

Lake Union HERALD

DECEMBER 2013



TELLING
STORIES
THROUGH
IMAGES

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



Cover photo by Pieter Damsteegt, taken during a tutorial session at the Howard Performing Arts Center at Andrews University.



In every issue...

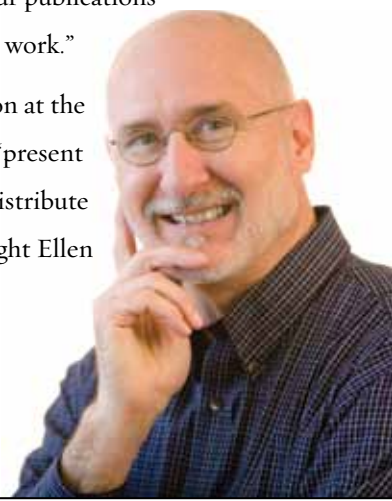
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In this issue...

At the 1901 General Conference Session, Ellen White, co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, stated: "Our power and efficiency as Seventh-day Adventists is largely dependent on the literature which comes from our presses. The proper circulation and distribution of our publications is one of the most important branches of the present work."

Print was the most advanced method of distribution at the turn of the century. Notice that Ellen used the term "present work" in her statement. At present, any person can distribute video, film and text anywhere in the world. What might Ellen say about that if she was living today?

Gary Burns, Editor



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The Thurbers Return to the Lake Union

On October 9, our Lake Union Executive Committee elected Gary Thurber as executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference, to replace Rodney Grove, who recently retired. My version is that this election ended the Lake Union's four-year "loan" of Gary to the Rocky Mountain Conference. I put it that way because Gary and Diane have a rich history in and strong love for the Lake Union.

The Thurbers first came to the Lake Union in 1992 when Gary joined the Michigan Conference as senior pastor of the Lansing Church. Subsequently, Gary served as the director of youth ministries, camp ministries and family ministries for the Michigan Conference for five years, and then as assistant to the president for just under one year. The Thurbers were then "loaned" to the Northern New England Conference where Gary served as president for more than two years before returning to the Lake Union as president of the Indiana Conference for a productive seven years.

In 2009, Gary accepted an invitation from the 17,000-plus-member Rocky Mountain Conference to serve as president. That expansive territory includes Colorado, Wyoming and the northwest corner of New Mexico. His leadership within and beyond the Rocky Mountain Conference included board membership of the following organizations: Navajo Ministries (MAUC, PUC, SWUC), Philanthropic Service for Institutions, Adventist Health System Board of Trustees, Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries, Christian Record Services, Eden Valley Institute, Porter Adventist Hospital Board of Trustees and Union College Board of Trustees. There is very strong consensus that Gary's leadership in the Rocky Mountain Conference was successful and extremely appreciated.

In addition to Gary's substantial administrative experience, he has 16 years of pastoral experience in four districts, involvement in planting three churches, and time in the classroom teaching math, history and choir.

During the Thurbers' service in the Rocky Mountain Conference, Diane was able to remotely continue as associate communication director and managing editor of the *Lake Union Herald*, a role she has had since 2004.

Our search process for this important leadership responsibility resulted in producing 18 quality names from within our Union and across North America. After due consideration and thorough referencing, three candidates were presented to the Executive Committee. After reviewing each candidate, the Executive Committee voted to extend an invitation to Gary, who accepted after prayerful consideration.

Gary's soft, steady and strong approach to leadership, his ability to build a close team and connect with people at any level, credibility, attention to details, strong and prayerful work ethic, thoughtful, gracious and caring attitude, integrity and appropriate balance of strong convictions and respect for process and consensus, and his ability to think ahead of the curve and communicate effectively will serve the needs of the Lake Union very well.

We welcome Gary and Diane back home to the Lake Union, and look forward to working together to advance Christ's kingdom throughout our territory and around the world.



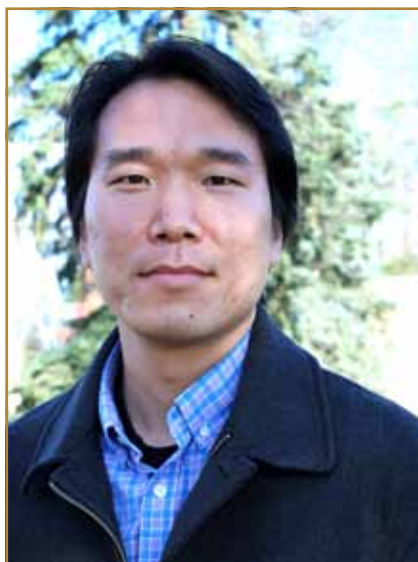
Better Stewards

BY PAUL KIM

Institutionally, when it comes to media and visual narratives, I think what we're doing is a disaster. There certainly are a few examples to celebrate, but the overall majority of what we produce is material taken from another medium — usually presentation or oratory, and then regurgitated for the screen without taking into consideration the parameters of the actual medium of film and why audiences sit down to watch.

We think we're delivering truth. But if our audience isn't finding what we're delivering to be compelling, then it should be a red flag that it actually isn't the truth. Whatever it is that we're giving them, whatever word you want to use to describe it, isn't the real thing. I think if we honestly, painfully, look within and ask some of these tough questions, we'll come to recognize that. Or, if we simply listen to our audience, they'll let us know in plain terms.

Part of the reason that happens is because we don't take time to really understand who we're trying to talk to. Maybe even the phrase "talk to" is a part of the problem. If we truly understand where they're coming from, if we truly work in relationship with them, then maybe we can create material they actually want, that they'll find engaging in a way they've never seen before. We've never done any research about who those people are and what they watch. We've never studied where they stand on certain topics before and after watching our programming. The things we produce, largely, are things we think matter, and that's making all sorts of assumptions about a public we do not even understand.



Paul Kim

We're performing these activities, we're making very important decisions, we're pouring huge amounts of time and resources into ways that aren't going to deliver what they should. What we've made has very little interest to the public, and additionally, there's little relevance to those of us within. So we've created a situation where not only is what we've created not valued by the public, it doesn't really have value for us. We've created this strange phenomenon that the content we've produced is watched mainly by those within this community, and yet, it wasn't really made for them either. Many who watch do so because it gives this false sense of security that they're doing what they feel is the job of the church — to proselytize.

Additionally, most who have come to be the gatekeepers of the creative arts have no background or training in this area. Many, for whatever reason, find themselves in positions of influence without any true understanding, much less experience. And that's terrifying. It also demonstrates a culture of distrust in our church that goes back a very long way, that those who are visual artists and creators are somehow incapable or inferior to those who have theological training. Those who are in positions of influence have to be

Pieter Damsteeg



Paul Kim (right) assists a student with lighting during a cinematography course in the documentary film program at Andrews University.

Joshua Martin

humble enough to build a talented team of people around them who know what they are doing, then give them the space and affirmation they need to thrive.

Film is a particular medium, and the medium itself has certain parameters which communicate in a particular way. You can't separate the content from the medium, but we often act as if we can. If you're going to speak the language of cinema, you have to understand the language of cinema and its structure; you have to understand that it's largely a narrative medium, and that it is at its best when telling stories. If we don't understand it, then we shouldn't presume to believe we know what we're doing. And if we don't know what we're doing, then, simply put, I think we shouldn't be using it. As we can see by the plethora of poor films out there, creating memorable work is very difficult. Film is not an easy medium with which to work, and it has a steep learning curve.

The sad reality is that most young people who grow up and would claim this as their community have very little interest in working or partnering with this big ball of mess that we've created in media because they know better. Whether they're capable of doing something better themselves, that's another matter, but they know this is not for them. Intuitively, they recognize there's a bigger issue. If that doesn't speak to the heart of the problem, if that doesn't speak some truth, I don't know what does.

There are gifted people I run into who never have entertained the idea of going into something like film or the visual arts because they were never shown the window of opportunity. It feels to them like an alternative universe that they can't, or certainly shouldn't, be a part of. That was my experience, and it was a revelation to discover that there's this community of people out there who are a lot

like me that I can relate to in so many other ways. It erases all these doubts about who I am. How many people out there have never found that and continue to feel lost?

I think today there are more opportunities than there were for me 15 years ago, and I want to be a part of helping people discover that. To me, that's the most exciting thing — to be able to help walk someone down this path, to show them the options, to present perspectives and experiences that they've been looking for their whole lives. I've heard many teachers talk about how satisfying it is to see the light come on when students understand a particular concept. That's never done it for me. For me, the light is when I see them come to a place of self-actualization, of discovering who they truly are and why they think, breathe and feel the way they do, and recognizing who God created them to be. That's maybe the most rewarding thing out there.

I think we have to be more intentional about supporting people who have been gifted to do things we have not been supportive of in the past. I think we need to restructure, rethink and reallocate our time, efforts and resources into being better stewards of what we've been given. I think that will result in better media and visual narratives. I think it will provide better, more creative and effective ways of presenting the truth.

I want to be a part of helping train that next generation who formally, through their studies, has a much better understanding than all those who came before them. That's my hope. It might be a long shot, but I think it's possible.

Paul Kim is associate professor of documentary film at Andrews University. Prior to starting the documentary film program in 2012, Paul was senior producer of Adventist Media Productions and executive director of the SONscreen Film Festival.



All I Want for Christmas

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Dear Mom and Dad,

Instead of writing Santa, I decided to write to you about what I really want for Christmas. I know you worry about spending too much on me, and then you worry about not spending enough. When you listen to me and buy me a few of the things I want, I feel listened to. It is important for me to have some of the same things other kids have. But you can overdo it, and then I feel guilty myself! You may not believe your ears, but it's really not about the money you spend on me.

What I'd really like is for both of you to tell me that you love me every day. I may pull away or even try to escape, but I'm listening. The way you think you are showing your love may not mean the same to me. Could you also write it in a note and leave it on my pillow, or write it on the bathroom mirror or on the banana you send in my lunch, too? Could you tell others, during conversations, how special and important I am to you?

I'd really like you to keep your promises, too. I'm pretty smart, you know. If you put me off and say, "We'll do that another time" or "We don't have money for that now, but later," I'll be counting on that.

I need you to say what you mean and mean what you say. If you tell my brother he'll have to go to bed early and then let him stay up until I go to bed, just because he whines and stalls, I'll be disappointed and angry.

I know you are busy at work and stuff, but I am busy all day at school. I need you to have some down time with me in the evening. I want you to listen to what really happened at school. And when I talk to you, I don't need your solutions about how I should do better. I just want you to listen.

My friends are important to me. I wish they were important to you, too. When you don't remember their names, that hurts! I'd like for my friends to be able to come over to our house. I'd like to take a friend to town or have them come over on Sabbath afternoon. They don't care if the house isn't clean, and I don't either!

Well, actually I do care if the house is clean. I really need to learn how to be organized and do important things around the house. Can you show me how, and then trust me to take some responsibility?

I know Christmas is really about Christ's birth and God's love for us. Could you let me know that you will absolutely and unashamedly love me forever, no matter what? Then I can better understand God's love for me, and I'll be getting the best gifts ever!

Thanks for listening,
Your kid



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



When food is abundant, more calories are eaten.

Strategies for Success

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Smaller plates mean smaller waists.

Year-end holidays are a special time when families get together. Thanksgiving and Christmas are celebrated with special foods and family traditions. During this season, there must be an intentional effort to eat fewer calories and find ways to be more active during the cold winter months so we don't have to face the New Year with the challenge to lose those extra pounds.

Studies reveal blood sugar levels are highest during the winter and lowest during the summer. The cold winter holidays with reduced physical activity, excess food intake and body weight gain have a negative impact on blood sugar levels in those persons with either pre-diabetes or diabetes. The markers of cardiovascular disease also are influenced negatively during winter. Among elderly persons, those who had elevated fasting blood sugar levels are substantially more likely to be diagnosed with dementia than those with normal fasting blood sugar levels.



What are some realistic ways to cut calories? Use smaller bowls, spoons and plates. People with large spoons ate 30 percent more soup than those with small spoons. School children serve themselves more food when given adult-size plates and bowls compared to child-size dishware. When adults were given a larger bowl and a bigger ice-cream scoop (3 oz. scoop instead of 2 oz.), they ate 53 percent more ice cream. We think we are getting less food when we eat from large plates. A serving of mashed potatoes appears smaller and to have fewer calories when served on a large plate than when served on a small plate.

When food is abundant, people underestimate how much they eat by 40–50 percent. People typically eat more chips, cookies or crackers that remain at the bottom of a large bag than from a smaller bag.

When people were given a partially-filled bowl of pistachios on their work desk to eat as they like throughout the day, topped off every two hours, those who periodically had the empty shells removed ate 22 percent more nuts than those who left their empty shells on the desk as a visual cue to the nuts consumed.

Researchers at Penn State University compared different strategies to lower the energy density of a meal, thereby getting people to consume fewer calories. The caloric density of entrees was lowered by 20 percent by one of three ways: adding less fat, increasing the fruit/vegetable content (by adding small, chopped pieces), or adding water (by turning a casserole into a soup). Without affecting their feeling of fullness, the volunteers ate 396 fewer calories when the entrees had less fat, 308 fewer calories when fruit and vegetables were increased, and 230 fewer calories when water was added.

Special holiday foods that are high in calories should be eaten less frequently. Avoid snacking, since holiday snack foods typically are high in sugar or fat and rich in calories. Adding more fresh fruit and vegetables (such as broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage) to your meals will help to lower the caloric density of the meals. Nuts and dried fruit can make for a healthier dessert.

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



PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

Submit to Jesus Christ

BY THE EDITORS

After returning from her time in Australia, Ellen White, co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was troubled to find the organization had developed after the pattern of the business world and made an urgent appeal to reorganize after the pattern of God with decisions being made at the local level. The following includes portions of her address to the General Conference, April 3, 1901.

“**W**e talk of the Holy Ghost; we preach of the Holy Ghost; but we need to understand better what the office of the Holy Ghost is. We need to understand that we must cooperate with God in every sense or God can not cooperate with us. *We are laborers together with God.*”

“There are those here that have traditions, and they stand just as the Pharisees stood. Notwithstanding they may say that unity and love, compassion and tenderness are correct principles, yet in their own line of practice they cling to the old traditions. ‘You are to stand by the old traditions,’ they say. But what we want is God’s traditions.

“God has not put any kingly power in our ranks to control this or that branch of the work. The work has been greatly restricted by the efforts to control it in every line. Here is a vineyard presenting its barren places that have received no labor. And if one should start out to till these places in the name of the Lord, unless he should get the permission of the men in a little circle of authority he would receive no help. But God means that his workers shall have help. If a hundred should start out on a mission to these destitute fields, crying unto God, he would open the way before them. Let me tell you, if your heart is in the work, and you have faith in God, you need not depend upon the sanction of any minister or any people; if you go right to work in the name of the Lord, in a humble way doing what you can to teach the truth, God will vindicate you. If the work had not been so restricted by an impediment here, and an impediment there, and on the other side an impediment, it would have gone forward in its majesty.

“The time has come when this people are to be born again.... There must be a renovation, a reorganization; a power and strength must be brought into the committees that are necessary. Let every one of you go home, not to chat, chat, chat, but to pray. Go home and pray. Talk with God. Go home and plead with God to mold and fashion you after the divine similitude.... God help us to submit to Jesus Christ, and to have his power right here and now.”

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:

- During her address, Ellen quoted extensively from 1 Peter. Read through the passage, making application to your relationship with the church in your area.
- What are the conditions under which one “need not depend upon the sanction of any minister or people” to start out on a mission?
- How can we encourage innovation, renovation and re-organization in our circles of ministry and beyond?

The Lake Union Herald editors

Prayer Defeats Satan

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers. — Luke 22:31–32 NIV

There are two powerful forces at work in the world today — the power of God and the power of Satan. The power of God is infinitely greater, but we are affected by both.

Satan, bent on our destruction, goes about *like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour* (1 Peter 5:8 NIV). God, intent on our salvation, supplies everything we need for life and godliness (see 2 Peter 1:3).

Paul reminds us that we struggle *against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil* (Ephesians 6:12 NIV). But since God's power is greater, we are safe in God's hands. God is our constant source of protection.

Prayer is the God-given means by which God's power is brought to our defense so that we can stand up against the devil's schemes. Jesus came to Peter's defense with prayer. He said, *I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail* (Luke 22:32 NIV). We are engaged in a war that we must fight on our knees. Prayer is the power by which we are equipped to overcome evil. To face him in our own strength is folly and a sure pathway to defeat.

A mighty prayer warrior once said, "Do you realize that there is nothing the devil dreads so much as prayer? His great concern is to keep us from praying. He loves to see us 'up to our eyes' in work — provided we do not pray. He does not fear if we are eager Bible students — provided we are little in prayer. Someone has wisely said, 'Satan laughs at our toiling, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray'" (*The Kneeling Christian*, p. 17).

It's no wonder that Satan trembles. By means of prayer, the power of the omnipotent God of Heaven and Earth is brought against him. He doesn't stand a chance.

By prayer, the kingdom of God is built, and by prayer, the kingdom of Satan is destroyed. Where there is no prayer, there are no great works, and

there is no building of the kingdom. Pray much so God may be glorified and His kingdom may come in all its fullness.

Reflect

- To what extent are you conscious that your prayers bring defeat to Satan's efforts?
- Who among your acquaintances is now being tested by Satan and is in need of your prayers?

Pray

- *Praise* the omnipotent God who is able to destroy the works of the devil and protect His children.
- *Ask* Christ to teach you how to make use of prayer as a weapon to defeat Satan and to help advance God's kingdom.
- *Commit* yourself to prayerfully support the people around you, especially those whom you sense are under attack.
- *Pray* for those who live or work near you, asking that God will set them free from the powers of evil.

Act

Read the newspaper and watch or listen to the daily news while asking, "Is the devil involved in this tragedy, this trial, this problem?" If the answer is yes, then stand against the devil in prayer.

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.

B-Dawg Outreach

OFFERING HOPE AND CHEER

BY BETTY EATON

“Is that Buddy?” a patient asks as he reaches toward the dog. Buddy moves forward and lifts his head, allowing the patient to run fingers through his soft fur. He stands for a moment before sitting or lying on the floor.

A certified pet therapy dog, Buddy is on the job. He has his own hospital tag and neckerchief that designates him as an official hospital “volunteer.” Each week, Buddy spends several hours with his master making rounds at Community Hospital South in southern Indianapolis. He moves from office to office, from patient to patient, offering his special gift of furry comfort and consolation while his master, Brian Yensho, pastor of the Indianapolis Southside and Greenwood churches, chats jovially with staff and patients.

Although Brian cannot initiate spiritual topics, often the conversation will drift around to, “What do you do for a living?” When he tells them he is a pastor, they often ask, “Which church?” Often, even before people know Brian is a clergy, they will request prayer.

“Many times, when I come in with the dog, people will ask me to pray for their loved one who is being treated,” he says. Staff also will share personal concerns on occasion, and ask Brian to pray for them. He has developed some very good relationships with hospital staff as well as blessing patients.

One lady told Brian, “A year ago, my husband was in this hospital when you and Buddy came to visit. I can’t tell you what a difference that made. It was so special that you took time to come in. I know you are volunteering. I want you to know how much your visit meant to us.”

Another patient declared, “Over a year-and-a-half ago, my husband and I were in this hospital when you and Buddy came in. Your visit really brightened up our day. It made our whole hospital experience so much more bearable.”

During the past two years, this pet therapy team has spent about 275 hours visiting in the hospital. It all started



Brian Yensho, pastor of the Indianapolis Southside and Greenwood churches, takes Buddy, a certified pet therapy dog, on hospital rounds. Buddy is an official hospital “volunteer.”

with Brian’s son’s wish for a dog and a visit to a funeral home where a golden retriever was kept on staff as a “grief counselor.”

After researching the topic, Brian asked his wife, “Do you think our son would mind if we got a dog and used it for pet therapy?”

“He doesn’t care what you do with the dog. He just wants a dog!” she replied. So Brian got Buddy, and took him through the stringent certification process.

On a typical Thursday, you can find Brian and Buddy making their rounds. They proceed from the Pharmacy to Emergency Department, Admitting, Short Stay (where they do heart catheterizations), and the Coumadin Clinic. Then they move to two patient floors where magnetic paw prints on the door sills indicate a desire to see the pet therapy team. Their last stop is the surgery waiting area. By this time, Buddy usually is getting tired — he’s spent several hours walking and being petted! He’s ready to go home, but it’s been a great day!

Betty Eaton is the communications secretary of the Indiana Conference.



La siguiente generación

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Con semejante ejército de obreros, como el que nuestros jóvenes, bien preparados, podrían proveer, ¡cuán pronto se proclamaría a todo el mundo el mensaje de un Salvador crucificado, resucitado y próximo a venir! —Servicio cristiano, p. 39

El año pasado una organización llamada Grupo Barna que se especializa en datos demográficos publicó un estudio titulado “Hispanos Americanos: Fe, Valores y Prioridades”. El estudio consistió en entrevistar a miles de hispanos en este país y luego hacer un análisis de lo que piensan y cuáles son los desafíos que enfrentan. La información que se recogió es de sumo interés y relevancia para la iglesia cristiana, incluyendo la iglesia Adventista. Uno de los datos que más me interesó es el hecho que a pesar de que sólo el 21% de los hispanos cree que la iglesia está haciendo un “muy buen” trabajo en influenciar a los jóvenes en la comunidad, un 69% apoya la idea de enseñar “valores bíblicos” en las escuelas públicas.

Recuerdo cuando yo era joven y empecé a asistir a la iglesia Adventista que el pastor y la iglesia siempre daban su apoyo y ánimo a las ideas y actividades de los jóvenes. En mi gran deseo de acercarme más a Dios yo leía mucho la Biblia y el Espíritu de Profecía, y los hermanos me animaban en mi crecimiento espiritual. Recuerdo también que cuando fui a estudiar a la Universidad Andrews la iglesia me apoyó no sólo con palabras sino también con un donativo financiero que yo no esperaba pero que agradecí mucho. Y al regresar a mi casa en los períodos de vacaciones siempre había hermanos que me animaban a continuar mis estudios y a acercarme más a Dios.



Christian Reynoso, Jonathan Osorio y Vanessa Anaya, estudiantes en la Universidad Andrews.

Como vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago tengo el privilegio de encontrarme con muchos jóvenes adventistas hispanos que aman al Señor y que estudian en la universidad. Quedo maravillado a veces al oír de jóvenes consagrados que se están preparando para ser profesores, abogados, arquitectos, médicos, contadores, negociantes, terapeutas, etc. Me alegro especialmente cuando me encuentro con jóvenes,

incluyendo a damas, que sienten el llamado de servir al Señor y están estudiando para trabajar como pastores en nuestra iglesia. Cuando hablo con estos jóvenes siento mucha compasión por ellos pues sé que el camino que siguen no es fácil y que Satanás hará todo lo posible para desanimarlos. Los veo a veces y me pregunto, ¿cómo serán sus vidas en diez, quince o veinte años?

Por eso yo trato siempre de tomar tiempo para darles todo el ánimo posible y los incluyo en mis oraciones. Sé que si Cristo no viene antes, que algún día yo pasaré de esta vida y la siguiente generación tendrá que hacerse cargo de esparcir las buenas nuevas de Jesús.

Apreciado lector, me pregunto si los jóvenes en su iglesia sienten más apoyo que la crítica que a veces se escucha. Mi consejo es que los tenga siempre en sus oraciones porque ellos forman parte del ejército que Dios ha llamado para proclamar a un Salvador crucificado, resucitado y próximo a venir.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



A FILMMAKER'S JOURNEY

There are so many different factors that contributed to where I am today. I think some of the best things in life take time to discover, especially when it relates to yourself. In my case, I was always drawn to imagery, to the arts, when I was young. But I didn't grow up in a community in which that was celebrated.

BY PAUL KIM



To me, film is a conglomeration; it's a tool that collectively utilizes photography, design components, traditional modes of communication, and collectively brings it all into, perhaps, the ultimate method of storytelling.

We struggle with the arts, educationally. As a result, I think it's one of those things that people often don't discover until later in life. It's kind of interesting, right? When you are young and in preschool and kindergarten, maybe even first and second grade to some extent, there's a lot of fun, creative activity going on. But, at some point, your educational experience locks you in to certain areas like the sciences, math and humanities, and you lose that focus you developed intentionally when you were young.

It was during my high school years when I found myself falling in love with photography. I was the kind of person who went to an exhibit or a museum and could just stare at an image for long periods of time. There was a story. There was detail. There were things I just felt were speaking to me that I wouldn't get anywhere else. But I didn't know what that meant. I did take a photography class in high school, but it wasn't really a serious class.

I remember looking at a few photography programs, but didn't know anybody in photography. I didn't have photographers in my circle who could advise me. I didn't have artists, visual artists, to guide me. And so when I went to college, I looked more seriously at the sciences. Because I was very active in sports, I ended up studying physical therapy.

Physical therapy was fantastic. But when I finished the program, I was about 20 years old, and the idea of having an 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. job, making pretty good money, actually freaked me out because I believed I hadn't experienced life. I ended up leaving that career path, and began to study religion.

I worked for a small church with a really young, energetic, creative bunch, and we always did creative stuff together. I spent time dabbling with photography, with storytelling. I started doing some film and video work as a hobby. I found myself doing more creative work, but, additionally,



Pieter Damsteegt

listening to the conversations of this age group. They were all about the mainstream pop culture and media they were consuming at that point in their lives. So half the things we talked about related to the music they listened to, films they watched, television shows they consumed, and what they watched online.

I spent time doing creative things I didn't have time to do while I was in school. Additionally, I started to realize the developmental and social implications of all this visual culture with which we were surrounded. With that realization, I decided I could do one of two things: 1) study about film and the arts, or 2) actually study the creation of the arts, the making of the arts, to study it as a practitioner.

I'll use the analogy of music. If you listen to music, you certainly can appreciate music. One might even study music so much that they become a music critic. But I came to this realization: Does one really know about music unless they actually create it? I made the same application to the visual arts. If I really wanted to understand the arts and the influence on these young kids around me, upon myself and society, then I should really pursue the making of the arts.

This was an easy decision because I really enjoyed creating; the tough choice was leaving a stable job. I also was doing something no one I knew imagined I would do. The conversation in my head was not a conversation I had with the friends around me, or even with my family. They didn't

know, they couldn't understand, they couldn't appreciate these sensibilities I had and that I had begun to revisit. So when I made the decision to drop everything, to leave these kids and go back to school to study the arts, it was a very controversial one within my community, within my circle of friends. It was by far the hardest decision I've ever made in my life. I think it was instrumental though, because had I never made that decision I never would have come to discover this part of me that never truly had bloomed that I knew was there, but had never opened that door and given it a chance to flourish.

That was the first year I truly found the biggest part of myself. That year turned into two years, which turned into another degree, which turned into job offers, which turned into an opportunity to get a wonderful scholarship to pursue graduate school, which turned into more job opportunities, which turned into me being able to create a new program at Andrews University in documentary filmmaking.

When I left my previous role, one of mentorship, relationship building and counseling young teenagers about life, life decisions, spiritual dimensions, and all the issues that teenagers deal with, to study the visual arts and film, there was a lot of doubt in my mind. I doubted what it meant for me and whether or not I could really do the arts, and whether I could create the kinds of things that spoke deeply to me and to a larger audience. I didn't know



if I could create something that would significantly impact a person's point of view or understanding of a particular topic. I didn't know if I could create something that would motivate someone to action.

But then I tackled a major film project about a doctor in Chad, Africa, then the poorest country in the world. I spent almost an entire year away from a lot of my friends, away from a lot of young people I was mentoring. I asked myself very intentionally whether or not it was worth it, all the way until I screened the project for the first time.

The night before I screened the film before an audience, I completed some last-minute edits. I walked away, absolutely convinced it was a terrible film. I think, in part, because I was dealing with a lot of emotional and psychological things at that time. I had a lot of insecurity, a lot of doubt. There were other forces at work. Also, after watching the film hundreds of times, I hated what I saw and thought it was an complete failure, a flop. When it came time for the screening the next day, I was as nervous as could be.

A couple hundred people were there. I gave a short introduction, and we screened the film. Somehow, during that screening, I received the gift of being able to watch it as if for the first time. It was incredible; I found myself moved by my own creation, which is a strange thing. I felt what the audience felt, and realized there is something different about watching a film with people rather than watching it on your own.

It was a very heavy film, not the kind of film you walk away from and say, "Hey, let's go catch a meal! Let's go hang out!" It's the kind of film you leave feeling very heavy-hearted and challenged by witnessing something you don't witness on an everyday basis. It was a film about people living in circumstances we're not exposed to here in the States.

When the film ended, the room was dead quiet. I realized, for the first time in my life, the satisfaction of communicating how I'd always wanted to communicate my whole life. Through the screening experience, the audience and I bonded. By sharing the story together, we now had a perspective through which to engage in conversation.

I went back to my little dorm room and wrote an email to a select few people. I simply wrote, "Everything I have been trying to do in the last few years — the various jobs that I've had, the various roles I've played, the various studies I've taken, I feel like this is what I've been trying to do. Finally, I was able to do something I was never sure I could; tonight my life could end, and it could end completely." That's how I felt.

As much as I love film and filmmaking, the part I love most is connecting with people. I've always been interested in mentoring, working with a population of young people who, in many ways, have been misunderstood — misunderstood in school because they think differently, they feel differently. Maybe they are not as overtly gifted in areas

that some portions of society value. Maybe they're not going to be lawyers or doctors or nurses. Maybe they won't be teachers. These are the traditional roles some use to define success. Part of that depends on where you've grown up — what community, what city, what part of the country; but in my world and in my school, I think the arts have been downplayed.

You won't find elementary schools and high schools with a whole lot of art classes — that's what they cut first. That's a shame because, in doing so, we make the decision to only feed a certain kind of giftedness, and that we're not going to acknowledge a population of people who have different traits, maybe even different nuances to their personalities that allow them to think, breathe and feel in ways the average person doesn't. Some are more sensitive to things like the image, to story. They have deeper intuitions than the average person, and I think they're special.

I think we need to acknowledge this very important population and ask the question, "How can we empower them to do what they were born to do?" I want to create a great program in which students can use storytelling and visual storytelling — film, cinema. I believe it is the mode of communication today. But equally, I want this documentary film program at Andrews University because I want people to have a chance to discover a part of themselves that no one's really aided them in before. This program may not be the most obvious program in a school like this, but this dimension of education is absolutely essential.

This is one of the most exciting times in which to grow up, maybe also a scary time. It is exciting because things are happening in our day and age that were never possible before. The world is a smaller place. We now have access to information and experiences, literally, at our fingertips. That wasn't possible 15 years ago. We're able to create things we've never seen before, partly due to the advent of technology. We can create experiences that never have been seen before.

The changes in technology are transforming the visual arts; it changes how we communicate and how relationships are built and developed. People text, but we also send images about what we're doing, what we're seeing — we call it a "selfie" when you hold up the phone and take a picture of yourself. People now communicate through imagery. And with imagery comes the narrative. I can't think of a single business, a single nonprofit institution, which isn't desperately trying to capitalize on ways to communicate their mission, ideas, products and who they are in ways that will capture this tremendously large, captive audience that's now available in never-before-possible mobile ways.

To me, film is a conglomeration; it's a tool that collectively utilizes photography, design components, traditional modes of communication, and collectively brings them all into, perhaps, the ultimate method of storytelling. The documentary filmmaker usually is someone who passionately cares about a particular topic, about a particular pressing problem in society which needs to be addressed; they care so much about that subject and the people who are suffering as a result of this problem that we need to deal with. They want to share that story so the public can be more informed, empathize and, therefore, be in a position to relate to, love and support those wrestling with the particular issue in ways they weren't able to do before.

Some of the best films available simply have been made by some of the most passionate people alive. They want to make an impact, and they do it through a very wonderful, powerful, provocative tool: documentary film. To me, that's a perfect fit for a community of people, for an institution like Andrews University which, within its mantra, claims that it truly wants to change the world.

I'm really excited about what our students can do, and about the possibilities. Perhaps, that's what drives me; maybe so much so, that it sometimes pulls me away from focusing on the present to being more intrigued by what people will end up doing when they leave this place. I want to see

I want to see my students walk away with the satisfaction of being able to . . . connect their audience with people, places and culture to which they never would have been exposed.

my students walk away with the satisfaction of influencing other people, to deliver experiences and perspectives that their particular audience has never had before. And in so doing, connect their audience with people, places and culture to which they never would have been exposed.

I feel like my students have the power, talent, capabilities, and maybe even the mandate, to bring the world together in a way we never have seen before. They can bring perspectives together to help us understand and appreciate the person that maybe, even unknowingly, we've all had this kind of prejudice against because of ideas about who they are and what their circumstances are, or lifestyle choices we judge because we are ignorant. I think that's one of the greatest callings a person could ever have, to perform the role of bridging people and communities as we've never been able to do before because the medium, the form, the technology

was never available before. I think students can play that role from a lot of different platforms. They may work for a social enterprise, human rights development agency, local church or an educational institution. It doesn't really matter where one is in society. Every corner of society needs people who perform these kinds of roles.

That's what I want my students to do. That's where I want them to be. And that's the kind of satisfaction I want them to feel when they go to bed at night. I don't want them to have any doubt about the time they spent that day and, collectively, that week, month or year, or whether or not their roles are incredibly valuable.

Paul Kim is associate professor of documentary film at Andrews University. Prior to starting the documentary film program in 2012, Paul was senior producer of Adventist Media Productions and executive director of the SONscreen Film Festival.



Pieter Damsteegt

Adventist Media Initiatives

BY GARY BURNS

During the past ten years, there has been an increase in media production and visual narratives among a very broad and diverse spectrum of Adventism. The days of one central house producing everything Adventist are past. This has been, in part, due to the advancements in technology, improved quality and capability, and drastically-reduced costs. Virtually everyone has access to low-cost equipment which is superior in quality to equipment that cost in the hundreds of thousands of dollars just a few decades ago. Since everyone can produce, there is a greater need to provide education and training to raise the bar of excellence. Now, most Adventist colleges and universities provide some type of media, photo, filming or broadcasting courses. Another dimension that is a part of every production is art and design.

We expect to see more and more creative productions in the near future, but we also can expect to see some productions that are marginal, at best. Let's learn as much as we can, improve as much as we can, and encourage as much as we can for the sake of our mission.

Here are a few recent productions in the process of being released.

THE CREATION

“The CREATION: The Earth Is a Witness” started out as a local church project for Henry Stober’s congregation in Nuremberg, Germany. After studying photography in Canada for a year, Henry traveled to five continents in four years, shooting scenes for a film that chronicles the seven days of creation. The Seventh-day Adventist world church has adopted this film to be part of The Creation Project to present the Church’s belief in the biblical account of creation.

Download “The CREATION: The Earth Is a Witness” at <http://www.creationsabbath.net>.

THE BLUEPRINT

“The Blueprint” profiles the second-largest private education system in the world and the commitment to educate the whole person — body, mind and spirit. Featuring the Bronx-Manhattan School, Holbrook Indian School, Fletcher Academy, Spencerville Academy, Columbine Christian School, Oakwood Academy and others, the viewer will experience the challenge of preparing today’s youth for a life of service. This film will be broadcast on PBS stations in 2014.

View the official trailer for “The Blueprint,” by Journey Films, at <http://journeyfilms.com/portfolio-item/adventist-education-trailer-2/>.

THE ADVENTISTS 2

The “ADVENTISTS 2” is a new documentary film that tells the dramatic story of Seventh-day Adventists and their commitment to medical mission work. It is the sequel to the highly successful film “The ADVENTISTS,” currently airing on public television stations. “The ADVENTISTS” focused on the background of Seventh-day Adventists and how our understanding of the body as the temple of God has made us some of the healthiest people on the planet. Now, “The ADVENTISTS 2” goes beyond our borders to profile



organizations and individuals whose faith commitment has propelled them to concentrate their efforts into some of the world's most challenging health issues.

"The ADVENTISTS 2" was filmed in Haiti; the Amazon, Brazil; Malawi, Africa; China; Peru and the Dominican Republic. It explores how Seventh-day Adventists are addressing important health issues around the world and doing it out of a century-old tradition of medical missions.

View the official trailer for "The ADVENTISTS 2," by Journey Films, at <http://journeyfilms.com/portfolio-item/the-adventists-2-trailer-2/>.



THE RECORD KEEPER

"The Record Keeper" follows the story of Cadan (JuneSoo Ham) and Larus (Dennis Hill), two angels who struggle to maintain their friendship after universal civil war breaks out. Meanwhile, another angel, Raina (Lindsay Frame), pursues an accurate record of events while trying to make sense of the chaos.

The web series echoes major themes from *The Great Controversy*, a touchstone book by Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White that chronicles God's guidance throughout history.

Church leaders said "The Record Keeper" will resonate with people who may not otherwise come into contact with *The Great Controversy*, or even the Bible.

"The inspired insights that Ellen White provides in *The Great Controversy* make the compelling narratives of Scripture even more relevant," said Garrett Caldwell, associate director of communication of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church and an executive producer of the series. "So many people are expressing interest in [White] as an individual and in her writings as a result of 'The Record Keeper' project. We simply must consider continuing to tell these stories in this manner."

"'The Record Keeper' is set in a steampunk universe. A sub-genre of science fiction, steampunk features steam-powered machinery, often in an alternate world or fantasy setting," stated Garrett.

View the official teaser for "The Record Keeper," by Big Puddle Films, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqATTCrzOv4>.

THE BACK OF MY LIFE

Everyone has a journey in life, a journey filled with problems and challenges to overcome. "The Back of My Life" is a film about a small portion of filmmaker Pieter Damsteeg's journey. "I have ankylosing spondylitis, which is a type of rheumatoid arthritis," says Pieter. "I've had it since I was ten. The early onset was probably due to our 'lovely' Michigan well water that was tainted with arsenic. I have been able to deal quite well with the condition through the years. But, last year about this time, I was basically handicapped."

The film covers the decline of Pieter's health from the time he was walking until his resignation to a wheelchair. Pieter is the first graduate of Andrews University's documentary film program. The film, his thesis project, was screened at Andrews University in April. Since then, the film has continued to evolve, and Pieter plans to release the final version of his story sometime later this year or early 2014. The final version will chronicle from the point of being handicapped until a few months after his total hip replacement surgeries, when he took a backpacking trip to Isle Royale National Park, in Michigan, in September. Pieter currently is working for the Lake Union as a producer/director.

View the official teaser for "The Back of My Life" at <http://vimeo.com/57454529>.

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



Daniel Weber/NAD Communication

Members of the NAD Executive Committee pray for the officers of the North American Division on the closing day of the 2013 NAD Year-end meetings, held October 31–November 5 in Silver Spring, Maryland.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION OF ORDINATION

On November 4, 2013, the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists reviewed and voted to accept the report of the Division's Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC). The report was requested by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at its 2011 Annual Council meeting. Each Division of the World Church was then asked to form its own TOSC and to present those findings at each of their own annual meetings at the end of 2013. These reports are to be given to the General Conference TOSC where they will be combined into a report that will be given to the General Conference executive officers for their review.

A final recommendation then will be presented to the General Conference Executive Committee where a decision will be made as to whether or not to move forward with a motion to the 2015 General Conference Session.

REPORT SUMMARY

Presented by Gordon G. Bietz, chair

This report is the product of our assignment by the North American Division to conduct a comprehensive review of the theology of ordination — its theory and practical implications — and to present our conclusions and recommendations for action.

Process

Since May 2012, our diverse committee of pastors, theologians and administrators has been engaged in a thorough exploration of ordination, identifying current policy and practice and considering the appropriateness of ordaining women to pastoral ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In addition to studying Scripture, we considered numerous papers, books and resources, and we undertook various assignments for in-depth research. We exercised accountability to each other by reading drafts together aloud, discussing our findings, and incorporating peer feedback in revisions. And we prayed together, inviting the Spirit to govern our process and guide us into all truth. The unified desire of our hearts has been to bring glory to God and to obey His will.

Definition of Ordination

We understand all believers to be called and equipped — anointed — by God for service. Individuals are imbued by the Holy Spirit with spiritual gifts in order to edify the body of Christ and fulfill the gospel commission, and in this general sense all believers are “ordained.”

The committee agreed on the following statement as a common point of reference:

Ordination is a formal acknowledgment and authentication of one's call to service ministry by God. Authentication should be understood as ratifying what only God can dispense. Ordination neither supersedes God's call nor enhances it. Ordination affirms the genuineness of the call as having borne the proper fruit of the Holy Spirit's work. God initiates the call and equips the recipient for enacting it. God's person accepts the call. God's people affirm the call.

Recommendations

While the recommendations in this report represent the position of the overwhelming majority of the committee, not all concur; however, the committee stands in unanimous agreement with respect to the following statement:

We believe that an individual, as a Seventh-day Adventist in thorough commitment to the full authority of Scripture, may build a defensible case in favor of or in opposition to the ordination of women to the gospel ministry, although each of us views one position or the other as stronger and more compelling.

As a culmination of our study, the committee submits the following recommendation for North American Division action:

RECOMMENDATION 1: In harmony with our biblical study, we recommend that ordination to gospel ministry, as an affirmation of the call of God, be conferred by the church on men and women.

Because the Bible does not directly address the ordination of women, and because the principle-based evidence is neither complete nor irrefutable, it can be expected that differing conclusions may be drawn by equally sincere and competent students of God's Word. We believe the interpretive approach adopted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church as explained in the “Methods of Bible Study” document may allow Bible-believing members to have differences of opinion on this issue. In light of this, we submit this additional recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 2: The committee humbly recommends that the North American Division support the authorization of each division to consider, through prayer and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, its most appropriate approach to the ordination of women to gospel ministry.

The full report and a summary of the key points of the committee's study are available at <http://www.nadordination.com>.

NewsPoints (a Seventh-day Adventist news service) sat down with NAD President Dan Jackson and NAD Executive Secretary G. Alexander Bryant to discuss the recent vote of the North American Division and what the report from the NAD TOSC means:

NewsPoints: Why was the NAD TOSC formed and what was the selection process for its members?

DJ: The TOSC was formed at the request of the General Conference as they looked at the issue of ordination and its global impact on the World Church. The decision was made to ask each world Division to form its own TOSC to research the issue and to then prepare a report that would be presented to the General Conference. Originally, the committees were asked to look at the issue of ordination in general, but later it was decided to ask each committee to also include in their research a study on the theology of the ordination of women. A General Conference TOSC was formed, and it will be looking at all of the world Divisions' reports and

will then prepare a report to give to the General Conference officers for consideration.

GAB: As we looked to staff this committee, we sought for balance and different perspectives that will represent all viewpoints of the Division, both pro and con. It was our desire and hope that this group would sincerely and prayerfully give deep study from the Bible on the subject of ordination.

NP: What was the role of the NAD administration in this process?

DJ: Once the TOSC was formed, we took a hands-off approach as it completed its work, having full confidence in the committee and that the Holy Spirit would lead them as they considered this issue.

NP: What is the result of the report prepared by the NAD TOSC?

DJ: The committee presentation contained two parts. The first was a minority report that was against the ordination of women and the second was a majority report that favors the ordination of both men and women equally. Each side was given an allotment of time to present their findings to the NAD Year-end Meeting. The time allotment for each presentation was determined based upon the proportion of the vote of each proposal made to the committee. The findings of the committee can be viewed at <http://www.nadordination.com>.

NP: So did the NAD Executive Committee vote to approve the ordination of women after the report was given?

GAB: No. The NAD Executive Committee voted to accept the report and to affirm its findings. This report then will be sent on to the GC TOSC.

We did not vote to start accepting the ordination of women. That would be moving ahead of the process that has been put in place by the General Conference. What we did was to inform the General Conference of where we stand as a Division on this issue. We are prayerful that the World Church can come to a consensus on this issue and we can then focus on continuing the mission of the North American Division.

NP: What is the next step in this process and what can the members of the North American Division expect to happen?

DJ: The General Conference TOSC will receive the report prepared by the North American Division TOSC and will then examine it with all of the other Division reports over the next six to eight months. A final report will be given to the General Conference and will be discussed at the 2014 General Conference Annual Council. At that time, a decision will be made as to whether or not to move a motion to the 2015 General Conference Session.

We are praying that the Holy Spirit will be upon this final meeting as this important issue is discussed and considered, and as we move forward with the mission of the Church.

NP: Thank you to both of you for taking the time to clarify this issue for the membership in the North American Division.



Dwight Nelson, senior pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, makes a presentation during the report of the North American Division Theology of Ordination Study Committee during the Division's Year-end meetings, October 31–November 5.



Dan Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, addresses the Executive Committee at the Year-end meetings.



Gordon Bietz, president of Southern Adventist University and chair of the North American Division Theology of Ordination Study Committee, shares the report from the Committee, which includes their recommendations for the General Conference.

God's Unrelenting Love

BY RENEE AND CAROL VAN DEURSEN

To understand the journeys we as individuals from one family took, you must understand first where we came from. I, Renee Van Deursen, was born in Amsterdam, Netherlands, into a Seventh-day Adventist family where only my father went to church. I never saw the inside of a church until the age of 28. Then, I attended a church where there were no young people. I left that church shortly afterward, and never turned around until age 60.

There was no religion in my (Carol Van Deursen) childhood home, only abuse and alcoholism. However, my parents sent us to church with a neighbor every Sunday. I could never understand why we had to go when they never went. As I grew older, I never gave my spirituality another thought. Oh yes, I believed there was a God, but nothing more than that.



Carol and Renee Van Deursen

While raising our children — Andrew, Gary, Darren and Robert, we never forced our children to attend church, although we did read Bible stories to them as we enjoyed the stories also. This was the extent of our religious life. Our children were raised with the understanding that we both were steeped in military backgrounds, thus they grew up in an exacting environment.

On June 16, 2008, Robert enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. About three weeks into boot camp, at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California, Robert went to an Adventist church to avoid a day's worth of mental harassment. He was given the "The Final Events of Bible Prophecy" DVD, at the end of the service, to take home.

After his graduation from boot camp, during a 10-day leave in Alaska, Robert left the DVD at his brother Andrew's house. Robert never viewed it.

After visiting Alaska, Robert reported back to duty, while Andrew began to prepare for a move to a new apartment with his girlfriend, Rebecca. Once settled in, they found themselves bored one evening, and so searched through some boxes. Andrew came across the DVD (still packaged). He had no clue where it came from, but Andrew and Rebecca both watched it.

After viewing the DVD, Rebecca had questions. She had viewed a similar movie earlier, but noticed stark differences between the two. Andrew, on the other hand, was terrified of the thought of not being in God's kingdom. He had come to realize that his current lifestyle needed a dramatic change, so Andrew started reading the Bible that very night. In the morning, two missionaries from another

faith knocked on Andrew and Rebecca's door, and asked if they had Jesus Christ in their lives. Andrew responded that he had picked up the Bible for the first time the night before. After their visit, Andrew and Rebecca concluded God was knocking on their hearts. Together, they made immediate, drastic changes in their lives. Both were baptized in April 2009.

The DVD had not yet finished its work. Andrew and Rebecca moved to St Louis, Missouri, and spoke of their excitement about God. They told us we needed to watch the DVD. We agreed to watch it, but made it clear that, while we were happy for them, it was not the path we saw ourselves traveling. The movie made an impact and resulted in discussion. It wasn't until Andrew told me (Carol) how sad he would be when he was in Heaven and his parents weren't there that a call was made to the church with a request for Bible studies. We were baptized October 2010.

Meanwhile, in North Carolina, Robert was noting the changes in all of our lives because of the DVD he had indirectly delivered, and was becoming envious. Yet, he continued his lifestyle, including drinking and smoking. Eventually, this drove him to confess to God. While pleading to the Lord,

Robert asked for a dramatic change as well and for wisdom to understand the will of God. During his second deployment, God answered Robert's prayer by sparing his life during a rocket-propelled grenade ambush, which included four rockets in close proximity to him. A minimum of eight missed his truck entirely.

A month later, an improvised explosive device, roughly 25 meters away from Robert's position, was set off — this time leaving Robert with a mild concussion and a traumatic brain injury. This was the turning point and dramatic change Robert had asked for, and the necessary tool for understanding God's will. Robert was baptized in May 2013.

The original DVD Robert first received found its way back to Alaska. When we previously lived in Alaska, Renee gave the natives classes on building and repairing computers. Who knew this connection to the native people would lead back to doing God's work with Yvonne, a staunch member of another

faith and an Athabascan Indian (Yvonne was previously from Fairbanks, Alaska, but now living in Ruby, Alaska). Renee spoke with Yvonne about Sabbath-keeping and the Adventist Church many times on the phone.

When God's plan became clear to Robert, he realized God wanted him to work with Yvonne and the native people. She turned out to be the key to entry into the Athabascan villages. Finally, Yvonne was baptized as a member of the Fairbanks Adventist Church in April 2013. Robert and Yvonne have been visiting villages and receiving invitations from the elders to spread God's Word and show the DVD as they go.

All this because of God's Spirit and the DVD. This is in line with our church's motto: "Go-Sow-Grow-With-God." For our remaining children, our best lesson is to plant the seeds, lead by example, and God will do the rest.

Renee and Carol Van Deursen are members of the Oakhill Church in Illinois.

A Season for Everything

BY VALERIE WHYTE

Patrice Penny-Henderson is a gifted musician who has served at Bethany Chapel Church in Elkhart, Indiana, for the past 15 years. She has played an integral part in the church's music ministry by providing essential support to the praise team and children's choir.

Her musical and organizational gifts also have been invaluable in planning and performing concerts and Christmas programs. Patrice's husband, Joe, often came to support his wife as she ministered for the church services and programs. Through the years, a strong friendship grew between the Bethany Chapel Church family and the Hendersons. Indeed, in many hearts, they were already part of the family.

Bethany Chapel Church conducted an evangelistic series this summer, titled "Endless Love." During the series, the Hendersons decided to make their adoption into the Bethany Chapel Church family official! Many longed and prayed for this day, but God's timing is perfect! The Word of God declares, *To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven* (Ecclesiastes 3:1 NKJV). The Bethany Chapel family rejoices to officially welcome the Hendersons into their family!

At their baptism, the Hendersons stated, "We recognize Jesus as our personal Savior and our constant Companion.



From left: Pastor Daniel Carmona, of the Bethany Chapel Church in Elkhart, Indiana, stands with Joe and Patrice Henderson. The church members rejoice that the Hendersons have officially become part of their family.

When times have been hard, Jesus is who kept us together."

When testifying about his faith journey, Joe shared, "It began as a child in my parents' household in Tennessee. As a young man, I deviated from my faith-walk. Once I became a father and a husband, it became very important to me to maintain a positive relationship with God

and increase my faith, a relationship that continues today as I embark upon a new relationship with the Seventh-day Adventist community of believers."

Patrice shared that she was raised in another faith and "learned very early the importance of a committed faith-walk. I have had a plethora of life experiences, taking me from one extreme to the next, but my relationship with God has remained constant. I am happy to embrace the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist faith community!"

Valerie Whyte is the family life coordinator at Bethany Chapel Church in Indiana.



Hyveth Williams

Charles Bradford speaks at H.M.S. Richards Lectureship, hosted Oct. 26–28 by the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Charles Bradford speaks at H.M.S. Richards Lectureship

Powerful. This is how Hyveth Williams, professor of Christian ministry, describes the 2013 annual H.M.S. Richards Lectureship on Biblical Preaching, hosted Oct. 26–28 by the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Co-sponsored by the *Adventist Review*, the North American Division pastoral

team and the School of Graduate Studies & Research at Andrews University, the event featured renowned speakers Charles Bradford, author and former Union president, General Conference secretary and North American Division president; Adrian Craig, retired Greater Sydney Conference president; Bill Knott, editor and executive publisher of the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* magazines; and R. Clifford Jones, author, pastor, and associate dean and professor of Christian ministry at the Seminary.

Bradford's presentation, "Save the Rain Forest," emphasized the importance of the rain forests as they provide water for the whole Earth, prompting so many projects, organizations and efforts to save them.

"Bradford posited that the small churches in the Adventist Church are the rain forest," explains Williams. "If we don't protect and preserve them, the larger churches will not survive."

Part of the lectureship included two panel discussions between the presenters, facilitated by Jones. Questions presented during the second panel were selected from those emailed to the facilitator by Seminary students.



Reginald Robinson

Deneil Clarke (front, right), a second-year Seminary student, and the Seminary Choir sing at the H.M.S. Richards Lectureship on Biblical Preaching.

"It was rich," says Williams, smiling. "It was humorous and produced great content."

The event included a lunch for the 400 attendees, for which Williams prepared the main dish and her signature drink, sorrel, made from ginger and hibiscus flowers. During the meal, the Seminary and G.C. Executive Committee honored Bradford as a "Living Legend," a title they intend to continue to bestow on worthy individuals at future lectureships.

Since 1994, the H.M.S. Richards Lectureship has inspired pastors on the Andrews University campus and beyond.

Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication

Students and faculty raise awareness about depression

October 10 was National Depression Screening Day. Andrews University Psychology Club (PSI CHI) and the Andrews University Counseling & Testing Center hosted Depression Awareness Day. This initiative was an effort to raise awareness about depression on campus, build a community of open conversations that informs students of available help, and create a support system in which students are encouraged and lifted up in their struggles.

"I think the event was very successful," says Eliana Iller, president of PSI CHI and senior psychology and Spanish for translation double major, who coordinated the event. "We had a great group of volunteers and a really strong turnout of students. I was pleased with how many students got involved and supported our cause."

Several stations allowed students the opportunity to enjoy free hugs, decorate their own T-shirt with encouraging messages, write encouraging messages and tape them on a wall, and even take a free depression screening test and receive staff feedback on their results. On a section of grass near the Campus Center, students could place a small black flag in the ground to represent someone they knew

who had committed suicide. A Prayer Warriors station gave students a place to share prayer requests or anything they happened to be struggling with, and pray with a volunteer.

"The prayer request slips were burned at the end of the event as a symbol of giving those troubles to God," explains Iller.

There also were pamphlets and posters around the booths to promote depression awareness and mental well-being.

"We definitely look forward to offering this event again next year," says Iller. "It was great to see everyone come together and encourage one another."

Eloise Ravell, student news writer, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication



Erin Gerber

(From left): Adventist GlenOaks Hospital chief executive officer Bruce C. Christian; Dianne Christian; Adventist Midwest Health Regional CREATION Health and Wellness manager Kim Stricker; Adventist GlenOaks Hospital assistant vice president of Administrative Services Rich Roehr; Adventist Midwest Health vice president of Ministries and Mission John Rapp; and Adventist GlenOaks Hospital administrative director of Marketing and Service Line Development Erin Gerber were among the participants in this year's SDA Rider Retreat.

SDA Rider Retreat offers reflection on Lord's work

Through the tranquil hills and valleys of North Carolina and Tennessee, the roar of nearly 100 motorcycle engines reverberated during four days in September.

The crowd of motorcyclists took part in the Fourth Annual SDA Rider Retreat, hosted by Bruce C. Christian, chief executive officer of Adventist GlenOaks Hospital located in Chicago's western suburbs. The Rider Retreat took riders through the winding roads of the Smoky Mountain region, through lush, green, wooded areas, with hills, mountains and still lakes as the backdrop.

Each morning and evening, riders also took part in fellowship sessions, discussing God's messages and lessons as passed down through the Bible.

Throughout, participants had the chance to reflect on the beauty of the works of the Lord, not just during

fellowship gatherings but through the views afforded during the ride.

"The serenity afforded by the SDA Rider Retreat reminds us that God is whispering to us through the trees, speaking to us over the hills and valleys, and calling us over the roar of the engines," said Erin Gerber, administrative director of marketing and service line development at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital.

"He is caring for us during good rides and bad, communing with us through the smiles and hearts of friends, and answering us in the stillness," she added.

The event has grown each year, and this year was based in Fontana Dam, N.C., with fellowship sessions hosted at the Fontana Community Church. New to this year's ride was a special Sport Bike Ride as well as an Old Folks Ride.

"Rarely do we find instances where we can share in fellowship in the same way we can through the annual SDA Rider Retreat," said Christian. "I look forward to taking to the road every year, and I am so happy to be able to enjoy

this experience with this growing circle of friends."

Riders came from across the country, hailing from Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

The ride included a contingent from Adventist Midwest Health, including Gerber; Adventist GlenOaks Hospital assistant vice president of Administrative Services Rich Roehr; Adventist Midwest Health Regional CREATION Health and Wellness manager Kim Stricker; and Adventist Midwest Health vice president of Ministries and Mission John Rapp.

During the retreat, Christian shared a personal testimony of a recent health issue he faced. Through it, he said, he learned to "let go and let God," turning to the Lord as his guide through his recovery.

It is a lesson that hearkens back to Proverbs 3:5-6: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths* (ESV).

In that same vein, Dick Moseley, a pastor, reminded those who gathered for this year's SDA Rider Retreat that it's never too late to turn to God and to let Him lead our lives.

Next year's SDA Rider Retreat will take place Sept. 11-14, 2014, in Fontana Dam, N.C. Those interested in learning more can contact Gerber at aghmarketing@ahss.org.

Chris LaFortune, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health



Erin Gerber

Kim Stricker and Erin Gerber attended this year's SDA Rider Retreat where participants reflected on the beauty of the works of the Lord as they rode and during times of fellowship.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Hinsdale Church serves the homeless

Illinois—For the second time, Hinsdale Church volunteers joyfully served the homeless. A small but mighty group of God's followers from the church took a few hours on Sunday, Aug. 4, to witness and assist in a part of God's world not that far from home.

Under the direction of Carolyn Snyder, volunteers circled for prayers for God's blessing before loading into the church bus to take them to Chicago's Pacific Garden Mission. It was exciting to see the new facility and meet some of God's people who make a lifework of caring for Chicagoland's homeless. What a mission field the volunteers discovered where their leaders hope and pray for sisters and brothers in Jesus to come to lend a hand to fulfill the needs of hundreds of homeless people. Without the help of volunteers, this God-filled ministry could not function.

On any given day, 600–700 homeless people receive aid and attend gospel services. Almost 1,000 are provided with a bed. Each month, approximately 100 enroll in Bible classes, 55,000 plates of food are served, 100,000 items of clothing are distributed, and 500 people receive medical and dental care. This is provided without government assistance, all funded by individuals, churches, food depositories and organizations.

The first chore assigned to the Hinsdale Church volunteers was to place clean, fresh linens on the dormitory beds — a huge job. At lunchtime, several of the crew were guided to the well-organized kitchen and cafeteria where they plated food for hundreds of God's hungry children.

Why were these Hinsdale Church friends participating in these humble chores when they easily could fill their day with so many timely, personal duties? The responses were heartwarming.



On Aug. 4, volunteers from Hinsdale Church visited Pacific Garden Mission where they assisted those who make a lifework of caring for Chicagoland's homeless. The Mission is funded by individuals, churches, food depositories and organizations.

"My Lord and Savior guides me as to how to spend my time. I find it joyful to do what He asks of me."

"Jesus is my example. This is an opportunity to be of service for Him. His Word tells me what I do for others, I do for Him!"

"I want to come back. Helping my sisters and brothers to have a clean bed to sleep in tonight and serving their food today has brought happiness to my heart that I will keep forever."

A young man, assigned by the Mission to instruct the church volunteers, was holding a Bible to his heart, giving the impression that God's Word must be a special part of his life. When asked about his Bible, held so preciously, we learned he was enrolled in the Mission's Bible study classes. We asked him how he became interested in attending a Bible class. His response was not one we ever could have imagined. He told us that during his elementary school years, he lived just a block from an Adventist academy. His mother wasn't comfortable with her son attending the assigned public school, so she sent him to the Adventist school convenient to their home. It was there where he fell in love with his Savior. After graduating from eighth grade, he attended public high school. He said he wasn't sure if he was an Adventist, and he wasn't sure if he ever was baptized.

The conversation continued in a most wonderful way. He requested a set of Bible study lessons be mailed to direct him to Bible truths. He also appreciated a gift of a spiritual book.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28 KJV).

Fifteen people participated in this second community outreach project at the Mission. The first event in April drew 57 volunteers. Praise God for these unsung heroes who quietly go about their Father's business, sharing the love of Jesus.

Karen Matthews, co-director of communications, Hinsdale Church



Hinsdale Church volunteers plated food for hundreds of God's hungry children.



Oliver Page

Cory Jackson Sr. (left), evangelist for the ten-day spiritual revival in Detroit in July, stands with Jerome Davis, president of the Lake Region Conference.

Stirring messages cause many to search for biblical truth

Lake Region—More than 24 months after its initial conception, the Now Is the Time campaign opened its doors to an expectant audience on Monday, July 8. Evangelist Cory Jackson Sr. officially welcomed all present to the start of a ten-day spiritual revival that promised to bear witness of God's power to save individuals in the city of Detroit.

The site, at the corner of Gratiot Avenue and St. Aubin Street on the Detroit's eastside, was a perfect witness to residents. At this corner, opposite the Eastern Market, thousands of vehicles, bicyclists, joggers and pedestrians passing by could not help but notice the two white tents, one for the main meetings and the second for the children's vacation Bible school.

Pedestrians stopped by and inquired, motorists clapped their hands with the music while waiting at a traffic signal, and bus passengers waved toward the main tent, signifying their agreement with this positive influence

in a city that has had so much bad press in recent months.

Each evening promptly at 6:30 p.m., missionary health evangelists Monique Brown, Jackie Kisakye and Wanda Peters, of Berrien Springs, Mich., shared tips for healthy living and disease prevention in a 30-minute health nugget seminar. At the stroke of 7:00 p.m., Frank Gray welcomed guests with his affectionate smile and ushered in the evening with prayer. The praise team followed, raising the roof with their melodious gospel renditions, causing many in the audience to stand to their feet to join in singing God's praises at the top of their voices.

Inclement weather during the first three evenings, muddy pathways in and around the tents, tent meeting transportation delays or mix-ups, portable toilets or erratic power interruptions did not deter the local community nor members and friends of Burns Church from attending the event. The damp conditions at the start of the campaign soon gave way to the warm, humid weather typical of a Detroit summer.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. on each of the ten days, Jackson stepped out onto the podium. He is no stranger to community evangelism; traveling the nation and internationally, he allows himself to be used as God's messenger to deliver poignant messages to thousands searching for meaning in their lives.

Jackson created word pictures of daily life experiences, and explained how there is an object lesson in each one of these encounters that can be used for God's glory. Through his own



Oliver Page

Many Burns Church volunteers helped in a second tent which housed the children's programs. Standing with volunteers are children from the church and community.

life experiences, Jackson demonstrated that all those who desire to be used by God will be used.

During each of the ten evenings, every message, firmly grounded in Scripture, saw the captivated audience eagerly searching their Bibles to uncover these spiritual truths for themselves or taking copious notes.

A high point of the campaign was an anointing and prayer service with hundreds coming forward to renew and strengthen their relationship with Christ, and request God's continued guidance in their lives. A number of attendees gave witness that the more they felt they needed to attend the meetings, the greater their plans were frustrated during the day or even that same evening. The physical showers of rain at the start of the campaign were transformed into spiritual showers of blessings and recommitted lives by its close.

Jackson's passion for God's Word and his desire for all to choose Christ for themselves enabled the Now Is the Time campaign to make a lasting impact on this corner of Detroit.

Oliver Page, communication leader, Burns Church

[WOMEN'S NEWS]

Jennifer LaMountain speaks at Indiana Women's Ministries Retreat

Indiana—"No more night. No more pain. No more tears. Never crying again." The soothing lyrics, written by Walter

S. Harrah, floated through the air as 130 women listened with rapt attention. Jennifer LaMountain's melodic voice touched hearts and brought home the worship-hour message. The Sabbath message of following your calling was just one of several in a weekend devoted to the theme "Makeover of the Heart."

Held at the Embassy Suites Indianapolis North Hotel, Oct. 4-6, the Indiana women's ministries retreat brought



Betsy Eabon

These are some of the 130 women who attended this year's Indiana Conference Women's Ministries Retreat, Oct. 4-6. The theme was "Makeover of the Heart" with guest speaker Jennifer LaMountain.

women together from across Indiana and neighboring states as well. It provided a special time for women to share, worship and just have fun together. Tammy Begley, associate women's ministry director for Indiana, said, "It was a blessing to come and spend time with ladies — to talk, to laugh, to learn more about God's love for us and how important we are to Him."

LaMountain, this year's featured speaker, drew hearts together as she related experiences of Bible characters and her personal spiritual journey. Listeners were inspired to move beyond their own struggles and see themselves as God sees them. "She was powerful," said one woman. "Her music spoke to my heart."

"There was not one thing I didn't like," exclaimed another. "It has been amazing. It was so inspirational. It awakened feelings I had covered up. It was very good."

In addition to the blessings of message and song, the women were treated to sumptuous vegetarian meals prepared by the hotel. Fruit, salads, pastas, potatoes, patties, vegetables, rolls and desserts were all part of the healthy cuisine made available.

Women staying in the hotel enjoyed roomy, inviting suites. Their spacious accommodations were conducive to reading, relaxing or visiting. The helpful, friendly staff were a blessing, too. Those who wished could also avail themselves of the opportunity to use the hot tub, swimming pool and exercise room.

LaMountain summed everything up: "One of the main reasons I enjoy women's retreats is because it provides time to talk. We don't have our families around to worry about and take care of. We can concentrate on our own needs and share each others' burdens, fears and joys. That

is what I have loved here at this retreat. Thank you for having me."

In support of those who wish to attend a women's retreat but find it financially difficult, the worship-hour offering was designated for them. Nearly \$1,000 was contributed to aid women who need assistance to attend next year. If you are a woman who has never attended a women's retreat, please consider coming next year. Don't let finances or anything else stop you. Come see what you have missed!



Jennifer LaMountain sings during the Sunday morning service at the Indiana Conference Women's Retreat held this year at Embassy Suites Indianapolis North Hotel, Oct. 4-6.

Betty Eaton, communications secretary, Indiana Conference

[UNION NEWS]

Conference races in half-marathon for Let's Move Day!

Illinois—More than 22 Illinois Conference members, known as "Team D'Sozo," raced in this year's Fox Valley Half-Marathon in St. Charles, Ill., Sunday, Sept. 22, as part of Let's Move Day. Additionally, 50 Adventists volunteered along the route's mileposts or cheered athletes along the course.

The race began at 7:00 a.m. along the Fox River. Those finishing the event represented a spectrum of runners from first-timers to prizewinners. Runners included Ray Pichette, Illinois Conference president, and Delmar Austin, Conference ministerial director. Five Adventist members placed in the top three of their divisions. These included Gustavo Ruiz, Fox Valley Church; Dick Bullock, Vassar/Port Sanilac (Mich.) churches' pastor; David Polley, North Aurora Church; Dan Forde, Naperville Church; and Heidi Bullock, North Aurora Adventist School teacher.



More than 21 Illinois Conference members, known as "Team D'Sozo," raced in this year's Fox Valley Half-Marathon, in St. Charles, Ill., Sunday, Sept. 22, as part of Let's Move Day. Ed Gutierrez, North Aurora Church member (pictured front, fourth from the left) spent hours coordinating the team and conducting trainings.

Adventist Midwest Health sponsored runners with trademark shirts. Ed Gutierrez, North Aurora Church member, spent hours coordinating the team and conducting trainings. Illinois Conference boosted enrollment with weekly bulletin promos.

On Sabbath, prior to the race, the North Aurora Church highlighted stewardship of the body during its worship service. Saturday evening, the same church centered their Adventist

Youth program on running the Christian life. Runners were given opportunity to share spiritual lessons learned while training.

Kim Cook, the Marathon's road crew director, sent written gratitude for the Adventist group's volunteerism. Members hope to multiply these efforts next year.

"This team started with just a simple invitation to Elders Pichette and Austin to join me in running the

Fox Valley [Half-] Marathon,” said team organizer Gutierrez. “We quickly decided to encourage others to join us. When word spread that we were running a race to raise money for Adventist education, a school board member asked if volunteers were needed. What transpired was a coming together of an Adventist community and a running community, working together to benefit the community at large. It made me realize that greater good could be achieved by partnering with the community,” continued Gutierrez. “The

race organizers were grateful for our willingness to serve the community. And, needless to say, we were blessed by all the work that went into being a part of a race for 3,700 individuals. Runners and volunteers were inspired and blessed.”

D’Sozo, in the team’s name, is the Greek word for salvation, with salvation being interchangeable with health, each impacting the other.

Cindy Chamberlin, communication director, Illinois Conference



Ray Pichette, Illinois Conference president, and Jennifer Ogden, Hinsdale Adventist Church associate pastor, warm up for this year’s half-marathon.

Cindy Chamberlin



Edward Woods, III (right), director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) for the Lake Region Conference, interviews mayoral candidate Michael Duggan at the Metro Detroit PARL Rally.

PARL Rally provides opportunity for crucial conversations with Detroit mayoral candidates

Lake Region—The Lake Region Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department partnered with the City Temple Church to sponsor and host the Metro Detroit Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Rally on Saturday, Sept. 14. During the PARL Rally, mayoral candidates Michael Duggan and Benny Napoleon engaged in crucial conversations regarding their stance and evidence of support for public affairs and religious liberty.

As Seventh-day Adventists, did you know there is a litmus test when it comes to voting for candidates? That’s right, and it’s not the candidate’s position on abortion, gun control, capital punishment or gay marriage. Rather,

it’s the candidate’s stance on public affairs and religious liberty.

To formulate questions for the candidates, the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy served as the sole sources. The PARL ministry reflects the Golden Rule (see Luke 6:31), showing ourselves friendly (see Proverbs 18:24) and protecting liberty of conscience (see Joshua 24:15).

In *Last Day Events*, p. 127, it reads, “We are not to vote for men that use their influence to repress religious liberty. If we do, we are partakers of them with the sins in which they commit while in office.”

Ellen G. White states on p. 127 in *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, “A religion that leads men to place a low estimate upon human beings, whom Christ has esteemed of such value as to give Himself for them; a religion that would lead us to be careless of human needs, sufferings, or rights, is a spurious religion. In slighting the claims of the poor, the suffering, and the sinful, we are proving ourselves traitors to Christ.”

In separate conversations during the PARL Rally, both candidates stated their support for religious freedom; cited evidence throughout their careers in supporting liberty of conscience; answered questions of how they would be responsible in handling “human needs, sufferings or rights” as it relates to poverty, income inequality and voting rights.

Duggan shared how Toson Antwan Knight, a volunteer in his campaign and member of the Detroit Center Church, exposed him to Adventism. Napoleon expressed appreciation for the invitation and noted he did not know Seventh-day Adventists existed prior to his invitation to the PARL Rally.

In *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 140, it reads, “If those who are workers together with Him will be men of opportunity, doing their duty bravely and faithfully, God will convert men who occupy responsible positions, men of intellect and influence.”

“I believe that the PARL ministry is evangelism and it is *the* ministry that will hasten the second coming of Christ, and is the most underutilized ministry of the church,” states Edward Woods III, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Lake Region Conference. “The Metro Detroit PARL Rally was a team success featuring Elder Leon Bryant, pastor of the City Temple Church; Beauty Ikeri; Malissa Martin; conference administration; Detroit city pastors; and the Detroit Mass Choir, led by Gerald Ian Fisher-Curley and Eric Gray.”

Beauty Ikeri, Esq., PARL leader, City Temple Church, and a practicing attorney in Detroit, and Malissa Martin communications and audiovisual leader, City Temple Church, and a published author who owns Sanford Martin Publishing, LLC



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

Andrews University Department of Music invites you to attend either or both of their 2013 holiday concerts: Choral holiday concert, "Welcome Christmas," **Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m.**; and wind symphony "Holiday Concert," **Dec. 7, 8:00 p.m.** For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Howard Center Box Office at 269-471-3560 or 888-467-6442.

The 11th annual Andrews University Music and Worship Conference is just more than a month away, **Jan. 9-11, 2014!** The 2014 Worship Conference will feature a variety of outstanding presenters who will offer biblically-rooted principles and practices for worship and music ministry that glorifies God, transforms worshipers and changes the world. For registration and more information, visit <http://www.cye.org/mwc>, or email worshipconference@andrews.edu. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn, be inspired, connect with other leaders and worship God together!

Howard Performing Arts Center celebrates its ten-year anniversary with a stellar line-up for the 2013-2014 season of its concert series, "Howard Center Presents ...". More information is available on the website, <http://howard.andrews.edu>, or by calling the Box Office at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560.

Sat., Jan. 18, 2014, 7:00 p.m.: National-ly-famous lyric soprano Faith Esham

will perform selections that include pieces by Hugo Wolf and Henri Duparc. Known for both her musicality and ability to express poignant emotion, GRAMMY Award winner Faith Esham brings theatricality to the classical stage. Esham is currently an adjunct professor of voice at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in New Jersey.

Sun., Jan. 19, 2014, 7:00 p.m.: Israel Houghton and New Breed will take the stage at HPAC. The highly-popular group of world-class musicians unites to create a revolutionary fresh sound, which fuses gospel praise with contemporary worship music.

Sat., March 8, 2014, 8:00 p.m.: A piano trio performance featuring Andrews University professors Claudio Gonzales and Chi Yong Yun as well as renowned cellist German Marcano, will wrap up the season.

Lake Union

Offerings

Dec. 7 Local Church Budget

Dec. 14 Adventist Community Services

Dec. 21 Local Church Budget

Dec. 28 Local Conference Advance

13th Sabbath

Dec. 28 Trans-European Division

Special Days

Dec. 7 Bible Sabbath

Michigan

Great Lakes Adventist Academy Department of Music invites you to celebrate the Christmas season by attending two concerts of beautiful music. On **Dec. 13** at 7:30 p.m., the full choir, string ensemble, bell choir and brass ensemble will perform a sacred repertoire in the Cedar Lake Church in Michigan. All music groups, including the wind symphony, will present "A Christmas Celebration" concert Sat. evening, **Dec. 14**, at 7:30 p.m. Join faculty, staff and students on the campus for a musical extravaganza!

North American Division

The 2014 NAD Prayer Conference, "I Go to the Rock," is a special conference which will include dynamic worship, inspirational speakers, powerful times of prayer and practical workshops. The Conference takes place **Jan. 9-12, 2014**, at Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa, 1 Old Golf Course Rd., Monterey, Calif. Pastors, local church prayer coordinators, leaders and church members are invited to attend. For more information, visit <http://www.adventsource.org/as30/event.registration.details.aspx?event=114&umschk=1>.

Just Claim It is a youth and young adult prayer ministry for the local church, designed to connect individuals in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Every two years, the JCI convention attendees come together to celebrate the blessings of God through salvation and service. This year's event will be **Feb. 19-23, 2014**, at Double-Tree by Hilton Hotel Miami Airport & Convention Center, 711 NW 72nd Ave., Miami. Who should attend? Local church youth, young adults, youth and senior pastors, teens and anyone with a passion for ministering to youth and children. For additional information, visit <http://www.adventsource.org/as30/event.registration.details.aspx?event=115&umschk=1>.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Academy Upcoming Events for 2013-2014. For more information on these events, contact the school at 920-623-3300.

Dec. 13-14: "Journey to Bethlehem" Christmas pageant

Dec. 21: Christmas Concert

Feb. 1, 2014: Junior Benefit

April 3-5, 2014: Elementary Music Festival

April 25, 2014: Alumni Golf Classic

April 25-27, 2014: Alumni Homecoming 2014

May 10, 2014: Spring Concert

May 23-25, 2014: Graduation Weekend

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 27	Jan. 3	Jan. 10
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:15	5:15	5:17	5:20	5:26	5:32
Chicago, Ill.	4:20	4:20	4:22	4:26	4:31	4:38
Detroit, Mich.	5:00	5:00	5:02	5:06	5:11	5:18
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:20	5:20	5:23	5:26	5:31	5:38
La Crosse, Wis.	4:28	4:28	4:29	4:34	4:39	4:46
Lansing, Mich.	5:05	5:05	5:07	5:10	5:16	5:23
Madison, Wis.	4:23	4:23	4:25	4:29	4:34	4:41
Springfield, Ill.	4:34	4:34	4:37	4:40	4:45	4:52

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.

Obituaries

ANDREWS, Cecil L., age 84; born Aug. 8, 1928, in Cody, Neb.; died Feb. 25, 2013, in Powers, Mich. He was a member of the Wilson (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Betty (Larson); sons, Oscar, Rick, Reece and Roy; daughters, June Erickson, Janine Hewlett and Reva Kleiman; brother, Joe; 19 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Anthony Ludwig, and interment was in Wilson Church Cemetery.

BERGER, Ralph M., age 89; born March 28, 1923, in Carney, Mich.; died Jan. 23, 2013, in Apopka, Fla. He was a member of the Wilson (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Leone (Robinson); sons, Gary and Tom; brother, Howard; five grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Anthony Ludwig, with private interment.

GARROW, Margaret (Thomason), age 58; born Oct. 25, 1954, in Flint, Mich.; died July 30, 2013, in Midland, Mich. She was a member of the Clare (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Lawrence; and sisters, Linda, Vicky, Louise, Missy and Vonnie.

Funeral services were conducted by Russell Thomas, with private interment.

GEMBROWSKI, Anthony E., age 83; born June 9, 1930, in Saginaw, Mich.; died Sept. 27, 2013, in Saginaw. He was a member of the Saginaw Church.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon (Hargash) Fliegel; son, Martin; daughters, Abigail Gembrowski and Pamela Mabry; stepdaughter, Susan (Fliegel) Tanke; 11 grandchildren; one step-grandchild; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Benjamin Garcia, and interment was in

Chapel Hill Cemetery Mausoleum, Free-land, Mich.

GRIMES, Wilbur N., age 84; born April 2, 1929, in Coldwater, Mich.; died Aug. 2, 2013, in Coldwater. He was a member of the Burlington (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Vivian (Aldrich) Stoudt; sons, Charles and Jerry Stoudt, and Kevin Grimes; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Joel Nephew, and interment was in Riverside Cemetery, Union City, Mich.

JONES, Honore L. (Roberts), age 66; born May 4, 1947, in Three Rivers, Mich.; died June 13, 2013, in Elkhart, Ind. She was a member of the Elkhart Church.

Survivors include her husband, Steven; sons, Ted and Tim Keckler; stepdaughters, Angela and Stephanie Jones; brother, Frederick P. Roberts; sisters, Marjorie Baker and Linda Lori; 13 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Don Greulich and Harry Hartman, and interment was in Constantine (Mich.) Cemetery.

KIND, Lois E. (Wachter), age 82; born July 21, 1931, in Bagley, Mich.; died Sept. 14, 2013, in College Place, Wash. She was a member of the Waukesha (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Chuck and Brian; daughter, Cindy Brown; foster children, Gail Kader and Joseph Lafayette; brother, Delbert Wachter; sisters, Ellenor Watkins, Arda Blevins, Maureen Zimmerman and Sharon Ervin; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Mike Lambert, and interment was in Prairie Home Cemetery, Waukesha.

KREUTZMAN, Russell R., age 82; born July 15, 1931, in Appleton, Wis.; died Sept. 30, 2013, in Appleton. He was a member of the Fox Valley Church, Neenah, Wis.

Survivors include his wife, Joan G. (Gast); son, Kim; daughter, Kay Robbins; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by William Ochs, and interment was in Highland Memorial Park Cemetery, Appleton.

LORENZ, Alice M. (Kofler), age 69; born March 16, 1944, in Neenah, Wis.; died Sept. 28, 2013, in Appleton, Wis. She was a member of the Green Bay (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Ken; sons, Keven and Keith Lorenz; stepson, George Lorenz; daughters, Lisa Lorenz, Mary (Lorenz) Fischer and Julie (Lorenz) Young; stepdaughters, Debbie (Lorenz) Krause and Cindy (Lorenz) Verstegen; brother, John Kofler; sister, Jean Braun; 18 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by William Ochs, and interment was in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Seymour, Wis.

MOON JR., Donald "Bub" H., age 71; born March 30, 1941, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Dec. 19, 2012, in Escanaba, Mich. He was a member of the Wilson (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Charlotte (Berger); son, Kurt; daughter, Sydney Ronanoff; sisters, Kathleen Ekkens and Eileen Horne; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Anthony Ludwig, and interment was in Wilson Church Cemetery.

RHEINSCHMIDT, Myron C., age 86; born June 13, 1926, in Mosinee, Wis.; died March 21, 2013, in Harrison, Ark. He was a member of the Wisconsin Academy Church, Columbus, Wis.

Survivors include his wife, Jeannette (Youngs); son, Glenn; daughters, Connie Moore and Rose Poyner; brothers, Emil and John; sister, Orpha Hebbard; six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Jim Martin, with private interment.

RHODES, C. Dwight, age 90; born Oct. 30, 1922, in Pontiac, Mich.; died April 11,

2013, in Springfield, Mo. He was a member of the Holly (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his daughters, Karen A. and Lynette D. Rhodes; brother, Dale V.; and sister, Beverly A. MacDonald.

Funeral services were conducted by Hiram Rester and Bob Cornelisse, and interment was in Missouri Veterans Cemetery, Springfield.

STREFLING, Michael, age 86; born Nov. 1, 1925, in Galien, Mich.; died Oct. 19, 2012, in Stephenson, Mich. He was a member of the Wilson (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth (Tyler); son, Neil Strefling; stepson, Rob Haas; daughters, Nathalie Rennell and Leah Bowers; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services at Wilson Church were conducted by Tony Ludwig and at Berrien Springs (Mich.) Village Church by Paul Pellandini, and interment was in Spring Lake (Mich.) Twp. Cemetery.

TODD, Dennis L., age 72; born Jan. 8, 1941, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Aug. 27, 2013, in Battle Creek. He was a member of the Burlington (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Alma (Byam) Dewey; sons, George and Tom Dewey; daughters, Beth Lawhead, Donna Cennick, Lori Skrychi, Lynn Iles, Sharon Smith and Becky Maddes; brother, Doug; sister, Kathy Byrd; 25 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Doug Dewey, and interment was in Oakhill Cemetery, Battle Creek.

WOODS, Charles, age 85; born March 18, 1928, in East Palatka, Fla.; died Sept. 25, 2013, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs. Charles was assistant treasurer of the Lake Region Conference from 1966-1970, and associate treasurer of the Lake Union Conference from 1970 until his retirement in 1996.

Survivors include his wife, Delores (Eason); daughter, Carletta Woods; and sisters, Bennie and Rosa Woods.

Memorial services were conducted by Dwight K. Nelson, with private interment.

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Plays Well With Others

BY GARY BURNS



Documentary filmmaking is a collaborative process that employs the knowledge, gifts, talents and perspectives of multiple people. In an academic setting, the creativity and technical aptitude of each student is important, but it's not everything. In my classes, students also were graded on how well they worked with others. Only those whom I would recommend for hire could qualify for an "A."

During the span of 40 years, I've worked with or taught several who had the technical skills and expertise, but no one else could work with them. Do you remember one of the categories on your first report card? I long thought about grading these people by giving them a T-shirt that read, "Does Not Play Well With Others." But I suppose if I did, I'd have to wear one myself!

Jesus must have been very frustrated those three-and-a-half years as He observed the disciples going through feelings of jealousy, competition, anger, fear and hatred. That's why He prayed, *Father, may they be one* (See John 17:21). And His prayer was answered during the ten days that led up to Pentecost. But, as the church grew, new people had to go through the transformative process. Much of the content of Paul's letters spoke to this issue.

Great filmmaking is a collaborative process that employs the giftedness of multiple individuals to produce a film exponentially better than what any one person can do alone. It's the same in the church. To be true partners with God, we must be willing to partner with one another.

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

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A Call for Prayer

BY DEENOEL CLAYTON

There is no greater time than right now for young people to embrace the calling of the Holy Spirit. His whole desire for our lives is complete sacrifice and a willingness to be made willing to His perfect will. As young adults, we are faced with so many challenges — some too overwhelming to speak about publicly, but thank God for prayer.

Prayer has changed my life. There is a saying, “Little prayer, little power; much prayer, much power.” The enemy would have it that we, as young people, feel no need to pray or come to God wholeheartedly, or fully surrendered to wanting to hear His voice.

I recently attended a regional seminar in Alabama where believers of God’s kingdom message of Daniel 2:44 and Matthew 24:14 came together to fellowship and worship. The presence of the Holy Spirit was there, and we were studying about who we are. We are seeds of Abraham! Royal kings and queens! And we are believers in an almighty God who hears and answers prayers.

The call was given to pray, and the Holy Spirit impressed me to pray aloud. I never felt so much power and mercy upon my soul. That day, I poured out my heart for the young people around the world that we may turn away from our idols and turn completely to God for strength and mercy. And that no matter how hard we want to run away from our current situations or rebel against our parents, we need to stay grounded in prayer and study.

After praying and pouring out my heart, many people were in tears; some even said I was filled with the Holy



DeeNoel Clayton

Spirit. The young people who were there indicated they were touched by my prayer. It was truly a blessing from God.

Ellen White says, “A great work is to be done, and this work has been entrusted to those who know the truth. They should make mighty intercession with God for help now” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 454).

The great work to be done has been entrusted to us, as Seventh-day Adventists, who have the truth of the Three Angels Messages, health message, the message of God’s holy Word, and the present truth of God’s everlasting kingdom, which shall be preached to the world and then the end shall come. God is looking over the Earth for His people that will have a complete revival and reformation within their hearts and pour out their spirit to Him in prayer so He may work a great work that no man has ever experienced before.

My prayer is for the young, like myself, that we may pray.

DeeNoel Clayton, 27, is a member of the Mizpah Church in Gary, Indiana. She is an adjunct faculty at Ivy Tech where she teaches keyboarding.

Mission to Paradise

ASHLEIGH JARDINE

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." —Mark 16:15 NIV

"I wanted to be a student missionary so I could challenge myself and get closer to God," says Erin Powers, a student at Andrews University. "I wanted to mature both as a person and spiritually." This year, Erin is serving as a student dean at Hawaiian Mission Academy in Honolulu.



Erin Powers

Her decision to do missions began in 2012 when Erin was working at Camp Au Sable in Grayling, Michigan. It was her first summer as a full-time girls counselor, and she loved the relationships she was making with the campers and staff. Erin's cabinmate had been a student missionary before, and she enjoyed sharing her experiences with Erin and their girls.

"Hearing her stories about being a student dean sounded like counseling for a whole year," recalls Erin. "The idea was really appealing to me at the time." Though she never had considered it before, Erin prayed about being a student missionary, and soon felt God calling her to go overseas.

When she returned to Andrews that fall, Erin contacted Campus Ministries and began the search for student dean positions outside the United States. When she realized most positions had already been filled, Erin applied to Hawaiian Mission Academy. To her excitement, she was accepted to the school just before leaving for another summer at camp. Several weeks later, one of her best friends, Jordy Webster, learned he also would be a student missionary at the academy.

Since August, Erin has been in Hawaii leading dorm worships and spending time with the students. She occasionally helps with classes and tutoring, and enjoys the fellowship of her new school family.

Besides her ministry on the island, Erin has enjoyed six summers as a staff member at Camp Au Sable. There, she has worked many jobs — from the kitchen to the ropes course, to housekeeping and counseling.

"I just love what camp is about," Erin says. "Everything that happens there is very powerful. I'm so happy to be a part of that ministry."

When she finishes at Andrews, Erin hopes to work in the medical field where she can continue to serve others.

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

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