

Lake Union
HERALD

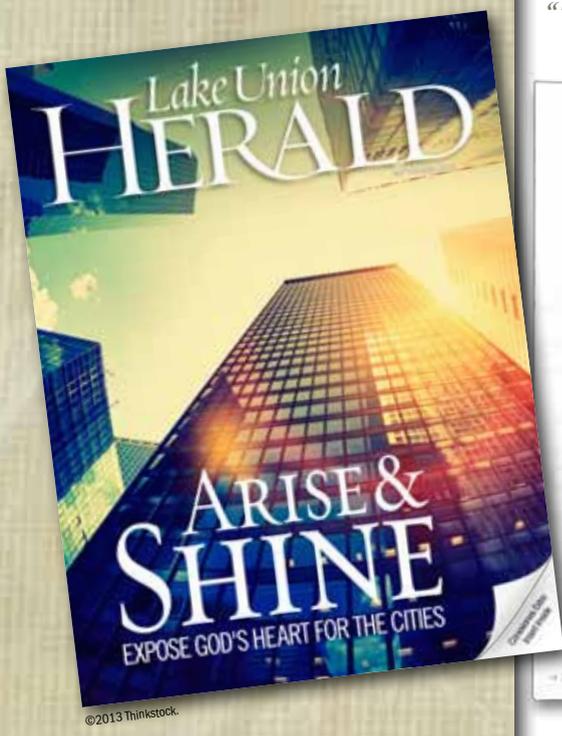
SEPTEMBER 2013

**ARISE &
SHINE**

EXPOSE GOD'S HEART FOR THE CITIES

Conexiones Extra
Insert Inside

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



In every issue...

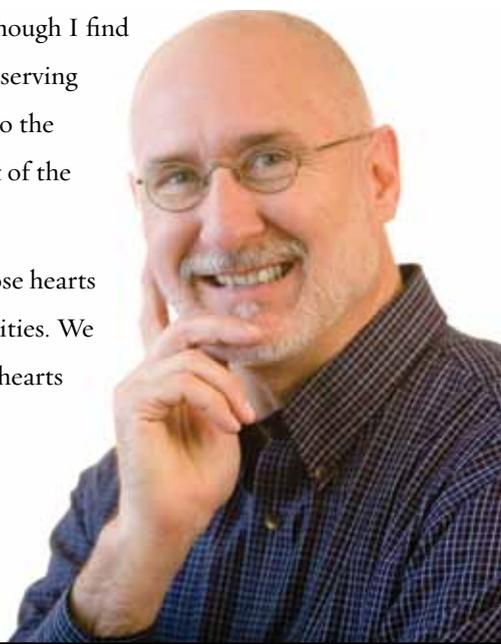
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In this issue...

So what do we do with our Adventist love-hate relationship to the cities? I hear much talk about moving away from the cities, going all natural, environmental, and living "off the grid." Though I find that very attractive, it can seem self-serving at times. Who is going to be "missionary" to the teeming millions of people from every part of the globe congregated in our cities?

In this issue you'll hear from several whose hearts have been touched by God's heart for the cities. We present these with the hope that all of our hearts will be transformed.

[Signature]
Gary Burns, Editor



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Farewell to Friends

It is with both joy and sadness that I honor Rodney and Rose Anne Grove for their service in the North American Division and, most recently, the Lake Union Conference. Rodney has served faithfully as executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference, and Rose Anne first as secretary and then registrar for the Department of Education.

Rodney's ministerial career started in 1980 as a pastor in the Chesapeake Conference. In addition to serving as pastor of several churches, his work in God's cause included serving as departmental director for the Communication, Stewardship, Ministerial, Evangelism, Church Growth, Education, Church Ministries, National Service Organization, Sabbath School, Youth and Pathfinder departments, business manager for Parkview Academy, camp manager, camp meeting director and executive secretary in the Oklahoma Conference. In 1993, he was elected president of the Oklahoma Conference, a post he held for ten years until joining the Lake Union as executive secretary in 2003.

Energized by his passion for mission, Rodney participated in 27 mission trips where he helped build and improve eight schools and 62 churches in 14 countries.

While in the Lake Union, Rodney provided good leadership in several major administrative projects, such as transitioning the Lake Union Home Health Education Service functions to local conferences, the development of Shield the Vulnerable, and... Rodney carried many additional administrative responsibilities of the Lake Union during the illness of then president, Walter L. Wright.

Prior to coming to the Lake Union, Rodney had been involved in 13 local church and school building projects. This experience has been vital in the process of building our new Lake Union office. This smaller, more efficient home for the administrative functions of the Lake Union will be a better, more functional building because of Rodney's vision and hands-on involvement.

In the nearly five years we worked together, I appreciated Rodney being an integral part of our administrative team. His astute observations, quick analysis, knowledge base and intuitive assistance in our Union-wide responsibilities have been exceptionally valuable. His partnership in working with our conferences in presidential placements and constituency sessions has made a wonderful difference in both process and outcomes. Our many trips together with long hours of travel have been a joy, and made the time pass quickly. Rodney has become more than a valued colleague; I consider him a friend and brother.

Rose Anne brought faithful service to our Department of Education as a partner in ministry. In the positions she held, Rose Anne ensured good function for the educators of our Lake Union and added a quiet, witty joy to our office. Her personal sacrifice while Rodney's responsibilities have taken him away from home many hours and days has been noted and much appreciated.

Now, after 44 years of service for God's cause, Rodney and Rose Anne have retired from full-time service. Rose Anne retired July 1; and although Rodney officially retired August 1, he agreed to serve as interim executive secretary on a part-time basis. On October 9, the Lake Union Executive Committee is scheduled to elect a new executive secretary. Your prayers are appreciated very much in this important process.

We thank the Groves for their years of service, and wish them the very best of God's blessings as they move back to Oklahoma to be near their daughter, son and grandchildren.



Creating an Environment for Success

BY MADLYN HAMBLIN

Several years ago, my friends and I toured a lovely garden near Detroit, Michigan. The shrubbery and flowering bushes, the bending trees, the budding plants seemed to flow in a magical wave of color and serenity. Our guide told us this luscious array of plants and trees was formerly a vacant lot, transformed by a group of dedicated Garden Club ladies. This beautiful spot, in the middle of a busy city, did not just appear. The garden grew and blossomed because of planning, hard work and dedication.

Before Christ left His disciples to return to Heaven, His final words were: *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world* (see Matthew 28:19, 20). To my way of thinking, this means to evangelize all nations, kindreds and peoples — *teach them about Me and My love for them*. This is our job! With this command also comes the promise of Christ's presence, ever near.

So how do we go about evangelizing our communities? When we think about Christ's methods, we see that Christ ministered to the needs of the community of which He was a part. Communities can be powerful tools to communicate the reality of Jesus. We know that Christ was a great leader and taught His followers how to evangelize their community. Today, we need spiritual leaders — pastors with intelligence, faith, knowledge and love who can lead their congregations through the process of successful evangelism.

Health Provides an Opportunity

The Jackson Church, of which I am a member, believes wholeheartedly in the statement that "the medical work is the right arm of the message" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 6). We begin our evangelism process each year with a health event. In Michigan, we are fortunate to have Vicki Griffin, Michigan Conference health ministries director, and



Madlyn Hamblin

Evelyn Kissinger, co-director of LifeStyle Matters with Vicki. They are well known now in our community as vibrant, knowledgeable health educators.

Since the first health event was offered, we have continued to hold events two or three times each year. Community enthusiasm runs high, and we always have sell-out attendance.

Develop an Interest List

Since beginning church events, we have registered attendees, and their names are kept on a special interest list. We now have nearly 1,000 names in a database. Every time we plan a program, of any kind, invitations are sent to this list. One month ago, the church invited the community to a musical concert, which featured mountain gospel musicians Don and Donna Mohl of Springfield, Missouri. It was exciting to tabulate our visitor register and see that 29 people from the community attended. Several were repeat visitors to our health events.

Organize Neighborhood Groups

Our congregation has more than six small groups that meet in homes once a week for Bible study. In our home, we are excited that several neighbors attend regularly. Two other ladies from church bring their husbands who are not members, and we have developed a close, loving relationship



Photos by Cindy Scott

with them. Our format is simply to read through the Bible, verse by verse, and discuss what we are reading. This is very non-threatening, and the Holy Spirit leads and guides. We serve light refreshments, and get together occasionally for a meal and social visit.

Last year, three non-members and the pastor led out in completely re-siding our Community Service Center. As they worked together, they developed a close relationship with the pastor, who is extremely gifted in relating to these men. It's just another step in the process of showing Jesus' love to people in all different situations.

Mail Bible Study Interest Cards

Dan Henning and Pam Little (both retired) are members who volunteer to follow up on the names received from mailing out Bible study interest cards. They faithfully go out in the community and give Bible studies to people in their homes. When we reach out in love to our skeptic friends and bring them the Word of God, when we live as Jesus would have us live — regarding people as infinitely more important than material things, and when we demonstrate sensitivity and insight rather than ignorance toward our culture, the impact is great. Our Christian group, then, does not become ingrown and isolated from the surrounding society. Rather, we demonstrate that Christians are real people who care deeply for other people. We study and love Scripture because it, too, is passionately honest about life and loyal to the truth within.

Hold Regular Weeks of Prayer, Prayer Vigils and Evangelistic Meetings

The goal of evangelism is to bring people to Christ so He can bring them to new life. When we follow the lead of the

Holy Spirit, live like Jesus, and talk with people, they may ask, "Okay, I would like to be a Christian. How do I do it?"

Regular weeks of prayer and prayer vigils prepare the church members to be filled with the Holy Spirit and available to invite people to evangelistic meetings. Our recent 24-hour prayer vigil was such a blessing that many of us came away profoundly impacted. The Week of Prayer preceding this vigil prepared our hearts and minds to spend time in prayer. Be prepared for Satan's attacks during these sessions, but God is stronger and will be our shield and protector.

Evangelistic meetings give the church a chance to bring to the public the truth of the Bible. Whether we begin with historical, philosophical or personal evidence, we want to direct attention to Jesus. We want people to examine Him and His claims by what they see in our lives and minds. We need to offer the world models of head-and-heart Christianity.

When those of our community accept Christ and choose to live for Him, we have completed the process of evangelism. And then we need to begin all over again. In 2012, the Jackson Church welcomed 22 individuals to the church who were baptized. This is so encouraging to those who have worked hard to share Christ's love to the world.

In Matthew 5:13, Jesus said, *Ye are the salt of the earth* (KJV).

I challenge you to get out of the saltshaker and into the lives of those who need Him so desperately. This is true success, and you and I are privileged to help create this environment in our communities.

Madlyn Hamblin is a member of the Jackson Church in Michigan.



FAMILY TIES

Roots and Wings

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

“There are two lasting bequests we can give to our children. One is roots. The other is wings.” —Hodding Carter

Summer is nearly over, school has started for many, perhaps tearful good-byes have been said for those who have children attending boarding academy or college. Whatever the circumstances, if you have children, your schedule has changed!

But some things should not change. Whether home or away at school, our children still need a balance of our love and attention along with expressions of our confidence in them. They need to know we see them growing to be more independent and responsible for their lives, but believe they are still close to our hearts. If your child is away at school, verbally acknowledge and affirm her importance in your family, and let her know she is missed.

Avoid hurtful humor. Statements like “Now the grocery bill won’t be so high” or “Whew, now I’ll have a break from so much laundry” carry a sting. Remarks also are hurtful that convey that your life is more difficult because of a looming school bill. In most cases, parents make the decision where their children will attend school. Although kids should contribute appropriately (working on campus and/or contributing some of their summer earnings toward their education), they are not responsible for the financial difficulties that may result from a decision to invest in Christian education.

Parents may assume their children don’t need or want them to come to campus or they “bother” them too much. Generally, academy and college students want to see their parents, even though they may not ask specifically. Be aware of on-campus events your child is involved with, and make it a priority to attend.

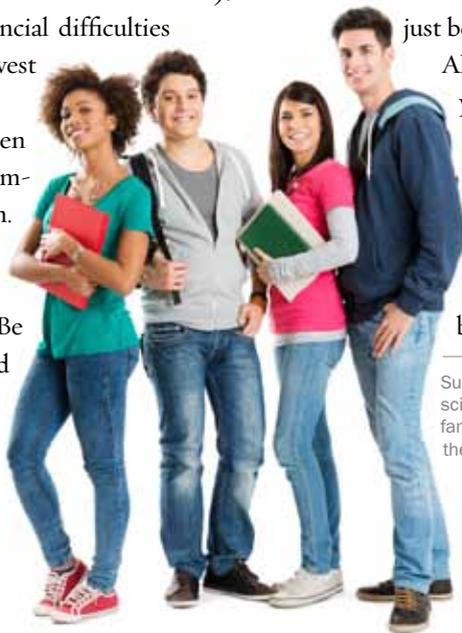
Some parents are like helicopters, hovering over their children with too many demands, phone calls, texts and even campus visits. College students indicate they are more likely to be depressed and dissatisfied with life when their parents are over-involved.

When on campus, make an effort to know your child’s friends; include them in conversations and meals out, or even invite them to your home at some point in the school year. Remember, you can be a cheerleader for kids who don’t have the home support they so desperately desire.

Teens complain! While the adage “If you are in trouble at school, you will be in trouble at home” has left many without the support they need (as sometimes teachers and staff are in error), siding with your child without knowing the full extent of their angst or the staff’s reasoning is not helpful. To listen with concern is one thing; to take your child’s “side” just because they are your child is another.

Always remember that God’s work is not yet finished in any of us. Even if your son or daughter is making choices that trouble you now, the last chapter is yet to be written. Continue to pray for your child, his friends, and the teachers and staff who interact with your child on a daily basis throughout the school year.

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.



Pecans lower the risk of heart disease and diabetes.



Pecans are loaded with antioxidants.

Pass the Pecans

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Peanuts, pistachios, pecans, pine nuts and pumpkin seeds — all are healthy choices. Their regular use can reduce your risk of heart disease and stroke by about 50 percent. So what is different about pecans? Pecans contain the highest level of polyphenolics of all the nuts and seeds, and are close to the top of all foods for antioxidant capacity.

Pecans tie with walnuts as the second most consumed tree nut in the U.S., behind almonds. The United States produces about 80 to 90 percent of the world's crop. Pecans belong to the same family as walnut and butternut.



Pecans have been an important food in the diet of Native American tribes in central and southern regions of the U.S. The tender, crunchy texture and rich, buttery flavor make pecans suitable for use in cooking, bakery goods (fruit cakes, pecan pies and cookies), savory dishes and ice cream. They also are enjoyed raw or toasted, and added to salads.

Taking a daily handful of pecans was observed to lower LDL and total cholesterol and triglyceride levels by about 10 percent, and prevented LDL cholesterol oxidation by about 30 percent, while raising the HDL cholesterol. All these changes are associated with a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease. Pecans are rich in plant sterols, which are known for their cholesterol-lowering ability.

The fat profile of pecans is cardioprotective. An ounce of pecans (20 halves) provides 20 grams fat, two-thirds of which is healthy monounsaturated fat, and only 2 grams are saturated fat. One to two percent of the fat in pecans is the valuable omega-3 fat. Pecans contain many vitamins and minerals, including vitamin A, vitamin E, folic acid, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, copper, manganese, several B vitamins, iron, zinc and some calcium. Pecans are also

sodium-free, making them an excellent choice for those on a sodium-restricted diet. Additionally pecans are a good source of protein — 1 ounce provides 10 percent of the recommended daily value for fiber.

Arginine is a major amino acid in pecans. Arginine is used to make nitric oxide, a potent vasodilator, and clearly is important in maintaining desirable blood pressure levels. The numerous antioxidants (vitamin E, flavonoids and phenolic acids) in pecans help protect against cellular damage. A study with mice showed that adding pecans to their diet produced a significant delay in the decline of age-related motor function compared to mice receiving no pecans.

The high energy content of nuts, such as pecans, does not appear to cause weight gain. Survey data shows that nut consumers have a lower BMI than those who never eat nuts. The high fiber, protein and low glycemic index of nuts contributes to their increased satiety. The Nurses' Health Study showed that the regular consumption of nuts also had a beneficial effect on insulin sensitivity.

Adding pecans to your diet would be a smart move. While their flavor, palatability and texture are enjoyable, they also offer you several health benefits. Regular nut consumption significantly lowers the level of C-reactive protein and interleukin-6, important markers of inflammation.

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

Missionaries

BY THE EDITORS

“At present, there is not the interest that should be manifested toward those for whom Christ died. The youth are passed by, and because no one seems to have an interest in them, they become reckless and irreligious. Those who love God ought to feed both the sheep and the lambs. They are God’s agents to do this very work. With busy hands, with sensitive hearts, with tongues that are as the pen of a ready writer, they are to win the unconcerned and unbelieving, and inspire their brethren and sisters with a missionary spirit. They are not to say ‘go on,’ but ‘come on.’ As yet not one hundredth part of the efforts that should be made have been made in our large cities to diffuse the light of truth, yet the Lord holds the church accountable for the souls of those who are in darkness, who have not yet heard the warning message.”

“Men, women, and youth, according to their capacity, should be engaged in some part of the Lord’s vineyard. Now is our time and opportunity; we are now in the midst of our God-given probation, in which we are to develop character after Christ’s order.”

“A mere profession of faith does not make us Christians. The vital question is, Have we the mind of Christ? Our Heavenly Father gave Christ to our world as a sin-bearer, in order that he who would believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Having made so priceless a donation to men, will he not with Christ freely give us all things? In the gift of his Son, all heaven was opened up, that its priceless treasures might enrich men and women of faith.”

“Let every believer act his faith, and thus give a testimony to the unbelieving world that he does believe that the end of all things is at hand. ‘Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord.’ ... God’s work is to be done in his way and his Spirit. In various places small companies are to consecrate themselves to God, body, soul, and spirit; and laying hold of the throne of God by faith they are to work zealously, keeping



their souls in the love of God. The vital current of his love will make itself felt, and will be recognized as from heaven in the good works of his people. ... Not one who has tasted the goodness, the mercy, and the love of God, can be excused from working for the souls of others.”

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:

- Who specifically are the ones identified as “God’s agents,” and what work are they to do?
- Contrast the type of leadership that says, “Go on” with leadership that says, “Come on.” What style of leadership is at work where you are?
- If we truly had the mind of Christ, as is expected of His followers, what impact would this mindset have on the cities of Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis and Milwaukee?

Lake Union Herald editors

The passages quoted above are selected from “Followers of Christ Will Be Missionaries,” by Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, January 8, 1895.

Prayer Releases God's Power

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. —James 5:16 NIV

“Prayer,” said C. Samuel Storms, “in and of itself possesses no power.” I was astounded by that statement, and I didn’t understand it until I read what he said next: “Prayer is powerful because God is powerful, and prayer is the means through which that divine power is released and channeled into our lives” (*Reaching God’s Ear*, p. 223). In other words, all the power in prayer is really God’s power activated by prayer.

When you pray for another person, there is nothing that flows from you to them — no vibes, no force, no energy. Instead, your prayers go heavenward, and the power of God moves from Him to the ones for whom you pray.

When the Bible says *prayer is powerful and effective*, it means God acts powerfully and effectively through the prayers of His people. Prayer is the instrument by which God has chosen to have His power directed in the universe. What a surprising arrangement — God partnering with human beings to accomplish His purposes!

R.A. Torrey, enthralled by the enormity of this power, states, “Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God’s infinite grace and power. All that God is, and ... has, is at the disposal of prayer. Prayer can do anything that God can do, and as God can do anything, prayer is omnipotent” (*The Power of Prayer*, p. 17).

Prayer can do what political action cannot, what education cannot, what military might cannot, and what planning committees cannot. All these are impotent by comparison.

Prayer can move mountains. It can change human hearts, families, neighborhoods, cities and nations. It’s the ultimate source of power, because it is the power of Almighty God.

This power is available to the humblest Christian. It was *a man just like us* who prayed *that it would not rain*, and God stopped the rain in Israel for three-and-a-half

years (see James 5:17). Where will the power of your prayers be felt today?

Reflect

- Where do you think God would like some of His power directed through your prayers today?
- What do you think God would like to do in your neighborhood or workplace in response to prayer?

Pray

- *Praise* God for the great power by which He moves in our world and governs the affairs of all people.
- *Thank* God for His willingness to hear our prayers and to direct His power to places and persons through them.
- *Confess* if you have failed to make use of this great privilege to advance God’s cause in this world through prayer.
- *Ask* God to help you become a powerful and effective pray-er in the future.
- *Intercede* for those who live or work near you, releasing God’s power and grace into their lives.

Act

As you intercede for others today, give yourself a mental picture of your prayers going heavenward to God’s throne and of God directing His grace and power on Earth to the very persons for which you are praying.

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.

Sharing God's Love at Checkout

BY RAMONA TRUBEY

Bruce Chatel's first introduction to Seventh-day Adventists was when his mother enrolled him in Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Elementary. He found friendship, acceptance and learned all about the Adventist Church's message from the Bible. Bruce went from there to Indiana Academy. During his freshman year, he was baptized and became a member of the Adventist Church.

After graduation, his life took several turns. During this time, Bruce lost connection with his church. He tried several professions but seemed, somehow, to not always keep his desire to follow where the Lord led.

In 2003, Bruce married Jennifer, a girl with another faith background. He attended her church for a while, but felt out of place. Bruce suggested they go to his church, and she went with him. Soon she was interested in learning the doctrines and beliefs of the Adventist Church.

The Lord has brought Bruce and Jennifer through various trials where they needed much faith. When Jennifer was diagnosed with breast cancer and went through some very serious times, it deepened his relationship with the Lord and gave Bruce a stronger desire to serve God.

Bruce climbs tall TR and cell phone towers to do repairs. It keeps him busy, but he keeps asking the Lord to give him opportunities to show His love and be a servant to others.

Recently, after doing his routine grocery shopping, Bruce walked up to the checkout counter. An older woman, who looked to be in her 90s, stood in front of him. She seemed to have problems understanding how much money she owed. Bruce noticed the amount for her purchase was \$14.13, but the clerk could not get that across to her. The older woman kept pulling out pennies from a small change purse and counted out 13¢, but she didn't seem to understand she still owed \$14.

Finally, the clerk asked, "Do you have any paper money?"
The elderly woman said, "No."



Recently, Bruce Chatel (left) had an encounter at checkout with an elderly woman whose coin purse lacked sufficient funds for her purchase. His offer to help pay led to a spiritual conversation.

Ramona Trubey

Bruce motioned quietly that he would cover her purchase.

Then the little old lady looked at Bruce and said, "No, I've got it," and proceeded to pull out another change purse that produced only a handful of pennies.

He knew she did not understand, so Bruce stepped up and said, "Ma'am, don't worry about this. I will get it for you; it's not a problem."

The lady looked at Bruce, moved close to him and said, "I love the Lord."

Bruce replied, "I love the Lord, too."

She continued, "Where do you go to church?"

Bruce told her he went to the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church, and then she wanted to know if he was the minister. "I told her I was not the minister but just a member," Bruce said.

"Will you pray for me?" she continued.

Bruce promised her he would, and asked if she needed help out to her car. She replied, "No, my husband is around here somewhere."

By that time, the clerk was checking out Bruce's things, adding her bill to his. "When I turned around, the little old lady and her purchase were gone. I realized that during that conversation I felt such an overwhelming feeling of love for that lady. I really can't explain what this was like as there are really no words to explain the feeling I had, but I wish I could have an experience like that every day," Bruce said.

Ramona Trubey and Bruce Chatel are members of the Cicero Church in Indiana.



La obra del coordinador

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Es conforme a la orden de Dios que los que llevan responsabilidades se reúnan a menudo para consultarse mutuamente, y para orar con fervor por aquella sabiduría que sólo él puede impartir. ... Cuando vuestra voluntad esté en armonía con la divina, estaréis en armonía unos con otros; tendréis a Cristo a vuestro lado como consejero. —Obreros evangélicos, p. 431

El trabajo de un coordinador hispano es una obra especial. Recuerdo cuando en el año 1993 recibí un llamado de la Asociación de Indiana para ser el coordinador de la obra hispana que en ese tiempo estaba recién estableciéndose en las ciudades de dicho estado --Indianapolis, South Bend y Fort Wayne. Yo no tenía la menor idea de lo que implicaría ser un administrador en la iglesia. Pero lo que aprendí rápidamente es que es una tarea que trae muchas bendiciones.

Dos hechos en especial me proporcionaban mucha satisfacción. En primer lugar sentía mucho gozo al ver a personas en diferentes lugares unirse al pueblo de Dios por medio del bautismo y luego cómo algunos de ellos trabajaban juntos para establecer nuevas iglesias. Con el tiempo llegué a comprender que el cumplimiento de la gran misión que nuestro Señor nos ha dejado se puede llevar a cabo más



Los coordinadores hispanos de nuestra Unión comparten lo que Dios está haciendo en su territorio.

eficazmente cuando laicos, pastores y administradores se unen en un mismo esfuerzo para ganar almas para Cristo.

En segundo lugar, para mí era una gran inspiración cuando me podía reunir con otros coordinadores y escuchar lo que hacían en sus territorios y cómo el Señor los bendecía. Recuerdo tan bien cuando Manuel Vázquez, en aquel entonces vicepresidente de la División Norteamericana, me invitó para asistir a una reunión de todos los coordinadores hispanos de la División Norteamericana —que incluye los Estados Unidos y Canadá. Fue entonces que comprendí cómo con la bendición del Señor crecía la iglesia Adventista en toda la División.

En los años que llevo como vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago he tenido el privilegio de conocer y apoyar a

los coordinadores de las cinco asociaciones de nuestra Unión. Me he dado cuenta que la tarea del coordinador hispano es en la actualidad más complicada de lo que era cuando yo era coordinador. A pesar de las serias limitaciones económicas que existen en el presente el coordinador del siglo XXI debe seguir hacia delante y planificar el avance de la obra por diversos medios, por ejemplo: organizar entrenamientos laicos,

financiar campañas evangelísticas, organizar la plantación de nuevas iglesias, supervisar campestres, organizar retiros matrimoniales. Además, el coordinador tiene que buscar la solución a un sinnúmero de situaciones difíciles que se presentan con frecuencia. Aún así siempre he visto en cada uno de nuestros coordinadores gran optimismo y pasión que, gracias a Dios, ha resultado en la ganancia de muchas almas para el Señor.

Es mi deseo animar a cada lector a que ore por el coordinador y los pastores de su asociación para que el Señor los pueda seguir usando para avanzar la misión de la Iglesia.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

TRANSFORMED THROUGH PRAYER

WORSHIPPING GOD FOR THE CITY

BY RON SCHULTZ

About four or five years ago, God put a burden on my heart for the under-served of Chicago. I don't know if it was because I'm senior pastor of the Hinsdale Church or just a burden God put on my heart as a concerned Christian. I began by having conversations with others in the greater Chicago area, and met at a couple of Adventist churches — one in the Lake Region Conference and one in the Illinois Conference. We tried to determine what project God may be leading us to, and He eventually led us to pray about it. We spent ten nights in prayer, by teleconference, in January 2012. It was then we began to realize God was calling us to minister to the under-served through prayer, so we took on the project of praying and our praying has not stopped.

Through praying, we have been transformed. Let me share one of the changes that happened to me. When I was in the seminary, I came into Chicago in about 1980. It was a big city, and really didn't tug at my heart. I had no attachments to it. Last Friday, my wife and I were headed to Indiana. We drove through Chicago, down I-94 and then I took I-90. As I drove through the White Sox stadium area, I became very emotional. I realized God had put on my heart that this was my city, and I had been praying and interceding for these communities. It was no longer just a city in America. Praying for Chicago changed how I feel, and the burden He put on my heart for Chicago caught me by surprise.

What troubles me is that about 15 to 20 miles from the church where I pastor, young men and women are gunned down; children are shot. If I was in another part of the country, I would be up in arms about this. How can this be happening? This is in my own backyard. I find this unconscionable! We've gotten so used to the violence that it is just part of the background noise of our lives. I'm forever transformed by this prayer experience.

One of the most effective ways we can serve the most violent communities in Chicago is through prayer. We wanted to be agents of transformation for Chicago, and God said, "First of all, you've got to be transformed." God has kept us

on our knees praying. We meet via telephone conference at 9:00 o'clock every night. At the end of each night's prayer time, someone volunteers to lead the next night's call.

God brought an awareness to us: "Start praying for the most violent areas." A police officer was connected. He identified the 12 most violent precincts in Chicago where the most homicides take place, so we began to pray for those precincts.

Gordon Fraser, pastor of the Beverly Hills and Goshen churches and the Mt. Sinai company, joined our group. He encouraged us to pray not just that people wouldn't be killed, but stressed that we should really pray for their salvation.

As the months went by, we began to worship in prayer for Chicago. We believe that in the presence of God evil is driven out, so we worship on behalf of those who don't even know their right hand from their left, to draw a metaphor from the story of Ninevah. We worship and claim Scripture night after night on behalf of the people of Chicago. I often begin by "reminding" God, and myself, that He is a God of light and righteousness. I use the language of Scripture. There are many good examples in the Psalms. I am very clear, "God, we are coming to You tonight to worship You on behalf of those who are not able to worship You. And as we worship You, we believe You will come in Your might and power on behalf



of (names or communities inserted) to be a presence there tonight; and through the Holy Spirit and through angels that excel in strength, You will drive out the evil strongholds that are there.”

In the story of Jehoshaphat, when the enemy was coming, all of God’s people came together. Jehoshaphat stood in front of the courtyard and prayed. His prayer starts with worship and reminds God of His sovereignty and power and how He has led and defended His people in the past. He then confesses that they have no power to face the vast army attacking them and says, *We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you* (2 Chronicles 20:12 NIV).

Later, Jahaziel receives a message from the Spirit of the Lord. *This is what the Lord says to you: “Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s”* (vs. 15).

Jehoshaphat then does a strange thing. He sends out the choir to lead the army singing, *Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever* (vs. 21). As they begin to sing, the Lord sets ambushes against the invading armies, and they destroy each other.

We either quote or apply the concepts from Scripture as we worship on behalf of the people of Chicago. God has taught us so much through this life-changing process, and we are convinced prayer has made a difference. When we began in January 2012, it seemed like our prayers were doing nothing. We were being transformed, and continued to faithfully pray throughout the year. January 2013 started off as a terrible month for homicides. Then something happened. Homicides dropped in February and continued to be low in March. In April, the local ABC affiliate ran a feature that asked the question, “Why the dramatic drop in homicides?” Possible reasons given were policy changes, civic issues, weather and prayer. We were surprised a secular news outlet identified prayer as a possible reason. Their report included that James Meeks, pastor of the Salem Baptist Church, and his congregation had prayed specifically that there would be no more than 19 homicides in March, and there were only 15.

According to *Chicago Sun-Times*, there was a 42-percent drop in homicides for the first quarter of 2012. Chicago has

not had less than 100 homicides in the first four months of a year since 1965. It appears God has chosen prayer to be a primary initiative to make a change in Chicago, and we are grateful to be a part of that.

ABC7News-Chicago reported that police say 36 fewer murders were reported in March 2013 compared to March of the previous year, indicating a 69-percent drop. Though homicides were down 29 percent for the first six months of this year, the lowest since 1965, homicides began to really spike again this summer, and so we see this as a tug-of-war between the forces of evil and the forces of God. We’re serious about this, so our prayer vigil intensifies. I don’t know if I can ever walk away from praying for Chicago. God has changed my heart toward this city.

I look at Chicago very differently now. Prayer even impacts how I look at individuals who live here, how I treat the homeless person or the perceived homeless person. It isn’t just masses now. I have ownership of Austin and Humboldt Park, Chicago communities God put on my heart for which to intercede. I dream about what that might mean for these communities and what God might do if His people get serious, because right now I’m not putting a lot of skin in this. I’m not there; I’m not in these communities. I’m very involved in ministry where I’m at. But I know God is working on my heart to invest directly in these communities for which I’m called to pray. That’s probably going to be the next stage.

I’m excited that what’s happening here can be repeated in any church and city, anywhere across the Union. All it takes is a few people who say, “God, we believe with our prayers You can change history.” We’ve got a thesis: If the homicides have come down because we’ve prayed — and I really believe that with all my heart, then what if God’s people don’t pray? That’s a staggering responsibility, and believing it motivates me. I’d love to see this prayer ministry spread like wildfire and others pick it up and participate in it in Detroit, Indianapolis or Milwaukee, or any of the other great cities across America.

Ron Schultz is the senior pastor of the Hinsdale Church in Illinois.

A HEART FOR THE LOST

HAVING GOD'S HEART FOR THE CITY

BY VAN HURST

My heart began to change after I conducted a funeral for someone from a Christ-less home a few years ago. Years had passed since I had seen people curse God at a funeral. They were angry at God for killing their loved one and “taking him to Heaven.” Now they were left with a void, empty and lonely on Earth.

THERE COMES A POINT WHEN WE HAVE TO STEP OUT OF OUR CHURCHES AND TOUCH THE UNCLEAN. WE ARE ALL UNCLEAN.

We moved to Indiana about that time. I was driving through Indianapolis on a Sabbath day, I suppose. I thought, *Lord, how many of these millions of people are going to Christ-less graves?* They curse Heaven when they have a funeral. They curse God. Some scream and tear their hair out! They pull their clothes, and try to cut their bodies. They're so miserable, they cannot hurt themselves enough to offset the pain of loss.

I read in the Spirit of Prophecy where Ellen White wrote about people going to Christ-less graves. I began to pray about it, and wondered how God feels about it, too. When talking with pastors in the area, we had to ask ourselves, "What are we going to do with these people going to Christ-less graves? Can't you hear their screams when you pray? Can you not imagine their tortured screams? Their sorrow? Look at the faces of the people on the sidewalk — their hollow, sunken eyes, their sadness. We've gotten so used to these zombies walking around our city that feature-length movies are made to awaken our dead consciences."

Consequently, about two years ago, we started quarterly all-night prayer meetings on Saturday nights. These prayer times intensified our sense of urgency as we really realized we have to do something! Well, what do you do? We read in the Spirit of Prophecy that the health message will open the doors of the cities. So we decided, "Why don't we just act like we don't know anything at all and do what we've been told?" Imagine that! We can't go door-to-door to offer medical advice anymore — that's illegal, but there are avenues we can use still.

God has led us in that direction. We have found our members more than willing to be trained and to volunteer to build on the health work of many others. Susan Landess, a registered nurse and coordinator of the Indiana Healthy Choices initiative, brought us CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Program) and the Heartland Health and Wellness Conference. It's so exciting that we proposed a conference-wide day of fasting and prayer, a day for our people to seek God for the heart to help the sick and dying. We pray and dream that the whole conference will work together for a special initiative in Indianapolis in September, which will serve as a springboard into a citywide health movement!

It might be a stretch, but one could surmise the lost are offering us the opportunity to become engaged with God in a relationship that's richer than if we remain at home or sit in the pew praying for them. There comes a point when we have to step out of our churches and touch the unclean. We are all unclean.

A few years ago, I read something in *The Desire of Ages* that stuck with me: "Love to man is the earthward manifestation of the love of God. It was to implant this love, to make us children of one family, that the King of glory became one with us. ... When we love the world as [Christ] loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven for we have heaven in our hearts" (pg. 641). Surely, a Seventh-day Adventist who believes in the close of the investigative judgement for the righteous would want Christ's work for us to be finished. That means there's a direct correlation between the condition of my heart and my secular acquaintances who are not saved, who are dying. We've got to find a way to open the door so they will be receptive to the Holy Spirit bidding their hearts to come.

It is so exciting, it's hard to sleep at night! I lie there scolding myself, "Go to sleep, you've got three hours before you're supposed to wake up." I can't sleep, so I pray through the drifting hours and plead for God and angels to help us. This happens night after night. I say, "I can't run on this little sleep," but it's like a spiritual adrenalin rush!

Michelle Obama launched the "Let's Move" initiative in 2010 to fight the epidemic of childhood obesity in our nation. In response, the Seventh-day Adventist Church and 50 other faith organizations and communities supported this national initiative. The Church introduced "Adventists InStep for Life," an opportunity to live and share this message in a broader context to make a positive impact for life. The North American Division Health Ministries Department has set aside Sunday, September 22, as "Let's Move Day," and hopes to get as many people as possible involved in physical activity on that day.

We want to do something besides have a 5K fun walk/run. So what should we do? We turned to Alex Rodriguez, pastor of the Carmel Church who has been leading our Lifestyle Health Expo that the Lord's so blessed at the State Fairgrounds with Channel 13. He said, "Well, let's have a children's health expo."

PEOPLE LISTEN WITH THEIR HEARTS, NOT THEIR EARS. WE'RE REALLY CALLED TO BE THE MOST LOVING, KIND, ACCEPTING, CARING PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

My response was, "That's great! How are we going to man that? What is it?"

I asked our youth director, Charlie Thompson, "Do you think the Pathfinder organization would be interested in taking this on?"

He mentioned the idea to his area coordinators, and they just went giddy!

"Of course, we can do that!"

"Yeah, we'll bring our clubs in; our kids can participate."

"We'll just set up the stages and have interactive games for each point of health emphasis. We'll make bags in which children can take home things they have made. When parents get home, they can go to <http://ReLoveLife.com> or <http://HonestAge.com> and get in the network."

The vision has become electrifying! With everyone we've talked to, it literally turns on the vision. There's a spark you can see in their eyes, and they say, "Oh, wow! We can join that!"

The support and vision morphs weekly. A state representative is now on board. L.A. Fitness is supporting. Two large public schools are bringing their football teams and cheerleader squads. Also on board are radio stations, TV stations, race cars, Olympians, chefs, chiropractic clinics, doctors. The list is too long to address here. We've made plans, and the Holy Spirit has morphed them. An individual from a secular marketing firm exclaimed, "I hope you are ready, you are about to have a God-sized event!"

Some of the things we thought we were going to do 24 months ago aren't even on the radar screen anymore. The Holy Spirit is like the wind; He moves, and we have to be willing not to get stuck in our own position but remain flexible and say, "When you open the door, Lord, we'll walk through it." And each door opens new doors of opportunity!

Now the participating businesses here in Indianapolis aren't talking about a flash-in-the-pan, one-time event. One of the corporate vice presidents is talking about having a "Let's Move" child focus about every three months. They are serious about an ongoing health movement! God is making a paradigm shift in the consciousness of health in this city. We're getting them stirred with the thought of

a movement. Now, in-house, we think of a movement as being much more spiritual, but you start where you can.

The challenges we face are frustrated Adventists who say, "Why are you supporting a political movement?" Some have no vision for what the Holy Spirit is doing and attribute His leading to Satan. We seem to forget it was political connections that really got Jesus off the cross. We forget Ezra and Nehemiah, and that it was a political group that got Israel to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild. We forget that our Adventist roots are heavy in the political arena of a temperance movement that Ellen White supported so vocally. We seem to forget when we're told that as legislation is passed that effects our worship, we're to resist with pen and voice. This is a straight political outcry. What we're really trying to do is build bridges through a concept that is totally health-related while not endorsing any political parties or candidate. We're counseled through Jesus' methodology alone that we're to be bridge-building, loving people. Adventists are all about faith, family and values.

We're looking forward to our next Heartland Health and Wellness Conference that's going to be held on Thursday and Friday, September 26–27, at the Hilton Indianapolis North. We have Chef A.J. coming, a fantastic lady with charisma and wit. Rip Esselstyn is coming, author of *The Engine 2 Diet*, and Pam Popper, a neuropath and internationally-recognized expert on nutrition. Also presenting will be John Pierre, a nutrition and fitness consultant known all around the world, and Michael Gregor, founding member of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine who lectured at the Conference on World Affairs, before Congress, and as an invited speaker on The Oprah Winfrey Show. Businesses like Whole Foods are co-sponsoring the event. Susan Landess has invited these speakers, and we realize just who they are and that what they are talking about will especially interest middle class, educated individuals.

This is a continuation of an ongoing movement. Hans Diehl, founder of the original CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program) will be coming to offer training for CHIP Plus, a new program with updated video content



Chicago: Population 3 million with 36 churches/companies and 11,864 members

and new printed learning material. This is really a part of our Adventist heritage, to think in terms of a movement rather than an event.

But there is an event coming up in 2020: The General Conference Session of the world church in Indianapolis. To prepare for that, we're saying to Indianapolis, "The love of Jesus constrains us, compels us, to love you and help you."

God has given us the secret for being a part of one of the world's Blue Zones*. We know how to reverse diabetes; we know how to lower your hypertension and blood pressure; we know how to help you with many forms of cancers; we know how to have preventive health so that you don't have to suffer these things; and we want to do that for Jesus' good name sake.

And you might say, "Yeah, but brother, how about Revelation 14? How about 13? How about 16?"

People listen with their hearts, not their ears. We're really called to be the most loving, kind, accepting, caring people in the world. And, by the way, we have something else we would like to share when the time is right.

Van Hurst is the president of the Indiana Conference.

*Blue Zones is a term introduced by author Dan Buettner, in his book, *The Blue Zones*, to identify demographic and/or geographic areas of the world where people live measurably longer lives because of shared lifestyle characteristics.



Detroit: Population 700 thousand with eight churches/companies and 4,566 members



Milwaukee: Population 600 thousand with eight churches/companies and 2,216 members

Focus on Indianapolis

Since there are four major U.S. cities in our territory, the Lake Union Conference has allocated additional funds and resources for big city evangelism, and significant work has already been done in Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee over the past several years. Recently, the Indianapolis churches have undertaken broad initiatives to reach this major transport hub known as, "The Crossroads of America," one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the United States.

In addition, the North American Division has adopted Indianapolis as its focus for 2014. Indianapolis will also be the site of the world church's General Conference Session in 2020.



Indianapolis: Population 835 thousand with 22 churches/companies and 4,981 members

A Spirit-led Journey to Jesus

BY JOY HYDE

Coming home to Michigan from Oklahoma in late 2010, after an eight-year sojourn, Harold McMahan returned to the church of another faith where he had worshiped before the move south. Things had changed drastically. No longer were traditional hymns sung, accompanied by the pipe organ. Instead, a band played unfamiliar songs, and the congregation swayed and clapped along. The sermons were not as he remembered either. Harold was disappointed and confused as to where to go for his weekly worship time that he so loved.

Coincidentally, Harold had begun to attend a Bible reading session on Saturday afternoons at the senior apartment complex where he lived. Gloria Baske, a member of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan, led the sessions. When Harold expressed his dilemma about his home church to the Bible reading group, Gloria invited him

to attend Metropolitan with her. She explained that she attended church on Saturday, which she believed to be the true Sabbath. Attending church on Saturday did not matter to Harold; he thankfully accepted the invitation and began to attend Gloria's church in February 2011.

Harold thoroughly enjoyed everything at Metropolitan — from the Sabbath school class, conducted by Craig Morgan, to the pipe-organ-accompanied hymns and special musics. Harold even enjoyed the children's stories. He loved the Spirit- and Bible-led words he heard from the pulpit. Harold began to faithfully contribute his tithes and offerings there, which always had been his custom.

Soon Harold asked Gloria how to become a member of Metropolitan. Unsure of the procedure, she asked a friend what he needed to do to join by profession of faith since he had been baptized by immersion years ago. Gloria learned that Harold should go through a series of Bible studies or attend the upcoming evangelistic series (at the end of September 2011). But for several reasons, Harold did not attend that series nor did anyone begin Bible studies with him.

In February 2012, Metropolitan member Elwyn Hyde attended the Emmanuel Institute for Evangelism in Pullman,



Elwyn Hyde, Harold McMahan, Gloria Baske

Michigan. A graduation requirement was to conduct a Bible study with a non-Adventist. Elwyn asked Harold, and he happily accepted.

Elwyn began meeting every week with Harold and Gloria to study Bible truths. Harold learned many new Bible-based truths like the state of the dead, the 2,300-day prophecy

from Daniel, the sanctuary, and that there are still prophets in God's end-time church. Elwyn also helped Harold see that subjects like the rapture are not biblical. He then invited Harold to attend an evangelistic series in late September 2012, conducted by Jim Howard, Metropolitan pastor.

When Harold did not come to the first two meetings, Elwyn was not to be deterred. He called Harold and said, "Harold, I'm going to come get you and take you to the meeting tonight." Harold replied that would not be necessary, and he and Gloria came that night.

Harold attended all the rest of the meetings, except one because of bad weather. He and Gloria both loved the meetings. When they ended, Harold and Gloria attended the special Sabbath morning sessions that covered lifestyle matters.

Through collaboration with the Holy Spirit, Gloria and Elwyn led Harold to the true and right church for him. On March 23, a little more than a year after beginning Bible studies and two years after accepting an invitation to attend Metropolitan, Harold became an official member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Joy Hyde is the communications secretary of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan.

CONEXIONES EXTRA

No hay tiempo que perder

POR EVELIO MIRANDA

Hay dos incidentes en la Biblia que me llaman la atención por su contenido. El primero es cuando Jesús envió a los doce a predicar el evangelio. En Mateo 10:5-6, las instrucciones de Jesús fueron claras y precisas: *Por camino de gentiles no vayáis, y en ciudad de samaritanos no entréis, sino id antes a las ovejas perdidas de Israel.* El segundo es cuando envió a los setenta. En Lucas 10:4 leemos: *No llevéis bolsa, ni alforja, ni calzado; y a nadie saludéis por el camino.*

Al considerar estos textos en su contexto nos damos cuenta que Jesús no estaba haciendo excepción de personas, ni promoviendo el racismo; ni tampoco diciendo que no fuéramos amables con las personas con quien nos relacionamos a diario. Jesús solamente estaba aplicando esta estrategia de evangelismo porque quería que los doce discípulos, al ser enviados, fueran exitosos en la predicación del evangelio.

No había tiempo que perder, era el momento de dar prioridad a la testificación entre aquellos a quienes, como nación, se les estaba terminado su tiempo de gracia. Jesús habría de hacer todo lo que podía para mantener al pueblo de Israel, su pueblo, cumpliendo su objetivo por lo cual llegó a la existencia desde el llamado de Abraham.

Nosotros no estamos en una situación diferente hoy. Ahora nosotros somos los discípulos de Jesús, somos también el pueblo de Dios y no debemos olvidar nuestra misión. La segunda venida de Jesús esta a las puertas y hay personas que, como con el pueblo de Israel, se les está terminando el tiempo. Literalmente están muriendo sin el conocimiento del evangelio, sin el amor de Jesús, sin esperanza de salvación. ¿Que estamos haciendo, no como



Evelio Miranda

iglesia, porque la iglesia tiene una estrategia de evangelismo, sino como miembros del grupo de discípulos de Cristo?

Jesús nos hace el mismo pedido que hizo a sus discípulos de no gastar el tiempo frente al televisor, la diversión o en el exceso mismo del trabajo aunque sea este necesario para el sustento de la familia. Nos llama a no entretenernos en las redes sociales, sino en la predicación del evangelio.

Se está levantando entre nosotros una generación que se está acostumbrando a gastar mucho de su tiempo en las redes sociales. No estoy en contra de las redes sociales, no me mal entiendan. Las redes sociales son una bendición en el área de la comunicación. Pero si hay exceso en su uso, de nuestra parte, debemos revisar nuestras prioridades. Por otro lado, si usted está utilizando las redes sociales para alcanzar a otros para el reino de Dios, entonces tome todo el tiempo que le sea necesario porque de esa manera está cumpliendo la misión del Maestro.

Queridos hermanos, no hay tiempo que perder, hay que dar prioridad a nuestra misión, y debemos pensar en la mejor estrategia para alcanzar a los que aún no tienen la esperanza y el amor de Jesús en sus corazones.

Evelio Miranda es el coordinador Hispano de la Asociación de Wisconsin

Avances del Ministerio Hispano en Wisconsin

POR EVELIO MIRANDA

Alabamos al Señor por sus bendiciones añadidas al arduo trabajo de los pastores y laicos hispanos de la Asociación de Wisconsin. Por los últimos 4 años hemos tenido un crecimiento promedio de 100 bautismos por año y los diferentes ministerios han realizado retiros y actividades que han motivado a los hermanos adultos, jóvenes y niños.

Federación de Jóvenes: JAHWI

Uno de los Ministerios que ha cumplido bien su función es la Federación de Jóvenes Adventistas Hispanos de Wisconsin (JAHWI), bajo el liderazgo del Kerling Montañez como presidente de la federación en este año. Entre sus actividades se destacan la semana de oración y evangelismo en las que los jóvenes de diferentes iglesias predicán en cada una de las iglesias de la Asociación de Wisconsin.

Este año tendremos la campaña evangelística metropolitana juvenil dirigida por JAHWI y se llevará a cabo en el otoño al igual que el retiro anual en el Campamento Wakonda durante el fin de semana de Labor Day.

Ministerio de Varones

Del 29-31 de Marzo del 2013, se llevó a cabo el tercer Retiro de Varones, en el Campamento Wakonda. Tuvimos muy buena asistencia y el orador, Omar Medina, presentó los mensajes espirituales que motivaron a los asistentes a ser mejores esposos, padres y sacerdotes del hogar y de la iglesia.

Ministerio de Mujeres

El Ministerio de Mujeres, bajo la dirección de Noemí Miranda, llevó a cabo su retiro espiritual en Milwaukee con una asistencia de 146 hermanas. Gillen Molina, la oradora principal, viajó desde Puerto Rico para traer muchas bendiciones espirituales a las asistentes.

Vida Familiar

El año pasado, en el Ministerio de vida Familiar, tuvimos el retiro de parejas en el Olympia Resort en Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Los oradores invitados fueron los directores del



El pastor Evelio Miranda, coordinador de la obra hispana en el estado de Wisconsin.

Ministerio de Vida Familiar de la División Norteamericana, el Doctor Claudio Consuegra y su esposa.

Ministerio Infantil

El 8 de septiembre del 2012 se llevó a cabo el primer Sábado infantil. En este evento los niños de todas las iglesias hispanas desempeñaron todas las actividades de la iglesia por un sábado completo, incluyendo la predicación del sábado por la mañana. El siguiente domingo, se llevó a cabo el primer día de deportes infantil para ayudar a mantener a los niños saludables y activos.

Los clubes existentes también han florecido en las iglesias hispanas de Wisconsin. Al mismo tiempo se han establecido nuevos clubes, como lo es el club de Corderitos (Little Lambs) de la iglesia Adventista Hispana del Norte de Milwaukee.

Educación Adventista

Con la bendición de Dios, y el deseo de los padres de proveer una educación cristiana Adventista a sus hijos, por los últimos tres años se ha mantenido un incremento del 25 al 30 % por año, de la población estudiantil. El año pasado, para poder servir a todos los estudiantes inscritos se instalaron dos aulas portátiles para tener espacio para todos los estudiantes.

Como podemos ver la lucha es fuerte, el trabajo inagotable, los resultados son visibles y las bendiciones del Señor abundantes. Gloria al Señor por añadir su bendición abundante al trabajo realizado en y por la comunidad hispana de Wisconsin.

Evelio Miranda es el coordinador Hispano de la Asociación de Wisconsin.

Nuevo equipo pastoral llega a Fort Wayne

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Agradecemos a Dios por haber llamado al Pastor Juan Joaquín y su esposa Milagros al ministerio pastoral en el Distrito Hispano de Fort Wayne en la Asociación de Indiana.

El Pr. Joaquín es egresado de la escuela de derecho de la Universidad Central del Este en la Republica Dominicana y egresado del Seminario de teología de la Universidad Andrews con una Maestría en Ministerio Pastoral. Milagros es egresada de la Universidad Adventista Dominicana con una licenciatura en educación secundaria y dos maestrías incluyendo una en Ministerio Pastoral. Los esposos Joaquín llevan 25 años de casados y tienen dos hijos jóvenes adultos, Yoesky y Joel.

La mayor pasión de ámbos es la predicación del evangelio. Han sostenido por más de 18 años el Ministerio del



El pastor Juan Joaquín y su esposa Milagros

“Abuelito Jim” y “Ecos del Paraíso” como medio de evangelismo público y de la radio. El ministerio del Abuelito Jim se ha movido por más de 38 estados en este país y viajado por varios países en Centro y Sur América y como consecuencia miles de personas han aceptado a Cristo como Salvador personal y cientos se han unido a la iglesia Adventista por medio del bautismo

en sus campañas evangelísticas.

Pedimos sus oraciones para que en el Distrito de Fort Wayne se ganen muchas almas al Señor como fruto del ministerio de la familia Joaquín.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

Noticias

POR CARMELO MERCADO

La Federación Hispana de Jóvenes Adventista de la asociación Regional del Lago tuvo una campaña evangelística juvenil para los jóvenes hispanos en el área de Chicago que comenzó el 22 de junio. El pastor John Newlove fue el orador principal de las reuniones realizadas en la iglesia Adventista Blue Island. La asistencia durante la semana fue de 60 a 75 personas y de 80 a 90 los fines de semana.



Hermanos escuchando al Dr. Andrés Ramírez dar su seminario de salud.

Los jóvenes disfrutaron de las reuniones por los cortos experimentos evangelísticos que el pastor Newlove realizó, su elección de temas y la manera en que presentó los mensajes, que facilitaba a que los jóvenes se identificaran con el mensaje. El hecho que el pastor Newlove presentara sus mensajes en “Spanglish” impresionó a muchos jóvenes y visitantes no adventistas que se sintieron como en casa.

El tema de las reuniones fue “Jesús 24/4.” Muchos jóvenes se comprometieron nuevamente a entregar sus vida al Señor 24/7. Todos los que asistieron fueron bendecidos y gracias a Dios la campaña resultó en que varias personas se interesaran en recibir estudios bíblicos.

El campestre hispano de la asociación de Illinois de éste año se tuvo del 24 al 26 de mayo en Camp Wagner, en Cassopolis, Michigan. Pedrito Maynard Reid, profesor de teología en Walla Walla University, fue el orador principal para los adultos. El Dr. Reid predicó excelentes mensajes con

títulos como “El Padre Pródigo”, “¿Cuándo vendrá Jesús?” y “Trabajando mientras esperamos”. Un segundo orador fue el Dr. Andrés Ramírez quien presentó un tema de salud titulado “Preparándonos aquí para vivir en el cielo”. El departamento de jóvenes tuvo la bendición de tener al Pastor Nelson Silva como su orador principal. Más de 200 personas vinieron al evento y al final muchos comentaron que fue uno de los mejores campestres que habían participado.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

Anuncios

POR CARMELO MERCADO

The One Project se ofrece por primera vez en español

Es un placer poder anunciar a nuestra comunidad hispana que se presentará en español un evento muy especial conocido en inglés como The One Project (Proyecto Número Uno). The One Project tuvo su comienzo 2010 en Atlanta en donde varios pastores sintieron el llamado de Dios de iniciar un movimiento donde el énfasis en las predicaciones y en el estudio de su palabra fuera conocer mejor a nuestro amado Señor Jesucristo. Cientos de personas han asistido a las reuniones de este evento en lugares como Seattle, Washington, Chicago, Illinois, y hasta en otros países como Noruega y Australia. Gracias a Dios este año este evento se presentará en español titulado “Jesús. Todo”. El programa se tendrá en la Universidad Andrews, del 8 al 10 de noviembre 2013. El costo de registración regular es \$170 dólares, lo cual cubre comidas, recursos y asistencia a las presentaciones. Para los que son estudiantes el costo es de \$99 dólares (este precio es vigente sólo hasta el 19 de septiembre). La Unión del Lago está ofreciendo una ayuda de \$80 dólares para los que se inscriban antes del 10 de octubre. Para recibir más información pueden ir a la página web <http://the1project.org/auspanish-2013.html> o pueden enviar un email a vicepresident@lucsa.org.

Actividades en las asociaciones

6-8 de septiembre: Actividad familiar de Aventureros “Adventurers Family Falls” de la Asociación de Indiana en el campamento Timber Ridge.

13-15 de septiembre: Camporee de Conquistadores de la Asociación de Indiana en el campamento Timber Ridge.

13-15 de septiembre: Certificación de Liderazgo de Mujeres de la Asociación de Illinois

21-28 de septiembre: La Asociación de Indiana presenta el Festival de fé en la iglesia Central, titulado “Queremos ver.”

22 de septiembre: La Asociación de Indiana celebrará el día de la movida (“Let’s Move Day”) en Indianapolis.

22 de septiembre: Torneo de fútbol de la Federación de Jóvenes de la Asociación Regional del Lago.

27-29 de septiembre: La Asociación de Indiana presenta el Rally de Evangelismo en Indianapolis con el pastor Shawn Boonstra como orador.

11-13 de octubre: Retiro Matrimonial de la Asociación de Illinois

28 de octubre al 2 de noviembre: Campaña evangelística dirigida por la Federación de Jóvenes Adventistas Hispanos de Wisconsin.

1-3 de noviembre: Retiro de Mujeres de la Asociación de Illinois

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



Darren Hestrop

Soledad O'Brien, renowned former CNN journalist, was interviewed onstage and presented the keynote address for the 2013 annual Andrews University Leadership and Diversity Conference.

Soledad O'Brien speaks at Andrews University Leadership Conference

The critically-acclaimed journalist Soledad O'Brien was the keynote speaker for Andrews University's annual Leadership and Diversity Conference, July 19–22.

O'Brien, a special correspondent for Al Jazeera America and former CNN correspondent, has reported on breaking news around the globe as well as often-divisive issues in modern society. She currently is working with CNN to produce a series of programming specials through her company, Starfish Media Company, which is dedicated to uncovering and producing stories that examine issues of race, class, socioeconomic status and opportunity.

The pre-conference began Friday, July 19, with an opening presentation on steward leadership given by Scott Rodin, partner and head of strategic alliances at Artios Partners. Prudence LaBeach Pollard gave Saturday

evening's keynote speech. Pollard is vice president for human resources, faculty development and research at Oakwood University, professor of management in Oakwood's School of Business, and clinical associate professor in the School of Public Health at Loma Linda University.

On Sunday night, Debbie Weithers, associate dean for student life, interviewed O'Brien about her experience in journalism and media, her perspectives on increasing opportunities for minorities, and the role of media in society. On Monday morning, O'Brien gave a keynote speech titled "Diversity: On TV, Behind the Scenes and in Our Lives." She referenced Martin Luther King Jr.'s original "I Have a Dream" speech, noting the original draft "was a very uncomfortable message. Digging into fairness and justice can make us very uncomfortable," O'Brien said. "True leadership is about going off-speech because you know it's more important to be on the right side of history," she said.

Samantha Snively, graduate student writer, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication



Jeff Hudon

Jeff Hudon and his daughter, Rebekah Hudon, stand at the sift where the stamp seal was found. All excavated soil goes through the sift in order to filter out special objects like pottery, bones – and in this case, a seal.

Young volunteer finds old seal at Jordan field school

In May 2013, after a long day at Tall Hisban, Jordan, volunteer Rebekah Hudon spotted something spectacular. It turned out to be an old stamp seal: a small engraved stone that ancient administrators used to make imprints on documents in order to verify the authenticity of the document. Only one such seal has been found in the 45 years of Andrews University excavations at Tall Hisban.

"Rebekah first thought the seal was a large bead and showed it to me. I recognized it immediately as a seal, and we were both elated," says her father, Jeff Hudon, adjunct professor at Bethel College, Mishawaka, Ind.

"This seal clearly belonged to someone of administrative significance," says Oystein S. LaBianca, director of the Hisban Cultural Heritage Project, a part of the Madaba Plains Project, a collaboration between Andrews University and La Sierra University. "Now we need to explore whether the iconography of the seal offers any indication of the status and function of its owner," says LaBianca.

The thumbnail-size scaraboid seal is made of dark brown stone, and preliminary investigations indicate the seal was made between 300 A.D. and 500 A.D. Jeff Hudon will conduct further research on the seal, comparing it to other known seals of its type and researching the seal's iconography and cultural significance.

Samantha Snively, graduate student writer, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication



Passion for work apparent in nurse

Before becoming a nurse, Amelissa “Aimee” Sarrol once had a very different profession in mind.

“Initially, I wanted to be a nun or a missionary,” said Sarrol, a nurse at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital. “My other option was psychology.”

Sarrol’s parents encouraged her to consider a field she could develop into a career. She is now a nurse in the Behavioral Unit at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital.

Sarrol’s love for her work is apparent in all she does, said Maria Knecht, the hospital’s vice president and chief nursing officer.

“She makes this appear effortless,” Knecht said. “This is who she is, what she loves, and that love of her work and her faith in God displays itself in all the positive things the staff, patients and leaders say about her.”

One colleague said Sarrol displayed a true “Christlike compassion,” and credited her for her work on the hospital’s committee to advance psychiatric programming. She also is a spiritual ambassador at the hospital, a role she took on this year.

Sarrol said her spiritual background helps a great deal when working with patients. “We get a lot of patients who are very religious and spiritual; I let them know that I’m here just in case they are in need.”

Sarrol recently was named the hospital’s Nurse of the Year. Among those endorsing her nomination was a patient who said Sarrol shows genuine concern for patients and takes time to ask questions, engaging patients when assessing their conditions.

“People who have mental illness would lead healthier, more productive lives if all nurses, doctors and mental health officials were like Aimee,” the patient said. “She treats her patients like humans, with respect and dignity.”



Adventist GlenOaks Hospital nurse Aimee Sarrol originally thought about becoming a nun or missionary. Today, she works on the hospital’s Behavioral Health unit.

Originally from the Philippines, Sarrol has been a registered nurse for 23 years, joining the Adventist GlenOaks Hospital staff a little more than two years ago. She is pursuing her master’s degree and working toward board certification in psychiatric nursing.

She’s not the only nurse in her family. Sarrol remembers being young and seeing her older sister coming home dressed in her nurse’s uniform. Her sister was someone she could look up to, she said, and inspired Sarrol to pursue nursing.

Sarrol has a passion for the work, although patients in need of service from Behavioral Health can be

among the most challenging. But [she believes] as taught in Psalm 34:17–20, *When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken* (ESV).

“Even when I know my patient’s diagnosis may be chronic, when I see one of my depressed patients smile, it gives me joy to know that, by listening to them, I made them feel a little bit happier,” Sarrol said.

Chris LaFortune, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Adventist education benefits Gobles Junior Academy student

Michigan—It's 8:15 a.m. on a Monday morning at Gobles Junior Academy. Backpacks are quickly stuffed into blue and gold lockers, the drinking fountain line disperses, and attendance is taken in each classroom. While most schools might settle immediately into the pace of traditional academia, the faculty at GJA believes students will perform at their peak if their physical and spiritual needs are met first. And so the students begin the day with a good run.

Jeffrey Gehring, a ninth grader, breezes easily around the perimeter of the school parking lot, smiling and encouraging younger runners. It wasn't always a simple task for him. Jeffrey was diagnosed with asthma at the age of 4, and for several years was dependent upon inhalers and breathing treatments. When GJA first adopted their morning exercise program, Jeffrey says, "It was hard and hurt like crazy. I'd come back wheezing." However, the doctors said it would help more than it would hurt, so he pushed himself. One year later, Jeffrey is now able to run more than two miles in 15 minutes!

The doctors are amazed because Jeffrey now tests free from asthma. He no longer takes any type of medications, and has no bronchial or breathing constrictions. This spring Jeffrey ran in the Borgess 5K (22 minutes, 8 seconds) and also participated in the annual 5K race at the Michigan Conference Camp



Jeffrey Gehring, ninth grade, and Jeffrey Randall, kindergarten, are enrolled at Gobles Junior Academy in Michigan, where they benefit from the family environment ever-present at the school.

Meeting in Cedar Lake (21 minutes, 14 seconds).

Not only has regular exercise made a huge difference in Jeffrey's life, but Adventist education has impacted him greatly in his spiritual walk as well. Jeffrey says, "Usually I was getting D's for grades, and would be thrilled to receive a C." His teachers modeled to him the practice of daily devotions, and he noticed a dramatic change when he made the personal commitment in his own life. "It was hard, at first, to get up at 5:30, but I do it." Jeffrey sees a direct correlation between his time spent in devotions and his ability to have a clear mind for his scholastic studies. "I am currently getting all A's and B's! Memorizing is a lot easier for me now!"

Jeffrey Gehring has been affectionately given the name of "Big Buddy" by

my own son, Jeffrey Randall. I could go on and on about the benefits of an Adventist education but will end by giving praise for the family environment that is ever-present at GJA. Big Buddy says, "We help the younger people when they need help. It's a blessing to them and to us." Then looking down at my Jeffrey, he adds, "Always put Jesus first!"

Bible labs, mission trips, a healthy lifestyle emphasis, high academic standards, teachers that love our children and want to see them achieve success not only in this world, but reach ultimate success through a relationship with Jesus: These are only a few of the reasons why Adventist education is making a lifelong difference. Adventist education: It matters!

Lori Randall, communication secretary,
Gobles-Pinedale Church

Battle Creek Academy teacher retires after 31 years

Michigan—Battle Creek Academy's second- and third-grade teacher, Phyllis Essex, retired at the end of this past

school year after 31 years of teaching. Essex graduated from Andrews University in 1969, and began teaching at BCA that fall. She later taught in Charlotte for a year-and-a-half, and then spent 12 years at home with her children. In the mid-80s, she returned to BCA where she spent the rest of her teaching career.

During her time at BCA, Essex taught second grade, then first and second grades and, later, second and third grades. She was known as a master teacher who instilled in her children a love for learning. Essex had a special way of making her classes fun and inspiring her students to do their best. She also



Phyllis Essex

instilled life lessons such as kindness and helpfulness, and always encouraged her students to do something for others. Essex said she rarely had a bad day at school, and in those 31 years of teach-

ing, there weren't more than two days that she didn't wake up in the morning excited about her job. Even when going through a major illness, Essex continued to teach. Her biggest concern was that her students' schedules were not disrupted by her absence.

"Teaching is the best job in the world," says Essex. "No two days are the same, and to be able to touch the life of a child is a great privilege."

James Davis, BCA principal, says, "Phyllis is a kind, Christlike, dedicated master teacher who has served this community for [more than] 30 years as a teacher at Battle Creek Academy. I am saddened to see her retire, but am very excited to be able to tap into her wealth of knowledge and experience as she continues to serve on a part-time basis

in our K-2 classroom next year. The world is in dire need of more teachers like Phyllis."

Former students and their parents also testify of their appreciation for Essex. One of her former students, Tana Moon, now a wife and mother, says of her second-grade teacher, "She was special inside and out — dedicated to God and to her students. I have many special memories of her."

Essex and her husband, Phil, both graduated from BCA in 1965. Though Essex will teach at the academy next year on a part-time basis, she and Phil plan to spend more time with their two children and two grandchildren in Colorado and Nebraska.

Charlotte Erickson, communication director,
Battle Creek Tabernacle

Andrews Academy students honored by National Merit Scholarship Corporation

Michigan—Andrews Academy is pleased to announce that two of its students from the 2012–2013 school year were recognized as finalists and one a commended scholar in the National Merit Scholarship Awards.

Jessica Snively, of South Bend, Ind., received a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. She was a four-year senior at Andrews Academy. Sarah Johnston, of Saint Joseph, Mich., also was a four-year senior at Andrews Academy. She and Andrew Krause were National Merit finalists. Krause, of Benton Harbor, Mich., was a three-year senior. All three students were members of Andrews Academy's chapter of the National Honor Society.

"We congratulate our three National Merit seniors. We are so proud of each of them, and for every member of the class of 2013," says Robert



From left: Sarah Johnston and Andrew Krause (National Merit finalists) and Jessica Snively (National Merit commended scholar) were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for their exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Overstreet, Andrews Academy principal. "We pray that all our students will continue to develop academically and spiritually ... every year of their lives."

The two seniors National Merit finalists at Andrews Academy accounted for approximately four percent of their class. The finalists and commended scholar were awarded scholarships at commencement, held May 23.

The finalists in each year's National Merit Scholarship program show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Approximately 1.5 million students from 22,000 high schools entered the 2013 National Merit Scholarship program by taking the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship qualifying tests (PSAT/NMSQT).

These students are the highest-scoring entrants, and represent less than one percent of each state's high-school seniors.

About 34,000 commended students throughout the nation were recognized this year for their exceptional academic promise.

Andrews Academy is a four-year college prep school located on the campus of Andrews University.

Steven Atkins, biology and earth science
teacher, Andrews Academy

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Harbor of Hope Church leaders receive ministry training in New York City

Michigan—The Harbor of Hope Church in Benton Harbor is uniquely situated to minister to an economically-depressed urban region of the state. According to one data-gathering website (<http://www.city-data.com>), the median resident age in Benton Harbor is 28.3 years compared to a Michigan median age of 45.5 years. The Benton Harbor estimated household income in 2009 was \$16,267 compared to an average of \$45,255 in Michigan statewide. If ever a community needs hope, it's this one. Opportunities abound to touch lives for Jesus.

With this in mind, five Harbor of Hope Church leaders loaded a minivan and headed on a week-long road trip to New York City, in May, where they observed and received training from one of the most successful inner-city ministries in the world: Metro World Child. Taurus Montgomery, Harbor of Hope Church lead pastor; Walter Rogers, Sidewalk Sabbath School pastor and director of development; Bill Dudgeon, Sidewalk Sabbath School team leader; J'Corie Pritchard, audio visual volunteer; and Katelyn Nieman, volunteer coordinator and administrative assistant, each were impacted by the experience.

"I noticed right away how Metro has less volunteers per child than we do, but everyone of them has a relationship with the kids, even those who work behind the scenes. Those leaders owned the program, and the kids latched on really well to us from Harbor of Hope as well. They all wanted to know if I was coming back next week, which made me sad I couldn't stay longer. I connected with one young person on the bus who was working himself up to a leader position, and he was only 14!" Nieman said.

Bill Dudgeon said, "It was motivating watching Taurus, Katelyn, Walter and



Harbor of Hope Church volunteers traveled to New York City in May to observe Metro World Child, one of the most successful inner-city ministries in the world. This photo shows the ministry's sidewalk program in action.

J'Corie participating in the program, playing catch on the sidewalk with the kids, building relationships with them, and then sitting with them during the Bible lessons. The children were so engaged, and it touched my heart to see the decisions those young people were making. They didn't want to add to the darkness of the city but, rather, light it up by cramming 3,000 of their little selves into a warehouse-turned-church to learn about Jesus."

Pritchard's favorite part was dressing up like Yogi Bear and Tigger. He also enjoyed learning how Metro got started and the kind of situation from which its founder came. "It is nice to see how people with my kind of background have turned their lives around while the ministry aspect has impacted their life goals. The kids had so much fun while they were learning; I really like the program's style. Most of the kids hugged me when I came off the bus, and asked me when I was coming back. I wish I could have stayed longer," he said.

"Something I really enjoyed seeing were the many kids who grew up in the ministry and were now leaders. They included a 20-year-old bus attendant, Bible teachers, mentors and even one of the top leaders. [One] now leads the entire Sidewalk Children's Church Division, and is on the preaching team as well. It

was amazing to see their way of mentoring kids into leadership, even from a very young age. The Metro World Child's passion was contagious to our little team as we worked side-by-side with another group of Christians totally dedicated to loving the children in the toughest neighborhoods," Rogers recalled.

The team picked up a lot of great ideas from their visit to Metro World Child. "There are several ideas from Metro we plan to include in our ministry soon. First, seeing how contagious passion and sacrifice are, we are prioritizing regular visits to similar ministries across our region. Second, it was the simple practicality of using poster-board slides for stories. Without the complexity or expense of a laptop/TV combo, this strategy will help us multiply our teams easier. Third, we got a few additional ideas for the young 'Leaders in Training' ministry we are developing. Lastly, our visit strongly confirmed the power of student missionaries serving with our ministry. A large portion of Metro's ministry is run by young adult volunteers who dedicate a semester or more to serving the urban young people in their ministry. We are in the process of recruiting student missionaries to begin service in January 2014," Rogers said.

The Harbor of Hope Church began in 1995-1996 when students from



Walter Rogers

The Harbor of Hope Church ministry team stands on the Brooklyn Bridge. They traveled to New York City, in May, to observe Metro World Child inner-city ministry in action. From left: J'Corie Pritchard, Taurus Montgomery, Katelyn Nieman, Walter Rogers and Bill Dudgeon

nearby Andrews University in Berrien Springs responded to God's call and started going door-to-door, praying for everyone in Benton Harbor. The first church service was held Dec. 7, 2003, at the current location, 292 Belleview Street in Benton Harbor. Harbor of Hope Church is an outreach of Pioneer Memorial Church.

The Harbor of Hope Church now meets weekly on Sabbath. Benton Harbor residents are always welcome. Breakfast is served at 10:00 a.m. and worship

service begins at 11:00 a.m.; Sabbath school is offered at 12:30 p.m., followed by a free lunch at 1:30 p.m. On Sabbath afternoons, leaders from Harbor of Hope bring church to the children with Sidewalk Sabbath School. These programs are offered in the toughest housing projects in town. They include continuing Bible stories, memory verses, small groups, games and prizes. Each Sunday, SOTC (Soldiers of the Cross) mentoring ministry is available for the most committed teens. "This summer, many of our

youth enjoyed summer camp at Camp Au Sable, and even went on a mission trip to Florida. Harbor of Hope envisions a strong student missionary program to help staff our Sidewalk Sabbath School ministry and lead out as Bible workers, and in parenting classes and on annual mission trips," Rogers said.

The church's vision is to see "A New Generation Empowered for Christ" (see Numbers 13). At the Children's Leadership Conference, Sept. 6-8, at Andrews University, Rogers will teach and demonstrate the Sidewalk Sabbath School for urban children program model. For more information about the event, see <http://www.cye.org/events/CLC>.

Partners are needed to pray for the ministry daily, partner with them financially, and join leaders on location during one of the Harbor of Hope events to meet the growing needs of this ministry. Current financial needs include funds for a 12-passenger van, an evangelism campaign, four Bible workers and the basketball ministry. To partner with this ministry, email kidzonedsa@gmail.com.

Walter Rogers, Sidewalk Sabbath School pastor and director of development, Harbor of Hope Church, with Lake Union Herald staff

[UNION NEWS]

Lake Union representatives attend 2013 Impact South Africa youth conference

The week of July 8-13, more than 3,000 youth ministry leaders and young people from 97 countries gathered together to be "Jesus in the City" in Pretoria, South Africa.

Representatives from the Lake Union Youth Ministries Department and Center for Youth Evangelism were present at this congress to fully engage in the conference and witness firsthand the profound impact God



Cye Staff

At the 2013 Impact South Africa youth conference, July 8-13, Justin Yang (right), director of the Center for Youth Evangelism in Berrien Springs, Mich., networked with youth leaders from around the world. He met Ruben Grieco, youth director, southern Germany.

was about to make in and through the Adventist young people from all around the world.

From the very onset of this congress, it was very clear that merely

being inspired wasn't enough. Inspiration had to transform and morph into impact. Gilbert Cangy, world youth director, clearly emphasized making youth ministry intentional by converting inspiration into impact for cities. With 3,000-plus people, there were many cities represented. And every single person was called and summoned to be intentional about making an impact in the cities where God has strategically placed them.

And it was here where Lake Union delegates met Sophie Bernadotte, a NAD youth from Montreal who was actively making an impact in South Africa through Pathfinder ministry in one of the local churches to which she was assigned. When she heard that many of the kids in the church were



Justin Yang

While in South Africa, Justin Yang, director of the Center for Youth Evangelism, met Sophie Bernadotte, Pathfinder leader from Montreal, Canada. She and others in her church will help sponsor some South Africans to the Forever Faithful International Camporee, Aug. 11–16, 2014.

she was helping out had the dream of going to the 2014 Forever Faithful International Camporee but did not have the financial resources to do so, she had compassion for them and decided (along with the leaders of her church) to sponsor the Pathfinders in that church to join us at the Forever Faithful International Camporee, Aug. 11–16, 2014.

Imagine the kind of impact Sophie has made on the kids she's encountered in South Africa by sponsoring them to join more than 36,000 Pathfinders from 60–100 countries around the world, literally to be a city (with police, fire, radio stations and newspapers) where the mayor is their Forever Faithful Friend, Jesus Christ!

Not only will the 36,000-plus “army of workers” become a city, but they will impact many cities on their way to and from Oshkosh, Wis., as they actively engage people they'll meet in rest areas, airports, buses, gas stations and parking lots and introduce their Forever Faithful Friend, Jesus Christ, through random acts of kindness and tracts that will connect each person to a local church.

Ellen G. White tells us, “With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!” —*Education*, p. 271

If the youth are rightly trained and empowered, they will make an impact for our Savior. But she goes on to warn us, “Unless these energies [energy of youth] are directed into right channels, they will be used by the youth in a way that will hurt their own spirituality, and prove an injury to those with whom they associate.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 211



Because someone has invested in Sophie's life by rightly training and empowering her to be a Pathfinder leader and to be present in South Africa, she now is bearing fruit by impacting the lives of many other kids who in turn will “pay it forward” and impact others in the future.

May the momentum that has been stirred, awakened and put into motion in South Africa continue in the celebration that awaits those attending the 2014 Forever Faithful International Camporee who will make an impact this world has yet to experience.

Justin Yang, director, Center for Youth Evangelism (adapted)

Women of Strength conference welcomes women and men

Lake Region—The Grand Geneva Resort & Spa, located in beautiful Lake Geneva, Wis., is the site for the 2013 Lake Region Conference Women's Retreat, Sept. 26–29. This event is planned for women ages 18 and older. According to Doris Gothard, Lake Region Women's Ministries director, “Attendees will join hundreds of Adventist women who will be inspired, encouraged and

challenged by dynamic speakers, outstanding music and intensive prayer time.”

Gothard said, “The conference theme is ‘Women of Strength.’ Throughout the conference, sermons, seminars, prayer, praise and worship sessions are designed to satisfy attendees' thirst for more strength and spiritual revival that will last long past the retreat. The Bible says, *The joy of the Lord is your strength* (Nehemiah 8:10 NIV). Now is the time to explore how the joy of the Lord is the strength of a woman.”

At the retreat, women will explore: 1) joy to have power over sin and unfor-giveness; 2) joy to overcome illness and disease; 3) joy to be free of stress, toxic

emotions and unhealthy relationships; and 4) joy to allow the Lord to use them to glorify Him.

The speakers assembled to bless conference attendees include Roscoe J. Howard III, vice president of Mission and Ministries of the Adventist Health System; Ron Smith, president of the Southern Union Conference; Judith W. Hawkins, county judge, international speaker and founder of Gaza Road Ministries; Ruth Horton, education superintendent of the Illinois Conference; Marcia Neil Bedney, family medicine physician; and Jerome Davis, president of the Lake Region Conference. Many



Marcia Bedney



Helen Bryant



Leeroy Coleman



Dorothy Davis



Jerome Davis



Nancy Dudley



G. Ian Fisher-Curley



Erica Gabriel



Rosita Gabriel



Doris Gothard



LoLo Harris



Judith Hawkins



Ruth Horton



Roscoe Howard



Janell Hurst



Beverly King



YaLonda Lolar-Johnson



Teresa Musson

other workshop presenters will share insights from God's Word.

A special concert on Saturday night will feature acclaimed international gospel recording vocalist, LoLo Harris. Harris has performed in Canada, Bermuda, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. Erica Gabriel, Rosita Gabriel, YaLonda Lolar-Johnson and Cathy Townsend also will provide messages in song throughout the conference, accompanied by recording musicians Nancy Dudley and G. Ian Fisher-Curley.

Last year, a similar women's leadership retreat was well-attended, with nearly 300 present. Surveys available throughout the weekend provided opportunities for the women to share responses after their experiences.

"Loved the session! It allowed me to truly see myself and realize I must die daily in Christ. I must give myself to God," remarked one attendee.

Another said, "Very informative, refreshing and encouraging."

Matrice Truevillian stated, "Words will never be able to express the blessing I received [at the Women of Strength conference]. I am still on a spiritual high

from everything. May God continue to bless and direct this ministry."

This year, attendees' husbands will be welcomed, and are encouraged to register for and participate in all general sessions at the retreat. In addition, simultaneous, separate seminars are planned for men only. One seminar presenter will facilitate discussions on "Men of Strength," based on Nehemiah 8:10.

A special invitation is extended to pastors and their spouses. A seminar is planned just for ministerial spouses, according to Gothard.

"The Grand Geneva Resort is beautiful, and large enough for men and women to be in the same environment without anyone feeling the other should not be there. Ellen White says that to finish the work, it will require both men and women working together (*Evangelism*, p. 469)," stated Gothard.

The retreat registration cut-off date is Sept. 19. Visit <http://www.plusline.org/eventdetail.php?id=1066791> for complete event registration information. Additional information is also available in English and Spanish at the Lake Region Conference Women's Ministries



Ron Smith



Charlotte Stuart

Department website: <http://www.lrcwm.org>.

In these hard economic times, many Lake Region women from inner cities cannot financially afford to attend the retreat. A scholarship fund is set up through the Lake Region Conference Women's Ministries Department, and all persons from the Lake Union are asked to consider prayerfully how their contribution might bless someone.



Cathy Townsend

Doris Gothard, women's ministries director, Lake Region Conference; Debbie Griffith, event registration coordinator; Christal Gregerson, project manager, AdventSource; and Lake Union Herald staff



CYE/E.L. Minchin 180° Symposium leads dialogue on what's next for youth and youth Sabbath school

What's next for youth and youth Sabbath school? The Center for Youth Evangelism/E.L. Minchin 180° Symposium leads the dialogue with a moderated discussion between academics, administrators and practitioners in youth ministry. The Symposium takes place Oct. 15–17 on the Andrews University campus.

With each generation, and now more than ever, youth ministry is increasingly becoming one of the most urgent frontiers of ministry and evangelism for our churches. Ironically, in an age where ministers must find new, cutting-edge methods to preach an everlasting gospel to postmodern youth and young adults, one of our most powerful tools is also one of the oldest: Sabbath school.

With its interactive, engaging format, Sabbath school is the most widespread participatory ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is a natural fit for the type of engagement that works so well in effective youth ministry. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we prayerfully and carefully consider the question, "What is the future of youth ministry in regards to Sabbath school? How can we maximize its effectiveness in reaching the beloved and cherished youth and young adults in our lives?"

The Center for Youth Evangelism/E.L. Minchin annual 180° Symposium brings together academics, administrators and practitioners from a



At a prior 180° Symposium, Ricardo Norton, director of the Institute for Hispanic Ministries, spoke about how to reach second- and third-generation youth and young adults. The 180° Symposium planned for Oct. 15–17 will foster dialogue about the future of youth Sabbath school.

designated portion of the field of youth ministry. The topic of this year's Symposium is "Youth and Young Adult Sabbath School." The Symposium works off the premise that *For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers* (Proverbs 11:14 NIV). With prayerful, informed consideration, presenters are in the process of writing position papers on various topics related to youth and young adult Sabbath school.

The Symposium leaders ask for your support through prayer for the Symposium, as leading children and youth to a saving relationship with Christ is a top priority for each of us. This is to be accomplished "*Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,*" says *the LORD* (Zechariah 4:6 NIV). This dialogue is clearly of the highest urgency, and we are excited to play such a role in the future of youth and young adult Sabbath school ministry.

If you are an experienced Sabbath school leader or administrator who

would like to share your experience or if you have relevant research you would like to present, we invite you to offer your support by joining our participant list. You can do so by contacting Symposium leadership at symposium@cye.org as soon as possible. We thank you so much for your support.

Estepha Francisque, student graduate assistant and coordinator, Center for Youth Evangelism/E.L. Minchin 180° Symposium



Announcements

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

Andrews University

The Howard Performing Arts Center welcomes the Heritage Singers live in concert with special guest Pete McLeod, Christian comedian, Sat., **Sept. 7**, at 8:30 p.m. The concert is part of the Howard Center's tenth anniversary celebration season. Admission charged. Located on the campus of Andrews University, the Howard Center hosts a variety of concerts and events each season. For more information on their upcoming anniversary season and to purchase tickets, visit <http://howard.andrews.edu> or call 888-467-6442 on weekday afternoons.

University Week of Prayer: Tim Gillespie presents University Week of Prayer, **Sept. 9-13** at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily. Morning meetings will be in Pioneer Memorial Church; evening meetings will be in various locations. Gillespie is the pastor for young adult ministries at Loma Linda (Calif.) University Church. For more information, contact the Office of Campus Ministries at 269-471-3211.

Andrews University Homecoming 2013 will be **Sept. 26-29**. Special events include: Treasures from the Andrews Attic, providing a rare look at a diverse collection of Andrews artifacts in the Howard Performing Arts Center; the Alumni Gala Concert on Sat., Sept. 28, at 8:00 p.m. (free admission) in the Howard Performing Arts Center, showcasing Department of Music ensembles; and the Annual Health & Fitness Expo on Sun., Sept. 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Johnson Gym. For a full schedule of weekend events and to update your information, visit <http://alumni.andrews.edu/homecoming>.

Indiana

Brown County Blowout will take place **Oct. 4-6**. Rated by IMBA as an epic trail in 2011, Brown County has something for everyone from beginner to advanced. Bring your mountain bike, or borrow one of ours, a tent and sleeping bag, and we take care of the rest! For information, email youth@indysda.org

or call the Indiana Conference Youth Department at 317-844-6201.

The Indiana Women's Ministry Department is proud to sponsor a Women's Ministry Fall Retreat, featuring Jennifer LaMountain. The event will be **Oct. 4-6** at the Embassy Suites Indianapolis North Hotel. LaMountain is an artist associate with World Vision, and regularly speaks on their behalf. She will share stories and more about her passion for this project throughout the weekend. LaMountain also will share her extraordinary vocal gift that emanates from her heart. Start planning today to come and enjoy a weekend of relaxation, refreshment and renewal as you take in challenging messages and uplifting music. Invite your friends to join you for this special weekend. To register, visit <http://indysda.org> and look for an application in the Women's Ministry section. For more information, contact Tammy Begley, Women's Ministry co-director, at 317-919-5318.

Indiana Academy Homecoming Weekend will be **Oct. 11-12**. The Golf Classic will be Fri., Oct. 11, at Pebblebrook Golf Course in Noblesville. If you would like to register online, please visit our website at <http://www.iaalumni.org>. Honor classes this year are 1963, '73, '83, '88, '93 and 2003. For any additional questions, call Kathy Brewer Griffin, '86, at 317-984-3575 or email kathyagriffin@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lake Region

Fourth Annual TLT Boot Kamp comes 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 is "Raising the Bar 3 – Mentorship," and is primarily targeting Pathfinder directors, staff and parents from around the conference. The weekend attire is white t-shirt and navy blue sweats on Fri., Class A attire Sabbath a.m., white t-shirt and gray sweats Sabbath p.m., black sweats and red TLT t-shirt on Sun. For more information about meals, lodging and activities, contact Angie Gardner at 313-915-8758 or email gardner.ange_line@yahoo.com.

Lake Union

Offerings

- Sept. 7** Local Church Budget
- Sept. 14** Fall Mission Appeal
- Sept. 21** Local Church Budget
- Sept. 28** Local Conference Advance

13th Sabbath

- Sept. 28** Euro-Africa Division

Special Days

- Sept. 7** Men's Day of Prayer
- Sept. 8-14** Nurture Periodicals (*Adventist Review, Insight, Guide, Primary Treasure, Little Friend*)
- Sept. 15-21** Family Togetherness Week
- Sept. 22-28** Hispanic Heritage Week

Michigan

The Lapeer Church will celebrate more than 150 years of service in the city of Lapeer, Mich., **Sept. 21**, at 986 Turrell Rd., Lapeer. Stan Hickerson from Andrews University will have the worship service at 11:00 a.m. "Flashes from the Past" will be presented during Sabbath school at 9:30 a.m., and at 2:30 p.m. Come and be a part of the celebration; see how God has led. Harry Rogers, pastor, invites past members to come and help celebrate. For more information, contact Harry Rogers at Pastorrogers@aol.com or 269-313-2633.

The Allegan Church will celebrate 150 years since the church, constructed by

SDA pioneer Joseph Bates, was first placed in service. There will be several services throughout the day, **Oct. 5**, including a worship service, a historical presentation and an evening musical vespers program. Lunch and a light supper will be provided. For more details, call 616-673-3284.

North American Division

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 Fri. with a career day. Sabbath speaker is Ron Scott, class of 1959, former youth director of the Iowa-Missouri Conference. Sun. is the Alumni Golf Tournament and 5K walk/run. For additional information, call 573-682-2164 or visit <http://www.sunnydale.org>.

Sheyenne River Academy/Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, Oct. 4-5, at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, N.D. Honor Classes: 1939, '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '74, '84, '89, '94, 2004 and '09. For more information, contact 701-258-9000, ext. 236, or visit our website at <http://www.dakotaadventistacademy.org/alumni/alumnievents>.

World Division

The Forever Faithful International Camporee, Aug. 11-16, 2014, will have new additions: a symphony orchestra and mass choir. The Center for Youth Evangelism currently is looking for Pathfinders, ages 9-19, who play an instrument or sing, to join this special group. For more information or to audition, visit our website at <http://www.camporee.org> or contact Catrina LeSure at catrinalesure@yahoo.com. We are also looking for submissions in the theme song competition. For rules and regulations, visit our website or contact Catrina.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Sep 6	Sep 13	Sep 20	Sep 27	Oct 4	Oct 11
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:12	8:00	7:48	7:36	7:23	7:11
Chicago, Ill.	7:18	7:06	6:54	6:41	6:29	6:17
Detroit, Mich.	8:00	7:48	7:35	7:23	7:10	6:58
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:10	7:59	7:47	7:36	7:24	7:13
La Crosse, Wis.	7:34	7:22	7:08	6:56	6:42	6:30
Lansing, Mich.	8:07	7:54	7:41	7:29	7:16	7:04
Madison, Wis.	7:26	7:14	7:01	6:49	6:35	6:23
Springfield, Ill.	7:24	7:13	7:01	6:50	6:38	6:27

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.

Anniversaries



Julia "Judy" and Andrew Snyder celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 8, 2013, with a reception hosted by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren at the Pioneer Memorial Church Commons, Berrien Springs, Mich. They have been members of the Pioneer Memorial Church for 26 years.

Andrew Snyder and Julia Thomson were married May 30, 1948, in Beatrice, Neb., by Pastor Dan Venden. Andrew has been a cement contractor, and has cement floors, driveways, etc., all around the world. Judy has been a teacher in Benton Harbor, Mich., and Berrien Springs. They are active in their church and have participated in more than 100 volunteer projects in the U.S.A. and abroad.

The Snyder family includes Denise and Seigfreid Grentz of Douglasville, Ga.; David and Renate Snyder of Stephenville, Texas; Rebecca and Mark Becker of Apopka, Fla.; Rachel Snyder-Kroncke of Douglasville, Ga.; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



Fred and Sylvia Stephan celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 19, 2013, by three generations of family gathered together for time of food and

fellowship at Jordan's Nursing Home, Bridgman, Mich. They have been members of the Pioneer Memorial Church (Mich.) for 31 years.

Frederick Stephan and Sylvia Wentz were married July 19, 1953, in Portsmouth, Ohio, by Pastor Jack Shull. Fred has been a teacher, pastor and principal in Wis., education superintendent for Michigan Conference, Lake Union Conference and General Conference, retiring in 1995. Sylvia has been a wonderful mother and homemaker.

The Stephan family includes Brian and Cindy Stephan of Fall River, Wis.; Elise and Don Damron of Berrien Springs, Mich.; Jill and Matt Simon of Flint, Mich.; six grandchildren; one step-grandchild; and two great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

BOONE, Thomas A., age 42; born Oct. 26, 1970, in Watervliet, Mich.; died March 22, 2013, in Covert, Mich. He was a member of the Hartford (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Jeanette (Dellar); sons, Tripper and Clayton; daughter, Abigail; mother, Ramona (Clayton) Tugan; and grandmother, Marilyn (Wohlschide) Clayton.

Funeral services were conducted by Douglas Clayton, and interment was in Fish Cemetery, Covert.

BRANDON, Dolores D. (Blankenship), age 83; born Dec. 23, 1929, in Monon, Ind.; died May 10, 2013, in Terre Haute, Ind. She was a member of the Terre Haute Church.

Survivors include her husband, William; sons, Jerry and Joe; brothers, Norvel and Arthur Blankenship; sisters, Patricia Johnson, Barbara Lawrence and Carole Elwell; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Ernest Peckham, and interment was in Roselawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Terre Haute.

CARLSEN, Richard A., age 85; born March 9, 1928, in San Francisco, Calif.; died May 13, 2013, in Dowagiac, Mich. He was a member of the Dowagiac Church.

Survivors include his wife, Doris M. (Bennett); son, Steven R.; daughters, Dianna K. Runnals, Cynthia M. Kotanko and Carol A. King; brother, Ralph E.; sister, Helen A. Rogers; 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Terry Perkins, and inurnment was in Sumnerville Cemetery, Niles, Mich.

HERR, John, age 92; born March 27, 1921, in McClusky, N.D.; died July 17, 2013, in Keene, Texas. He was a member of the South Bend (Ind.) Church. From 1959 to 1974, he was a pastor in Indiana serving the Anderson, Noblesville, Cicero and South Bend Churches.

Survivors include his son, Gary; daughter Deanna Herr; brothers, Ben, Lloyd and Jim; sisters, Darlene Rouse, Elsie Lehmann, Helen Rice, Lenora Copsy and Shirley Anderson; five granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren.

Interment services held on July 19 at the Keene Memorial Cemetery were conducted by Jeff Coleman and Isaac Heath; memorial services held on July 30 were conducted by Harvey Byram and Gary Herr.

KNOPP, Rosann Joy (Grahn), age 68; born Jan. 3, 1945, in Richland Center, Wis.; died June 20, 2013, in De Forest, Wis. She was a member of the Madison Church, Monona, Wis.

Survivors include her sons, Mark, James and Thomas; daughters, Pamela Hilbert and Nancy Parsons; brothers, Larry and Herb Grahn; sisters, Loyala Grahn, Cherie Hall and Janie Pauls; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Titus Naftanaila, and interment was in Sand Prairie Cemetery, Blue River, Wis.

LYNE, Arthur E., age 82; born April 16, 1931, in West Frankfort, Ill.; died June 12, 2013, in Urbana, Ill. He was a member of the Mattoon (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Geneva (McDermott).

Funeral services were conducted by Joseph Amer and Larry Clonch, and interment was in Dodge Grove Cemetery, Mattoon.

MANNING, Pauline R. (Carlson), age 83; born Oct. 13, 1929, in Holland, Mich.; died June 26, 2013, in Muskegon, Mich. She was a member of the Muskegon Church.

Survivors include her husband, Ivan C. "Bob"; sons, Carl and George; daughter, Juanita Manning-Walsh; 10 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Kameron DeVasher, and interment was in Pine Hill Cemetery, Fruitport, Mich.

POE, Michal (Prichard), age 68; born Dec. 7, 1944, in Fargo, N.D.; died Feb. 16, 2013, in Ann Arbor, Mich. She was a member of the Ann Arbor Church.

Survivors include her husband, William; sons Temur Perkins and Daniel Poe; daughters, Gina and Lisa Poe, and Elizabeth Pro; brothers, Bert and Pete Prichard; sisters, Claire McDonald and Sylvia Powell; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Donald McNeil, with private inurnment, Ann Arbor.

SEVENER, Jean A. (DeWind), age 83; born June 10, 1929, in Jenison, Mich.; died April 11, 2013, in Charlotte, Mich. She was a member of the Charlotte Church.

Survivors include her husband, Keith; son, Kent; daughter, Kimberly Sevens; brothers, Frank and Theo DeWind; sister, Grieta Tallios; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Jeff Dowell and Michael Nickless, and interment was in Maple Hill Cemetery, Charlotte.

SMITH, Ila "Louise" (Corwin) King, age 73; born Dec. 11, 1939, in Lake City, Mich.; died June 20, 2013, in Coleman, Mich. She was a member of the Clare (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, John W., Mark D. and Dean L. King; daughter, LuAnn (King) Crowley; brothers, Harland and Ken Corwin; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Russell C. Thomas, with private inurnment, Coleman.

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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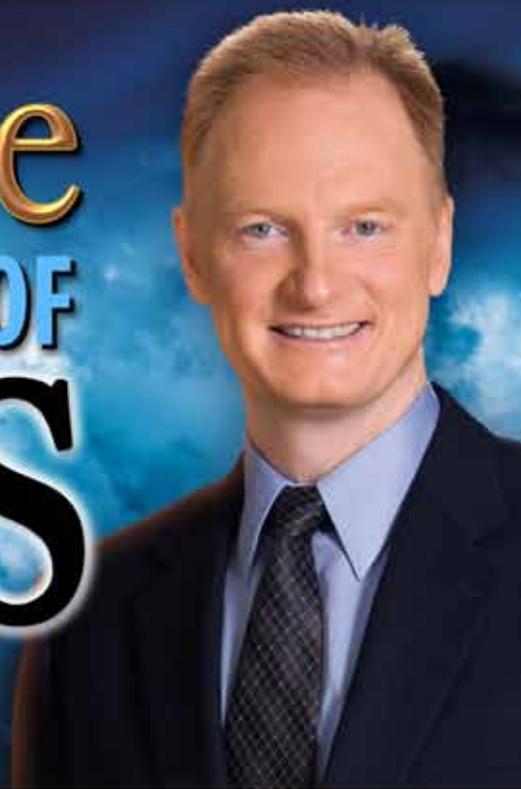
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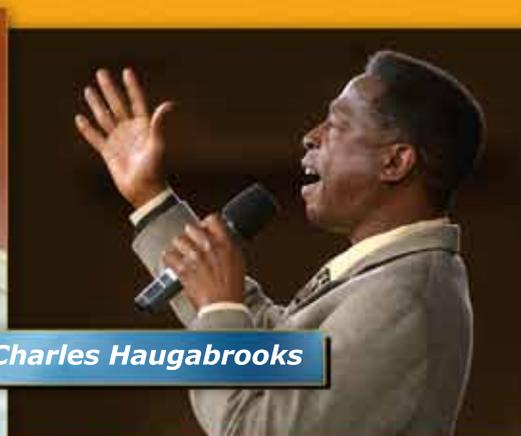
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YOU ARE INVITED to the 2013 Maranatha Volunteers International Convention (Roseville, Calif.), Sept. 20-21. This **free** event features speakers from around the world and musical guest Steve Green. To register, visit <http://www.maranatha.org>.

Employment

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a mathematics professor to begin Aug. 1, 2013, or Jan. 1, 2014. Master's degree in pure or applied mathematics required; doctoral degree preferred. For more information, contact Amy Rosenthal at 817-202-6212 or arosenal@swau.edu.

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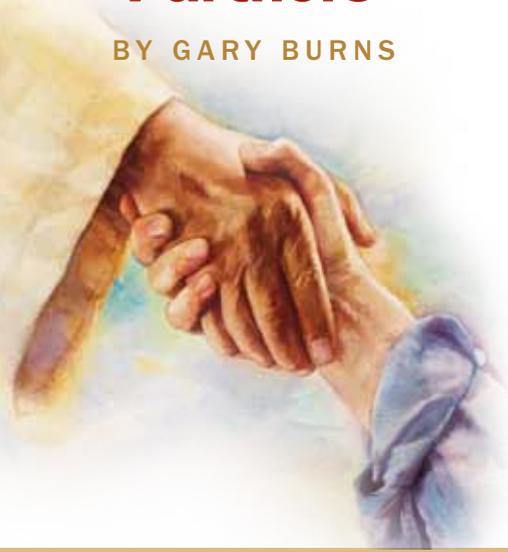
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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Reluctant Partners

BY GARY BURNS



Just took a journey through the prophets again, and was confronted with a recurring theme: It seems that God is very much opposed to those who care for themselves rather than others. It's probably at the top of God's list of dislikes. Listen to Him: "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy" (Ezekiel 16:49 NIV); "The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the foreigner, denying them justice" (Ezekiel 22:29 NIV). See what I mean?

To Shallum, son of Josiah, the Lord said, "Does it make you a king to have more and more cedar? Did not your father have food and drink? He did what

was right and just, so all went well with him. He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?" declares the Lord (Jeremiah 22:15, 16 NIV).

Interesting that God declares that being content with the basics, doing what is right and just, and defending the cause of the poor and needy defines what it means to know Him.

To be in partnership with God, to know Him, means we are like Him. Our hearts are like His heart. We see the world through His eyes. We are moved as He is moved to touch those whom no one will touch.

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

A Whole New World

LIA LIAN

I didn't dream what was about to happen as I strolled to the market to purchase some vegetables. I ended up alone in a gloomy, windowless Malaysian jail cell. Two years earlier, when I was 16, my family and I took flight from the poverty and oppression of our home country of Burma. We are Chin, a minority ethnic group in Burma, and we had entered Malaysia without papers.

On the way to the market, an officer demanded to see my passport. I tried to explain I was a refugee, but he called two uniformed policewomen who handcuffed me and led me to sit in the back of a truck. I bumped along with about 15 other people; some of the ladies were crying. Half an hour later, we arrived at the jail. Fear entered my heart when they took my purse and my phone. I could not contact my family, and didn't even know where I was.

The next day many of us traveled to a prison far outside the city. Rain and wind made me shiver during the hour-long ride. When we arrived, I saw there were many foreign prisoners. While a policewoman checked me in, a little girl in a cell with her mother smiled at me. I was shocked to see a two-year-old in prison. My heart broke for her.

In my own cell, I prayed for my release. After a week, God answered my prayers through the United Nations. They sent a bus that took many of us back to the city, and let us go free.

In a few months, my family was invited to the United States as refugees. My parents, grandmother, three brothers, sister and cousin arrived in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in October 2010.

Within a week, Dan Rachor, Wyoming Church pastor, came to visit us. The Wyoming Church gave us a warm



Lia Lian

welcome and bought many clothes for us, including winter coats, boots, hats and gloves. They helped my older siblings secure good jobs, provided a car and even a mobile home for us to live in.

In Burma, we always found a way to attend the Adventist school in our village, paying the teachers with the rice we grew, even if we had little to eat. My younger sister, brother and I never finished high school. When we found we could not afford to attend Grand Rapids Adventist Academy, we were distressed.

For a week, I awakened in the middle of the night to pray that God would work a miracle for me to attend an Adventist

school. One day, Dan received a phone call while some of us were with him. When he hung up, he told us of a church member who said she could not sleep at night, thinking of my family, and decided to sponsor us to attend Grand Rapids Adventist Academy. We were ecstatic! When my mother heard the news, tears flowed down her cheeks.

The school staff received us warmly, and patiently worked with us in spite of our lack of understanding English. I graduated in June 2012, have completed one year of college, and am a certified nursing assistant. I thank God for leading in my life and answering my prayers.

Lia Lian is a member of the Wyoming Church in Michigan where she teaches in Cradle Roll and loves to sing special music.

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THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | (269) 473-8242

Publisher Don Livesay president@lucsd.org
Editor Gary Burns editor@lucsd.org
Managing Editor/Display Ads Diane Thurber herald@lucsd.org
Circulation/Back Pages Editor Judi Doty circulation@lucsd.org
Art Direction/Design Robert Mason
Proofreader Susan K. Slikkers

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Adventist Midwest Health Julie Busch Julie.Busch@ahss.org
Andrews University Rebecca May RMay@andrews.edu
Illinois Cindy Chamberlin CChamberlin@illinoisadventist.org
Indiana Van G. Hurst vhurst@indysda.org
Lake Region Ray Young rayforyoung@comcast.net
Michigan Justin Kim jkim@misda.org
Wisconsin Juanita Edge jedge@wi.adventist.org

CORRESPONDENTS

Adventist Midwest Health Christopher LaFortune ChristopherLaFortune@ahss.org
Andrews University Becky St. Clair stclair@andrews.edu
Illinois Cindy Chamberlin CChamberlin@illinoisadventist.org
Indiana Betty Eaton counselbetty@yahoo.com
Lake Region Ray Young rayforyoung@comcast.net
Michigan Julie Clark jclark@misda.org
Wisconsin Cindy Stephan cstephan@wi.adventist.org

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P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | (269) 473-8200

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

Illinois: Ray Pichette, president; Ron Aguilera, secretary; Roger Driver, treasurer; 619 Plainfield Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527-8438; (630) 856-2850.

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Contributors: Writer guidelines are available online at <http://herald.lakeunion.org>.

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

Teaching and Learning in Palau

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

“When I was a student missionary, God became someone who was not ‘far out there,’” says Ben Weakley, student at Andrews University. “He became a living, breathing part of my life.”



Ben Weakley

During the 2011–2012 school year, Ben served as a student missionary in the island country of Palau. He worked as a seventh-grade teacher for 15 students.

This wasn't the first time Ben had gone overseas. In high school, he and a group of classmates went to Chile to build a church. Spending two weeks in the country was an eye-opener for the students, but Ben's decision to be a long-term missionary came several years later. After hearing a friend's mission experience in Africa, he became seriously interested in going overseas for a year. His heart was set on Palau before his acceptance even came a few months later.

When Ben arrived in Palau, he quickly adjusted to life on the island. He bonded with the other missionaries and worked hard on lesson plans so he could hang out with students after school.

“The kids were very Americanized, but the community was much more close-knit,” Ben recalls. “I had a wonderful group of kids, the best kids I could ask for.”

Besides spending time with his students, Ben also became close with the church members. He claims the church was “all about Jesus” and was full of godly people who went out of their way to make him feel comfortable.

His experience in Palau was so powerful that Ben changed his major when he returned home. Someday he wants to work at an orphanage overseas and be involved with kids who come from rough backgrounds.

“I want to be a parent to kids who don't have any,” he says. “I want to be a support system for them.”

In the meantime, Ben spends his summers ministering to youth at Camp Au Sable. He has worked more than eight years at youth camps, and enjoys meeting new people there and talking about God.

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

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