE EXPERIENCES.

A former voice instructor from Andrews University with his family will give free Saturday 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.

YOU ARE INVITED to the 2013 Maranatha

Volunteers International Convention (Roseville, Calif.), Sept. 20-21. This free event features speakers from around the world and musical guest Steve Green. To register, visit <http://www.maranatha.org>.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks Dean for School of Business and Management. A doctoral degree required. Will oversee the undergraduate and graduate programs. Priority given to applications received by July 1, 2013. 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 plcoverdale@southern.edu or Human Resources, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37363.

THE SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

is searching for a manager for its Adventist Book Center & Better Choice food distribution. Résumé may be submitted to Joel Tompkins at jtompkins@sneconline.org by Aug. 31, 2013. Inquiries can be made to Joel Tompkins at 978-365-4551.

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LOVELY BRICK HOME FOR SALE within walking distance to Great Lakes Adventist Academy and elementary school. Features: 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, den, living room, family room with fireplace, sunroom, central A/C, and well-maintained barns and outbuildings. Beautiful, quiet setting on approximately 22 acres of woods and pastures. For an appointment, call 989-304-6117.

TWO-STORY HOME FOR SALE with 10 acres of lovely farmland about 2 miles from Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Features: 3

bedrooms, 2 baths, large pole barn and other barns. All appliances stay; newer furnace and hot water heater; hot tub and gas grill on deck. For appointment, call Marnie at 989-621-2001.

For Sale

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER CLUB NAME CREST: Order your Pathfinder and Adventurer club name crest at <http://www.pathfinderclubnames.com>. For more information, call 269-208-5853 or email us at pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com.

HISTORIC ADVENTIST VILLAGE, Battle Creek, Mich., is looking for donation of used SDA books (or will buy). We have thousands of new/used EGW/pioneers stories for sale. Our store location is 480 W Van Buren St., Battle Creek. Hours: Sun.-Fri., 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Betty at 616-477-2186, or John at 269-781-6379. Visit our website at <http://www.adventistheritage.org>.

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LET'S MOVE! DAY

Sunday, September 22, 2013

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Register at www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org

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

Find resources and information at www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org



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





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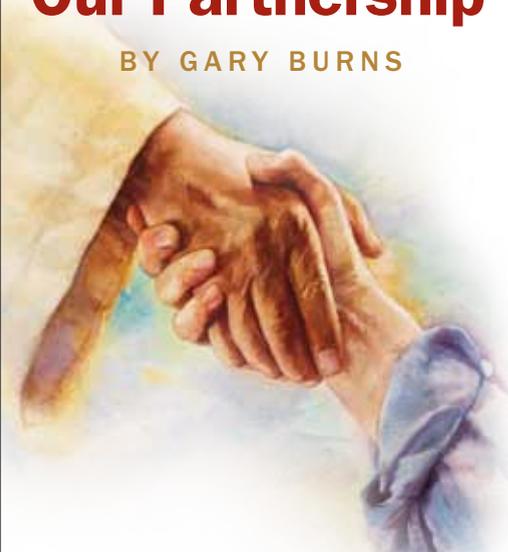
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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Investing in Our Partnership

BY GARY BURNS



Maryann and I have invested in our friendship since we became teenagers. We just celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary this past June. I guess you could say we have a lot of time invested in our relationship. But that investment is not measured in years; it's measured in moments – moments of sharing the intimacy of listening to each other's heart. Carving out unhurried time to listen includes moments of being still and close, and includes moments of giving unexpected acts of service and kindness, guided by what we've heard.

Listening has a huge ROI (return on investment). To illustrate, my ministry often takes me away from home and the one I love. By listening, I have realized what a great sacrifice that represents for

Maryann. So when my travels take the better part of a week, I'll often surprise her with a bouquet of flowers delivered to her office. When I get the call or text thanking me for letting her know how much I love her and miss being with her, I usually respond by saying, "Now you have to keep me!"

She replies, "I'm never going to let you go!" That's reassuring!

I was thinking about how dependent our marriage partnership is on these investments in time and how the same principle applies to our partnership with God – taking time to listen to His heart, spending time just being close with Him, and responding with acts of love and service to Him and to others. The ROI is huge!

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

Answered Prayers

BY ELKID M. ÁLVAREZ-MALDONADO

In 2011, I worked as a counselor at Camp Wakonda in Wisconsin for the first time. All week long, I watched as a group of girls laughed, learned and grew spiritually. Halfway through the week, I learned that Vanessa*, one of the young ladies in my cabin, had a rocky relationship with her father, and I was asked to give her words of encouragement.

“God, this isn’t funny. Who am I to talk to this girl about how to get along with her own father when I only speak to mine on Christmas and Father’s Day?” I asked.

The challenge plagued me all week. I had no clue what to say to Vanessa. Friday night rolled around. This was *the night*, the moment every staff member waited and worked for all week. We were going to ask the campers to take the most important step in their life, to invite them to give their heart to Jesus and allow Him to lead their life.

I still hadn’t opened the “Pandora’s box” with Vanessa, and I only had one more day in which to do it. As I spoke with all of my girls and handed them the commitment cards, they began to make their decisions. As they handed the cards back, I noticed Vanessa’s was missing.

On the walk back to our cabin, she spoke. “I want to get baptized, but I’m afraid my dad won’t let me. He’s not a Seventh-day Adventist.”

I told her the very truth I wish someone had told me when I faced the same dilemma at her age. “Vanessa, I would be lying to you if I told you that once you choose to follow God your life will get easier. It won’t; it will get a little harder before it gets better. But this I can promise, and I live by this truth: God will use you to do amazing things. Once you give your life to Him, there will be so many surprises and you get to be a part of the story. Stay close to



Elkid M. Álvarez-Maldonado

Him and nothing, not even a father that doesn’t agree with you, will stand in God’s way. Trust Him who loved you first.”

I left Vanessa alone to make the decision of a lifetime and prayed with all my heart that God would show her His mighty hand.

Much sooner than I would have liked, camp ended and real life began. Every once in a while, I took time to pray for my campers and hoped someone out there was praying for them, too.

The next summer Vanessa was, once again, in my cabin. She said, “I have to tell you something.” I noticed the glow and nervousness on her face as she told the story and sang a new song. “Well, do you remember how I was scared of getting baptized last year? Well, I did. And I sang this song. My dad was there. Now he goes to church with me sometimes. He told me he cried when he heard me singing.”

My simple, every-once-in-a-while prayers were heard and answered. I hope Vanessa’s father is the first of many who sees her new life and decides that if a tween camper can have this kind of faith, nothing should stand in the way of letting them do the same.

Elkid M. Álvarez-Maldonado will begin her senior year in September at Andrews University, where she is studying English and secondary education. She hopes to teach literature, work with kids and serve the Lord once she graduates.

*Actual name withheld

Stepping Out in Faith

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

For we walk by faith, not by sight. —2 Corinthians 5:7 ESV

Faith is very important to David Quilatan, a theology major at Andrews University.



Don Magbanna

David Quilatan

“Faith is what helps me see the world,” he says. “It makes me look at people and situations differently. ... Building faith opens eyes and opens doors, as well.”

He served as the youth leader at the Hinsdale Fil-Am Church for nearly three years and went on his first mission trip in 2007. It had been a year since Hurricane Katrina, and David and several church members traveled to New Orleans to rebuild

two houses in the city.

“I had an amazing time and saw personally the joy and tears that came from it,” he recalls. “I got to actively participate in helping someone have a better life. After that, I told my pastor that I wanted to give my life to Christ.”

Following high school, David studied history and English at a community college, despite strong feelings to become a pastor. Several personal situations and conversations with family quickly led David to consider theology at Andrews.

“I felt God saying, ‘Get up, I’m calling you. Just go,’” he recalls. “He wanted me to take the step forward, so I did.”

Last spring, David became a student at the university. He quickly realized the many opportunities to become involved in ministries around campus. He enjoyed learning about God in his classes and having conversations with classmates and friends. At Andrews, he learned that “being a Christian is to be a Christian when no one’s looking and when everyone’s looking,” he says, and that, sometimes, not even theology majors have all the answers.

Besides his studies, David expresses his faith on campus through music. Since picking up a guitar just two years ago, he has performed in praise teams for numerous chapels and dorm worships. David also plays for different church services and claims that music is one of the biggest mediums to connect with Christians and the world.

When he completes his studies, David plans to become a pastor and stay involved in music ministries.

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

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