

Lake Union HERALD

APRIL 2014



ADVENTIST EDUCATION

BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW GENERATION

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



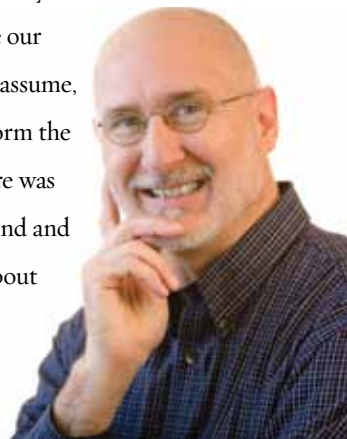
In every issue...

- 3 President's Perspective
- 4 From My Perspective
- 6 Family Ties
- 7 Healthy Choices
- 8 Present Truth
- 9 Conversations with God
- 10 Sharing our Hope
- 11 Conexiones
- 28 Telling God's Stories
- 30 AMH News
- 31 Andrews University News
- 32 News
- 36 Announcements
- 37 Mileposts
- 38 Classifieds
- 41 Partnership with God
- 42 One Voice
- 43 On the Edge

In this issue...

We have just gone through the process of building a new facility which allows Andrews University to expand their campus to include our present buildings on College Avenue. And as you may rightly assume, we had a lot of blueprints (only they're no longer blue) to inform the contractors exactly where and how every detail of the structure was to be built. More important than a church building are the mind and character of each young person. This edition of the *Herald* is about building lives after the divine pattern.

Gary Burns, Editor



Features...

- 12 A Blueprint of Adventist Education for a New Generation by Garry Sudds
- 16 Preparing Students for Heaven and Harvard by Monica Nudd, Amy Snider and Throstur Thordarson
- 18 Expanding Mission Outreach by Floyd Counsell
- 19 Faith in Action by Steve Baughman
- 21 Hands-on Evangelism by Steven Atkins
- 22 Opening Doors in the Emerald Isle by Philip Engelman
- 23 Plug Them In! by Delwin Garcia
- 24 Answered Prayers by Keith N. Nelson
- 25 Saturated in the Love of God by Melissa Murrill

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Spiritual Formation

Some of the discussions and the purveyors of misinformation regarding spiritual formation have troubled me. Some feel that anything associated with the academic term “spiritual formation” is false and full of error. Others are very supportive of spiritual formation as a simple focus on developing a sanctified life.

Scripture lays out very important spiritual values: fervent prayer, confession, repentance, abiding in him, receiving the power of the Holy Spirit and more. From a young child, Jesus constantly was formed by his walk with the Father, and he sought to form his followers into the same relationship. His life was linear, growing in his intimacy with the Father through communion with him. The academic term for Jesus’ experience is spiritual formation in the truest sense.

Is this not the greatest need for God’s remnant people? So, if a deep walk, an abiding and deep, spiritually-formed life is to be our goal, why the controversy? For every truth, every godly value, every good thing, the enemy of our souls has developed one or more counterfeits. Some prime examples include the assurance of salvation versus once saved, always saved, and the grace of God making obedience unimportant versus the grace of God empowering us to obey.

Within the focus of spiritual formation, there are some misguided seekers and teachers who lead many away from an experience that is a true, deep and Spirit-transforming walk with God. Eastern and New Age religious theology and practices have made major inroads into some Christian circles. Meditative trances, with a focus on emptying the mind for the sole purpose of experiencing some alternate mental state, are obviously not biblical. Yet, emptying our minds of the day-to-day distractions to worship God and receive instruction from him is a worthy goal and embodies our understanding of an intended purpose of the Sabbath.

At its 2005 General Conference Session, the Seventh-day Adventist Church voted to add a new description of a fundamental belief titled “Growing in Christ,” giving greater emphasis to a practice in the Church from its beginning. The last portion reads, “In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of his character, communing with him daily in prayer, feeding on his Word, meditating on it and on his providence, singing his praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to his salvation, his constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience.”

This accurately describes what the Adventist Theological Seminary has been teaching in its curriculum for generations of ministers under the academic term, “spiritual formation.” However, several years ago, the Seminary changed the terminology in their course titles and descriptions from “spiritual formation” to “biblical spirituality” to avoid confusion.

So here’s my bottom line: We must walk with God as did the patriarchs of old, seek his face, consecrate our hearts to him, and grow in his righteousness. We must be aware of and avoid the counterfeits the enemy produces to cause confusion, while remaining focused on a Bible-based intimacy with our heavenly Father.

Let us not discourage people from experiencing and receiving the blessing God intended us to have through the power of his Word and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, just because the enemy came up with a counterfeit.



Teen Depression: Clearing the Fog

BY MARYELLEN ELLER

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 4,600 adolescents die annually as a result of suicide, the third leading cause of death for ages 10–24. Additionally, 156,000 children ages 10–24 are treated annually in emergency departments for self-inflicted injuries. In a recent survey of nearly 6,500 teens, one in eight reported they had contemplated suicide while one in 25 had attempted suicide in the past year. Nearly 50 percent of those individuals never received mental health treatment. Sadly, Adventist youth are not immune to this disease; in fact, the rate of reported suicide attempts is higher among Christian youth, nearing one in 15.

Fortunately, depression is a treatable disease. The goal of this article is to dispel the misconceptions surrounding teen depression by highlighting early warning signs and providing information about when to seek help.

Is My Teen Depressed?

Teenagers are at increased risk for depression due to the challenges that adolescence brings: puberty, sexual orientation, bullying and parent-child conflict, just to name a few. Teen depression is not just bad moods or occasional melancholy. Depression consumes everything you are, filling you with a sense of hopelessness, self-hatred and anger. Classic depression in adults usually is associated with a combination of sadness, a lack of fulfillment, loss of interest, guilt, decreased energy, isolating behavior, poor concentration, and changes in diet and sleep patterns.

Teen depression can be present in a similar fashion, but it is usually more difficult to recognize and often passed off as “a phase.” Contrary to popular belief, depressed teens may never appear sad or withdrawn. They may demonstrate



MaryEllen Eller

one or all of the following “red flags.” Depressed teens often present with increased irritability, aggression, frequent crying, restlessness, low self-esteem, fatigue and loss of interest. Talking or joking about suicide is always a “red flag,” and should always warrant further discussion. Additional “red flags” include: passive suicidal ideation (“I’d be better off dead”), reckless behavior, unexplained physical symptoms (such as stomachaches or headaches), giving

away prized possessions, saying goodbye to friends and family members for good, and seeking ways to kill themselves. If your teen threatens to act on suicidal thoughts or tells you they attempted suicide in the past, take it seriously and immediately seek professional medical help. Every suicide attempt is an expression of extreme distress, not just a cry for attention.

I Think My Teen is Depressed: What Do I Do Now?

Talk, Talk, Talk

The best defense against depression and suicide is early detection and intervention. Studies have shown that



If you suspect your teen is actively suicidal, seek mental health treatment immediately, and do not leave your child alone for any reason.

discussing suicide significantly reduces the chance an individual will act on their plan. If you detect “red flag” behavior, address it immediately in a non-judgmental, supportive way. Be specific about what behaviors concern you, and allow your teen to explain. For example, “I’ve noticed your temper has seemed short for the past month. Why do you think that is?” or “Your teacher noticed you’re having a hard time concentrating in class. What can we do to help you?” Don’t be surprised if your teen is reluctant to open up; depressed teens often are isolated from their emotions (“blocking” is a common coping mechanism used by teens), making it difficult for them to verbalize their feelings.

Trust Your Instincts

After confronting your teen and offering support, trust your instinct. If they cannot explain their behavior or insist nothing is wrong but your “red flags” are still waving, seek professional help. It may be easier for them to open up to a stranger.

Reinforce the Safety Net

It is very important for teens to have a wide safety net. Talk with your teen’s teachers, mentor, school counselor or youth pastor about your concern. Also, make an immediate appointment with your teen’s primary care physician for a depression screening.

Treatment: The Journey Back to Health

Treating depression takes time and can involve a variety of treatment options. The most important thing you can do during this time is remain patient. Be prepared to experience setbacks, frustration, anger and exhaustion. Celebrate little victories. Remember, your teen is not being difficult on purpose.

Research supports that a holistic approach is the most beneficial for recovery. A balanced diet, physical activity, sunlight, fresh air, plenty of water and 8–10 hours of sleep

every night help to defend against mood disorders. Spiritual connectedness and intercessory prayer shorten recovery time. Consistent routines and structure help teens anticipate expectations and will allow your teen to thrive. Have realistic expectations and avoid overcommitment; being too busy or overly involved places teens at increased risk for depression and anxiety.

A Depressed Teen Affects the Whole Family: Remember the “Healthy” Ones

Having a depressed teen in the home can zap all the energy and attention away from other members of the family. As a parent, remember you cannot care for your child if you are not caring for yourself. Supporting your teen through treatment is critical, but it is equally important to nurture and strengthen the whole family unit. Remember, everyone requires healthy food, exercise, fresh air, sunshine, water and a minimum of eight hours of sleep to function optimally.

It is natural to feel overwhelmed, helpless, frustrated and angry. Talk about your feelings and reach out for support. Consider joining a support group, see a therapist of your own, and have “healthy” children meet with a school counselor or therapist.

Bringing It Home

Teen depression is a challenging disease to diagnose and even more challenging to live with. It is important to recognize the early warning signs and have a high index of suspicion for depression in teenagers. Getting your teen the appropriate treatment and support is critical to ensure their immediate safety and long-term health.

MaryEllen Eller is a medical student (MS4) at Loma Linda University and a graduate of Great Lakes Adventist Academy. To date, seven of the students that were at GLAA with her have committed suicide, more than four times the national average. She believes something more needs to be done to raise awareness about teen depression.



FAMILY TIES

D.I.N.

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Someday is not a day of the week. —Author unknown

A student wrote “D.I.N.” on a little scrap of paper. We were talking about getting things done, and she told me her mom used to say, “D.I.N.” I had no idea what it stood for or what it meant. But when she quoted the words of her mom, “Do it now!,” D.I.N. made lots of sense! I took that piece of paper home, put it on the refrigerator, and say D.I.N. to myself to this day!

I dare say, each of us has procrastinated at one time or another. For some, it becomes debilitating. Procrastination is actually a habit, a bad one that involves letting the low-priority tasks get in the way of high-priority ones. For students, it can take the form of socializing with friends when you know an important assignment is soon due. For many, it’s not getting tax returns done, not sending out Christmas cards, not sorting the mail when it comes, not responding to an invitation, or even not eating a meal.



and more discomforting the problem becomes.

If we don’t have the skills or put the knowledge we have into practice, we are ineffective in prioritizing and organizing the tasks at hand. If we didn’t grow up in an organized environment, with a family who helped us to learn these skills, we can

Sometimes people say, “I’ll do it later,” “I’ll wait until I’m in the mood to do it,” “It’s just too hard!” or “I don’t know where to begin.” These are clever ways to rationalize postponing important tasks. Sadly, by doing this, we actually create more stress and pressure for ourselves.

be hindered even more.

So what can we do about procrastination? How does our procrastination affect us? How does it affect other members of our family? These are important questions to ask yourself.

There’s no magic fix, but here are some suggestions.

Acknowledge your challenges with procrastination, and figure out where it is rooted. Is it in fear, anxiety, perfection?

Why do we procrastinate? Perfectionism, feelings of inadequacy, fear, and lack of time and priorities management. Maybe you can identify other issues that lead you to procrastinate, but let’s look at these:

Use Scripture for encouragement. *And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow — not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love* (Romans 8:38 NLT).

Perfection can show itself as anxiety, and it’s the anxiety associated with needing to do an outstanding job of a task that stalls us. Worry easily can prevent digging in or even beginning the task.

Do some rational self-talk. Make two columns on a piece of paper. Write down your excuses on the left, and then write a realistic thought on the right side. For example: “I’m not in the mood right now” versus “Mood doesn’t do my work, actions do. If I wait for the right mood, I may never get it done.” You also might take a piece of paper, write a big D.I.N. on it, and put it where you can see it throughout the day!

Feelings of inadequacy can nearly suffocate us. When we do the negative self-talk, reminding ourselves that we are not up to the task, are incompetent, or want to avoid the unpleasantness of having our skills put to the test, we fulfill our own prophecy.

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

Fear is real, and not readily acknowledged in our daily lives because we are supposed to be naturally brave and self-sufficient. Sadly, the more we delay the task at hand, the worse

Monster and Rock Star can produce cardiovascular symptoms.

A Big Buzz

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Caffeine is added to some gums and candy bars.

Many people accept sleep deficiency as normal in today's busy world. To stay awake and alert throughout the day, many turn to caffeinated beverages. The new energy drinks especially help to get one revved up for the activities of the day. Caffeine elevates blood glucose, giving the illusion of an energy surge.

The sale of energy drinks has skyrocketed in the U.S. during the past decade, with annual sales topping \$13 billion. Two-thirds of those using energy drinks are ages 13–35, with males consuming two-thirds of the market. When energy drinks are mixed with alcohol, a dangerous concoction results.

While a can of Coca-Cola or Pepsi contains 35 mg caffeine, Red Bull has 80 mg per 8 oz., Adrenaline Rush has 150 mg per 16 oz. can, Monster Energy has 160 mg per 16 oz. can, Jolt has 280 mg for a 24 oz. can, and Rock Star contains 360 mg of caffeine per 24 oz. can. These energy drinks compare to Starbucks coffee, which contains about 330 mg for a 16 oz. container. When an energy drink claims to have no added caffeine, it typically contains the herb guarana, a rich caffeine source.

Caffeine is considered a psychoactive substance since it stimulates the central nervous system and alters mood and behavior. The caffeine in energy drinks can boost the heart rate, elevate blood pressure, cause palpitations and increase the risk of cardiac arrhythmia. Energy drinks should not be used while exercising since the combination of fluid loss from sweating and the diuretic effect of caffeine can leave a person severely dehydrated.

Overuse of caffeinated beverages can cause one to feel jittery, restless, irritable, anxious and can trigger serious headaches. Caffeine interferes with adenosine, the brain's natural sleep regulator. It not only causes insomnia, but caffeine also



disrupts sleep patterns and diminishes the restorative effect of sleep. Too much caffeine may hurt a person's ability to concentrate, making it difficult to study.

Children consuming high levels of caffeine manifest hyperactive behavior. Due to their smaller body size, a young child consuming one can of Red Bull may receive a caffeine jolt equivalent to that received by an adult consuming 8–9 cups of coffee.

The regular use of caffeine can lead to dependency. People start to depend on the energy boost it provides and cannot get through the day without its stimulating effect. Regular users of caffeine who try to quit may experience

increased anxiety, headache, irritability and fatigue during the first few days of abstinence. These caffeine withdrawal symptoms are relieved temporarily by caffeine consumption, which contributes to the habitual use of the drug.

Soft drinks are not the only foods to contain added caffeine. Certain brands of instant oatmeal, gum, jelly beans, candy bars, potato chips and mints have caffeine as a food additive. It is believed that caffeine builds customer loyalty.

The use of highly-caffeinated energy beverages cannot be recommended, especially for children and pregnant women. Regular exercise, a balanced sleep schedule and stress management are useful lifestyle factors for maintaining your energy level.

Winston J. Craig is a professor of nutrition at Andrews University.



PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever he goes

Press Together

BY THE EDITORS

I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one — I in them and you in me — so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. — John 17:20–23 NIV

“**I**f all who have influence felt the necessity of cooperation and would seek to answer the prayer of Christ, that they may be one as he is one with the Father, the cause of present truth would be a power upon this [land]. But the people of God are asleep, and do not see the wants of the cause for this time. They do not feel the importance of concentrated action. Satan is ever seeking to divide the faith and hearts of God’s people. He well knows that union is their strength, and division their weakness. It is important and essential that all of Christ’s followers understand Satan’s devices and with a united front meet his attacks and vanquish him. They need to make continual efforts to press together even if it be at some sacrifice to themselves.

“The people of God, with various temperaments and organizations, are brought together in church capacity. The truth of God, received into the heart, will do its work of refining, elevating, and sanctifying the life and overcoming the peculiar views and prejudices of each. All should labor to come as near to one another as possible. All who love God and keep his commandments in truth will have influence with unbelievers and will win souls to Christ, to swell the glad songs of triumph and victory before the great white throne. Selfishness will be overcome, and overflowing love for Christ will be manifested in the burden they feel to save souls for whom he died” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 3, pp. 434–435).

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:3–6 NIV).

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

- According to Jesus’ own words, for what practical purpose did Jesus pray for his followers to be completely united?
- Do you have influence? What is the nature of your influence and what is its reach?
- To what extent is cooperation a personal value to you?
- What is the key to overcoming our personal and peculiar views and prejudices?
- To what extent are we to press together?

The Lake Union Herald editors



The Benefits of Hearing God

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

It is written in the Scriptures: "They will all be taught by God." Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. —John 6:45 NLT

To hear God's voice is to be drawn to him. But hearing him also can be a very practical experience. God is very much in touch with the mundane realities of our lives, wants to help us with them, and promises to guide us if we but listen. He tells us not to lean on our own understanding but to acknowledge him in all our ways. If you do, he says he *will make your paths straight* (Proverbs 3:6 NIV).

Things can go very wrong if we fail to listen. As Joshua and the leaders of Israel took possession of the Promised Land, they signed a covenant with the Gibeonites, a regrettable mistake. Coming to grips with their mistake, they acknowledged that they *did not inquire of the Lord* (Joshua 9:14 NIV).

Things will go right if we listen. When David inquired of the Lord, listened to his response, and executed the detailed battle plans God gave him, he won great victories over his enemies (read 2 Samuel 5:17–25). That things go right when we listen, however, doesn't always mean they are easy. When Jesus discerned and submitted to the Father's will in Gethsemane, it surely wasn't easy.

Listening leads us to Christ himself. Jesus said, *Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me* (John 6:45 NLT). When the Father speaks, he directs us to his Son because all the answers to life's questions are found in him. The Father has placed his Son, Jesus Christ, at the center of history and at the center of life. All that he has to give us is ours when we come to him in faith.

The greatest benefit of listening to God is to be found in this — that we are directed by the Father to the Son and to the life he gives. Without his leading, life is impossible. With his leading, life is full and meaningful. You can't ask for more than that!

Something to Think About

- Where in the mundane realities of your life could you use a good dose of divine wisdom?
- What things have gone wrong for you because you did not listen to God?
- What things have gone right because you did listen?

Something to Pray About

- Praise the Lord as the totally trustworthy God.
- Thank the Father for leading you to his Son, Jesus Christ, the source of all good.
- Confess any inclination in your heart to lean on your own understanding instead of trusting in the Lord.
- Ask God to give you a keen sense of your need for his guidance and the ability to hear his voice.

Something to Act On

- Think ahead to one decision you have to make in the next few days or weeks.
- Ask God to guide you in that decision. Spend time listening, and ask God to reveal his will to you.

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 adaptation from his book *Joy of Prayer*. Reprinted with permission.

A Zoo Encounter

BY JULIETTE KARASIRA

On one chilly, Friday morning, October 11, 2013, South Bend Junior Academy students went out into the community for Service Day. Our motto for the year is to be a servant like Jesus by helping others, and that was exactly what we did. The K-4 grades class went to a nursing home. They enjoyed playing bingo with the elderly and sang a few Christian songs. They were surprised to hear the residents sing “Jesus Loves Me” along with them. They also enjoyed eating cookies and milk with the residents at the nursing home.

The 5-8 grades class went to the zoo. I was so excited, I could barely remember the memory verse for our test that morning. We ended up helping to put mulch in a warthog pen. It smelled like a zoo — you know, like manure. From the pen where we were working, you could hear the lions roaring. But it felt as if we were real zookeepers, partly because they gave out gloves to everyone. Some of us scooped up the mulch, others carried it to the destination where we spread it around evenly.

When we were all done, the zookeeper said that we were going to see a special treat. I thought we would get to see zebras that were in the other pen. As we were walking, I started to talk to the zookeeper about her job. I thought it was awesome that she worked with so many different animals. I told her I want to be a zookeeper when I grow up. I asked her what days of the week she works.

She said, “Tuesdays through Saturdays.”

I was kind of disappointed, and shared why. I said, “I am a Seventh-day Adventist, and I believe that on Saturdays we should rest; that’s why we call it ‘the Sabbath.’” I was relieved when she understood what I was talking about. I am not sure if her personality is easy to talk to, but it was incredibly easy to share my faith with her.

The real treat was that after we saw the otters, an aardvark and a cute, big pig, we got to meet the mayor of South



South Bend Junior Academy’s students in grades 5-8 begin work at the Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, Indiana.

Bend, Indiana! His name is Pete Buttigieg, but he said to call him “Pete.” He shook our hands and took a picture with us. He had come to thank us for giving back to our community. Then we departed. To this day, I have the picture. It was in the *South Bend Tribune*, the local Sunday newspaper.

I had an amazing time, and I will never forget when I ministered to the zookeeper. Even though I am usually a nervous wreck when I talk to strangers, it did not happen this time. When I am telling about Jesus’ love and my religion, I am stronger and my voice doesn’t crackle.

This service day activity has somewhat shaped me into who I am today. Because I met the mayor, I raise my chin higher. Because I worked in a warthog pen, I appreciate air fresheners. Most importantly, I shared my faith with someone; I feel I have impacted someone’s life. So would I do this again? Would I work with animals or go on another service day activity? Yes, I would! Why? Because it feels good to give back to our community.

I hope my testimony has inspired you to do something for God, whether it is going to a nursing home or helping your neighbor. Sharing God’s love with others is not hard, and you can start when you are very young.

Juliette Karasira is in the fifth grade at South Bend Junior Academy in Indiana.



Por los caminos de Jesús

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Necesitamos escudriñar las Escrituras y cavar profundo en las minas de la verdad; porque las joyas preciosas no siempre se encuentran en la superficie, deberíamos buscarlas como si procuráramos encontrar un tesoro escondido. — Exaltad a Jesús, p. 233

Hace ya varios años trabajé con un pastor en la ciudad de East Chicago, estado de Indiana. Este pastor viajaba frecuentemente a la Tierra Santa y luego hacía evangelismo basado en esas giras. Al conversar con algunas personas que lo habían acompañado en estos viajes descubrí que su relación con Dios y el entendimiento de su Palabra habían aumentado considerablemente. Al oír los testimonios de estas personas, nació en mí el deseo de visitar la Tierra Santa.

En el año 2011 mi esposa y yo tuvimos la oportunidad de viajar a Alemania con algunos líderes hispanos de la División Norteamericana para visitar los lugares dónde se llevó a cabo la reforma protestante. Fue una gran bendición poder conocer los lugares de los cuales había leído en el libro *El Conflicto de los Siglos*. Al concluir el viaje les mencioné al pastor Ernie Castillo, vicepresidente de la División Norteamericana, y a Sandra Juárez, directora de Esperanza TV, que sería una gran bendición si se pudiera organizar un viaje a la Tierra Santa. En la última reunión de los líderes hispanos de la



Volante de la División Norteamericana en el que se anuncia la gira a la Tierra Santa

División Norteamericana se nos informó que la División está organizando un viaje que se llevará a cabo del 1º al 10 de diciembre de este año 2014. De acuerdo a la información que hemos recibido la gira incluiría lugares como Nazaret, Belén, el Río Jordán, el Monte de las Bienaventuranzas, el Monte de los Olivos, el Mar Muerto, Jerusalén, Petra, etc.

Con la ayuda de Dios mi esposa y yo estamos haciendo planes para participar en este viaje y así cumplir nuestro deseo. Mi pregunta es la siguiente: ¿habrá algún hermano que al leer este artículo sienta el mismo deseo? Me interesa

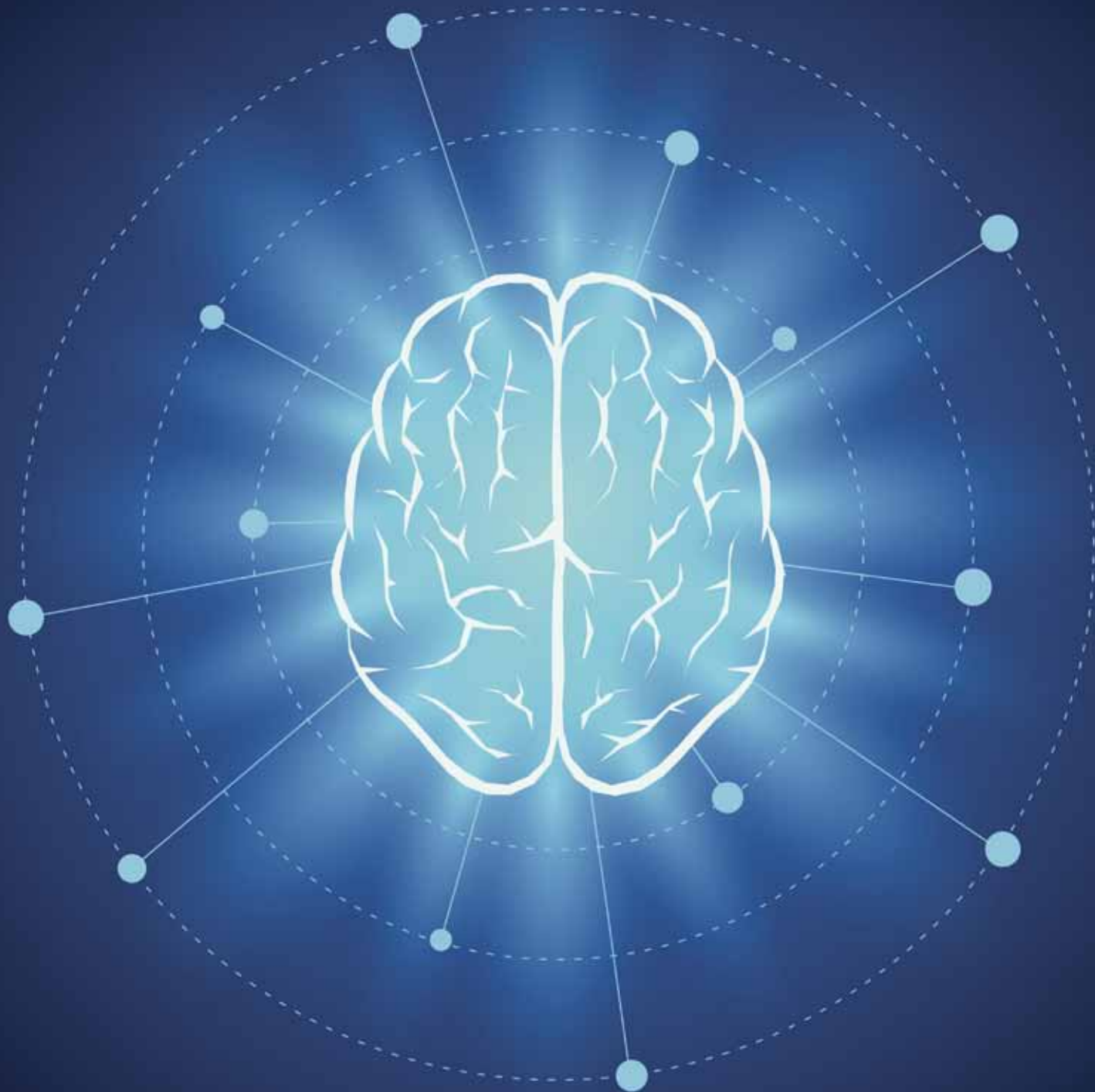
invitar en manera especial a quienes nunca han tenido la oportunidad de visitar esas tierras. El costo total de los diez días es \$2,968 lo que incluye el vuelo desde Nueva York, hoteles de cuatro estrellas, seguro de viaje, dos comidas diarias y la gira a los diferentes lugares que se visiten. Para hacer su reservación llame a mi oficina, al teléfono número 269-473-8239 para pedir la hoja de inscripción y regresarla junto con el primer depósito de \$275 antes del 1º de mayo. Luego habrá que enviar el segundo pago de \$500 antes del 1º de julio. El resto del pago, \$2,193, deberá enviarlo antes del 15 de septiembre. Para ayudar a

quienes harán su primer viaje a la Tierra Santa, la Unión del Lago está ofreciendo un descuento de \$100 a las primeras cinco personas que se inscriban. El descuento se aplicaría al último pago. En lugar de enviar \$2,193, tendrá que enviar solamente \$2,093.

Si usted desea visitar los lugares por donde anduvo Jesús, anímese. Un recorrido tal lo acercará al Señor y enriquecerá su vida. ¡Esperamos su llamada!

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

A BLUEPRINT OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION FOR A NEW GENERATION



Many refer to the book *Education*, by Ellen G. White, as God's "blueprint" for Seventh-day Adventist education. Some may misunderstand what is meant by "blueprint," thinking it is an exact, prescribed method that should be applied in all places for all time. But God's only "blueprint" is Jesus. All Christian education should be based on the principles and examples of his life and teachings. It behooves every teacher and every school board to apply the life, teachings and example of Jesus to the process of educating their students.

One example of applying these principles in the field is when the school at Battle Creek was relocated to Berrien Springs, Michigan, to become what is now Andrews University and its two laboratory schools, Ruth Murdoch Elementary and Andrews Academy. Commenting on that transition, under the direction of E.A. Sutherland and his lifelong close friend, Percy T. Magan, Ellen said, "In harmony with the instruction given by the Lord, our brethren devoted themselves energetically to the task of rebuilding the work in a new place, and of introducing only those books and methods that would help the students to form symmetrical characters, and to become useful workers in the cause. They desired that their school should be approved of by God for the excellence of its work, and for the exalted standard that it maintained. Many of their efforts are largely experimental. They sought to make their work an answer to the question, How shall our training schools for Christian workers be established in the country, and in all features of essential education made acceptable and worthy of approval?"

"In this pioneer effort our brethren advanced, not inch by inch, but in sweeping strides, in the right direction. Some advised delay in the work; some criticized and condemned; many gave a hearty support, and God blessed the efforts of the united band of workers" (Review & Herald, December 3, 1903).

Notice their emphasis on excellence and maintaining a high standard for the mission: training Christian workers. Notice, too, that the efforts the Lord blessed were experimental. That sheds light on their understanding of God's "blueprint."

In that light, let's consider how we can incorporate the following principles into our various schools with each local faculty, staff and board member seeking new, innovative and creative ways to accomplish our God-given mission with the courage to experiment and try new things to meet the challenges our founders never dreamed we would face. —The Editors

BY GARRY SUDDS

The educational crisis in America has precipitated a heated discussion among educators, businessmen and politicians. Adventist education is not exempt from the political, economic and cultural challenges, yet when we unitedly seek to accomplish our mission of preparing young people for service by making every effort to incorporate the life, example and teachings of Jesus on our campuses and in our curriculum, we can expect to receive God's abundant blessings — and we can expect to meet every challenge!

We can start by setting our sights on a higher aim with broader scope. This will incorporate greater diversity as to who and how we serve — not only our students, but members of our local community as well. This higher aim and broader scope must be holistic and include a harmonious and balanced development of the physical, mental and spiritual dimensions.

We know that the highest education is the wisdom imparted by God. Through communion with our Creator, students and teachers alike have opportunity to learn of him. The highest aim is not limited by circumstance and ability. It is only limited by faith, as were the fearful children of the Exodus who never entered into the promised blessings God intended for them. We, too, can be left behind and outside, crippled by our own fears, narrow thinking and lack of faith, content with lower aims and a narrower scope of service.

LIVING EACH DAY WITH JESUS

Several years ago, a young anthropology student, attending Northwestern University in Chicago, decided to do a qualitative doctoral dissertation on the Navaho Indians in Arizona. After consulting with his adviser for a few hours, the young man headed for the library and signed out every book he could find that had anything related to the tribe of Indians he wished to study. For two weeks our student friend poured over his books, but to no avail. Feeling frustrated that nothing was coming from his efforts, the young student returned to his adviser and stated, "It's not going to work! If I'm going to study the Navaho Indians, I'm going to have to go where they live and become one of them for the next year." The student's plea was heard by a sympathetic adviser who arranged for him to live with a Navaho family on a reservation north of Phoenix for the next year.

Early one October morning, the doctoral student — dressed in brand new blue jeans, denim jacket, cowboy hat and boots, and even a turquoise bracelet (attempting to look as much like he belonged as possible) — loaded up his shiny, new pickup truck and headed south to Arizona.

After three long days of travel, the doctoral student arrived at the reservation and, eventually, at the door of the hogan where he would live. Soon a young father appeared and, without saying a word, pointed for the student to follow him into the hogan. Once inside, the father gestured to a tiny space along the wall where the student was to place his sleeping bag and belongings. With that, the family came together to talk, leaving the doctoral student alone and outside the family circle.

After a long night in a strange place with unfamiliar sounds, the doctoral student awoke to a new day. Hoping things would be different, the young man joined the family circle for breakfast. But, again, he was neither spoken to nor acknowledged. After several more meals eaten in anonymity, the young man came up with a strategy. He simply would look for any possible way to serve the family members.

The children were the first to break down the cultural barrier in response to his playful interest in them. He then began drawing five-gallon buckets of water from a nearby creek throughout the day to save the mother some time and energy. Soon our young friend began to notice a more generous portion of stew each evening. Eventually, even the two men became good friends and enjoyed learning about each other while doing chores together.

The year that started out so ominously for the anthropology student sped by until, at last, the day arrived when he was to return to the university. When the family came together one last time beside what was now a beaten-up pickup truck, the children fastened themselves to his legs and began to cry as the student tried to say goodbye. After assuring them he would write letters and stay in contact, the young man turned to the mother of the household to express his love and appreciation for providing his every meal. The two friends bid each other farewell, and the young man turned to face the father. After looking into each other's eyes for a few moments, the two men reached out to shake hands that ended in a warm embrace of respect and friendship.

As he turned toward the pickup, he was surprised to hear the voice of the grandmother. The matriarch of the family was speaking, and all stopped to listen. Although she had not

spoken a word to him during the entire year, the bent-over elder took a step toward him and in broken English said, "I ... like ... me ... best ... when ... I'm ... with ... you."

Does that phrase express your heart response to Jesus? Don't you agree that it makes all the difference in the world when Jesus is in your every thought, word and action? Doesn't it bring you great joy to realize that you have the *mind of Christ* (see 1 Corinthians 2:16 NIV), and that he has been able to use you as a tool in his hands? Doesn't it fill your heart with gratitude when you realize you have been a co-worker with him, and that he has entrusted you to go as his ambassador? (see 2 Corinthians 5:20). What an amazing thought, that God himself works in us to provide the will and the ability to accomplish his purpose (see Philippians 2:13).

This is what Adventist educators are to see as their most important work every day. It is a holy work to help each student know Jesus as an intimate friend and to give them opportunities to grow deeper and deeper in a love relationship that will result in a life of continual service.

Serving on various school boards for the past 40-plus years, I find it interesting how often the question is asked, "Are we first and foremost about spirituality or academic preparation? It's as though the two were mutually exclusive. The process of growing in Christ demands we offer him the "first fruit" of every talent, energy and skill he has given us.

GROWING EACH DAY IN JESUS

As a school system set apart for a holy purpose, we must help students, from their earliest years, understand that God has a special purpose for each life. There is something that he specifically has designed for each to accomplish. It is the goal of true education to assist each student to reach their full God-given potential and to learn the special purpose the Creator has for them at each stage of their development and, ultimately, for their life's work.

Daniel and his three friends "placed themselves where God could bless them. They avoided that which would weaken their powers, and improved every opportunity to become intelligent in all lines of learning. They followed the rules of life that could not fail to give them strength of intellect. They sought to acquire knowledge for one purpose — that they might honor God" (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 486).

We must teach our students to recognize that the gifts and abilities they possess were given with the intention that they be developed to their fullest potential and faithfully used as their Creator intended. "Christ can be best glorified

by those who serve him intelligently. The great object of education is to enable us to use the powers which God has given us in such a manner as will best represent the religion of the Bible and promote the glory of God. We are indebted to him who gave us existence, for all the talents which have been entrusted to us; and it is a duty we owe to our Creator to cultivate and improve upon the talents he has committed to our trust. Education will discipline the mind, develop its powers, and understandingly direct them, that we may be useful in advancing the glory of God” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 3, p. 160).

SECURE EACH DAY IN JESUS

The best way to protect God’s children from the evil influences around them is to engage them in the very work they were designed to do. We cannot attempt to remove all the evil in their world, but we can direct their interests and energies to new thoughts, new motives and new desires. We can teach them how to model the ministry of Jesus who mingled with people as one who desired their good by empathizing with them, expressing his sympathy by meeting their needs. This developed a relationship that won their confidence. His investment in people opened the door for his invitation: “follow me.” Engaging our children in this work is the very thing that will keep them secure in their walk with Jesus and guard them from the distractions and enticements of the enemy.

OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE

We can be thankful for the many good churches and schools that we have throughout the Lake Union territory. But we must be careful not to fall into the trap of thinking we *do not need a thing*, while not *realizing that we are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked* (Revelation 3:17). In order for our churches and schools to receive the approval of Heaven, we must have the pure gold of undefiled faith and love, the pure and spotless robe of Jesus’ righteousness, and our eyes anointed that we might see our true condition.

Even in its infancy, Adventist education received this evaluation: “Though in many respects our institutions of learning have swung into worldly conformity, though step by step they have advanced toward the world, they are prisoners of hope. Fate has not so woven its meshes about their workings that they need to remain helpless and in uncertainty. If they will listen to his voice and follow in his ways, God will correct and enlighten them, and bring them back

to their upright position of distinction from the world” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 145).

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow his blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us his blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer” (*Selected Messages*, Vol. 1, p. 121).

Christ formed within needs to be our passionate desire, our all-absorbing priority. The indwelling Christ transforms our inner being and fashions it after his own likeness. We become dead to self, but alive to Christ (see Romans 6:11). He lives out his life in and through us, and as we continue to submit to Christ we *become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ* (see Ephesians 4:13 NIV).

Here is a final reminder regarding the “blueprint” for Seventh-day Adventist Education: “Christ is sitting for his portrait in every [student]. Every one God has predestined to be *conformed to the image of his Son* (Romans 8:29). In every one Christ’s long-suffering love, his holiness, meekness, mercy, and truth are to be manifested to the world” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 827).

Garry Sudds is director of education of the Lake Union Conference.

WE MUST TEACH OUR STUDENTS TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE GIFTS AND ABILITIES THEY POSSESS WERE GIVEN WITH THE INTENTION THAT THEY BE DEVELOPED TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL AND FAITHFULLY USED AS THEIR CREATOR INTENDED.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR HEAVEN AND HARVARD

BY MONICA NUDD, AMY SNIDER AND THROSTUR THORDARSON

About five years ago, the School Board at South Bend Junior Academy (SBJA) was contemplating how to strengthen our school. We had read reports that small schools and multi-grade settings consistently out-rank the typical schools based on a factory-style model, where all students went through the same subjects, at the same speed, at the same time, based on age. We wanted to take full advantage of our newfound knowledge and push the school to exceed all expectations.

We were not satisfied to simply have a church school; we wanted to make SBJA the best school anywhere, so looked for ways to implement the best in educational research and the best of elementary school science in a practical way. In order to achieve our dream, we spent countless hours researching educational theory as well as searching for schools that were applying such theory in their classroom.

Changes are not easy, and it has taken us some time to begin the process, but we are confident that our school will only increase in quality and serve as a training ground for Seventh-day Adventist children. In fact, we decided to affirm that one of our primary goals is to prepare our students to be active, involved members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are not simply another Christian school; our goal is to teach our students about our faith and mission, so they will have a deep desire to follow Jesus throughout their lives.

There also is a keen desire to prepare our students academically, thus a motto has been suggested that brings together the two concepts: "For Harvard and Heaven." For this purpose, we have selected five key objectives around which we center all our education. We want our students to: 1) enjoy a Bible-based life, 2) become lifelong learners, 3) become renowned researchers, 4) become powerful presenters, and 5) become catalysts for change.

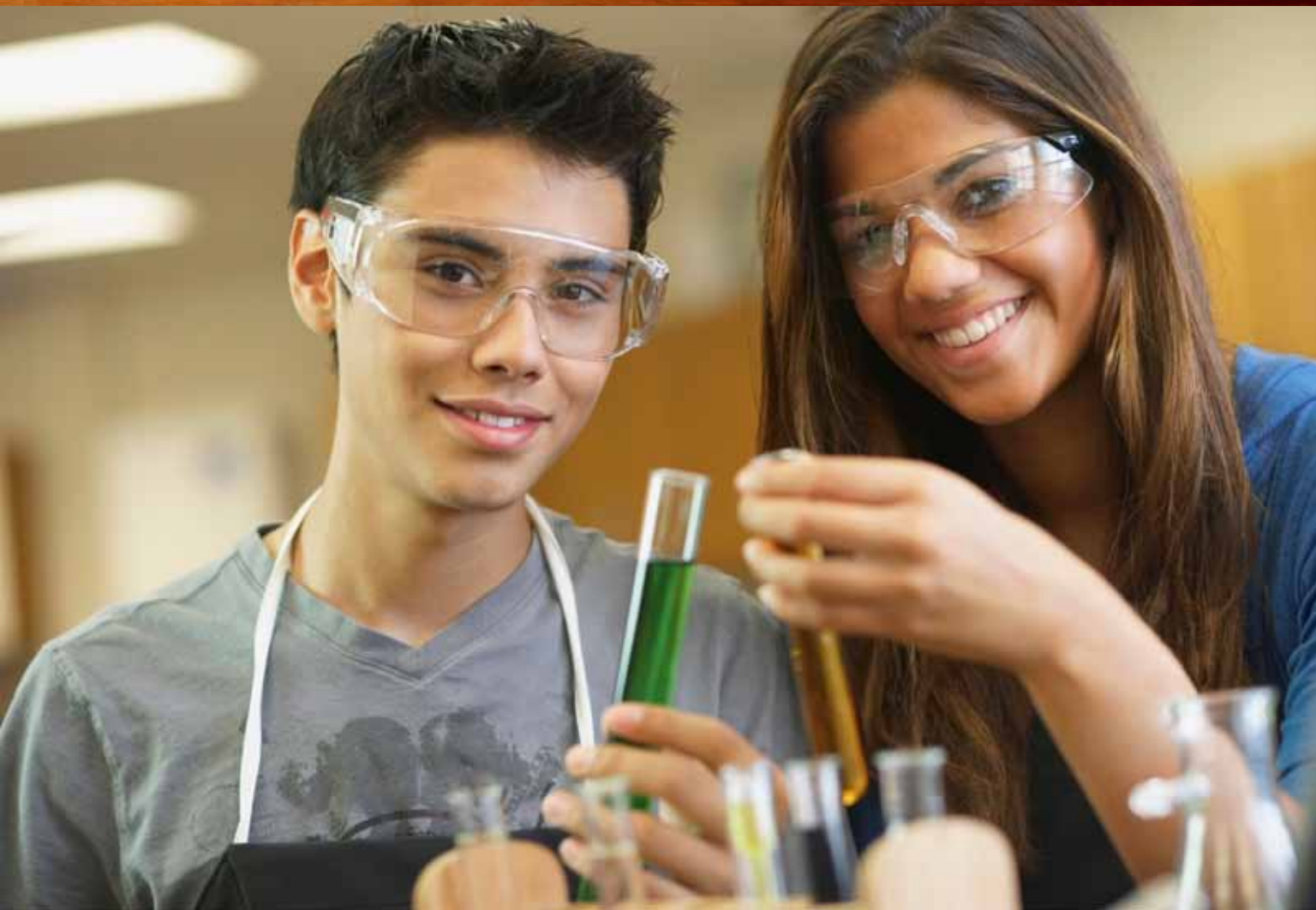
In addition, we want to ensure that we serve our parents and recognize they are our primary customer. SBJA

partners with parents who entrust our teachers and staff to help them raise godly, wise children.

As we strive to make SBJA the best school, we have adapted project-based learning, where students work in groups on projects during school hours. This teaching style not only is cutting-edge but also encourages student use of technology. When visiting our classrooms, they may appear rather chaotic. However, on closer examination, students take the initiative to find answers while the teacher becomes a resource, facilitating the learning experience and guiding the students to help one another. Project-based learning equips our students with collaboration skills, hands-on learning skills, technology skills and presentation skills they will need in college and in their future careers.

We also have embraced the concept of multiple intelligences, where we recognize that each student has different strengths and interests. Thus, we look to engage them where they want to learn and in a way they understand. We want our students to think about and reflect on what they are learning, and put that knowledge to action, so they are doing something with their hands while learning new skills. It is through hands-on activities, where students are challenged to think and do, that patterns are formed for lifelong learning.

This year, we additionally have made changes in our day-care ministry, Great Kids Academy. From its very inception, we have followed a Reggio Emilia style of learning where



toddlers and preschoolers learn through arts, crafts and games. This is a great fit with our goals at the elementary level, so now we have brought the daycare ministry under the same roof as the school, utilizing resources, manpower and facilities to serve parents with children from infancy through eighth grade.

Finally, we changed our ratio of teachers to students so we can invest regularly in resources and equipment for our school. We now look to the head teacher to manage multiple part-time teachers and staff. We value a small teacher-to-student ratio to ensure all students are getting the individualized help they need by certified professionals. This is possible, in part, through project-based learning, and student collaboration is central to the learning experience at SBJA. As a result, our finances are stronger, and we now have been able to invest in new iPads, computers and document cameras, and are looking to add standing desks, so students can stand or sit while learning, as well as robotics and other technology tools.

We can provide the best quality of education in our area with the safest learning environment. We challenge each child to do their best at every task — mathematics, writing or a social studies project. We uplift Jesus, study the Bible, take one of our two buses and explore our environment, use the vast storehouse of public libraries, and study God's creation all around us. We integrate subject matters to incorporate morals, values and biblical expectations into every topic we study. We provide a safe, healthy Christian environment that awakens the spirit of unselfish service and the desire for truth and knowledge. We prepare students for Heaven and Harvard, for academic excellence and eternity in the presence of God.

Monica Nudd is principal/head teacher at South Bend Junior Academy.
Amy Snider is Education Board chair at South Bend First Church. Throstur Thordarson is senior pastor of the South Bend First Church.

EXPANDING MISSION OUTREACH

BY FLOYD COUNSELL

This year, Battle Creek Academy in Michigan has experienced changes for the better that contain new ideas to expand our mission outreach. The school is stressing our theme, “Mission Possible,” and carrying that out in many different ways. The students have been sharing their faith in a variety of places, in and out of school. New this year is Awakened, a group of singers and musicians who want to be awakened by and aware of Christ’s love, and then share that love with others. I’m a part of the group, and we sing for chapels, songs services in area churches, and different outreach programs coordinated by our school.

One of these outreach programs is an organized effort through Campus Ministries to go to different churches around the Battle Creek area and hold the entire church service. Awakened plays for song service, several students share special music, others lead out in congregational prayer or call for offering, and several others have volunteered to

share the sermon. This gives us a way to go out and really share our faith with people, and it allows for other churches who don’t know about us to discover that we are ready to share God’s love with the talents he has given us at our school.

Being in the praise band allows me to sing for the God of the universe. Every time we sing, whether for church, chapel or band performances, I have to remember I am not singing for the people but am leading them to sing for the same God of the universe that I am singing for. God has blessed our efforts and allowed us to be used wherever He puts us. We strive to remember that, even if we make mistakes when we sing, it’s not about us, but our God.

God wants us to use our talents to benefit the world and hasten his coming. Everyone has been given talents and spiritual gifts; God has called us to use them so he can give us even more, and even perfect the ones we have. The Bible says to *sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day* (Psalms 96:1–2 NKJV). There is never a reason *not* to give God the glory. In the New Testament, Paul and Silas sang in prison in the worst of conditions. This is how important singing is, and this is the mission of Awakened. We strive to live out our school’s Mission Possible theme by presenting God’s message through our talents.



New this year at Battle Creek Academy is Awakened, a group of singers and musicians who want to be awakened by and aware of Christ’s love, and then share that love with others.

Tom Stealy

Floyd Counsell is a student at Battle Creek Academy in Michigan.

FAITH IN ACTION

BY STEVE BAUGHMAN

The blueprint of Adventist education means that, at Indiana Academy, the students' relationships with Christ come first. The principle goal of every class, program and activity is to lead the students to better know their Savior, Jesus Christ. While a quality education is attainable at Indiana Academy, if a student were to spend four years at our school and leave having not met their Savior, then we as a school have failed. In order to ensure this goal is met, students are given opportunities to put their faith in action. They are respected as unique individuals, and Christ is made the focus of all that is done.

THE BLUEPRINT IS SERVICE

Indiana Academy takes to heart the words written in the book *Education*, that a true education “prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come” (p. 13). Project 58 is a monthly service initiative that involves every student and faculty member in reaching out to the greater community in an effort to serve as described in Isaiah 58. Students and faculty work together at a variety of service-based organizations, lending a helping hand and, ultimately, better understanding what it means to put one's faith into action. Whether it is working at an equestrian therapeutic rehabilitation center, sorting donations at a downtown food bank, or baking and distributing fresh bread in the local community, Indiana Academy provides students unique opportunities to be the hands and feet of their Savior. Students are given the opportunity to reflect on the work they have done and draw inspiration from hearing the different ways God was revealed to their fellow classmates. It is this emphasis on service that enables the students to understand they are a part of a global movement of committed Christians, dedicated to living the gospel promise of *whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me* (Matthew 25:40 NIV)

THE BLUEPRINT IS PERSONAL

“In all true teaching the personal element is essential” (*Education*, p. 231). Too often, education focuses purely on the memorization of facts and trivial details, but the education taking place at Indiana Academy seeks to challenge



Students are empowered to develop their abilities to serve at Indiana Academy.



Individual learners are valued at Indiana Academy.



Service to others is an essential part of the “blueprint” at Indiana Academy.

students to find ways to apply that which they are learning. Every student is viewed as a unique individual capable of achieving great things for Christ if properly guided and encouraged. The school has undertaken an initiative to assess each student’s learning preferences so the teaching that takes place in the classroom can be tailored to engage, challenge and enable each student to best reach that of which they are capable. Indiana Academy is seeking to empower students to be the “thinkers, and not mere reflectors” that Ellen White implores (read *Education*, p. 17).

It is in this type of environment, where every student feels valued and encouraged, that a relationship can be formed between teacher and pupil that allows students to attain the academic successes that will prepare them to be the leaders of tomorrow. Even more importantly, it is in this environment, where students feel like they are a part of a

family, that the greater task of planting the seeds that lead to an eternal sense of worth as a child of the King can find fertile ground.

THE BLUEPRINT IS CHRIST

Proverbs 3:6 provides, perhaps, the most succinct definition of the blueprint of Seventh-day Adventist education: *In all your ways, acknowledge Him...* It is this credo that the faculty at Indiana Academy hopes to demonstrate and instill in our students. Every class, regardless of content area, is viewed as an opportunity to better reveal and understand the nature of Christ. The sciences testify to God’s creation, mathematics demonstrate that he is a God of order, history reveals his working in our world, and language arts better prepare every student to articulate and appreciate the nature of his Word. At Indiana Academy, the study and appreciation of the Bible is not confined to the Bible classroom. It is only when Christ becomes the center of all we do that everything we do begins to have any real meaning.

These fundamental elements are how the blueprint of Adventist education is in action at Indiana Academy. Students are given opportunities to serve those in the communities around them, teaching them that it is, in fact, our actions that testify to our beliefs. Students are valued as individuals and affirmed as children of the King, capable of achieving the success to which he has called them. Students are shown and taught that it is when Christ is the center of all things that a true education can be attained.

It is the blueprint of Indiana Academy to help every student who enters its doors to later walk out with a personal, meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ, the type of relationship that comes from time well spent in study, and that ultimately prepares them to be a part of the “*army of workers, rightly trained*” who will help to bring about the soon return of our Savior, Jesus Christ (see *Education*, p. 271).

Steve Baughman is principal of Indiana Academy in Cicero, Indiana.

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EVERY STUDENT IS VIEWED AS A UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING GREAT THINGS FOR CHRIST IF PROPERLY GUIDED AND ENCOURAGED.

HANDS-ON EVANGELISM

BY STEVEN ATKINS

The Gospel Commission declares the purpose for our schools. *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age* (Matthew 28:19–20 NIV).

This school year at Andrews Academy in Michigan, a new Bible class was created which focuses on the Gospel Commission. The Evangelism and Leadership class is designed to train the youth to do ministry in various forms, mainly focusing on worship music and speaking engagements. This class has already led in two weeks of prayer, three weekend youth rallies, a public high school retreat at Camp Au Sable, and presentations for church and Sabbath school.

For example, the class led in two weeks of prayer in November at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School. Each morning they presented two worship programs. The first was for the younger grades with the theme, “The Fruits of the Spirit.” Each student of the class participated by either leading in song service, preaching or telling stories. The second service was for the older students. At the close of the week, the evangelism class made a call and thirty-two students expressed their desire for baptism!

As the students of the class lead in changing the lives of others, their lives also are changing. Each student expressed how this class has changed their lives. Here are two of their quotes:

“I really enjoy being in Evangelism and Leadership class for many reasons. First of all, it isn’t your typical Bible class; it’s a hands-on class that actually involves you in activities focused on reaching out to others. I love how this class encourages, almost forces outreach; I have really felt drawn closer to Jesus through this class and the many spiritual aspects of it.” —AA junior

“The Week of Prayer really was an amazing experience. It was so cool watching the volume of the kids’ voices grow day by day, just like the spiritual lessons learned each day. Hearing about all the children publicly announcing their love for God and their desire for baptism just made me

realize how powerful and impacting the whole experience was.” —AA sophomore

Recently, the class reached out to the Academy students by acting out an original play, written by a friend of Mrs. Andrea Jakobsons, the class instructor. The play was about a group of seniors in an Adventist academy as they dealt with issues in their lives. Some had a deep relationship with Jesus, while others on the outside looked like they had their “act together” but they were hurting on the inside. By presenting this play, they “preached” a series of sermons that helped each student reflect on the important issues of our lives — to turn to God as their source of true happiness.

Please continue to pray throughout this school year for the evangelism class and the lives of people to which they have ministered.

Steven Atkins is the Biology and Earth Science teacher at Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Students share a series of important Christian life principles as they present a play for Andrews Academy students. Pictured are Ben Shelley, Cheyenne Manley and Jordanne Howell-Walton.

OPENING DOORS IN THE EMERALD ISLE

BY PHILIP ENGELMAN

Students from Grand Rapids Adventist Academy in Michigan were met by a rare occurrence as they landed in Ireland last spring — snow! Expectations were high as the group prepared to live out Christ’s methods of evangelism in an overseas field. Expecting the unexpected and learning flexibility were two lessons quickly acquired. Both are essential skills for mission work.

Although the primary method of ministry for this group was sharing music through choral and instrumental performances, the GRAA team also engaged in a variety of other ministries. The students provided health expos at two locations, participated in Bible studies, helped facilitate a supper club, and labored in two outdoor service activities. “It makes me incredibly happy to see others learning more about Christ and how to have a stronger relationship with him,” reported Gabriela Smart.

In one activity, teams of students removed brush and debris from a camporee site. In a second project, the students painted the railings on a highway bridge in the village of Innishannon. It was the bridge-painting project that attracted local media attention. Residents were astonished that young people from America cared enough to travel to rural Ireland to give of their time and talents for the people of Cork and Innishannon. “Ministering to the Irish people was interesting. It was cool to see what religions are like in other countries. I thought it was going to be hard to minister in Ireland. But, by befriending

the community, it became easy and enjoyable,” Adrian Smith described.

In Ireland, youth typically don’t participate in religion or community activities. Many in this community saw this group of students in action and were impressed with their willingness to share, expecting nothing in return. “The Ireland outreach project was a wonderful experience. It was great to see the impact of our songs on the audience,” reported Patrick Besse.

The high point of the two-week trip was a concert at a large church in Cork at an annual thank-you concert in one of the city’s largest venues. As a result, more than 1,000 people heard the GRAA Choir and Witness (GRAA’s advanced choir) share the love of Jesus and the plan of salvation through their music. Noah Ford added, “The singing was probably the most amazing part. At one point or another during our ministry, almost all of the students were sick. When it came to our performances, we would pray as a group and in our choir sections for the angels to sing with us. During those performances, even though we were sick as dogs, we sang better than we ever had before.”

In Ireland, the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is in its infancy. This is especially true in the southern part of the country. But, through the selfless efforts of the GRAA students, doors were opened to the gospel that never would have been opened any other way.

The Ireland trip occupied a week of school and a week of vacation, but the preparation was a year-long task involving all areas of the curriculum. Adventist schools have been established to help young people gain the skills and experiences that result in a lifetime of service for Christ and the salvation of precious souls.



In the city of Cork, more than 1,000 people heard the GRAA Choir and Witness share the love of Jesus and his plan of salvation.

Philip Engelman is principal of Grand Rapids Adventist Academy in Michigan.

PLUG THEM IN!

BY DELWIN GARCIA

Ministry in a boarding academy setting was a completely new horizon for my family and me. Last year, we were confronted with many new, eye-opening experiences as we settled into life at Great Lakes Adventist Academy in Michigan. I had heard that ministry at a boarding academy is a lifestyle, not merely a job. It sounded cliché until I stepped into the lifestyle of 24-hour, seven-days-a-week ministry and outreach to our young people.

Although overwhelming at first, the biggest benefit is that the faculty and staff at a boarding academy have unparalleled access and opportunities to make lasting impressions in the lives of our students due to the generous amount of time and association we have to reach them throughout the entirety of each day (and night). Personally, this lifestyle has afforded my family and the other staff blessing after blessing because of the numerous opportunities to share God's love to these students by inviting them into our homes, baking goodies for them, and studying God's Word with them in the evenings, just to name a few.

As time went by, a perplexing phenomenon baffled my mind in relation to the involvement (or lack thereof) of our students in the local church on the academy campus. As a newcomer, I observed that our students showed up, smiled and left with little involvement. Personal experience has taught me that my sense of belonging and ownership in my church is directly related to my involvement in my church. So, if this correlation holds true for our boarding academy students, then we are in real danger of losing them! This may be an oversimplified approach of viewing their experience (or is it?), but if our students leave their home church when they go to academy, spend four years at a boarding academy away from their home church, then transition to another four or more years on a university campus away from their home church, would it be naive of us to assume that after eight or more years our young people would still retain a sense of belonging and ownership unless they can participate and be involved?

I believe the strongest plausible solution to this phenomenon is (drumroll, please) to get them involved in local church ministry! In response to this problem, the GLAA staff and church members brainstormed. The result was the Church Partnership Program, which they immediately put into action in September 2013!



Great Lakes Adventist Academy students who participate in the Church Partnership Program commit to being involved in active ministry of local churches on Sabbath.

The Church Partnership Program is a very intentional relationship between Great Lakes Adventist Academy and three local churches within ten miles of our campus. The students' responses have been tremendous! They want a sense of involvement and belonging. Students who signed up committed to being involved in active ministry at these churches on Sabbath mornings. In turn, the members of the local churches are intentional about mentoring our students, encouraging them in their ministry, and embracing them as part of their church family. Our students assist in children's divisions, minister as deacons and deaconesses, tell children's stories, lead worship, and some have even preached sermons! Basically, they are plugged in to a local church in active ministry, giving them an overwhelming sense of belonging and purpose in a home church which will, hopefully, encourage them to stay plugged in for years to come as active, Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventists!

Delwin Garcia is principal of Great Lakes Adventist Academy in Cedar Lake, Michigan.

ANSWERED PRAYERS

BY KEITH N. NELSON

Dave Wilson was a dairy farmer in Antigo, Wisconsin, who fell in love with Pam, a beautiful, young lady. Though they came from different religious backgrounds, they eventually married. Dave's experience was the stereotypical religious culture of Wisconsin. Pam, however, was a Seventh-day Adventist, and Dave thought her religion was a bit odd. Who goes to church on Saturday? he wondered. Each quietly, strongly held to their beliefs, even after their daughter, Michaela, was born.

Pam took Michaela with her to church each Sabbath and prayed that one day Dave would see and accept the truth about God. When Michaela was ready to begin high school, Pam wanted her to attend Wisconsin Academy, the only Adventist boarding academy in Wisconsin. Dave could not imagine sending his little girl three hours away. "What makes Wisconsin Academy so special?" he argued. But Michaela really wanted to go, and soon Dave decided to give it a try. Pam and Michaela continued to pray silently and patiently for him.

When Dave visited Wisconsin Academy for the first time, he was impressed with the Christian love and personal welcome he received from the teachers and staff. Within a few weeks of returning home, Dave received a personal letter from the science teacher, Arlen Mekelburg, thanking him for sending his daughter to Wisconsin Academy, a letter he would never forget.

Soon Michaela was involved in the music program at Wisconsin Academy, and she earned excellent grades. Dave and Pam

struggled to leave the demands of a dairy farm to make it to their daughter's programs and performances. Soon, they gave up the dairy farm and turned to different crops so they could be with Michaela more often.

As Dave drove the skid steer around the farm, his mind reflected on images of his wife's and daughter's baptisms at Camp Wakonda, the Adventist youth camp in Westfield, Wisconsin. Images of the Adventist school and friendly staff also began to linger, and he could not stop thinking about this "odd" church.

Eventually, the enthusiasm of his daughter and the growing comfort Dave felt, when he visited the school family, warmed his heart. Long before the end of that first school year, Pam's and Michaela's prayers were answered. Dave was baptized by the same pastor who earlier baptized Michaela, and he became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Dave was not satisfied with just being baptized and becoming a member, he immediately began volunteering for the academy. When Jimmy Carter, Wisconsin Academy chaplain, planned an international mission trip, Dave signed up, rolled up his sleeves, and went to work. In March 2014, Dave, Pam and Michaela all signed up to be part of Wisconsin Academy's mission trip to Panama. This is the second mission trip for Dave, but not the last.

Indeed, Dave is always on a mission, sharing the love of Christ with everyone he meets. Dave told me, "I want to give the young people lessons of life to help them face some of the challenges I have had to face."

The impact Adventist education has on our young people reaches far and has eternal results. Today, Dave, the farmer in Antigo, prays every day for the students and staff of Wisconsin Academy. Thank you for your prayers, Dave. We know each one will be answered!

Keith N. Nelson is principal of Wisconsin Academy in Columbus, Wisconsin.



From left: When Michaela Wilson and her mother, Pam, asked Michaela's father, Dave, if she could attend Wisconsin Academy, he argued, "What makes Wisconsin Academy so special?" Dave soon was impressed by the Christian love of the teachers and staff.

SATURATED IN THE LOVE OF GOD

BY MELISSA MURRILL

It was October 2012, and John Gallagher was in his senior year of high school. Attending the Junior/Senior Campout meant he would have to be involved in spiritual activities, so he didn't want to go. He'd been at this school long enough to know there would be music, praying and devotional talks at this type of event. He'd had plenty of practice sleeping through chapels, and this type of retreat didn't appeal to him at all.

Three years earlier, on John's first day at Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) in Illinois, he noticed right away that the school was different. Chaplain and Bible teacher, Danaran Frederick, led the freshmen students in an exercise where they held each other's hands, and John couldn't stop thinking about how something like this would never happen in public school. This place was so strange.

John grew up in La Grange, Illinois. He went to church a few times a year and attended religious classes in elementary school. Once those classes ended, he stopped thinking about anything having to do with religion or God. During John's middle school years, he was diagnosed with anxiety and depression; he kept getting into trouble at school and struggled academically.

In 2009, he finished eighth grade. His parents decided that, once school started again in the fall, he wouldn't be going to the local high school. He needed a change. After considering many schools across the nation, John ended up at HAA.

When John first arrived at the new school, he was an atheist. His greatest worry was that no one would like him — students or teachers, simply because he wasn't a Seventh-day Adventist. He was surprised that when his new friends heard he was an atheist, they still accepted him and treated him kindly. He also was surprised with the teachers; they were different than the teachers he'd encountered in other schools, and in a good way. They seemed to really care about the students and wanted to get to know each of them.

Surrounded by Christian activities like chapels, worships and prayers still felt odd. During Bible class, John paid attention to the lesson for the sole purpose of arguing with



From left: Danaran Frederick, Hinsdale Adventist Academy chaplain and Bible teacher, and John Gallagher

his teacher, "P. Freddy," as he called him. These discussions happened both during and after class, and sometimes John would even yell at Danaran.

Danaran says that when John first came to HAA, he looked like a punk rocker on the outside, and inside he seemed like someone going in circles, unable to find true, substantive meaning for his existence. Danaran knew that true meaning in life only could be found through knowing Christ. He prayed often for John, and was there when he asked tough questions.

Back at the Junior/Senior Campout, John was in attendance, but he had settled on a compromise he felt good



Justin Alabata plays "All This Glory" in celebration of John Gallagher's baptism. From left: Justin Alabata, John Gallagher, Kenneth Parker (pastor) and Danaran Frederick (pastor)

about. He avoided staying overnight by agreeing to drive up each morning and back home each night. That way, he hoped he wouldn't have to attend as many worships. John didn't realize that this time it wasn't a worship he should avoid if he wanted to avoid God, it was a game.

The game was called "The Great Controversy." In it, students were blindfolded. Teachers were "good angels" or "bad angels," and the goal for each student was to "find" their way to "Heaven." The teachers led them either toward Heaven or tried to confuse them with verbal directions. This exercise was meant to parallel the conflicting influences between good and evil each person faces in life. Eventually, all the students found their way to Heaven — everyone, that is, except for John. He continued to struggle, going in one wrong direction and then another. He wandered around for about ten minutes, making no progress. Finally, he started going the right way. As he got closer and closer, he heard cheering. He realized the other students were cheering for and encouraging him to keep going. The closer John got, the more intense the cheering became. It

grew louder as he moved nearer to his goal. In this scene playing out before him, mirroring the real battle for his heart, the thought struck him, *The angels are rejoicing!* Finally, he made it to Heaven and joined the other students.

In November, John prayed for the first time. Although it felt strange, he continued to pray daily. Within a few days, he felt he had received a response, and he heard the words, "Yes, John, I'm here."

Justin Alabata, a music teacher and worship leader at HAA, invited him to start playing guitar with the music team that played for chapel. Justin began to work individually with John, coaching and training him. John began to connect deeper to the music.

John started to attend church at the encouragement of his girlfriend. At first, he only went so he could spend time with her but, after a while, the service became meaningful to him. Anxiety he once felt about being in church melted away as his relationship with God continued to grow.

In January 2013, John bought his first Bible. During a period of several months, he read through the entire New

Testament. John and Danaran began to meet regularly. Instead of seeking an argument as he'd done in the past, John sought knowledge and understanding. Both his heart and his life were changing.

On March 8, 2013, John's 18th birthday, he and Danaran went into an office at HAA and prayed together as John gave his life to Christ. His heart had been won over to Jesus.

In May 2013, John participated in a mission trip to Puerto Rico with the senior class. He used his new skills to play guitar and lead music in three different churches.

John graduated from HAA later that month, and that summer he decided he wanted to start a Bible study class to help others learn more about the God he discovered. John worked with Danaran to begin a weekly study called "Bare Bones Believers."

This past October at the Junior/Senior Campout, although no longer a student, John gave his first sermon, "Saying Yes to God." Once fearful of public speaking, John shared about being a part of God's family.

"This school," John says as he thinks about his time at HAA, "has given me an understanding of how to fall back on Christ. I just sit and read the Bible until I'm not discouraged; even if it takes a while, it's worth it." John says he no longer struggles with depression and anxiety as before. Many other things have changed for John, from his diet to the music he listens to. The greatest change, though, is the one that's happened inside him, because now he says he knows that Christ loves him. John is currently enrolled at a local college, and hopes to transfer to Andrews University in the future, to possibly study theology and psychology. For now, he's glad to be nearby where he can continue to volunteer at HAA and lead youth Bible studies at two local churches.

John says all his teachers made a big impact on him. "They are really awesome people," he says. "They were very patient with me." He still hangs out with Tom Dunham, his former history teacher, and considers Robert Jackson, HAA principal, his good friend.

When reflecting on the changes he's seen in John during his four years at HAA, Danaran shakes his head and says, "What an amazing God!" As for the arguments John used to instigate, Danaran says he didn't take it personally. When John needed answers, Danaran pointed him right to the Bible. "My job," he says, "was simply to love John into a relationship with Jesus Christ."

If the goal of Adventist Christian education is to provide an opportunity for students to learn who God is, then HAA is successful. The Christian aspect of the school involves more than just adding a Bible class to the curriculum. God is present in everything — the teaching of each class, the activities of each day, and in the hearts of the teachers. All the classes are taught through a unique perspective, showcasing the beauty and complexity of God's creation in both nature and humanity. Students who attend HAA can learn how to live a life saturated in the love of God just by being a part of the regular activities.

On January 11, 2014, John was baptized at the Hinsdale Church, making a public commitment, in front of friends and family, that his desire is to live his life in Jesus Christ.

Danaran compares John's experience to the parables Jesus told in Luke 15 about the poor woman who rejoiced after finding a lost coin, the shepherd who celebrated after finding a lost sheep, and the son, who after being lost in the world, returned home to a joyful father.

It's Thursday, and John is leading worship at HAA for the high school chapel. He has a big smile on his face, and his eyes light up when he talks about the song he's about to play. Strumming his guitar, he sings the words, "Oh, how He loves us, oh, how He loves us," and he gazes toward Heaven, believing in those words, words that transformed his own life.

In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:10 NIV).

Can you hear those angels rejoicing now?

Melissa Murrill is the director of marketing, communication and development at Hinsdale Adventist Academy in Illinois.

GOD IS PRESENT IN EVERYTHING — THE TEACHING OF EACH CLASS, THE ACTIVITIES OF EACH DAY, AND IN THE HEARTS OF THE TEACHERS.



TELLING GOD'S STORIES

What if...?

BY MARJIE SHADE

She sat near the front of the church: a middle-aged woman with chestnut brown hair. I never had seen her before; she came with a friend who lived in a nearby town. I had been asked to read the Scripture reading that day. As I looked at her from the platform, the Lord spoke to me, “She’s the one.” I have heard his voice only a handful of times, so I made a mental note to greet her at the end of the service. Once the service was over, I looked for her, but couldn’t find her. So, I got my things and headed for the car. Once in the parking lot, I spotted her. She was preparing to get into her car, so I walked over and said, “I’m glad you came to visit us today.”

No response. *Hmmm*, I thought, *perhaps she doesn’t want to be bothered.*

I turned and started to walk away, but I heard God’s voice again, “She’s the one.”

I stopped and turned back. This time touching her shoulder, I said, “I’m glad you came to visit us today.”

She turned with a surprised, yet pleasant look and smiled at me. “Thank you for getting my attention,” she said, “I’m deaf in one ear and wouldn’t have heard you.”

I learned her name was Dorothy Stephens, and this was the first time she had ever been to church — not just visiting the Adventist church, but ever to have visited *any* church! Her friend explained that Dorothy lived in our town, and he wanted her to see what a Seventh-day Adventist Church was like. He hoped someone would befriend her and, perhaps, study the Bible with her. Now I knew why God had spoken to me. I had been praying that he would lead me to someone who wanted to learn about him.

I’m not a bashful person so, with a big grin, I said, “Girl-friend, if you want Bible studies, I can hook you up!”



Dorothy Stephens (pictured), 52, died of brain cancer on November 15, 2013. Before she passed away, Marjie Shade, a Kalamazoo Church member, responded to God’s prompting to study with her, and introduced Dorothy to Jesus. Marjie still asks herself, Why me? Why work through someone who could have messed things all up?

She started to laugh and said, “I’d like that.”

I wrote my phone number on the back of her bulletin and told her, if she was really interested, to call me.

Then I waited, not sure I would hear from her. Early the next Sabbath my phone rang; it was Dorothy. She wanted to meet with me to discuss studying together. I invited her to my Sabbath school class and told her we could talk afterward. Dorothy came and sat smiling as I sang songs with the Kindergarteners and told their Bible story. Once the children were dismissed, Dorothy and I sat and talked. I learned that both her parents were deaf, and that she had never been to church before because of her own hearing loss. Dorothy said she had learned to communicate by lip reading, and needed to look directly at the person speaking to her.

Once she explained her situation, I realized it was important to set up relationships with other adults in the

church to help facilitate an adult Sabbath school class that would meet her needs. I introduced her to Ruth Rasmussen and Katrina Crawford, who both took Dorothy under their

THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE CALLED ME. WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN HE CALLS YOU?

wings and loved her into their circle of friends. Dorothy was a bubbly person who made friends easily. She started attending church every Sabbath.

We started Bible studies the next Wednesday. Dorothy apologized again and again for not knowing anything about the Bible. I told her that made my job easy, and it was my privilege to study with her. We started with the basics: how the Bible was arranged, who inspired the Bible to be written, who God said he was, and who was God's Son. Dorothy drank it all in! She was a thirsty soul! After a few weeks, we covered the subject of God's love for mankind and the sacrifice Jesus made for us on Calvary. With tear-filled eyes, Dorothy bowed her head and asked Jesus to take her life and make it his own. All of Heaven rejoiced!

I met Dorothy on May 25, 2013. We studied through the summer and into September. During this time, Dorothy told me she had a disease that caused benign tumors to grow in her head. She had one develop on the cochlea in her right ear a few years prior to our meeting and had it removed, causing her hearing loss. Dorothy knew she had others developing — one being on the other cochlea, but didn't want to have it removed or she would be left completely deaf.

During this time, I noticed she was having trouble reading; her eyes wouldn't track properly, and she started developing headaches. Dorothy decided it was time to go to the doctor to find out what was going on. A week later, I called to see how she was doing. Dorothy said she hadn't received the report from the radiologist, but she had seen the brain scans. She said she saw a couple of benign tumors on

her brain, but there were other tumors also — dark tumors. Dorothy said, "I'm sure they are cancer."

I listened in stunned silence. I told her that we serve a God of love, a God who cares for us, a God who is always with us, even when we go through dark experiences. We had prayer. I asked God to be close to Dorothy, to give her the comfort and encouragement she needed, to send his angels and the Holy Spirit to give her strength, and to help her hold on to Jesus! I hung up the phone.

During the next month, I tried to contact Dorothy but could never reach her. Then I got a call from Ruth who said she had seen Dorothy's obituary in the paper. She was gone. She died of brain cancer on November 15, 2013, at 52 years of age. I knew Dorothy for only five months — five life-changing months!

When I sit and think about this experience, I'm humbled. *Why me? Why work through someone who could have messed things all up? What if I had ignored God's call on May 25th? What if I had walked away when I didn't get an immediate response from Dorothy in the parking lot? What if I had not offered to study with her?*

Millions are going to the grave without knowing Jesus. God knew Dorothy's time on Earth was short. I didn't. The God of the universe called me. What will you do when he calls you? Do not miss an opportunity to answer his call.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I; send me!' (Isaiah 6:8 KJV)

Marjie Shade is a member of the Kalamazoo Church in Michigan.



Dhena Byers

Members of the Adventist Midwest Health mission team pose for a photo during their stay in the Dominican Republic. The team provided medical services to the poor, Jan. 19–26.

Mission team cares for poor in Dominican Republic

This January, a team from Adventist Midwest Health traveled to the Dominican Republic, treating hundreds of people during the organization's annual medical mission trip.

Thirty-six family medicine doctors, specialists, nurses, technicians, pharmacists and support staff spent a week around the town of Higüey in the Dominican Republic serving the poor.

"Our annual mission trip allows us to bring physical, spiritual and emotional healing to people who need it so much," said John Rapp, vice president of ministries and mission for Adventist Midwest Health. "Our goal is to serve the poorest of the poor, people who have no access to health care and, if they did, could not afford it."

Each day the team treated 100–500 patients at the clinic. Every patient left with vitamins, a toothbrush and toothpaste, all donated items the mission team collected before leaving the United States.

For people who spend most of their lives unable to access medical care, even

basic check-ups made a huge difference. One woman came to the team with an extremely infected finger, bitten while trying to break up a fight. The only medical treatment she had received before her visit was topical and oral antibiotics, which had no effect. The finger and hand were greatly swollen, and her pain level was high.

Charles Paik, an orthopedic surgeon who practices at Adventist Bolingbrook, Adventist Hinsdale and Adventist La Grange Memorial hospitals, undertook a significant effort to clear out the woman's infection, asking her to return in two days. The team prayed for a miraculous healing. When she returned, Charles was pleased with her progress.

"When I took the bandages off, ... I couldn't have been happier because the infection was draining out well," he said. Though it was unlikely she could afford further professional care, Paik left her with supplies and antibiotics, teaching her daughter how to care for the wound.

During a visit to a small community of sugar cane workers of Haitian descent, the team encountered a very sick 4-month-old girl.

"The girl had a lot of trouble breathing and a fever," said Gary Lipinski,

chief medical officer with Adventist Midwest Health. "Back home, she would have been admitted immediately to pediatric intensive care."

The team rallied to get her breathing under control. A few hours later, she was sleeping, eating and breathing more comfortably. One member of the team, Dhena Byers, held the baby for a few hours so her mother could rest and get some work done around the house.

By the end of the week, everyone came to understand how fragile life can be for those who live elsewhere. While the need in the Dominican Republic was immense, God calls us to contribute what we can, trusting he will continue the good work already begun.

"What matters most about this trip is having the chance to help people, one at a time," said Magda Gabriel, a family medicine resident with Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital. "Even if we made a difference for just one person, it was worth the effort."

Emily Goulding, Community Partnerships specialist,
Adventist GlenOaks Hospital

Barry Black speaks for Consecration

Andrews University's School of Graduate Studies & Research welcomed Barry Black, chaplain of the U.S. Senate, as the featured speaker for this year's Graduate Student Consecration service on Saturday, Jan. 18, in the Howard Performing Arts Center.

"Philosophically, Seventh-day Adventist education is holistic," says Christon Arthur, dean of the School of Graduate Studies & Research. "Therefore, our students should experience intellectual stimulation, social interaction, emotional well-being and spiritual renewal."

Black's sermon was titled "The Blessing of Adversity." Niels-Erik



Barry Black, U.S. Senate chaplain and alumnus of Andrews University, spoke for Graduate Student Consecration on Jan. 18.

Andreasen, University president, and Andrea Luxton, provost, also addressed students during the service.

Black was elected the 62nd chaplain of the Senate on June 27, 2003. Prior

to Capitol Hill, he served in the U.S. Navy for more than 27 years, ending his distinguished career as the chief of Navy chaplains.

In addition to opening the Senate each day with prayer, Black provides counseling and spiritual care for senators, their families and staff — a combined constituency of more than 7,000 people. He also meets with senators about spiritual and moral issues, assists with research on theological and biblical questions, and facilitates discussion and reflection small groups among senators and staff.

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



Church history professor Nick Miller meets with members of the International Religious Liberty Association in Athens, Greece, in January. He chaired a recent meeting of the Experts discussing religious liberty and secularity.

Professor chairs committee in Greece

During the first week of 2014, the International Religious Liberty Association, a multi-denominational religious liberty advocacy organization, held its annual Meeting of Experts in Athens, Greece. Nicholas Miller, associate professor of church history and director of the International Religious Liberty Institute at the Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, is a regular member of the IRLA Experts and served as chair of their drafting committee.

The current topic of the Experts consultation is the relationship between religion, secularity and religious freedom. Papers were presented on the tensions

and even conflicts between religion and secularism and how these dynamics impact and, at times, threaten religious freedom.

"The consensus of the group was that while there are religious-friendly versions of secularity, in the west a more religion-unfriendly version of secularism is becoming increasingly prevalent," says Miller.

This religious insensitivity can be seen in restrictions against wearing religious garb in France, forbidding religious homeschooling in Germany, restrictions on speech and counseling in relation to sexuality in Canada and America. Secular governments tend to define religion narrowly, as only encompassing worship and ritual.

"The experts on the committee called for a greater understanding of the importance of respecting not just freedom of religious worship, but of religious practice generally," Miller reports. "The ministry of churches and religious people extends beyond the church and synagogue door to encompass various kinds of educational, health and social welfare ministries. These activities in the public square also deserve religious freedom protections."

Miller worked closely with David Little, professor emeritus of Harvard Divinity School, to do the primary drafting of a document on this topic to be released later in 2014.

Other Experts members involved in this project include Ganoune Diop and John Graz of the General Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department; Rosa Maria Martinez de Codes, former Spanish Justice Department official, associate professor at Universidad Complutense de Madrid and president of the IRLA; and Robert Seiple, first United States ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom under Bill Clinton, 42nd president of the U.S.

Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication staff

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Andrews Academy performs play titled 'Words by Fanny Crosby'

Michigan—"Fanny, listen to this, please." William Doane moves to the piano and plays the melody to the chorus of "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Fifteen minutes later, Fanny Crosby has written the words for what became a well-loved hymn.

Bennett Shelley, senior, playing Doane in the above scene, and Kayla Troup, performing the adult Crosby role, were just two of the eight Andrews Academy students who were enrolled in Literary Interpretations class which produced and performed the play, "Words by Fanny Crosby," during a chapel service at the school.

This thought-provoking play highlights how many of her best-known hymns came to be written, interspersed with flashbacks to her childhood. Blinded before she was two months old, the child Crosby, played by Chrystal Porter, chooses not to let her handicap control her attitude but begins her love of creating uplifting poetry, including her first one at age 8: "Oh, what a happy child I am, although I cannot see! I am resolved that in this world, Contented I will be!"

Her teen years, performed by Anna Rorabeck, are filled with challenges, including the time her headmaster, Kundani Makimu, forbids her to write poetry for three months in order to concentrate on her other studies.

Another scene has an incredulous, cynical reporter, portrayed by Kaitlin Litvak, unwilling to see how Crosby could possibly be helping the derelicts and down-and-out street people, represented by Martha Benko and Zoe Myers, an experience which led her to write "Rescue the Perishing."

During the course of her life, Crosby wrote in excess of 8,000 hymns, using more than 200 pen



Fanny Crosby meets her husband as a young adult. Pictured are Bennett Shelley and Anna Rorabeck

Photos by Steven Atkins



An incredulous, cynical reporter is unwilling to see how Fanny Crosby could possibly be helping the derelicts and be such a humble composer. From left: Kayla Troup, Bennett Shelley and Kaitlin Litvak.



Fanny Crosby helps the derelicts and down-and-out street people, an experience which led her to write "Rescue the Perishing." Pictured from left: Kaitlin Litvak, Kayla Troup, Zoe Myers, Martha Benko and Chrystal Porter



Fanny Crosby's teen years are filled with challenges, including the time her headmaster forbids her to write poetry for three months in order to concentrate more on her other studies. Pictured from left: Kundani Makimu and Anna Rorabeck

names to dictate many still well-known hymns such as "Pass Me Not," "Tell Me the Old, Old Story," "Take the Name of Jesus with You," "Redeemed" and "Blessed Assurance."

This inspiring presentation prompted numerous positive comments from the audience, including

the following: "Just a quick note to tell you how thrilled I was last night at the AA chapel as I sat and watched the moving story of Fanny Crosby. It was a masterpiece presentation, and the performance came out so well that I long to see it again. All the students were on top of their game, and I was thrilled at the display of talent by each of the actors. If a recording was made of that play, I would be happy to buy a copy. I know a lot of time was put into that play but it was not in vain. Tell each of the students that the Lord used them powerfully to successfully relay an important story which bears significant spiritual lessons."

Jeannie Leiterman, vice principal,
Andrews Academy



Andrea Taylor

Teachers, pastors and lay leaders from across the Michigan Conference convened at Camp Au Sable, Feb. 21–23. They studied Christ’s method for reaching those in their spheres of influence.

Ministry leaders convene to learn Christ’s method to reach others

Michigan—Feb. 21–23 was an inspiring weekend for teachers, pastors and lay leaders from across the Michigan Conference. Amid icy roads and white-out conditions, individuals in dozens of angel-protected cars slowly traveled north to Camp Au Sable in Grayling, eager for the opportunity to gather together to learn more about how to show Jesus to the children and families in their Adventist schools. Despite the weather, 31 schools were represented with 185 individuals in attendance.

Breakfast began bright and early at 7:00 each morning. After enjoying fresh pink grapefruit and gooey homemade cinnamon rolls, voices joined together in song, welcoming in the day with corporate worship. Don Livesay, Lake Union Conference president, led in breakout groups and discussion. Larry Blackmer, vice president of the Department of Education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, shared approaches to marketing Adventist schools and also

highlighted the current documentary, “Blueprint.” Garry Sudds, director of the Lake Union Department of Education, focused on partnering together in the mission of reaching children for the Lord and the huge role Adventist schools play in providing safe havens in a world filled with moral compromise. Carol Campbell, curriculum director for the North American Division, brought attendees up to date on current developments in instruction and assessment, along with the integration of faith and learning.

The highlight of the weekend was Philip Samaan, a professor in the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn., who humbly presented his messages with the theme, “Christ’s Method Alone.” Sharing numerous personal illustrations, Samaan brought to life the way the Savior “mingled with men as one who desired their good” (see *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143). “We were affirmed that working for the Lord is an exciting spiritual adventure, that we serve a God with a big heart, and that when we attach ourselves to his Son, great things can be accomplished,” said Lori Randall, school board chair, Gobles Junior Academy.

Ellen White wrote, “No other life was ever so crowded with labor and responsibility as was that of Jesus; yet how often he was found in prayer! How constant was his communion with God!” (*The Desires of Ages*, p. 362) “It’s extremely easy for me to get caught up in the ‘busy’ of life, even the ‘busy’ of a life focused on doing good. It was so valuable for me to hear again that it’s not only important but absolutely essential for each one of us to find ourselves forever falling at the feet of Jesus in earnest prayer. And when we do, look out! We will be energized, empowered and on fire for saving souls.

“Let’s all challenge ourselves to work within our own spheres of influence, praying each morning before we enter that office, classroom, church or even grocery store, ‘Lord, I’m offering you my labors today and I want to bring a smile to Your heart,’” Randall added.

Justin Kim, communication director, Michigan Conference, with Lori Randall, school board chair, Gobles Junior Academy



Don Livesay, Lake Union Conference president, led breakout groups and discussion. Also pictured: Barbara Livesay, associate superintendent of Education of the Lake Union Conference



A valuable component of the spiritual retreat was time spent in earnest prayer.

Illinois Conference hosts Social Studies Fair

Illinois—The Illinois Conference Education Department sponsored a Small Schools Social Studies Fair at the Alpine Christian School in Rockford this past Nov. 13, 2013.

Area schools participated in the event, taking some three months to plan. The idea originated with area school principals who wanted to facilitate growth in this academic discipline. Coordinators formed a Social Studies committee comprised of Ruth Horton, Conference superintendent; Lori Aguilera, associate superintendent; chairperson Laura Damon, Sheridan School principal and teacher; and Kristen Landfare, Downers Grove School kindergarten teacher.

According to Horton, the primary motivation of the Fair was to allow small schools the chance to come together in an academically stimulating and vibrant setting to showcase skills honed through the process of exhibit development. “These skills include research, questioning, independent thinking, organization and commu-

nication in the areas of anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, sociology and social psychology,” says Horton.

Entries filled the Alpine Christian School gymnasium with more than 152 colorful exhibits, which ranged from Third World countries and family pets to flying airplanes and historical icons. Participating schools were Alpine Christian, Crest Hill Christian, Downers Grove, Gurnee Christian, North Aurora and Sheridan.

The Fair represented collective creativity, teamwork and just plain, old-fashioned, hard work. “Throughout our planning, we did not anticipate that our goals for this Social Studies Fair of providing opportunities for students to develop research skills, engage in independent thought processes and effectively communicate what they learned would have the outcome that it did,” says Horton. “We were pleasantly surprised at the energy and excitement students displayed on D-day, not to speak of their pride in what they had accomplished. It was all worth it. We had lots of fun.”

Cindy R. Chamberlin, communication director, Illinois Conference

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



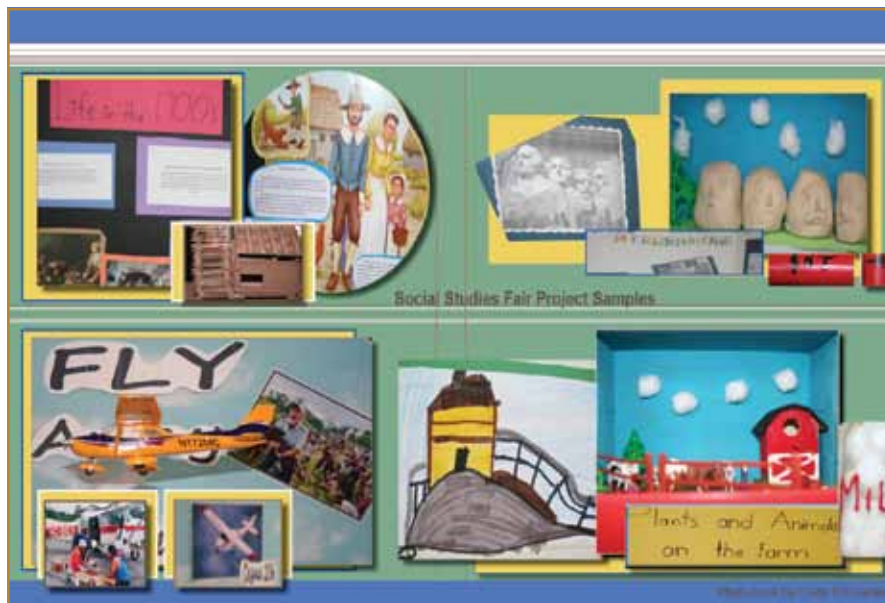
Daniel Vis

Young and old members of the North Aurora Church made history when they memorized and then wrote the book of Revelation at the church on Dec. 7, 2013. “Everyone, it seemed, wanted to glorify God,” says Daniel Vis, North Aurora Church pastor.

Revelation Challenge helps church discover the power of God’s Word

Illinois—On Dec. 7, 2013, the North Aurora Church made history. A few months earlier, church members decided to try something different — something that would bring unity, excitement and power to the church. They decided to memorize the entire book of Revelation and then reproduce it from memory! “As opportunity was announced to sign up for various passages, families, groups, school students and individuals — young and old, all rose to the challenge. Everyone, it seemed, wanted to glorify God. Every verse was eventually assigned,” says Daniel Vis, North Aurora Church pastor.

By God’s grace, more than 100 people attended the afternoon program, and the presence of God was manifested in a very real way. The program was well organized: songs of praise, a word of exhortation from the event coordinator, two beautiful music selections, and then official instructions for the big event. Tables were set



Students showcase skills during the Illinois Conference Education Department Small Schools Social Studies Fair this past Nov. 13, 2013.

up in the foyer, with pages placed on them labeled Revelation 1–22. Everyone lined up at the appropriate place to write down the verses they had worked so hard to memorize. Small children drew pictures in a separate room to help illustrate the book. Quietly and determinedly, the pages were written into existence.

After speaking to people at the event, Vis says he was “greatly encouraged. Many commented on their awakened desire to memorize more Scripture. Many had experienced the power of God’s Word, and the unity that comes from working together, and they wanted more. I saw a peace and a joy that was thrilling!”

Because of each person’s commitment to this challenge, the Aurora Church now has its very own unique copy of the book of Revelation. “We are already looking at doing our next memory challenge,” says Vis, “and can’t wait to see how the Lord blesses those plans.”

Cindy R. Chamberlin, communication director, Illinois Conference, with Daniel Vis, pastor, North Aurora Church

[WOMEN’S NEWS]



From left: Katie Moskala and Taryn Watkins make a handcrafted bookmark.

East Lansing Church makes Christmas gifts to distribute

Michigan—A “marathon” Sabbath was planned for Dec. 7, 2013, by the Women’s Ministries team at the University Church in East Lansing. The

day’s schedule included a fellowship dinner, following the worship service, then choir practice, Men’s and Women’s Ministries meetings, vespers, another fellowship meal, and concluded with a craft “day.” There were five stations individuals could visit for the very low donation price of \$5 (to help cover the expenses). Booths at the craft event included Christmas cookie decorating, custom bookmark making, Christmas card making, flower pin or hair clip making (like those made at the Women’s Retreat at Camp Au Sable in 2013), and curly-q scarf making.

The idea came from a Women’s Ministries planning/brainstorming meeting several months earlier as a creative way to recruit more people to participate in the annual community service project. The event was planned, leading up to the second annual community service project, to give a Christmas gift to a resident at an Ingham County long-term care facility who does not have regular visitors throughout the year. This year’s initiative was to give each female resident (identified by the facility’s staff) a curly-q scarf; the male residents were to receive a no-sew lap quilt. This year 22 residents were identified.

As the time grew close for the craft event, the excitement and anticipation grew for both the participants and the booth hostesses. Planners wondered if they would reach their goal. As participants worked their way around the various stations, fun was had by all. Many were excited to learn new skills and, especially, to make a scarf for a resident whom they would likely never meet. At the end of the evening when the tally was taken, approximately half of the needed scarves were made. No one was particularly concerned because a Women’s Christmas Party was scheduled for the following Saturday evening, and plans were quickly made to incorporate finishing up the project during the party.

Unfortunately, living in a state with unpredictable winters, Michigan was impacted by a series of winter storms

over the next several weeks, including an ice storm that resulted in power outages for a large number of people during a period of several days. But the church kept its promise! The booth hostess, Sharon Boyce, who was among the many without power, gathered up her husband, children and the project, and moved into a hotel for a few days. Through her coordinated efforts, a total of 24 gift bags (22 scarves and two lap quilts) were delivered Christmas Eve to the care facility for distribution by the facility’s staff on Christmas Day!

This is just another great example of God’s supreme goodness! What appeared to be bad timing and stumbling blocks turned out to be a testimony to God’s glory. The East Lansing church members were just so happy to be a part of it.

Brenda Roys, Women’s Ministries leader, University Church



From left: Delille Langeni models the newly-created scarf she made for a resident at an Ingham County long-term care facility.



From left: Marty Stuck and Sophie Philidor make custom cards to send to their loved ones at Christmas.

Announcements

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

Andrews University

Howard Performing Arts Center Events: For more information on these events, call the Box Office at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or email hpac@andrews.edu.

April 18, 7:00 p.m.: The *St. Matthew Passion* is a sacred oratorio from the Passions written by Johann Sebastian Bach in 1727 for solo voices, double choir and double orchestra, with libretto by Picander (Christian Friedrich Henrici). It sets chapters 26 and 27 of the Gospel of Matthew (in the German translation of Martin Luther) to music, with interspersed chorales and arias. It is regarded widely as one of the masterpieces of classical sacred music.

May 4, 7:30 p.m.: The Fountainview Academy orchestra and choir will perform a variety of uplifting, inspiring compositions, from old, familiar hymns like "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" to soul-stirring arrangements of "In the Heart of Jesus" and "Be Still, My Soul." Their goal is to leave each member of the audience with a desire to better know the Savior, the aim of Fountainview's many music tours and video productions since its inception. A freewill offering will be collected to sponsor future projects. Admission is free.

Indiana

Indiana Academy again will host parents and students at their annual Academy Preview Days, **April 5-6**. To attend, you must be a current student in grades 8-11. Register now at <http://www.iasda.org> for this no-cost event. For further information regarding Preview Days, call Kathy Griffin, IA recruiter, at 317-694-3260.

Indiana Academy 2014 Upcoming Events: For more information on these events, contact the school at 317-984-3575.

- April 5** Sabbath Celebration
- April 7-12** Student Week of Prayer
- April 25-27** Spring Tour (Evansville, New Albany, Jeffersonville and Madison churches)
- May 10** Spring Concert
- May 25** Graduation

Lake Union

Offerings

- April 5** Local Church Budget
- April 12** Christian Record Services
- April 19** Local Church Budget
- April 26** Local Conference Advance

Special Days

- April 5** Missionary Magazines (*Signs, Message, El Centinela, Priorities*)
- April 12** Stewardship Sabbath
- April 19** Literature Evangelism Sabbath
- April 26** Education Sabbath

Lake Union ASI Spring Fellowship,

April 18-19. You won't want to miss! The ASI Lake Union Chapter will hold its annual Spring Fellowship in Grand Rapids, Mich., at the Airport Crowne Plaza Hotel. An outstanding slate of presenters include: Dan Jackson, president, North American Division; Don Livesay, president, Lake Union Conference; and Rodlie Ortiz, associate pastor, Pioneer Memorial Church. Rich Aguilera, founder of One Mustard Seed, will bring a dynamic presentation for the children/youth program! Come and be inspired to use your gifts and talents for "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace." For more information, visit <http://www.asilakeunion.org>.

Michigan

Battle Creek Tabernacle Sacred Concert Series 2014. Concerts will be held at 264 West Michigan Ave., Battle Creek. For more information, visit <http://www.battlecreektabernacle.com>.

April 5, 7:30 p.m., Michael Card, singer, songwriter and musician. Admission charged. Michael Card has recorded more than 31 albums and wrote such favorites as "El Shaddai," "Love Crucified Arose" and "Emmanuel." He has sold more than 4 million albums. His concert will celebrate Easter and include choir and string ensemble accompaniment.

Urbandale SDA Church in Battle Creek will celebrate its 40th anniversary, **May 2-3**, at its present location. They invite former members and friends to help them commemorate. Friday evening will be an open house for visitation. Sabbath services will be at their regular time. See <http://www.urbandalesda.org> for all updates as the event draws near. A fellowship luncheon will be held after the morning service. If possible, please bring a salad, sandwiches or dessert to share. A mid-afternoon musical program of inspiration and a trip to the Hinman Church site, their former home, is planned.

Gobles Jr. Academy will mark its 80th year as a junior academy, **June 6-8**. Former students, teachers and parents are invited to join in the celebration weekend. Featured guests will be Mike and Gail McKenzie. For more information, visit the school website at <http://goblesjunioracademy.org> or call 269-628-2704.

"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion will take place **June 6-8** for alumni

and schoolmates of 1964 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1934, '44, '54, '64. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit <http://www.glaa.net/>.

North American Division

The 25th Lake Union Academies Reunion potluck will be held Sabbath, **May 3**, 1:00 p.m. Come to the Loma Linda University School of Nursing, West Hall, 11262 Campus St. (1/2 block north of Barton Rd.) in Loma Linda, Calif. For more information, call 909-748-5178 or 909-799-8039.

All Lake Union members who are former students, friends or staff of Kona Adventist Christian School are invited to its 50th anniversary celebration, **July 26-27**. For more information, contact Valerie Oskins at 808-960-2406 or Cyndi Kiyabu at 808-896-8646. The 50th anniversary celebration will be held at 82-1013 Kinue Rd., Captain Cook, Hawaii.

Wisconsin

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

- April 3-5** Elementary Music Festival
- April 25** Alumni Golf Classic
- April 25-27** Alumni Homecoming 2014
- May 10** Spring Concert
- May 23-25** Graduation Weekend

Correction

In the March 2014 issue, Adrienne Townsend was inadvertently listed as a command chaplain. She actually is a chaplain with the Training Support Command at Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Apr 4	Apr 11	Apr 18	Apr 25	May 2	May 9
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:13	8:21	8:29	8:36	8:44	8:52
Chicago, Ill.	7:18	7:26	7:34	7:41	7:49	7:57
Detroit, Mich.	8:01	8:08	8:16	8:24	8:32	8:40
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:11	8:18	8:25	8:32	8:39	8:46
La Crosse, Wis.	7:34	7:43	7:51	7:59	8:08	8:16
Lansing, Mich.	8:07	8:15	8:23	8:31	8:39	8:46
Madison, Wis.	7:26	7:34	7:43	7:51	7:59	8:07
Springfield, Ill.	7:25	7:32	7:39	7:46	7:53	8:00

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

Weddings

Katie Hahn and Saul Dominguez were married Dec. 22, 2013, in Yakima, Wash. The ceremony was performed by Ruben Munoz-Lorrondo.

Katie is the daughter of Rodney and Dawn Hahn of Reedsburg, Wis., and Saul is the son of Macedonio and Esperanza Dominguez of Yakima.

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

Anniversaries



Robert and Alexandra Dantuma celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 15, 2014, by a celebration trip to Chicago, and in Sept. 2014 a trip to Yellowstone National Park is scheduled. Robert has been a member of the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Central Church for 74 years and Alexandra has been a member for 50 years.

Robert B. Dantuma and Alexandra J. Kent were married March 15, 1964, in Wyoming, Mich., by George Valentine. Robert has worked in Computerized Inventory Control, retiring in 2011.

The Dantuma family includes Kymberley and Jeffery Matthews of Jenison, Mich.; Bradd A. Dantuma of Wyoming, Mich.; and four grandchildren.

Obituaries

CARSON, Grace C. (Lange), age 90; born Sept. 23, 1923, in Cleveland, Ohio; died Jan. 12, 2014, in Shelby Twp., Mich. She was a member of the Warren (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Robert; daughters, Nora Bussell and Amy Carson; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Curt DeWitt, with private inurnment, Shelby Twp.

COY, Marilyn L. (Beal), age 82; born Dec. 24, 1930, in Petoskey, Mich.; died May 23, 2013, in Charlevoix, Mich. She was a member of the Petoskey Church.

Survivors include her sons, Merlyn, Marvin and Meredith; daughter, Judy Coy; brother, Orville Beal; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Jason Sliger, and interment was in Greenwood Cemetery, Petoskey.

IGNATOWSKI, David, age 58; born Nov. 27, 1955, in Saginaw, Mich.; died Feb. 14, 2014, in Midland, Mich. He was a member of the Midland Church.

Survivors include his mother, Joyce (Brabaw); and brothers, Scott, Marty and Bruce.

Memorial services were conducted by Cory Herthel, with private inurnment, Midland.

KENNEDY, Christine (Nelson), age 86; born May 10, 1927, in Canton, Miss.; died Feb. 21, 2014, in Gary, Ind. She was a member of the Mizpah Church, Gary.

Survivors include her daughters, Marla J. Gibson, Gwendolyn Kennedy and Carolyn Hampton; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Philip Willis Jr. and Dwayne Duncombe, and interment was in Oak Hill Cemetery, Gary.

KEPPEL, Frances L. (Bullock), age 87; born Sept. 3, 1926, in West Grove, Penn.; died Feb. 7, 2014, in Greentown, Ind. She was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church. Frances was a member of Maranatha Volunteers for more than 15 years, and worked on numerous projects.

Survivors include her sons, John C. Jr. and Lowell J.; daughters, Gale Keppel and Vicki Vonderahe; brothers, Frank, William and John Bullock; sister, Lois Irven; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Aaron Clark, and interment was in National Veterans Cemetery, Marion, Ind.

KEPPEL, John C., age 94; born April 3, 1919, in Chester, Penn.; died Jan. 22, 2014, in Greentown, Ind. He was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church. After retiring from Andrews University, John worked for more than 15 years with Maranatha Volunteers.

Survivors include his wife, Frances (Bullock); sons, John C. Jr. and Lowell J.; daughters, Gale Keppel and Vicki Vonderahe; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Aaron Clark, and interment was in National Veterans Cemetery, Marion, Ind.

KUEBLER, Lloyd, age 86; born July 27, 1927, in Maple River Twp., Mich.; died Jan. 21, 2014, in Petoskey, Mich. He was a member of the Petoskey Church.

Survivors include his wife, Anna (Honeysette); son, Doug; daughter, Geri Gesell; half-brothers, Ralph and Howard Steen; half-sisters, Evelyn Linderman and Clara McPhall; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by George Dronen and Jason Sliger, and interment was in Littlefield Twp. Cemetery, Alanson, Mich.

LINDSEY, Lloyd L., age 78; born in Branch City, Mich.; died Jan. 16, 2014, in Battle Creek, Mich. He was a member of the Burlington (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Karen; son, Jeff; daughters, Melanie Johnson and Maria James; sister, Ruth Smith; and many grand- and great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Peter Iwankiw and Joel Nephew, with private inurnment, Maine.

LUNGU, Helen M. (Constantine), age 87; born Oct. 20, 1926, in Romania; died Feb. 2, 2014, in Dothan, Ala. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her son, John C.; brothers, Emil and Greg Constantine; sisters, Minerva Straman and Rae Holman; and one grandchild.

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

RASMUSSEN, Richard H., age 91; born March 28, 1922, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Feb. 11, 2014, in Ann Arbor, Mich. He was a member of the Metropolitan Church, Plymouth, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Marjory (Taylor); son, Eric; and two grandchildren.

No funeral services were conducted; private inurnment.

RUNNING, Leona G. (Glidden), age 97; born Aug. 24, 1916, in Flint, Mich.; died Jan. 22, 2014, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her nieces, Merry (Habenicht) Knoll and Cheeri (Habenicht) Roberts; and several grandnieces and grandnephews.

Funeral services were conducted by John McVay, Russell Staples, Roy and Connie Gane, Robert and Madline Johnston, Niels-Erik Andreasen, Stephen and Susan Zork, and Donna Habenicht, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$36 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$46 per insertion for all others. A form is available at <http://www.herald.lakeunion.org> for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at <http://www.herald.lakeunion.org>.

Employment

BETTER LIFE TELEVISION is seeking a broadcast engineer to maintain 20 TV stations and our Grants Pass, Ore., headquarters. Requires knowledge of RF broadcasting engineering, FCC regulations. SDA member in good standing. Come enjoy the beautiful Pacific Northwest while helping to reach millions for Christ. Send résumé to ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com.

UNION COLLEGE (Lincoln, Neb.) seeks Mathematics professor. Full-time tenure track; Ph.D. required. Strong commitment to integrating Adventist faith, teaching and scholarship essential. Submit cover letter and curriculum vitae to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics, or email cawolfe@ucollege.edu.

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ONE VOICE

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If you are a creative teen or young adult who has something to say, it's time to get it off your chest. The Lake Union Herald is looking for stories of faith and challenge written by readers between the ages of 14 and 30.

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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

The Creative Spirit

BY TERRY BENEDICT



The very first thing God asked Adam to do required creativity. Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name (Genesis 2:19 NIV). That one phrase, to see what he would name them, tells us much about the nature of God and the nature of human beings created in his image.

A dimension of his creative spirit is given to us to devise artistic designs, whether they be with paint on canvas, through the lens of a camera, sounds, words or ideas.

Giftedness implies purpose. Our Creator has endowed each of us with different facets of his creative spirit for a

specific purpose. Our purpose is not hidden in some dark, shrouded mystery. He presents opportunities for us to discover and use our creative spirit to serve others and bring honor to him.

When young people discover their giftedness and seek to pursue it, they often hear: "You can't make a living doing that"; "You need to follow in your father's footsteps"; "But we planned on you going to this school..."; "It was good enough for your parents"; or "You're really talented, but at some point you'll have to get a real job."

To be in partnership with God means we must find ways to encourage his creative spirit in our students from the perspective of his purpose rather than our own.

Terry Benedict is a filmmaker and founder of the Shae Foundation in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

His Plan, His Peace

BY KALICIA MORRISON

I t was nearing the end of August as I stood barefoot on the warm, concrete driveway at my parents' house. I was outside, having a life-plan conversation with God. I very clearly told him I would be willing to do anything for Him — seriously, *anything* — *except* teaching. I could not see myself as a teacher nor did I want to teach, so I decided it obviously wouldn't or couldn't be God's plan.

Not long after I left this conversation, I felt a tug on my heart that my restriction on God was not fair and I should return to the warm concrete for Part 2. I expressed how I didn't want to limit him, and that I was sorry for doing so. This time, I simply pleaded that he would not call me to education and that, if he did, he would need actually to change my heart.

Shortly after those conversations, I was accepted at Andrews University. For two years, I studied general classes and considered nearly every other field of study; strangely, I could not find his path or his peace until one day, I simply thought *How about education?* After desperately running around seeking God's will to no avail, I had my first experience of the peace that passes all understanding, in the very thing against which I had pleaded!

Now, here I am, three years later, in my very first year of "learning" as a principal/teacher of a one room K-8 school. I frequently find my tears of gratefulness pouring out to God for so gently leading and changing my heart, despite my sinful stubbornness. I often say, "I can't imagine doing anything else; I love teaching so much!" God always knows what he is doing when he calls us into his plan. He knows each of our hearts and desires better than we do. To



Kalicia Morrison

Sim Clements

me, teaching is not a job, a paycheck, summer vacations, snow days or something I did because I couldn't find anything else to do. Teaching is my calling, my ministry and my mission.

I know I am effective only if I first sit in his classroom before I ever step foot in mine. Although an invisible enemy wars for the hearts and minds of children, when dedicated

and surrendered to God my classroom becomes a kitchen for hungry souls, a hospital for hurting hearts, and a fitness center where our faith in Jesus can grow through the study of his Word.

Thank you, Jesus, for showing me your plan through a beautiful, specific series of events in my life. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to reflect on what you have done, giving me a glimpse of the big eternal picture. Thank you for growing my faith when I don't understand how you are working. Thank you for giving me eight incredible students whose smiles brighten every school day. Thank you for choosing me to minister with you and the heavenly hosts to teach others of your kingdom.

Kalicia Morrison is principal/teacher at the Charlotte Adventist Christian School and a member of the Charlotte Church in Michigan. Kalicia graduated from Andrews University in May 2013.

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God Was with Me

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Kevin Wilson is no stranger to mission work. The Andrews University theology student is involved on campus as the student association's religious vice president, and also has spent time as a missionary overseas. In 2010, he and a group from Andrews went to Lebanon to present Week of Prayer meetings at a local university and high school.



Kevin Wilson

"I've lived in the Middle East most of my life, and the Lebanese culture was very appealing," says Kevin. "The people were very receptive. ... It felt like home."

During the trip, Kevin learned the high school needed a Bible teacher. He immediately felt impressed to be a student missionary, and began the position several months later.

Kevin served eight months at the school, teaching Bible classes to grades 1–12. It was a challenging position, he recalls, as there was no curriculum outline to follow, and the student body held varying religious beliefs. Kevin remembers feeling very alone at times.

"One of the biggest challenges was that I didn't see God during my experience," he recalls. "Many times, I felt discouraged because I would prepare so much for my class, and all I'd get is chaos."

It wasn't until the last week of school that Kevin realized just how close God had been all along. After presenting his final lectures on Jesus' death and resurrection, he made an appeal to the students to publicly declare their trust in Jesus.

"I saw 200 kids raise their hands," says Kevin. "I was shocked. It was very unprecedented because peer pressure is such a huge deal, and the kids that raised their hands ... were basically becoming victims of bullying. It was definitely powerful. That's when I knew God was with me the whole time."

Kevin claims God carried him through the entire school year in Lebanon. During March of the university's spring break, he returned to the school to visit his students and participate in another Week of Prayer. Kevin claims he eventually wants to "end up in either the Middle East or Sri Lanka doing mission work," but is open to whatever the Lord asks him to do.

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

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