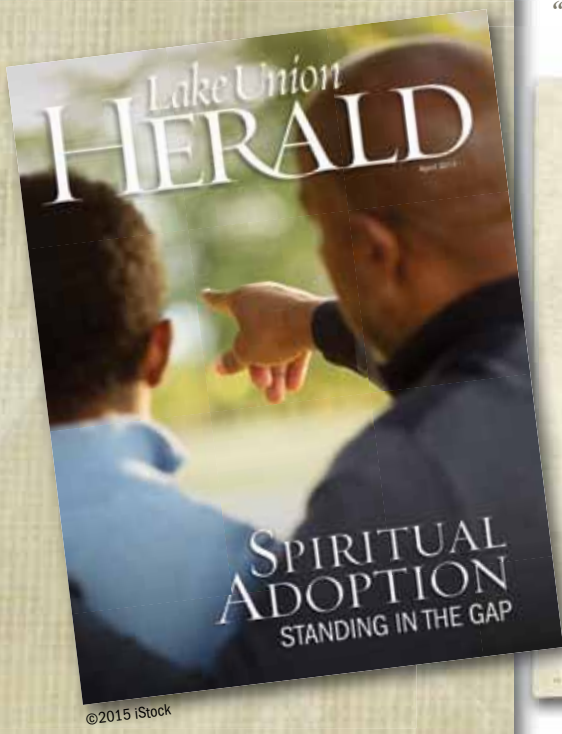


Lake Union HERALD

April 2015

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION

STANDING IN THE GAP



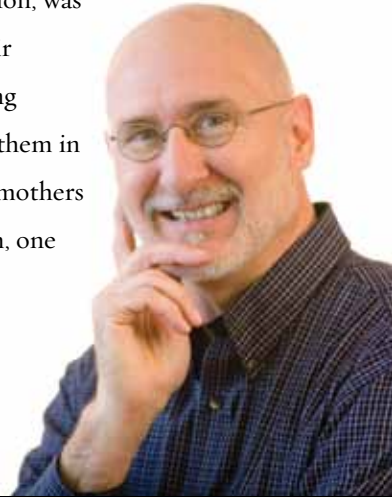
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One of the things we discovered when we interviewed over 50 young adults, each active in the church and engaged in mission, was that every one had a significant adult, other than their parents, who took a special interest in them, providing encouragement, affirmation, counsel, and mentored them in ministry. We're dedicating this edition to the many "mothers and fathers in Israel" who are advancing the kingdom, one young person at a time.


Gary Burns, Editor



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY DON LIVESAY, LAKE UNION PRESIDENT



Change

From its humble beginning in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1861, the message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is now in 216 of the 238 countries recognized by the United Nations, and is communicated in 914 languages. This amazing mission has taken place because of a response to the great Gospel Commission, the extraordinary faithfulness of members, and an organizational focus of mission.

Based on the biblical principal *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse* (Malachai 3:10 KJV) and following the model of the storehouse being the local conference (see *Ministry Magazine*, August 1997), tithes and offerings have been used to reach a worldwide field through the vision and faithfulness of its members.

For quite a few years, the Lake Union has run one of the leanest union office operations in the North American Division. This efficiency has allowed an increase over the typical yearly reversion of \$425,000 to up to \$1 million flowing back to our local conferences. In addition, the Lake Union also has paid the full cost of General Conference Auditing services to the conferences and provided additional subsidies for education and evangelism.

The North American Division has implemented very serious discussions on how to redirect resources to the most essential functions to accomplish our mission. In keeping with that principle, the Lake Union Executive Committee, at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 15, voted to reduce the amount of tithe received from the local conferences from the current nine percent to seven percent by 2018, and has submitted a policy change request to the NAD to implement this plan in 2016.

The rationale for moving in this direction is to initiate a process that allows for our conferences to retain a greater portion of tithe while reducing the flow of funds up the Church structure only to be appropriated back to the conferences. This will give conferences the full latitude to utilize for the churches more of the funding that originates from the churches. To be clear, this vote primarily focuses on the philosophical approach of up and back funding, and only will minimally increase net funds retained at the local conference.

The action taken by the Executive Committee will reduce the amount of tithe sent to the Union in 2016 to eight percent. This will eliminate the need for the Union to return the typical reversion of \$425,000, since the conferences will retain a nearly equal amount that also includes the costs of auditing. This approach also provides conferences opportunity to realize further savings by streamlining their auditing experience. If any conference should incur more expense than savings, the Lake Union will equalize the expense. We anticipate there will be years in which the Lake Union will also be able to return additional funds beyond those described above.

The second reduction to seven percent in tithe sent to the Union will initiate in 2018. The second reduction will be more complex as it will require discussions with our conference leadership as to what services are needed from the Union and what efficiencies should be implemented. It is my estimate that there will be some actual financial benefit to the conferences in this step beyond the simple trade-off of up and back flow of funds.

It is all too easy for any organization simply to keep doing the same thing year after year without really evaluating costs and efficiencies. This will be an ongoing discussion in the Lake Union and beyond, and I believe it will result in even greater steps to keep more discretionary funds at the conference level, providing even more support to you in your commitment to accomplish your local mission.



Fighting Temptation

BY TRICIA WYNN

The struggle is real. We all struggle with something. We are all tempted to deviate from the path taught and known as correct, best, noble and right. Is it any wonder prime time television capitalizes on these inclinations so common to the masses? Television dramas such as “Scandal” have revolutionized what is accepted as normal and received as right.

An honest assessment would reveal that there is not a single individual who does not wrestle with the desire, the inclination, the urge to do something wrong. Whether the act is deemed unbecoming, unlawful, illegal or unwise by peers, family, culture, religion or the laws of the land, we all are faced with temptation.

While yielding to temptation at the moment feels good, the potential lasting effects of the consequences could be damaging. If only there was a way to avoid making life-ruining pitfalls. If we could just demonstrate the strength to resist what threatens our marriages, families, relationships, churches and future. If we could simply fight temptation and win. How exactly can we win?

How do we turn away from the ominous “thing” that draws us into an illusion of success, which will eventually evaporate into the smoke of failure and shame? How do we fight and win?

Fighting Temptation

Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. When He came to the place, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation” (Luke 22:39–40 NKJV).



Tricia Wynn

In a time of pending trial, when tremendous trouble threatened to pursue the believers, Jesus led his disciples to a familiar quiet place and said, *Pray that you many not enter into temptation.* Judas had already left to betray the Savior; Peter’s denial was definite; and Jesus proclaimed his departure a certainty. This indeed was a trying time.

It is interesting to note, at the time of greatest trial, at the time when temptation weighed to the maximum of human capacity, as the fate of the church and indeed all humanity weighed in the balance, Jesus says, *Pray...* He does not say run, hide, consult, rally supporters, strategically plan or call a meeting. He says, *pray* — not just once; the passage implies that Jesus instructed his disciples to pray *continually*.

Why Pray?

When we are accustomed to relying on self to solve the problem, and the fear of losing what is most important rises like a tidal wave, it can be challenging to fall to our knees. However, we must understand what is at stake if we neglect to pray.

In trying times, we ought to be the most earnest in prayer, above all else. We are warned that, “the darkness of the evil

PRAY

one encloses those who neglect to pray” (*A Call to Stand Apart*, p. 27). Sadly, the adversary has one plan in mind: to steal, kill and destroy (see John 10:10). Therefore, in times like these, it behooves us to be most earnest in prayer, for “without unceasing prayer and diligent watching we are in danger of growing careless and deviating from the right path” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 94).

Jesus knew the trouble and temptation the disciples would soon encounter, so he told them what to do in order to survive the imminent storm. Pray. Specifically, Jesus instructed them, *Pray that you enter not into temptation*.

Upon first read, it seems like Jesus suggested that this temptation may be viewed as optional, as a door one may choose to walk toward, open and then walk through. If this was the case, the disciples would be praying, “Let me not choose to go over there toward temptation.” While this could be the case in some instances, it was not the case in this instance. According to the most literal translation, what Jesus instructed may be understood as, “Pray that you will not give in to or yield to temptation.” In other words, the temptation is certain and already on the way.

What the disciples did not know was that they would soon be tempted to abandon each other, yield to fear and discouragement, and be tempted to forsake their faith in Christ, leaving the Way. This path would lead to utter despair and end in complete destruction and ruin, not only for them but for the entire work for which Jesus laid the foundation to reach through the centuries. What was the solution to this great threat? Pray.

In instructing the disciples to pray, we learn another important lesson: We do not have to give in to temptation. Just because all of the ingredients are present for yielding, we do not have to concede. Instead, it is time to fight — not with

fists, clever arguments or well-crafted speeches, but with prayer. Our perfect example of how to do this is Jesus.

The Prayer of Self-abandon

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22: 41–44 NKJV).

As did the first Adam, Jesus faced his greatest test in a garden. In studying Jesus in Gethsemane, we learn how to fight and win. Jesus humbly fell to the ground in extreme earnestness and prayed to the point of hematidrosis (bloody sweat): *Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not my will, but Yours, be done.* Jesus fought in prayer to lay down his human will.

In our times of testing, we cry “My will be done!” We want our way, hence the temptation grows so alluring. But on the battlefield of Gethsemane, we learn how to beat temptation by praying to the point of abandonment of our self-desires. As we study Jesus, we learn to relinquish whatever is of our own wishes in exchange for God’s plan.

In order to fight and win the battle against the temptation that threatens our well-being, our future and our lives, we must wrestle in prayer to yield ourselves to God’s authority. Herein is our fight, not so much against external forces as it is against our own self-will. Fighting temptation rests not in our ability to punch but in our commitment to continually humbly pray, submitting to the will of the Father declaring, “Not my will, but Thy will be done.”

Tricia Wynn, M.Div., M.S., PT, is pastor of the Indianapolis Tabernacle of Hope and Muncie Philadelphia churches in the Lake Region Conference.



FAMILY TIES

Dispensers of Hope

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. —Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Balcony people are those, living or dead, who show us we can live above the petty, discordant levels of life. They give us hope, suggests Ross Campbell, author of *How to Really Love Your Teen*. Balcony people are those we can admire and trust wholeheartedly, the ones we know will love us no matter what.

Balcony people are in contrast to what Ross calls “cellar voices” — those voices that distract, and make us question our own confidence and worth. They are voices of discrimination, anger, criticism and negativity. Cellar voices can suck the joy right out of our lives. Our children will encounter both balcony and cellar voices in life.

We need to build confidence and trust into our children’s lives so they can be open to positive influences from positive people. We need to be sure our children are in environments where they can come to really know other positive adults and develop relationships with them. They also need to understand, from a biblical perspective, that there have always been people who are loyal to God’s Word and have chosen to follow and serve him.

During family worship, exploring verses such as Romans 8:28, Isaiah 41:10 and Psalm 34:19 can be a powerful part of this journey. Hebrews 11 is a roll call of people who proved that faith is workable in spite of negative, difficult circumstances, and that life can always have positive meaning.

Of course, we want to be balcony people for our own children, and we can be. Sometimes, however, we are pessimistic about our children in one way or another. Sometimes we are preoccupied with our own personal challenges.



Sometimes our children need more than us. As parents, it is our privilege and responsibility to prepare our children for life outside the home, to introduce people and experiences that broaden their horizons, and introduce them to different perspectives. One way we can do this is to be sure they have other, non-parental adults, to whom

they can look for inspiration, instruction and trust. This includes relatives, neighbors, those in our church congregations, teachers and school administrators, coaches or family friends. God has placed many among us who can be balcony people for our children.

Most of us learn from our experiences, but it takes a wise, mature person to learn vicariously from the experiences of others. In many ways, our children face a troubled, confusing world. They need hope, confidence, courage, moral strength, a sense of responsibility, and a relationship with Jesus. Balcony people can help provide these things. They are often the dispensers of hope! They help our children find positive experiences and relationships, even in the middle of an uncertain and negative world.

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

HEALTHY CHOICES

A community
of friends
has influence
to change your
health.

The Daniel Plan

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Sitting
is the new
smoking.

Four years ago, Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, invited his congregation to join him in getting healthy. In collaboration with a team of nationally-known doctors, Rick launched a lifestyle plan for his congregation (further described in his book, *The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life*). It was an immediate success. Thousands signed up for the Plan. In one year, his congregation collectively lost over 250,000 pounds. The pastor himself has lost over 55 pounds to date.

The average weight of men in his church was 210 pounds, and the average weight of women was 170 pounds. So they were ready for an intervention program. What was the secret of success? How did the Plan work in a society where fast food is prolific, portion sizes are out of control, and couch potatoes are the norm?

The Plan was not based on regular fasting or vigorous gym workouts; it was designed to achieve a healthy lifestyle by getting people to take the health journey together. The Plan is unique in that it is based upon Scripture. It optimizes five key essentials of life: faith, food, fitness, focus and friends.

Faith: First, God is recognized as the Power behind all good choices and lifestyle change. Undergirding and fueling the Plan is the belief captured on the participant's t-shirt that reads (with respect to the human body), "God created it, Jesus died for it, the Holy Spirit lives in it, shouldn't we take care of it?" There is a strong belief that we are stewards of our body. *You are not your own. You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies* (1 Corinthians 6:19–20 NIV).

Food: The Plan promotes delicious, whole, fresh and unprocessed food rather than processed, convenience and fast food. It recommends a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, with whole grains and beans or other protein foods. In



ancient times, Daniel and his friends chose a plant-based diet to avoid the unclean meats that had been offered to the gods of the Babylonians. They were rewarded with superior health.

Fitness: The Plan emphasizes aerobic activity as well as flexibility and strength training. People are encouraged to choose the form of

activity they will enjoy doing on a regular basis. Sitting for long periods of time is known to damage our health. According to Mayo Clinic, sitting is the new smoking. Sitting three to four hours at a time is equivalent to smoking a pack and a half of cigarettes a day.

Focus: In today's world, there are so many distractions. People are stressed out. The Plan stresses the need to focus upon God's priorities for our life. Choosing a healthy lifestyle with better sleep habits will improve memory and judgment, and lower the risk of depression.

Friends: One of the key ideas in the Plan is that everyone needs a friend, a buddy. Participants are encouraged to form small support groups, with five or so members, that meet regularly. This is vital to the success of the Plan. It is much easier to make changes when those around you also are following a healthy lifestyle.

Winston J. Craig, Ph.D., RD, lives in Walla Walla, Washington. He is a professor emeritus of nutrition at Andrews University.



PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

Partners for God's Cause

BY THE EDITORS

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. — Isaiah 43:19 NIV

Many of us Baby Boomers are starting to retire as business and industry is rapidly being reshaped, even reinvented, by a new generation for whom Internet and smart-phone communication is native. Is it time for the Church to also be reshaped, even reinvented, by our youth and young adults?

Speaking of some of the aged workers attending the Syracuse, New York, Camp Meeting in 1884, Ellen White observed: "As their thoughts linger about the past, the fires of love and faith kindle anew in their hearts. ... Others were present whom we highly esteem, tried friends of the cause, whom we have known many years. We saw their countenances light up with fresh assurance as they listened to the presentation of the truth which has kept their hearts warm all these years. These brethren and sisters have an accurate, personal knowledge of events that occurred a score or more years ago. Some of them have witnessed remarkable manifestations of the power of God in times of our greatest trial and need, when our numbers were few, when opposition was strong, and unreasonable objections had to be met. While things that occurred a week ago may be forgotten, these scenes of thrilling interest still live in the memory.

"Whatever may be said of the later stages of their life-history, their earlier experience in this work has left traces which can never be erased. We cannot afford to let these aged sentinels drop out of sight. To many, by pen and voice, they have spoken precious words of truth; and they should still be encouraged to do all they can with their influence, their counsel, and their experience in the cause of God. More youthful workers are taking their place in active service, and this is right; but let these younger [ones] keep a warm place in their hearts, and room in their councils,

for those whose heads have grown gray in the service of Christ....

"How important it is that those who have talents use them in the cause of God, working with an eye single to his glory. Time is short; eternity is near. I long to see [those] who are fettering themselves with worldly entanglements and perplexities, lay these aside, and put all their energies into the work of God. If they will ask his help, they will not ask in vain. They should be often in prayer for divine guidance. Jesus invites their confidence; God will never hide his face from the earnest, contrite suppliant. When every other hope fails, our heavenly Father presents himself as a sure refuge" (*Review & Herald*, October 28, 1884).

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:

- How prepared are we to perceive and accept what God may be doing that is new and different from what we know and to which we have grown accustomed?
- How eager are we to partner with those seasoned warriors of faith who have gained wisdom through experience?
- How committed are we to invest all of our talents, all of our members, in the cause of God?

Lake Union Herald editors

Fasting and God's Heart

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen, and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. —Matthew 6:17–18 NIV

Our thoughts and plans often circle around food, money, entertainment and creature comforts. Some of this is good and necessary. However, it can get to the point where our occupation with earthly matters so controls us that it pushes our relationship with God to the back burner. When that is the case, it is time to do something about it. One life-changing thing we can do is to fast. Fasting can loosen the ties that bind us to the material world and strengthen the ties that bind us to God.

Fasting has to do with self-denial, but it is much more than that. The goal of fasting has to do primarily with God. When we fast, we are willing to endure natural hunger in order to intensify spiritual hunger. It is a way of saying, "God, you are more important to me than food!" Jesus reminded his hearers that true fasting would be *obvious ... to your Father, who is unseen*. Fasting is not worth much if it doesn't get us closer to the heart of God and lift us up spiritually.

Fasting is really a type of prayer. Prayer is a love relationship with God. Fasting improves this love relationship by riveting our attention on God so we begin to seek him with all our hearts. It is an enhanced form of prayer. In the words of Ron Dunn, "Fasting is the perfect environment for prayer and seeking the Lord. With fasting, we detach ourselves from the Earth, and with prayer, we attach ourselves to Heaven" (*Pray Something*, pp. 162–163).

Our prayer lives never will be what God intended them to be without fasting. By his life and teaching, Jesus called attention to the value of prayer and fasting as an integral part of the Christian life. Jesus fasted for 40 days as part of

the preparation for his life's work. He began his teaching on fasting in the Sermon on the Mount by saying, *When you fast....* (Matthew 6:16 NIV). He apparently assumed fasting would be a normal part of New Testament Christianity.

Jesus' first words of instruction on fasting were negative. *When you fast*, he said, *do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting* (ibid). He was not teaching that others should never know we are fasting but, rather, that we should fast with proper motives.

The first reward of fasting is increased intimacy with the Father. The highest blessing is the blessing of God himself. Time spent in quiet conversation with the Father is the way to the deeper recesses of the Father's love. It's hard to imagine a greater reward than that.

Ask God to give you such a hunger for him that you are willing to endure natural hunger in order to satisfy your spiritual hunger.

Alvin J. VanderGriend is co-founder of The Denominational Prayer Leaders Network and currently serves as evangelism associate for Harvest Prayer Ministries in Terre Haute, Indiana. This article is an excerpt from his book, *Joy of Prayer*. Reprinted with permission.



Postcard Messages

BY MADLYN HAMBLIN

Judy Wright has loved and collected postcards for over 64 years. She has sent thousands to friends, loved ones and fellow church members to let them know, “I am thinking of you.”

When Judy and her husband, Bruce, attended church in Jackson, Michigan, she noticed certain people who missed church often, and this made her sad. Judy wondered what she could do to encourage these people, so she began to send postcards, letting them know they were missed. “I wanted our church to feel like a *caring* church. ... These people often commented how much they appreciated having it acknowledged that they were absent,” Judy said. “I then began to send cards to homebound people, and added members still on the church list whom we never see. And then, I began to add visitors to the mix. We like them to feel noticed, and remind them that we enjoyed their visit.”

It was hard for Judy to find appropriate postcards, and especially ones with a Bible verse she wanted to express. The Hamblin Company partnered with Judy. She told me one day, “I am partial to animal cards, and I am thinking of your lovely collie dog, Lily. It has come to me that a line of cards with animals could be called ‘The Lily Line.’”

Judy now has over 500 cards, with animal pictures on the front, that say things like, “No one can fill your pew,” “No one can fill your shoes,” “We miss you,” and “Thanks for visiting.”

After receiving her cards, several people showed up at church because they received Judy’s “Missing You” cards. “I can’t tell you how wonderful that felt,” she said.



Lily (left) inspired a line of postcards, The Lily Line, which Judy Wright and others now use to share the love of Jesus.

When Judy moved to a new church, she realized, “Not only did I not know the people who weren’t attending, I didn’t even know the ones who were. Pioneer Memorial Church puts out a prayer list each Sabbath, so I began to send cards to those on the list. ... One lady told me, ‘A card may not seem much to you, but to me they were precious and affirming during my illness.’”

Judy says, “This is my little way of being a messenger of cheer and caring for Jesus. I believe outreach

includes those from our own faith community as well as those who are not. I have received some lovely feedback not only from the persons who receive cards, but from their family members who also appreciate that their loved one is being remembered.”

The Jackson Sabbath school group continues to send cards to missing members. A few weeks back, Craig Radala returned to church; he had been absent for at least two years. Craig brought four Lily cards he had received from different people. “My mother recently passed away,” Craig said, “and I felt these cards were a message from God for me to return to church.”

It is an easy thing to write a note to someone to share the love of Jesus through a simple message on a cute postcard.

Madlyn Hamblin is a member of the Jackson Church in Michigan. To learn more about The Lily Line, email titi@hamblincompany.com or call 800-274-0016.



El Poder de Esperar y Orar

POR CARMELO MERCADO

En toda ocasión y lugar, en todas las tristezas y aflicciones, cuando la perspectiva parece sombría y el futuro nos deja perplejos y nos sentimos impotentes y solos, se envía el Consolador en respuesta a la oración de fe. Las circunstancias pueden separarnos de todo amigo terrenal, pero ninguna circunstancia ni distancia puede separarnos del Consolador celestial. Dondequiera que estemos, dondequiera que vayamos, está siempre a nuestra diestra para apoyarnos, sostenernos y animarnos. —El deseado de todas las gentes, p. 623

En el mes de enero de este año tuve el privilegio de presenciar la dedicación de la hijita del pastor Alberto Tass y su esposa Cecilia en la iglesia de South Bend. El pastor Antonio Rosario realizó la ceremonia y los miembros de las iglesias de South Bend y Elkhart estuvieron presentes en esa ocasión especial. En realidad yo no tenía idea de cuán especial fue esta ceremonia hasta que se me relató la historia de cómo se logró el nacimiento de esa niñita llamada Zazil.

Los esposos Alberto y Cecilia se habían conocido cuando ambos estudiaban en la Universidad de Montemorelos en México. Después de graduarse se casaron y como muchos matrimonios uno de sus mayores deseos era tener hijos y criarlos en el camino del Señor. Pero con el tiempo se dieron cuenta que no podrían tener hijos sin intervención médica, así que empezaron con varios tratamientos que no dieron resultado. Al pasar los años la pareja siguió trabajando en el ministerio en varias iglesias en los estados de Michigan e Indiana y con el pasar del tiempo ya casi habían perdido la esperanza.

Cuando el Pastor Tass fue trasladado para pastorear el distrito de South Bend fue empleado como obrero de tiempo completo, con los beneficios médicos correspondientes. Fue entonces que decidieron averiguar si este seguro médico cubriría los tratamientos in vitro. En realidad, ya en el pasado habían pensado en ese tratamiento pero les resultaba muy costoso. Gracias a Dios se verificó que el seguro médico sí cubriría la mayoría del costo.

Con la decisión de pasar por el proceso in vitro los miembros de las iglesias de South Bend y Elkhart



El pastor Alberto Tass y su esposa Cecilia con su niñita Zazil en el día de su dedicación.

comenzaron a orar. Los médicos les habían dicho a los esposos Tass que con el pasar de los años sin hijos la probabilidad de que el proceso tuviera éxito la primera vez era de solo un 30%. Pero los hermanos de las iglesias los animaron y les dijeron que seguirían orando. Al recibir el embrión se les dijo a los esposos que tendrían que esperar dos semanas para saber si el tratamiento había sido exitoso. Se elevaron muchas oraciones durante esos días. Y gracias a Dios, ¡ese primer intento sí resultó en un embarazo! Después de dieciocho años de esperar y orar Zezil Tass nació el 13 de diciembre del año pasado.

El Pastor Tass me dijo que una de las lecciones que ellos aprendieron es que el mejor tiempo para Dios contestar nuestras peticiones es el que él escoge y no necesariamente cuando el hombre lo desee. El pastor Alberto y su esposa Cecilia reconocen que el nacimiento de su hijita Zazil es un verdadero milagro y ellos ahora pueden dar claro testimonio de que Dios vive, nos ama y contesta a su tiempo.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



TELLING GOD'S STORIES

Three Cookies and a Glass of Soy Milk

BY DEBORAH PEREZ

Delores Cuadrado had just moved into our six-story brownstone building. We met because my brothers and I were bored inside our apartment, and we decided to play stickball in the long hallway outside her door. Delores had beautiful, long white hair that was always tied up in a bun on the top of her head. Her contagious smile showed her straight, pearly-white teeth.

How and why we became friends is still a mystery to me, but the Lord has such a sense of humor that he will do whatever he can to attract us to him.

One day, as I exited the elevator and walked by her apartment after school, I noticed her door was slightly open. Delores did it on purpose because she wanted to start a conversation with me. But as a ten-year-old, I just wanted to run home and change, so I could run back outside and play on the monkey bars right outside our building.

Finally one day, as she was outside her door and seemed to be waiting for someone, I politely greeted her. She asked, "Would you like a snack?"

I thought to myself, *What kid doesn't want a snack right after school?*

Delores led me into her small, tidy apartment nicely decorated with all sorts of ceramic figures. The dining room table had a beautiful, white, flowery tablecloth set with an empty dessert plate, a drinking glass and colorful felt board with people, animal felt figures, and a flip-chart. The colors attracted my attention and mesmerized me, so I just pulled out the chair and sat down without being asked.

She started telling me a story about a pretty lady, with long brown hair, who was walking through a lovely garden



Delores Cuadrado

with tall, majestic trees, colorful flowers and lions that allowed her to pet them. A snake in a tree started talking to the lady, and the lady stopped walking and talked back. Of course, I interrupted and reminded her that snakes don't talk. Thank God, Delores patiently continued, lovingly let me interrupt, and answered my questions.

As she continued her story, Delores filled my empty drinking glass with soy milk — which I had never heard of before, and placed three shortbread cookies on my dessert plate. She told me to eat the cookies very slowly as she told the story.

Those Bible stories came alive enough that I yearned to hear more. With every story she would ask me to lower my head, close my eyes, and fold my hands so we could ask Jesus to be present in our visit.

That first story, of Adam, Eve, a snake and a sacrifice, captivated me enough that I needed to learn more.

Our routine every day after school was spent together reading, memorizing and learning about the Bible, while slowly eating three shortbread cookies and a glass of soy milk.

She introduced me to Jesus and taught me that he is my Brother, Friend and Savior. Delores taught me how to pray, keep the Sabbath and eat healthy foods. Christ became so precious to me that I wanted to please him and be like him.

I fell head over heels in love with him, and accepted Jesus as my personal Friend and Savior.

Delores began to prepare me for baptism for when I became older, but I couldn't wait. Baptism was my testimony and commitment to my Savior, and I wanted everybody to know.

On a cold Sabbath day in December, a week after my 11th birthday, I stood in a warm baptismal tank with my older brother. His eyes were closed tight, but my eyes were wide open as the pastor prayed over me. I had to keep my eyes open because I was sure Jesus was somewhere in the crowd, and I wanted to make sure not to miss him.

Jesus was the man on the wooden cross above my bed, but he was no longer a stranger of whom I should be scared. Yes, that Man died on a wooden cross, was buried in a tomb, but he lives — and I can't wait to see him again.

Delores continued to live in that small apartment as I went off to college, got married and had children. Every time I went home to visit mom, it always included a visit to Delores' home down the long hallway.

As the years passed, she started to lose her memory. Seldom were the days when she remembered me, but there were

brief moments she did remember who I was. She sometimes would liven up and remind me to keep my faith in Jesus, and never to give up on him especially because he is coming soon.

I had the privilege of sitting by her hospital bed and holding her hands one last time. Although she seemed to be sleeping peacefully, she suddenly woke up, grabbed my arms, and told me to never forget what she taught me: to be ready and faithful to the end, to never let go of Jesus. And just as suddenly, she let go, lay down, and went back to a peaceful sleep.

Delores died in Jesus, two months later at the age of 93, in 2006.

Whenever I am asked about how I became a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, I tell whomever will listen that it simply happened with three shortbread cookies, a glass of soy milk, and a loving neighbor who chose to share her best friend Jesus with a ten-year-old girl.

Deborah Perez is human resources director for the Illinois Conference in Willowbrook.

The Story Continues

BY JUANITA EDGE

Candee Kuhn of the Tomahawk Community Church took home three boxes of gourds from the Wisconsin Academy Farm last fall to sell in her neighborhood. Driving to the first house she prayed, "God, help me sell the gourds, but also help me be a blessing."

At the fourth house, a lady was mowing the lawn. She wasn't interested in gourds, but began to share that her brother-in-law and son both have cancer. "I was able to talk to her about Jesus' love and have prayer with her," said Candee. "Then she decided to buy some gourds."

A few days later, the lady invited Candee to come over again, saying, "I want to buy some more gourds."

Candee took her gourds, but also made sure she had plenty of literature. "I always have a bag of literature in my car when I travel," she said.



Candee Kuhn

After the lady bought more gourds, she began to open her heart, telling Candee of many life and spiritual concerns. Then she said, "I had so much peace after you last prayed with me."

"After about half an hour of talking, tears and prayers, I was able to give this lady *The Desire of Ages* and a Bible," said Candee. "It was such a blessing to be able to sell these gourds.

I am in contact with her often now. Please pray for her family, and also for me. I don't think we've heard the end of this story."

Juanita Edge is the director of communication for the Wisconsin Conference.

Show Me Your Love

BY GARY BURNS

Debbie (Rapp) Bartley was raised in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She attended faithfully, even taught Sabbath school for the children's division, but didn't really know God on a personal level. Debbie was content with that, until her divorce when she was left to raise her daughter, Gabrielle, as a single mom. The divorce was devastating, and Debbie turned bitter and angry with God. She was frustrated and even rebellious, yet she still continued to go to church, from time to time, but just sat there, not participating.

Debbie began to feel the struggle, and realized her faith, like so many others, was based solely on traditions — traditions that were sometimes inconvenient, and she was resentful. Debbie knew, in her heart, that she was doing things she shouldn't, and her faith just wasn't working for her. Debbie couldn't shake the biblical principle, *Train up a child in the way [s]he should go: and when [s]he is old, [s]he will not depart from it* (Proverbs 22:6 NIV). That was working!

Alone in her bed one night, confused, wondering what was going on and why she felt the way she did, Debbie decided to tell God exactly how she felt. "Okay, Lord, I am so angry at you... And if you want me, you're going to have to help me understand your love, 'cause I don't get it! I hear all the stories; I hear what people say, but I just don't get your love. You're going to have to show me!"

Debbie is not certain exactly what happened next, but says she felt warm and surrounded by light. Debbie wondered if it was real or if she was dreaming. She wondered if somebody was in her house; it scared her. Debbie paused and tried to gain composure, then continued, "Okay, Lord, I get it. I've got it."

She called her mom to tell her what happened, and almost asked if she could stay at her mom's house because Debbie was frightened. But she stayed at home, and began to process her experience, realizing God had answered her prayer of complaint and he must have a purpose for her. Debbie wanted to find out what God's purpose was and would "do it with expediency." She made a renewed commitment to

the Lord, and began to cooperate with him in the process of getting her life together as a young, single mom trying to raise her daughter.

Debbie started to attend church regularly again and, during that time, her new "wretched neighbors" moved in with two little boys. The oldest, Jaquane, seemed to invade her life from the very start. Wanting money for the ice cream truck, Jaquane asked if he could wash her car for \$2. He needed \$2 for an ice cream for him, and another for his little brother.

"I can only wash half the car," he said, "because I'm not allowed to go into the street."

"Well, how about I pull the car up into the driveway, and you can

wash the whole car?"

That initial encounter resulted in Jaquane being at her house almost all the time, especially at mealtime. "He was kind of like a stray dog," Debbie said. She fed him once, and he kept coming back for more. She couldn't get rid of him.

Debbie wondered what God was doing and reflected, "It was like God said, 'Okay, you're raising your own daughter, Gabrielle, but I'm going to give you someone to raise that is not yours.' It was almost a greater accountability. I was raised a Seventh-day Adventist and I was raising Gabrielle as a Seventh-day Adventist, and it came easy to me. And then here comes this kid who was raised not Adventist and asking me questions and watching my every move, and I realized I had to be an example. That was challenging. I think that was God's whole purpose. He said, 'Okay, you want me to show you my love? I'm going to give it to you



Debbie Bartley

by allowing you to love someone else.' Gabrielle gave me a profound insight as well. She said, 'Momma, I have to love you, because I'm your daughter, but Jaquane doesn't.' They have an awesome relationship."

Remember that principle, "Train up a child..."? Well, it was still working. Even though Debbie went through a time of anger and frustration, she continued to have daily worship as part of her routine (tradition). So, when Jaquane came into her life, daily worship was part of the package.

One day, Debbie asked, "Jaquane, would you like to go to church with us on Saturday?"

Jaquane said, "Sure."

"He loved Sabbath school," Debbie recalls, "and I hated it!"

Jaquane became her motivation to get herself and Gabrielle to Sabbath school because Jaquane didn't want to miss it. That went on for several years, until they got disconnected when Debbie and Gabrielle moved to another place. She had shared with her friend, Judy, that she had gone back to the old place, but couldn't find Jaquane and thought his had family moved, also.

For his 10th birthday, Jaquane told his mother that he wanted to find Mamma Debbie. He said, "I don't know where she is, but Aunt Judy will know." Somehow, Jaquane remembered where she lived, and guided his mother to Judy's house.

"Mom," Jaquane said, "you stay here in the car, and I'll go in and ask Judy where Mamma is."

Jaquane knocked. When Judy opened the door, she gave him a big hug and a kiss, "Jaquane!"

Judy immediately called Debbie and said, "You'll never guess who I have here!"

"I don't know," Debbie dismissed.

"No. Guess!" Judy persisted.

Debbie ran through a whole list of names without success until she heard, "Hey, Ma!"

"Jaquane! Jaquane!" she screamed with tears.

"I'm coming over!" Jaquane said excitedly.

When they arrived, the two hugged and kissed, and Jaquane said, "Ma, no matter what happens, don't you ever lose me again!" They've haven't lost each other since.

There was one accomplishment that was pivotal in their experience. Jaquane was struggling in high school, so it was agreed Debbie would take him into her home. She enrolled Jaquane in a tutoring program and coached him through his senior year. When it came time for graduation from high

school, Debbie suddenly realized the difference she had made in his life. The tradition was that the parents would "pin" their graduate. When it came to Jaquane, his birth mother placed the pin in Debbie's hand and said, "I want you to pin him because this would not have happened without you."

Debbie quickly replied, "You're his mom, it's okay."

Jaquane settled the issue, "Ma, you heard what Mom said. Just pin it on me!"

At the time Jaquane came into her life, Debbie didn't realize that God was answering her prayer, "Show me your love."

"He inspires me to be a better person," she reflects. "He has kept me trusting in God, and I think that, in a way, he has saved my life. Jaquane will call me up and ask not for money but for prayer. So, because of him, I've become a prayer warrior, believing in God and watching Jaquane develop. That's the gift Jaquane has given me."

Jaquane is a junior at Oakwood University. He spent nine months doing community outreach and literature work in 30 cities throughout the United States, held evangelistic meetings, and trained others to do the same in Zimbabwe, Africa, where 215 people were baptized. Jaquane believes God has prepared him, in many ways, to be a teacher, and looks forward to being a teacher and spiritual parent in the public school system.

Debbie is a graduate student at Wayne State University where she is working on her doctorate in counseling education. She has a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and currently serves as a parole agent for the State of Michigan.

Gary Burns is the prayer coordinator for the Lake Union Conference.



Debbie Bartley and Jaquane Johnson participate in Gabrielle Bartley's wedding.

Jaquane Johnson is thankful to be a student at Oakwood University.

A True Mother in Israel

BY P. GERARD DAMSTEEGT

I was a young seminary student from the Netherlands back in the late '60s. Students were assigned to a church of their choice for weekly practical experiences in ministry. The Adventist Church in Holland, Michigan, seemed like the perfect place for a Dutchman to go. And, sure enough, I found plenty of Dutch fellowship. A very cordial Dolores and Leon Slikkers invited me home my first week, and ever after took me under their wide wings.

I was intrigued by this American family. Leon, the successful businessman, was married to a friendly, down-to-earth, very earnest woman who seemed to watch out for everyone at church in addition to her own family of four. As someone fairly new in the Adventist church, I was amazed how serious Dolores was about implementing everything she had learned about healthful living from the Spirit of Prophecy and sharing it with others! Sitting at her table, I soon experienced that her food was excellent! So began a friendship that has lasted for many, many years.



Dolores and Leon Slikkers

I learned that, as a young girl, Dolores was a hard-working, top-of-her high school class student, responsible both at school and home and that her relationship with God was important to her. She was the first in her family to join a local church at 14 years of age. Then in her senior year of high school, she fell in love with Leon, a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This relationship led her to study her Bible more, and she embraced all that God was teaching her through his Word.

Dolores and Leon's relationship grew and, on her birthday in 1947, Leon proposed to her with a dozen red roses. Their marriage and business career reads like an American success story. While living very simply and frugally, Dolores worked at their boat business — at one point, even

living in a small apartment above a shop where Leon built the boats. Through all their business growth years, Dolores and Leon brought immense blessings to help accomplish the mission of their church in Michigan and around the world.

Dolores' Bible became well-marked and was full of pieces of paper. When she promised to pray for someone, she made a note on a piece of paper and slipped it into her Bible. During her times of prayer, she flipped through her Bible, praying for each one.

As a true Mother in Israel, Dolores always looked for

opportunities to help others. On Sabbath mornings, she usually could be found at the back of the church, greeting all who entered. Dolores took caring for her church family seriously. She noted when members were missing and called to let them know they were missed, to see if they were well, and to learn if there was anything they needed.

She extended hospitality to visitors, welcoming them and making them feel at home. That is how she picked up on a young Dutch seminary student visiting her church. She welcomed me as if I was family. In fact, the Slikkers' children shared their mother not only with me, but many others whom she loved and nurtured.

Dolores took a real personal interest in people's lives. On important occasions, like birthdays and anniversaries, each

person in her life received a card. Her card address list was over 2,000! Always a woman of organization, Dolores had appropriate cards for different ages and kept careful notes to ensure cards were delivered on time.

When I completed my seminary training at Andrews, I pursued doctoral studies in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. While there, the Slikkers visited me. And when I returned to the U.S. to write my doctoral dissertation, they helped sponsor me when financial difficulties were about to interrupt the research. Without the Lord's help through them, I never would have been able to complete my studies. Later, I learned I was not the only one they helped. Today, no one knows how many students Dolores and Leon have sponsored with Christian education.

Dolores and Leon played another very important role in my life. When I believed the Lord led me to the woman I wished to marry, I turned to my spiritual parents for some counsel. Our first date was a weekend spent at the Slikkers' home. They concurred, and gave me the go-ahead to marry Laurel Nelson from New England. Of course, they had to be part of our wedding at the first Seventh-day Adventist church in Washington, New Hampshire.

Through the years, whenever our journeys took us near the Holland exit, our family would pop in on the Slikkers to catch up on how God was blessing our lives. We always enjoyed Dolores' delicious meals.

The last few years, our conversations focused on our Church and how we could experience revival and reformation. Dolores was concerned but never discouraged, always upbeat about the certainty of God's promises of the final triumph of his people.

Dolores' daughter, Susan, knew her mother to be "a woman of inestimable character, marked and molded by her desire to reach out, to make sure *you* knew that someone else knew you were alive, were remembered and cared about and, most importantly, that someone was not only praying for you but keenly interested in your eternal salvation." Dolores called; she wrote; she was there.

Dolores' life ended suddenly in a tragic car accident on the icy roads of Holland at the age of 85 on December 18, 2014. The impact of the life and ministry of this Mother in Israel will never be forgotten. Who will continue her influential, far-reaching ministry?

I, along with countless others, look forward to our soon reunion with her in Heaven.

P. Gerard Damsteegt is associate professor of Church History at Andrews University.

As a true Mother in Israel, Dolores always looked for opportunities to help others.



Being Like Dad

BY RAY STEPHENSON

“You’re going to be just like Dad,” they said. The thought of this terrified me! At the time, I had an insurmountable build-up of animosity toward my father. It wasn’t that he was a bad person per se; rather, I felt he did not make the best decisions when it came to the way he treated our family.

I am the oldest of four children. My twin brother is one minute younger than me (something of which I’m very proud), and I have two younger sisters, now 27 and 24. During our childhood, we experienced a lot of injustices and unfortunate circumstances pertaining to domestic violence — something I felt never should have been an issue in a Seventh-day Adventist Christian home! The amount of times I heard and saw my parents arguing, fighting, lying, hiding and conspiring frustrated me, and had a significant impact in the way I dealt with problems, especially with my siblings.

I was always taught by my mother that “a man should never hit a woman!” And those words rang constantly in my ears, even when the anger boiled inside me when my sisters carried forward their efforts to annoy and provoke me. My brother was another case, though. When he provoked me and I felt I couldn’t take it anymore, I dealt with him in the only way I was “taught” to deal with frustration — physically.

There were moments when I also physically harmed my sisters, not heeding the instructions of my mother. At times, I asked myself, “Why would Mom continue to say that a man should never hit a woman, but yet it’s ‘okay’ that Dad hits her?” Something about that didn’t register with me. It added to the confusion and built-up anger I already had inside. It was discouraging to think this was how my life would be like in the future. I didn’t want to cause my future wife pain or sadness, and I didn’t want my future children to be afraid of me and what I would do if I ever got angry or frustrated.

The last thing that I wanted on Earth was to be like my father! I didn’t know when, where or how it would



Ray Stephenson

happen, but I was determined I would not end up becoming the person my family said I would become.

As my family struggled with the separation and eventual divorce of my parents, I unknowingly sought out affirmation and guidance from the men I encountered frequently at my high school, Andrews Academy. Our religion teacher, David Hall, and our custodian (and after-school drama director), Brooks Payne, were the two men I looked up to the most as mentors in my life. To this day, I wouldn’t be where I am now without their hands and words playing a significant role in the forming of my character.

As I was discussing with Mr. Payne what I should do for a summer job following graduation, he encouraged me to try something different and new. He had mentioned a friend of his who happened to be the director of a Christian youth summer camp in Indiana. The name of the camp was Timber Ridge Camp, and his friend was Charlie Thompson. I didn’t know it then, but the day I would meet Pastor Charlie would be the day my life would be forever changed! Right then and there, I had a phone interview with Pastor Charlie in Mr. Payne’s custodial office. I got the job as a nature assistant at TRC, and I was excited for what the future at camp had in store for me!

What was it about camp that continued to draw me back every summer? If asked to think long and hard about it, I would say it wasn’t just the ministry and the kids; it wasn’t just the camaraderie of the summer staff; nor was it the overwhelming feeling of peace and sanctuary I felt while being there. For me, the main reason was the ever-growing relationship that I had been developing with Pastor Charlie and his wife, Trish.

Though it may sound a bit unusual, I watched their interactions a lot! I marveled at how two Christian adults could treat each other with such respect, care and love, even throughout the most stressful of situations. It was something I honestly thought was never really possible. The way Pastor Charlie respected Trish, the way she cared for him, and the way they both desired to be around each other... It was the first time I ever truly hoped to have a life similar to another's. I found myself wanting to be constantly surrounded by whatever it was that kept their family together.

As my job description at camp continued to change, so did the relationship between Pastor Charlie and me. It became something more than that traditionally shared between an employer and employee. I can recall the moment, during one of our rest periods after lunch, when Pastor Charlie approached me and invited me to go biking on one of our trails at camp. I wasn't much into mountain biking, but I figured that if he wanted to, then I would go ahead and give it a try.

He must have suspected I wasn't doing too well emotionally because we stopped in the middle of the trail and he carefully asked me personal questions about my family. It became a regular thing for us to take time in the day to ride our bikes on the trail, stop somewhere in the middle of nature, and have a short conversation about life. I had never experienced anything like that before. This man wanted to spend his personal time with me! Did he actually already realize how beneficial and meaningful this was for me?

Through one of the roughest periods in my life, the Thompsons opened their home to me. I was, once again, taken aback to learn that the way they interacted at camp was no different than throughout the rest of the year. Anxiety, depression and thoughts of suicide had taken their toll on me. Friends called me to hang out with them, and I would decline, saying I wasn't feeling well.

Then it happened... One evening, while I was lying in bed wishing not to wake up, Pastor Charlie and Trish slowly walked into the room. I could see that Trish already had tears in her eyes, and Pastor Charlie had a concerned yet caring look on his face. They didn't say much at all, but just called out my name in a soft voice. I couldn't hold it in. It was as if, with a simple gesture, they both turned the key to open the door of all the stored emotions I had hidden away. I cried as I walked toward them, repeating constantly, "I don't know why I'm crying... I feel stupid..."

And the whole time I could see them with their arms stretched out and hear them saying, "Come here... Come here..."

Swallowed in their embrace, I heard Pastor Charlie say the words I had longed to hear my entire life: "We love you, and we're proud to call you our son!"

Charlie Thompson is many things to me. He's my boss, pastor, advisor, friend and, most significantly, my dad!

And when I think of Trish, I'm reminded of that Sunday afternoon, waiting in line to get some fresh ice cream. Someone approaches to make conversation, and Trish introduces her family. When she gets to me, she doesn't hesitate as she says, "And this is my son! Can't you see... He's got my eyes!"

How warm a feeling to know that, even in public, my Dad and "Mumzy" are not ashamed to call me son. Now, I live to hopefully one day be like the man who took me into his family, showed me what it truly means to be a husband, a father and man of God.

In my life, no example is clearer of how God relates to his children. He desires to spend time with them. He seeks out opportunities where he can show them the way to live and be joyful. And even when his children feel like all hope is lost, when there's no reason for living, he slowly enters their room, stretches out his hands and, with tears of love streaming down his face, says, "Come here... I love you, and I'm proud to call you my child!"

Ray Stephenson, BSN, is a bilingual assistant at Shortridge Magnet High School, IPS (Indianapolis Public Schools), Pathfinder director, Brownsburg-Chapel West Eternal Flame Pathfinder Club, Indianapolis, Indiana, and assistant camp director, Timber Ridge Camp, Spencer, Indiana. The summer of 2015 will be Ray's 11th summer at camp.



Photo by Ray's sister, Katie "Toky" Thompson

Ray Stephenson visits Dad and Mumzy (Charlie and Trish Thompson) at their home in Arcadia, Indiana.

Home at Last

BY GORDON BARKER

I was working at the Adventist Community Center in Hastings, Michigan, putting away clothes, when this older gentleman walked in the door. He was quite unkempt, hadn't shaved, and did not smell so good.

He asked, "Do you have a dry pair of socks?"

I quickly responded, "Sure, we do."

He was pretty soggy. I asked if he could use some dry clothes as well.

"I fell in the river," he said.

It was snowing quite heavily and 24 degrees outside. In the course of our conversation, he revealed to me that he was living in a tent, down by the river, because he was homeless.

At first I didn't believe him, but he described it with a lot of detail. I then asked him, "What are you eating?"

He told me his last meal was frozen soup, which he had to chisel out of the can.

I asked if it would be okay if I brought him a hot meal.

He said, "That would be great, but you won't do it. It's a pretty far walk through the snow and brush."

The next day, my assistant director, Donna Mattson, and I were working. At lunch, we decided to go for a cheese pizza. On the drive to the pizzeria, this little man was in my mind, and so I asked, "Hey, how would you like to go for an adventure?"

"Where?" Donna replied.

I said, "You won't believe it."

So, we ordered an extra pizza to go, and I told her where to drive. When we got close to the river, Donna remarked, "No one could possibly survive in this weather." But I convinced her we should at least try to find my homeless friend.

We left the pizza in the van, and then trekked through the snow down to the river. There we saw a path with several footprints, following the fence line. It was bone-chilling cold. We walked for awhile and almost thought of turning



around, but there were still footprints so we kept walking.

Finally, after getting hit in the face a few times by brush and branches, there it was — a campsite with two snow-covered tents.

We called out his name, but there was no answer. "There is no one here," Donna said. So, back to the van we went.

After getting into the van and warming up a bit, we reflected, in amazement, that

anyone could survive the night in this weather.

I still wanted to find him, so I said, "Hey, let's check the library." So we did.

I am originally from Kalamazoo, Michigan, where frequently the homeless go to the library during the day to keep warm. We now live in a much smaller town, but I thought it was worth a try.

After walking around a bit, we saw a younger man sitting there reading, with two very full bags with him. I asked if he knew the man I was looking for, and he said, "Yes, he just left and was heading to the Adventist Community Center."

I asked him if he would like to come with us, told him we were from the Center, and asked if he would like some pizza.

He was homeless, too, and told us the second tent belonged to him. I was dumbfounded. We invited him to come with us, but I really didn't think he would. However, the pizza was enough to get his attention.

We got back in the van and headed for the Center. En route, we saw our other homeless friend walking down the road in the cold and snow. I rolled down the window and said, "Hey, here is that hot food I promised you. Come, get

in the van and go with us; we have some hot pizzas, and would love for you to come back to the Center to warm up and eat with us.” Amazingly, he did.

The radio was calling for a temperature of less than nine degrees. I looked at Donna, and she looked at me, and we just couldn’t let them go back out in the cold.

Our Community Center has a vacant apartment upstairs, which we were using for storage. Not much furniture there, but it was warm, they could shower, and we could round up some bedding for the night. They quickly agreed, and were very thankful to be out of the cold.

The next night the forecast was the same, so we called the pastor and some of the church board members, and asked if we could let them stay until the storm passed by. Of course, they agreed.

I went back to my work at the Center, but could not get this out of my head. As I was sorting the donations, a little red book dropped out of a bag. I read the cover: *Welfare Ministries* by Ellen White. I opened the pages and read. If I didn’t *know* better, I would have thought Ellen wrote pages 35–36 just for me.

I got that feeling you get in the pit of your stomach. I must have looked funny, because Donna asked, “What are you thinking?”

I called the pastor and said, “I want to open up a homeless shelter at the Center, at least temporarily, until we can figure out something else.”

So they stayed. The pastor and the church board readily agreed. As of this writing, we have five men sheltered, two of whom are taking Bible studies.

The older gentleman who had fallen in the river later told me, “If this is what Jesus would do, you are gonna make a believer out of me.”

These are actually “our boys.” Our little church was a-buzz and has been on fire. The Pathfinders made them a Thanksgiving basket. We officially have adopted them all, and we are on the road to opening a permanent shelter for our little town.

Gordon Barker is a member of the Hastings Church in Michigan and director of the Adventist Community Services Center.

As of this writing, we have five men sheltered, two of whom are taking Bible studies.





From left: Emily DeAno, community partnership specialist and a certified lactation counselor, and nursing leaders BettySue Netzel, Kim Carmignani and Shawn Tyrrell cut the ribbon at the grand opening of The Nurturing Nook last fall.

The Nurturing Nook offers supplies, breastfeeding help

When Emily DeAno became a mother, she faced some challenges while breastfeeding her son. Today, she helps other new mothers through a new, unique service at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital in Illinois.

"I struggled when I began breastfeeding my son," DeAno said. "When I sought help, I found that there were untapped resources in the community, and the hospital lactation department was one of them. There were great partnerships to be made."

The result is The Nurturing Nook, a clinic and boutique at the hospital that supports new mothers with education and a full array of breastfeeding supplies. DeAno said she treasures the experience she had with her son, now

three, and is energized to help other mothers overcome any obstacles to breastfeeding.

The Nurturing Nook was made possible through a grant from CREATION Health, a biblical-based lifestyle wellness program rooted in the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is one of only a few clinics in the Chicagoland suburbs that can bill insurance, as most insurance companies now provide coverage for breastfeeding supplies and services under the Affordable Care Act.

The Nurturing Nook offers a weekly breastfeeding café, a supportive group of breastfeeding mothers who share experiences. It is led by a board-certified lactation consultant. The full boutique features nursing bras, support pillows, baby booties and teething accessories, as well as organic creams and breast pumps for sale or rental.

"Breastfeeding is the greatest first gift you can give to your baby," said DeAno, community partnership specialist and a certified lactation counselor at The Nurturing Nook. "We've got everything for before and after the baby comes — the best brands in mom and baby items, including labor gowns and baby slings."

"I'm excited to now be able to offer a great place for our local mothers to get help in reaching their breastfeeding goals," DeAno said. "We want to promote the Healthy People 2020 breastfeeding goal of increasing the percentage of babies breastfed exclusively at six months from 43 percent to 60 percent." Healthy People 2020 is a federal program that sets objectives to promote health and prevent disease.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics and the World Health Organization strongly recommend breastfeeding," DeAno said. "Breastfeeding may reduce the baby's risks of SIDS, diabetes, respiratory illness, ear infections and obesity to name a few."

The Nurturing Nook also serves as a drop-off location for the Mother's Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes.

"We are really excited about partnering with the Mother's Milk Bank as a depot," DeAno said. "Once a donor is approved, mothers can drop off their excess breast milk at our center, and we get it to the milk bank."

The milk bank provides donor breast milk to mothers who cannot supply enough breast milk, particularly mothers of infants who are premature or who have other health issues. Medical experts and lactation specialists recommend mother's milk to help prevent infections.

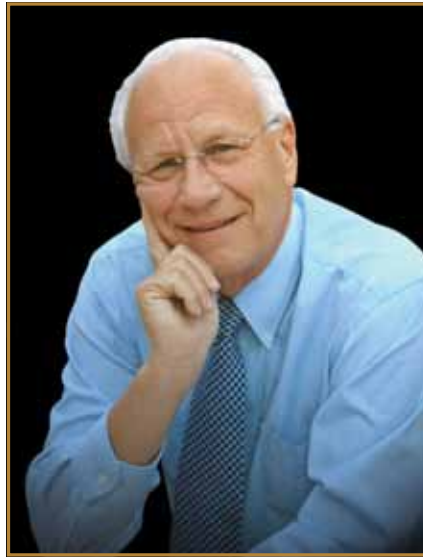
Julie Busch, regional director of communications, Adventist Midwest Health

Event to honor George Knight

Known to many as writer, teacher, pastor and friend, George Knight continues to touch lives and create an indelible legacy both within and outside of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. To recognize his prolific career, Knight will be honored at a special event on the campus of Andrews University at the end of April.

Nearly a decade ago, after 42 years of service to the Church, Knight retired. Thirty of those years were spent at Andrews University, and his story there includes chapters as professor of educational foundations and church history, and editor of *Seminary Studies*. During this time, Knight continued to author numerous articles and books.

“As one reads George’s books, history comes alive and you feel a desire to be a part of that history,” shares Ranko Stefanovic, professor of New Testament at Andrews. “I have always been particularly impressed with his ability to bring his scholarship down



George Knight is well-known around the world for his scholarship. On April 21, he will be honored in a special event open to the public.

to the ground and make it understandable to both the informed reader and the people in the pew.”

Knight is recognized by Adventists and theologians, across the world, for his work as a church historian and writer. He has authored and edited over 30 books, many of which have been translated into several languages,

including German, Italian, Spanish, Russian and Korean. One of the most well-known is *Philosophy and Education*, written in 1982 and still widely-used by Christian educators across North America.

“As he studied Adventist educational philosophy, Knight soon realized that the educational initiatives of the church are bound up with its history and theology,” says John Matthews, professor of religious education and educational foundations at Andrews. “George Knight the Adventist educator became George Knight the Adventist scholar, a leading thinker in three major domains: denominational education, history and theology.”

A special event to honor Knight will be held at Andrews on Tuesday, April 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the Seminary Chapel. It will feature the presentation of a *festschrift* titled, *Adventist Maverick: A Celebration of George Knight’s Contribution to Adventist Thought*, tributes by the editors, and a response from Knight. All are welcome.

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



Christa McConnell

Guest speaker Michael B. Kelly II, senior pastor of Mt. Rubidoux Adventist Church in Riverside, Calif., spoke to students in February as the University celebrated Black History Month.

Andrews celebrates Black History Month

In February, Andrews University celebrated Black History Month. Black History Sabbath featured special guest speaker Michael B. Kelly II, senior pastor of the Mt. Rubidoux Adventist Church in Riverside, Calif. Kelly received his M.Div. from Andrews University in 2003, and is now a certified trainer for Vital Smarts, providing leadership training and team building for churches and businesses across the country.

The University also hosted two screenings of “Selma,” a 2014 film starring David Oyelowo and Tim Roth. It depicts Martin Luther King

Jr.’s campaign to secure equal voting rights through an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., in 1965. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 already had made desegregation legal, but discrimination was still extensive. King led a march that culminated in Lyndon Johnson, then president of the U.S., signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

For information about upcoming cultural events at Andrews, visit <http://www.andrews.edu/events>.

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

[EDUCATION NEWS]



Wisconsin Academy students feed the homeless on State Street in Madison, Wis.

Wisconsin Academy serves Madison's homeless

Wisconsin—On a cold, misty Sabbath in November 2014, four Wisconsin Academy girls, along with faculty Jeanine Carter and Karen White, helped feed over 100 homeless people on State Street in Madison.

"It was a great experience," said Carter. "My husband and I both have a burden for the homeless. When you touch their cold, hard hands, it really melts you."

One student found herself in a conversation about the Sabbath with a young man in his 30s. He never realized the seventh day was the Sabbath, and was really taken aback by the idea. She wanted to show him from the Bible that it was true. As she ran back to the car to get her Bible, she said, "Mrs. Carter, I'm about to preach!"

Another lady asked, "Do you pray?"

"Of course," was the reply. "What would you like to pray about?" Soon they could be seen holding hands in the middle of State Street, praying to the God of the universe.

"We are excited about the possibilities of this ministry," said Carter. "We hope to bring interested students here to serve one Sabbath afternoon a month."

Juanita Edge, communication director, Wisconsin Conference, as shared by Jeanine Carter, work coordinator and assistant director of Food Services, Wisconsin Academy



The Battle Creek Academy band, directed by Shelly Stark, plays several musical selections during the prayer breakfast program.

BCA hosts prayer breakfast

Michigan—Parents and grandparents of Battle Creek Academy students gathered in the gymnasium on Oct. 28, 2014, for the school's first prayer breakfast. Organizers planned the event to remind families that nothing is more important than praying for our children.

Beginning at 7:30 a.m., the 45-minute program allowed attendees time to visit with each other, eat a nourishing breakfast, enjoy the program, and still arrive at their jobs on time. The breakfast foods — cereal, fruit, breads and milk — were all donated, and the table decorations were made by elementary students. Special music was provided by an elementary girls chorus, and BCA band under the direction of Shelly Stark. The academy staff earlier had chosen the theme "Abide" for this school year, and several of the songs emphasized the importance of abiding in Jesus.

Denry White, pastor of the Battle Creek Berean Church and Kalamazoo Trinity Temple, gave an inspiring devotional on faith. Using the story of Jesus sleeping soundly in a boat while his disciples feverishly battled a storm, White emphasized that nothing is too hard for Jesus. Even though we live in a time of fear on many fronts, he pointed out that Jesus will get us through the most difficult storms in our lives. We can count on him because his word is true.

Parent Micky Porter said the devotional was very meaningful to her. "While most people focus on the 'Peace be still' part of the story," she said, "it was refreshing to hear someone put emphasis on the assurance Jesus gave — *Let us go to the other side* (see Luke 8:22).

At the end of the program, each family was given a copy of the book, *Creating Circles around Your Children* by Mark Batterson.

Parents and teachers both expressed appreciation for the prayer breakfast and how helpful it was to have it near the beginning of the school year. "It helped set the spiritual tone for the school year," said one grandparent.

Principal James Davis hopes the prayer breakfast will become an annual event. "The first annual BCA Prayer Breakfast was intended to bring the focus of our school and community towards prayer. It is extremely important that we realize how helpless we are to accomplish anything without Christ. As parents and educators, we have incredible responsibilities and are in constant need of prayer. It is very nice to be able to redirect our focus and be reminded of the power that is available when we ask."

He added, "We hope that this event will be one that is repeated for years to come."

Charlotte Erickson, communication director, Battle Creek Tabernacle



SOW Safari participants, students and adult volunteers from Andrews Academy, built a new church in Nueva Esperanza, Dominican Republic, during their Christmas holiday. It was the answer to prayer for which village residents had been praying.

Andrews Academy sees God do great things

Michigan—SOW Safari, Andrews Academy's biennial two-week mission trip, has been an important part of the academy's mission since 1986. The name, SOW Safari, speaks to the reason for these trips: Service through construction on a church or school building, Outreach through vacation Bible schools, and Witness through evangelistic efforts. To date, several hundred people have been baptized through the evangelistic component of these trips, including some of the students themselves!

This Christmas holiday, 26 AA students and nine adult volunteers served in a Maranatha Volunteers International project in the Dominican Republic, in Nueva Esperanza, near Monte Plata, about one hour from the capitol of Santo Domingo.

The story of the "miracle church" began with unexpected miracles a week prior to and continued throughout the mission trip. About this time, the school was informed the church project had to be cancelled because needed funds had not been received. A number of the adult sponsors of this trip gave generous gifts of many thousands of dollars to make this building project happen.

SOW participants were to arrive at the site with the footings and supports in place so they could build the walls and roof. However, when they arrived, it was only a somewhat-cleared field

and they began to dig, by hand, the 40' by 20' footings for the building. Then, they placed the rebar and poured the cement. After a couple grueling days to accomplish this, participants began the scheduled project. Despite this extra, unexpected work, they still were able to build the church in the seven days planned.

The participants actually built two structures; the second building, of almost the same size, is an outdoor multi-purpose shelter for Sabbath school classrooms. Not only did they complete these two buildings, they also went to another Adventist church nearby and repainted it as well.

God worked many miracles to make this happen. The day after the church was built, students joined the new congregation in a Wednesday evening prayer meeting. The village residents were praying for a miracle, that a church could be built in which to worship. They kept expressing their thanks for Andrews Academy's part in answering their prayer. The final miracle of the trip was the safe return home in the midst of the worst snowstorm of the season.

SOW participants had a base camp from which they walked to the job site. The girls were in cabins, and the guys stayed in a larger cabin with separate rooms.

While one crew worked on the job site, another part of the group went to the church they rented and offered a vacation Bible school from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. They sang songs, told and acted out Bible stories, taught crafts,

and then played a traditional children's game of Duck, Duck, Goose. Memories were made, and the children left their imprints on participants' hearts. Most of the VBS meetings had close to and sometimes more than 100 children.

The evening included a second VBS program. On the first night, attendees learned about Miriam and the importance of brushing their teeth. Every child went home with a shiny new toothbrush. Students preached for the adults in the church, too. They did such a great job! The rented church did not have electric lighting outside. With sundown occurring near 6:30 p.m., the program had to be held outside in the dark! Students were rather creative as they came up with some forms of lighting and modified the program to accommodate this unexpected variable.

"SOW Safari mission trip was literally the best two weeks of my life," commented one student. "I've gotten to know so many awesome people. The kids there are so adorable, and their outlook on life is so pure, without very many worldly distractions. If anyone is considering going on the next one, I would highly suggest it."

Another student commented, "I had an amazing time in the Dominican Republic these past two weeks. We finished the church, which we didn't think was possible. We got to know the people there and the kids. Also, had lots of fun with everyone that went. ... God did great things."

Steven Atkins, Biology and Earth Science teacher, Andrews Academy



After laying the last block for the church, SOW Safari participants Jonika Scott (senior, left) and Amber Benjamin (freshman, right) and others reflected on the many miracles God worked to make this structure a reality for residents of the Nueva Esperanza village in the Dominican Republic.

Cancer survivors group meets at Shiloh Church

Lake Region—As part of its outreach into the African American community, Gilda's Club Chicago (a non-profit organization whose mission is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community), helped start a survivors group at the Shiloh Church in Chicago.

The group began in 2012 at the church located in the Greater Grand Crossing community. As part of the group's involvement with Gilda's Club, the Shiloh Church survivors attended events at its downtown Clubhouse. They wanted to become more involved with programs and activities, as well as continue with the church survivors group.

Jackie "Lillie" Bonner was the first to request a quilting circle be added to the programming. The women soon began enjoying the camaraderie, and several Clubhouse members expressed interest in joining them. Bonner offered to lead and facilitate the quilting circle, offering her years of experience in the craft.

During their time visiting the Club, they became inspired by the artwork on display, especially the story of the "1000 Cranes Project," hanging in the lobby at that time. The group decided to create a quilt with cranes, representing the variety of cancers experienced by the SDA survivors group.

Unfortunately, Bonner was not able to see the completion of the quilt, but the group did complete it and dedicated the quilt to Gilda's Club Chicago in memory of Bonner.

The Shiloh Church is located at 7000 South Michigan Avenue. For more information about Shiloh's cancer survivors group, call 733-224-7700.

If your church doesn't offer a cancer support community, visit <http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org/Main-Menu/Cancer-Support/Find-a-Local->



Photos by Tamika Perry

Seventh-day Adventist cancer survivors from the Shiloh Church in Chicago, with Gilda's Club members, created a quilt with cranes, of different colors, depicting the types of cancers each experienced. Though she did not live to see the quilt completed, Jackie "Lillie" Bonner led and facilitated the quilting circle. Pictured (from left) are (back row): a Gilda's Club member and Jeanette Santana; (front row): Jackie "Lillie" Bonner; a Gilda's Club member; and Dorothy Jones.



Cancer survivors from the Shiloh Church in Chicago display the completed quilt which was dedicated to Gilda's Club Chicago in memory of Jackie "Lillie" Bonner. Pictured from left are (front row): Norma McNeal, Dorothy Jones, Alleen Reese, Geneva Lloyd and Annie Barnes; (back row): Abraham Lloyd, Samuel Reese and Melvin Jones.

CSC-Affiliate to find a support group near you.

Tamika Perry, African American program coordinator, Gilda's Club Chicago

Originally published in the Gilda's Club Chicago's Oct/Nov/Dec 2014 Calendar, adapted and reprinted with permission. To learn more about Gilda's Club, call 312-464-9900 or visit <http://www.gildasclubchicago.org>.





Photos by Greg Edge

Guards haul a zealot (Hailey Hilgart) before Herod (History teacher Tyler Cantrell). Most Jews who hope for the Messiah, like this zealot, imagine a conquering hero who will annihilate the Romans. They are ill-prepared for the news of a newborn baby in a cow shed.

Churches and Wisconsin Academy present Christmas story to community

Wisconsin—On Dec. 12–13, 2014, over 500 guests attended “Journey to Bethlehem,” a dramatic retelling of the birth of Jesus presented by Wisconsin Academy and local Seventh-day Adventist churches. This gift to the community has been an annual tradition since 1998.

Attendees experienced “the bustling Jerusalem marketplace, the song of angels on the Bethlehem hillsides, the crowded inn, the observatory of the Magi, and the simplicity of the stable where the newborn Savior sleeps,” according to the academy’s website.

Over 150 students, WA staff and church members participated to make this free service available to the community.

A larger percentage of guests this year were friends and neighbors from the area who were invited by church members or responded to advertising. Several expressed interest in finding out more about Seventh-day Adventists and attending church.

The printed program guide provided contact information for local Seventh-day Adventist churches and an invitation to future events, such as evangelistic series and health classes. The churches and academy participants pray that this event will become a first contact point with people who otherwise would never visit a Seventh-day Adventist church,



“Glory to God in the highest!” the angel choir sings, announcing the news of a newborn King to the shepherds. Comparatively warmer weather this year made the few outdoor scenes less of a challenge for the actors involved.



Joseph (Jean-Marcel Clouzet, pastor), and Mary (Tammi Clouzet) watch Jesus (their son, Julien Clouzet) in the manger. Two donkeys and two sheep, in nearby stalls, kept the stable sounds and smells authentic.

and that it will lead them to further opportunities to know Jesus deeper.

If you are interested in helping out with “Journey to Bethlehem” next year in any way, feel free to contact Wisconsin Academy.

Greg Edge, director, “Journey to Bethlehem”
with Lake Union Herald staff

New church building dedicated in Menomonie

Wisconsin—Between 80 and 100 people gathered to celebrate the dedication of their new Menomonie Church building on Oct. 24, 2014. They sold their previous church building to the Menomonie hospital for expansion.

The first Menomonie church began back in 1931, with the merging of two other church families, and the Lucas and Knapp churches.



Juanita Edge

More than 80 people attended the dedication service of the new Menomonie Church on Oct. 24, 2014.

Two former pastors of the Menomonie congregation, Art Miller and John Johansen, attended and participated in the dedication service. Mike Edge, president of the Wisconsin Conference,

led the morning worship and dedication service.

Juanita Edge, communication director,
Wisconsin Conference

Indiana Conference offers single mothers a respite

Indiana—Since 2002, the Youth and Women's Ministries departments of the Indiana Conference have provided a summer vacation experience for single mothers and their children at Single Moms Retreat, hosted at Timber Ridge Camp in Spencer. Hundreds of women and children have benefited from this ministry initiative.

"Charlie Thompson presented the concept to the Women's Ministries Committee to partner with the camp to offer this camping experience for single moms and their children to have an opportunity to go to camp together. The idea was to offer the moms a little break from their routines and receive a little pampering as well as camp fun activity, throwing some educational programming in along with it all to help the moms in their journey of the single-life parenting. The kids would enjoy a camp experience they might not get otherwise," says Julie Loucks, a women's ministries volunteer involved with Single Moms Retreat for many years.

Single mothers and their children arrive at Timber Ridge Camp for a four-day respite on a Thursday and are pampered from that moment on, by women's ministries volunteers and camp staff, until the campers depart the following Sunday.

At the 2014 retreat, 21 mothers and 38 children were blessed by the experience and caregivers who served them. The mothers stepped into a retreat themed "Garden Getaway: Where Women Walk with God." Based on Ecclesiastes 3 and other Bible passages, the mothers learned about the seasons of life and how to trust God's perfect timing all the time and find hope during the hard, difficult seasons.

Other program messages helped participants find healing and forgiveness from sin in light of grace. There



Each summer, Indiana Conference Youth and Women's Ministries departments collaborate for Single Moms Retreat. During Moms Time Out, camp staff take care of the cherubs while mothers enjoy personal time.

were opportunities to experience God's presence with reflection, listening and prayer.

Group activities were geared to help the mothers connect and better understand one another's journey, and to share how God uses all the seasons of life to help each grow closer to him. Some of the mothers return year after year, and develop close bonds of friendship.

A retreat highlight happens on Friday when the mothers are invited to a special luncheon, coordinated by Lucia Whitlow of Spencer. She begins planning the memorable experience long before the mothers arrive. Last year, just prior to the meal, the ladies participated in a craft time at which they adorned straw hats with flowers and ribbons to wear to the luncheon.

Whitlow says, "It is truly a joy to serve them at our cafeteria. I look forward to the banquet that is given just for the moms each year. A theme is selected, and then the decorations and menu are centered around that theme. Our kitchen staff works hard, prepping two meals at the same time — one for the children and camp staff, and then the banquet for the moms, but the joy outweighs the hard work. The ladies are always so appreciative of the special meal prepared for them."

The mothers and children also enjoy recreational activities together that most would not have time for or be able to afford outside the retreat. They enjoy swimming, horseback riding, ceramics, archery, and much more. The children and moms especially look forward to "Moms Time Out," a daily oasis in time during which camp staff take care of the cherubs while their mothers have personal time.

"We try to make them feel very pampered!" says Trish Thompson, administrative assistant for Youth and Camp Ministries. "They don't always have a support system back home that gives them the luxury of going to get a pedicure, reading a book 'uninterrupted,' or enjoying a meal at a restaurant without juggling their kids. We do all of those things for them at camp, so they can recharge their emotional battery for the next year."

Ladies from all walks of life come to the retreat. "One of my greatest joys in service was to be a part of this experience with these moms. Being able to encourage them and show them they are so loved by their Savior was a real gift to me. They enriched me with sharing their life stories, watching them make friends with each other that would continue after the camp was over, as well as seeing them grow in



During the 2014 Single Moms Retreat, the moms decorated, with flowers and ribbons, hats they wore to a special luncheon.

Jesus. Truly, I felt it was the one thing that I have ever done that could make a difference for Jesus!" says Loucks.

Timber Ridge Camp and the Women's Ministries Department subsidize the expenses not covered



Some moms don't have a support system back home, so they appreciate friendships made at the retreat that continue throughout the year.

by registration fees, which are kept as low as possible: \$35 for each mother and \$10 per child. Still, it is a financial struggle for some to attend.

If you would like to contribute to send a single mom or would like more information about the 2015 Single Moms Retreat, contact Tammy Begley at 317-919-5318 or email tammy.begley@gmail.com.

Tammy Begley, women's ministries director, Indiana Conference with *Lake Union Herald* staff

[UNION NEWS]

Executive Committee votes delegates to 2015 General Conference Session

The General Conference Session is a Seventh-day Adventist Church global spiritual gathering and a constitutionally-required business meeting, held every five years. Its purpose is to vote global leadership, set the direction of the Church for the next five years, and vote changes to the Constitution, Fundamental Beliefs and *Church Manual*.

At the Feb. 19 Lake Union Executive Committee, members elected delegates to the 2015 General Conference Session, to be held July 2-11 in San Antonio, Texas (see <http://2015.gcsession.org>).

The Seventh-day Adventist Church Constitution requires 18 delegates to be elected, by the Executive Committee, to represent the Lake Union (Illinois, Indiana, Lake Region, Michigan and



Arise! Shine! Jesus is Coming!

Wisconsin conferences) at the 2015 Session. Of those delegates who are not officers or administrators, a required percentage includes five women, two Hispanics and five individuals of African descent. These delegates were recommended by local conference leadership.

Elected delegates to the 2015 Session include Lake Union officers: Don Livesay, president; Gary Thurber, executive secretary; Glynn Scott, treasurer; Conference presidents: Ray Pichette, Illinois; TBD, Indiana; Clifford Jones, Lake Region; Jay Gallimore, Michigan; Mike Edge, Wisconsin; Others: Andres Flores (pastor); Helen Bryant

(layperson); Liesbeth Fernandez (layperson); William Lee (pastor); Jim Howard (pastor); Titus Naftanaila (pastor); Alyssa Palmer (layperson); Tracy Pennyman (layperson); Vic Van Schaik (pastor); Verna Walker (Illinois).

Questions about delegate selection or the role of delegates at the upcoming Session may be directed to Gary. Thurber@lakeunion.org.

Lake Union constituents may submit comments to all delegates prior to the Session. An online form is available at <http://bit.ly/LUCdelegates>.

Gary Thurber, executive secretary, Lake Union Conference

[NAD NEWS]

NAD Ordination Study Committee Report

The Ordination Study Committee of the North American Division has presented the following report which was affirmed by the North American Division Executive Committee. Each of the world divisions have done similar work for consideration by the General Conference at its request.

Definition of Ordination

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

The Committee agreed on the following statement as a common point of reference: Ordination is a formal acknowledgment and authentication of one’s call to service ministry by God. Authentication should be understood as ratifying what only God can dispense. Ordination neither supersedes God’s call nor enhances it. Ordination affirms the genuineness of the call as having borne the proper fruit of the Holy Spirit’s work. God initiates the call and equips the

recipient for enacting it. God’s person accepts the call. God’s people affirm the call.

Recommendations

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

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

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

Recommendation 1

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

Because the Bible does not directly address the ordination of women, and because the principle-based evidence is neither complete nor irrefutable, it can be expected that differing conclusions may be drawn by equally sincere and

competent students of God’s Word. We believe the interpretive approach adopted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church as explained in the “Methods of Bible Study” document may allow Bible-believing members to have differences of opinion on this issue. In light of this, we submit this additional recommendation:

Recommendation 2

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

What follows in this report (see <http://www.nadordination.com>) is a summary of the key points of our study, including evidences from Scripture and the writings of Ellen White, which we regard as overwhelmingly supportive of ordaining women in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In-depth analysis of the major themes, as well as a minority report, are provided with this report.

North American Division
Theology of Ordination Committee
with Lake Union Herald staff

For additional information on this subject, visit <http://www.ordination.lakeunion.org>.

[WORLD CHURCH NEWS]

Recommendations from The Ordination Study Committee of the General Conference

In preparation for the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, July 2–11, The Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) of the General Conference has presented three positions for consideration, summarized as:

Position No. 1: A) Reaffirm and encourage, with public recognition and licensure, women whom God has called to gospel work and return to the former

practice of electing and ordaining only men to the office of local elder, while providing for women to serve as un-ordained church leaders under certain circumstances, and B) retain the practice of ordaining/commissioning only qualified men to the office of pastor/minister throughout the world church while promoting the greater development of various lines of ministry for women, according to their spiritual gifts, including but not limited to personal and public evangelism, teaching, preaching, ministering to families, counseling, medical missionary work, departmental leadership, etc.

Position No. 2: That the world church allow for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry in those areas of the world church that are comfortable with it, recognizing what the Holy Spirit has

already been doing in the church through the ministry of female pastors.

Position No. 3: To affirm that men have a special responsibility to carry out the office of ordained minister, but where it would further Church mission and unity, Divisions can allow Unions to authorize the ordination of women ministers, but no Conference, Mission or local Church should be obliged to have women ministers serve within their territory or church.

It is anticipated that one or more recommendations will be presented in the form of a motion to be voted on by the seated delegates at the Session.

General Conference of Seventh-day
Adventists Office of Archives, Statistics and
Research with Lake Union Herald staff



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: To see a list of the upcoming events at HPAC, visit website <https://howard.andrews.edu/events/>. For more information, call the Box Office at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560.

Please join Andrews University for the presentation of a *festschrift* to George Knight in honor of his distinguished teaching, research, editorial and publishing career. The recently released book, *Adventist Maverick: A Celebration of George Knight's Contribution to Adventist Thought*, is a collection of writings by colleagues and students who have come to highly respect Knight and his scholarship. The event will take place Tuesday, **April 21**, at 11:30 a.m. in the Seminary Chapel at Andrews University, and will feature tributes by the editors and a response from Knight. A reception will follow in the Seminary Commons. All are welcome.

Six-day Natural Remedies & Hydrotherapy Workshop, Aug. 2-7, to be held at Andrews University. For more details, visit website <http://www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw>, email fran@andrews.edu, or call 269-471-3541.

Lake Region

Calling all Pathfinders and directors! Please join us for our 11th Annual Pathfinder Honors Retreat, **May 8-10**, at Camp Michawana in Hastings, Mich. This year's theme is "I Will Trust!" A variety of honors will be taught by expert instructors: Archery, Drilling & Marching, Tie Dye, Nutrition, God's Messenger, Flags, and much more. Main goals are to help Pathfinders

have a spiritually-enriched weekend, earn honors to meet AY classwork annual investiture requirements, and obtain knowledge and skills through the honors they earn. The cost for this weekend includes lodging, meals and materials. Zip line and wall tower are extra, weather permitting. For more information, call Weata Powell at 248-904-2675 or Robert Jackson at 248-877-8300.

Lake Union

Offerings

- April 4** Local Church Budget
- April 11** Christian Record Services
- April 18** Local Church Budget
- April 25** Local Conference Advance

Special Days

- April 4** Missionary Magazines
(*Signs, Message, El Centinela, Priorities*)
- April 11** Stewardship Sabbath
- April 18** Literature Evangelism Sabbath
- April 25** Education Sabbath

Heritage wall planned in Lake Union office: We invite you to share your photos and slides of the work in and around the Lake Union territory for the planned heritage wall in our new office building. Please mail these to Communication Department, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. Include your address if you

want photos and slides returned. Hi-resolution scanned photos can be emailed to circulation@lakeunion.org.

Michigan

Great Lakes Adventist Academy invites all students in grades 8-11 to come to Academy Days, **April 26-27**. Visit classes, make new friends, enjoy current students and experience boarding academy life. Registration is 1:00-2:30 p.m. on Sunday. To register, visit website <http://www.glaa.net>, call Arlene Leavitt at 989-427-2420, or email arleneleavitt@yahoo.com.

The Bristol Church in Tustin, Mich., announces the "300 Men of God Retreat," **May 1-3**, which promises inspiration and adventure in northwest Michigan. The action-packed, themed weekend "You have been called. Will you choose him?" is inspired by the story of Gideon's army. Men of all ages are welcome. Dynamic keynote speakers and seminar leaders include Lynn Bryson, Scott Ritsema, Dan Augsburger, Jonathan Chitwood and Gunther Schwartz. The event will be held at Center Lake Bible Camp in Tustin. For more information and to register, visit the "300 Men of God" Facebook page or call 616-460-6994.

"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion will take place **June 5-7** for alumni and classmates of 1964 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1935, '45, '55 and '65. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information, you may contact GLAA alumni office at 989-427-5181 or visit website <http://www.glaa.net/>.

North American Division

Madison College Alumni Association wants to include any graduates, attendees or friends who may not already be on its mailing list, to receive the quarterly newsletter and any other communications. Write to P.O. Box 1735, Madison, TN 37116, or email madisoncollegealumni@gmail.com.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Academy Alumni Weekend: Come celebrate alumni weekend at Wisconsin Academy **April 24-26**. This year's honor classes are: 1945, '55, '65, '75, '85, '90, '95 and 2005. Class leaders should email Neil Mishleau at nmishleau@yahoo.com or contact the WA Development office by calling 920-623-3300, ext. 304, or emailing development@wisacad.org.

World Division

The 60th General Conference Session will convene Thurs., **July 2**, in San Antonio, Texas, with the theme "Arise! Shine! Jesus Is Coming!" Delegates and visitors to this highly-spiritual world church meeting will listen to how God is carrying the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14 to every corner of this globe, and how the Advent movement is penetrating every region, town and home with this life-saving message. It also is an opportunity to clearly focus on the mission of the Church, and how best to accomplish that mission. For more information on housing, exhibits, meals, parking and schedules, visit website <http://2015.gcsession.org>.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Apr 3	Apr 10	Apr 17	Apr 24	May 1	May 8
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:12	8:20	8:27	8:35	8:43	8:50
Chicago, Ill.	7:17	7:25	7:32	7:40	7:48	7:55
Detroit, Mich.	7:59	8:07	8:15	8:23	8:31	8:38
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:10	8:17	8:24	8:31	8:38	8:45
La Crosse, Wis.	7:33	7:41	7:50	7:58	8:06	8:15
Lansing, Mich.	8:05	8:13	8:21	8:29	8:37	8:45
Madison, Wis.	7:25	7:33	7:41	7:49	7:57	8:05
Springfield, Ill.	7:24	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:52	7:59

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

Obituaries

ANDERSON, Mary Saba (Swayze), age 82; born Dec. 20, 1932, in Farmington, N.M.; died Dec. 29, 2014, in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was a member of the Grand Haven (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Lewis; sons, Jonathan and Eric; daughter, Gina Anderson; brother, Ralph Swayze; sister, Esther Ballard; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Jarod Thomas, and interment was in Alledale (Mich.) Cemetery.

AUSTIN, Charles, age 82; born Feb. 7, 1932, in New Albany, Ind.; died Jan. 3, 2015, in Louisville, Ky. He was a member of the Tell City (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Violet (Eigel); son, John; daughters, Jennifer Korressell, Stacey Austin and Terri Riley; and six grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Al Madden, and interment was in Tick Ridge Cemetery, Crawford County, Ind.

GLASS, Geraldine M. (Pumford), age 85; born Nov. 1, 1928, in Saginaw, Mich.; died March 22, 2014, in Bloomington, Ind. She was a member of the Bloomington Church.

Survivors include her husband, Charles; daughters, Dorothy Glass and Lois Farr; brother, Lawrence Pumford; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Lawrence Pumford, and interment was in Valhalla Cemetery Mausoleum, Bloomington.

GROSSE, Cynthia (Peterkin), age 88; born July 7, 1926, in Montreal, Canada; died Dec. 31, 2014, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include her husband, Cyril; sister, Ethel Springer; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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

GYERESI, Erno, age 54; born Feb. 27, 1960, in Nyaradszereda, Romania; died Jan. 31, 2015, in Niles, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Ildiko (Galfi); son Lihel; daughter, Harmat Beebe; father, Iosif; mother, Marta (Csongvay); and sister, Judit Dan.

Memorial services were conducted by Barna Magyarosi, Jiri Moskala, Ronald Knott and Esther Knott, and inurnment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

HAINES, Robert R., age 82; born April 21, 1931, in Livonia, Ind.; died Feb. 15, 2014, in Bloomington, Ind. He was a member of the Bloomington Church.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara (Turpin); sons, Michael and Mark; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Lawrence Pumford, and interment was in Livonia Cemetery.

HILL, Katrina (Stover), age 51; born Oct. 27, 1963, in San Bernardino, Calif.; died Jan. 3, 2015, in Wichita, Kansas. She was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, John; stepsons, Zack and Braden Hill; mother, Diane (Pickett) Smith; halfbrother, Richard Stover; and sister, Kelli Fivecoate.

Memorial services were conducted by Aaron Clark, with private inurnment.

LAFFERTY, Leona (Sabo), age 87; born Oct. 13, 1927, in Maywood, Ill.; died Nov. 5, 2014, in Bolingbrook, Ill. She was a member of the Bolingbrook Church.

Survivors include her husband, Charles E.; son, Douglas; brother, Earl Sabo; sisters, Helen Montgomery, Jellinda Daniel and Darleen Carlson; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted, and inurnment was in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Ellwood, Ill.

MORRISON, Della H. (Wiltse), age 98; born Feb. 16, 1916, in Bruno, Minn.; died Oct. 4, 2014, in Indianapolis, Ind. She was a member of the Southside Church, Indianapolis.

Survivors include her daughters, Cheri Thompson and Carole Sannes; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Brian Yensho, with private inurnment.

RILEY, Jill A. (Cutsinger), age 53; born Dec. 11, 1960, in Bloomington, Ind.; died Oct. 17, 2014, in Indianapolis, Ind. She was a member of the Bloomington Church.

Survivors include her husband, Michael G.; sons, Brandon M. and Grant A.; mother, Nancy (Sinn) Kerr; and sister, Teresa A. Mathis.

Memorial services were conducted by Charles Thompson, with private inurnment.

STEPHAN, Sylvia (Wente), age 81; born Feb. 1, 1933, in Portsmouth, Ohio; died, Dec. 31, 2014, in Bridgman, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Fred; son, F. Brian; daughters, Elise Damron and Jill Simon; brother, Forrest Wente; sister, Ruth Silver; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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

SUMNER, Carroll F., age 88; born June 10, 1926, in Lancaster, Mass.; died Aug. 8, 2014, in Nashville, Ind. He was a member of the Bloomington (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara S. (Caldwell); son, Donald A.; daughters, Cynthia J. Hamilton, Marcia C. Burrington and Nancy A. Orsburn; brothers, Russell, Delbert and Lynn; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be conducted at a later date, with inurnment in Furnaceville (N.Y.) Cemetery.

TANGUAY, Oscar R., age 61; born July 3, 1953, in Lewiston, Maine; died Jan. 3, 2015, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his son, Bradley; and sisters, Carmen Dickhout and Lorraine Ruether.

Memorial services were conducted by Esther Knott, with private inurnment.

TANK, Dorothy M. (Prenevost), age 88; born Jan. 28, 1926, in Green Bay, Wis.; died Jan. 4, 2015, in Green Bay. She was a member of the Green Bay Church.

Survivors include her sons, Randy, Brad and Gary; daughters, Donna Bohardt, Nancy Howe, JoAnne Witterholt, Crystal Graham and Yvonne McCreary; 21 grandchildren; and 32 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by William Ochs, and interment was in Zion United Methodist Cemetery, Bonduel, Wis.

WHITE, Jerry L., age 64; born Aug. 13, 1950, in Robinson, Ill.; died Dec. 14, 2014, in Plano, Texas. He was a member of the Elmhurst (Ill.) Church. Jerry was pastor for the Illinois Conference from 1985-89.

Survivors include his wife, Debbie (Hall-don); son, Brad Evergreen; daughters, Michelle C. Miller and Sarah E. Biskner; brothers, Ed, Keith, Gary and Dale; sisters, Tressa Bischof and Linda Dillon; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Mike Miller and Boyan Levterov, and interment was in Restland Cemetery, Richardson, Texas.

WOJCIK, John J., age 100; born Aug. 16, 1914, in Chicago, Ill.; died Nov. 23, 2014, in Chicago. He was a member of the Burbank (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Emma (Fruh-wirth); son, John J.; daughter, Charlene Partlo; two grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by John Rapp, and interment was in Chapel Hill Gardens South Cemetery, Oak Lawn, Ill.

YOUNG, Marshall A., age 83; born Nov. 17, 1931, in East Chester, Nova Scotia, Canada; died Jan. 17, 2015, in Wyoming, Mich. He was a member of the Wyoming Church.

Survivors include his wife, Nell (Kozak); son, Dwaine; sister, Isabelle G. Evans; and one grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Bernie Andersen, with private inurnment.

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

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S BUSINESS DEPARTMENT seeks faculty to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required, Ph.D. preferred, with emphasis in Finance, Marketing and Accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses, and providing service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time nurse educator to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required, doctoral degree preferred. Focus areas include mental health, community health or pediatrics. Must have previous teaching experience and an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Amy Rosenthal at arosenal@swau.edu.

RECRUITING MID-LEVEL PROVIDERS (NP/PA) for a new rural Health Clinic/Urgent Care in Weimar, Calif. Opportunities are available to specialize in a number of medical fields. Our most urgent needs are Mental Health, Pain Management, Outpatient Surgery and Emergency Medicine. For more information, call Randy at 530-296-4417 or email r61@me.com.

ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM is seeking a Summer Associate in its Corporate Legal Department for eight weeks in 2015. Candidate must be in top 25 percent of class. Interest/experience in healthcare industry preferred, but not required. Duties include legal

research and other projects, totaling 40 hours per week. Pay is \$20-\$25 per hour; reasonable relocation expenses will be reimbursed. Please send transcript and résumé to Manuela. Asaftei@ahss.org.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time nurse educator to serve as Nursing Department Chair, beginning Fall 2015. Doctoral degree and three years of university/college teaching experience required. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Amy Rosenthal at arosenal@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT seeks full-time professor in Advertising/Public Relations or Radio/TV to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required, doctoral degree desired. Must have teaching experience. Send cover letter and CV to Michael Agee at magee@swau.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS seeks applicants for a full-time, tenure-track faculty appointment in physics at a rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor, commensurate with qualifications. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_7.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION seeks a faculty member to teach full-time. Qualified person should have a Ph.D./doctorate in Communication, Journalism, Public Relations or related sub-field

with significant teaching experience. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty/#job_2.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION seeks a Dean, responsible to the provost for the administration of that particular school. He/she is the agent of the school for the application of its educational policies. Qualified person should have a terminal qualification in Education, Administration or Counseling/Psychology. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_4.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING seeks Chair, responsible for faculty, staff and activities within the department. Qualified person should have a doctorate degree in Nursing or a doctorate degree in a health-related field with a master's degree in Nurs-

ing. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_8.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a full-time carpentry foreperson to begin immediately. Ideal candidate will possess training and applied experience in construction, general carpentry, concrete work, roof repair, cabinet-making and floor coverings. Candidate must be able to manage multiple projects and work well under pressure. For more information or to apply, call 707-965-6231, or visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

UNION COLLEGE seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education and eligible for Nebraska teaching certificate to teach curriculum and instruction courses and supervise student teachers. Doctorate strongly preferred. Email letter of interest and

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UNION COLLEGE seeks professor specializing in emerging media. Minimum five years experience in public relations or integrated marketing communication essential, as is commitment to staying current with constant changes in practice. Doctorate preferred; master's required. Email cover letter and CV to Michelle Velazquez Mesnard at mimesnar@ucollege.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT seeks full-time physical education professor to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Must have some teaching experience. Submit CV and cover letter to Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at vnaukkar@swau.edu.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL is accepting résumés for a f/t attorney. Required: good standing/member of the U.S. state bar, licensed to practice in the U.S., and a member of the SDA church in regular standing. Maryland bar membership is preferred. Preference for an attorney with experience in Intellectual Property, Medial Law, and other transactional law. Location: Silver Spring, Maryland. A wide range of benefits included. Submit résumé to Karnik Doukmetzian, General Counsel, at karnikd@gc.adventist.org.

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a Research Coordinator/Faculty-Physical Therapy. This individual will plan, coordinate,

facilitate, administer and monitor all research activities on behalf of the academic department and also teach within the department of Physical Therapy. Qualified person should have an advanced doctorate (academic or professional). For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_12.

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in joining or starting a local chapter, join us for refreshments and car talk Sun., July 5, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Roosevelt Park, 331 Roosevelt Ave., San Antonio, Texas. For more information, email nomadder55@gmail.com. Bring your specialty car.



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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

The Open Door

BY DIANE THURBER



A year ago, God redirected our path once again, and my husband, Gary, and I relocated to Berrien Center, Michigan. Our home is located about ten minutes from Andrews University. We purchased it with the thought that our son, Justin, a senior, might choose to leave dorm life and return home for his last year of college. To our delight, he did.

Justin's arrival also meant a return of "our" other boys, his friends who are now like family to us. They didn't all move in with Justin, but there is a steady stream in and out the front door. Some come just to hang out or study for a few hours, others to stay for a weekend or longer, and some to enjoy a home-cooked meal or use the free washer and dryer.

We are delighted to be included in their lives, and trust God blessed us with a home in which to welcome them. These friends have supportive families but, when they are away at school, we love partnering with God to be their home away from home, and are blessed by the warmth of their friendship. We've enjoyed meeting some of Justin's new friends, too, and our boys' wives and girlfriends.

Matthew 25:35 reminds us, *For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home (NLT).*

Who is knocking at your door?

Diane Thurber is the associate director of communication for the Lake Union Conference.

Are You an Angel?

BY KRISTINA REEVE MCFEETERS

I bounced into the van, slamming the door with a bang. “Businesses are so much fun, Cestmir!” Cestmir Stovicek, my colporteur leader, smiled at my enthusiasm as he drove toward another street where we would work. We drove past more businesses, and then, to my surprise, Cestmir pulled into a quiet neighborhood. It looked quite deserted, and there were only a few houses on one side of the street. My heart sank. I had been looking forward to soliciting a few more businesses.

“Kristina,” Cestmir’s voice broke through my thoughts, “start at this house and go down the street until you meet Tammy (Gibson). It’s nearly time for lunch.” Swallowing my disappointment, I jumped out of the van and raced to the first house, waving goodbye as the van sped away.

No one was home. At the next house, again no one was home. Trudging toward the third house, I silently pleaded, “God, why did you send me here? Cestmir never puts me in houses before lunch. And besides, I was doing so well in businesses this morning!”

At last, I came to a house where the door was open. Through the screen door, I could see a young woman sitting in the living room.

“Hello!” I called to the woman. Slowly, the woman came to the door, her face filled with hopelessness. When she saw the first book, a cookbook, the woman immediately turned away.

“I’m not interested,” she mumbled, walking back toward her living room.

Instantly, a strong impression came over me. “Ask her if she likes to read.”

“No!” I argued within myself. She just said she wasn’t interested! But the nagging impression was insistent: “Ask her if she likes to read.”

Clearing my throat, I relented, and spoke to the retreating figure. “Excuse me, ma’am, do you like to read?”

The woman turned around and came back to the door. “Yes,” she answered, “sometimes.”



Kristina Reeve McFeeters

Surprised, I reached into my bag for a book and instinctively pulled out a *Peace Above the Storm*. Then, I shared the canvass: “This is a beautiful devotional that will help you find freedom from worry, guilt and fear.”

The screen door opened, and the young woman, with tears trickling down her checks, took the book from my outstretched hand. “My husband left me this morning ... for good,” she said quietly between sobs. “I’m not a Christian. I don’t know much about God. But I was in my living room, and I said, ‘God, if you’re really there, if you don’t do something for me right now, I’m going to break down.’ At that moment, you knocked at my door.”

She looked up at me, “Now I know God is real, and he really does answer prayers! He’s the one who told you to show me this second book, and he must want me to get it!”

The young woman gave her last few dollars to me as a donation for the *Peace Above the Storm* book, and I read an encouraging quotation and prayed for her. As the prayer ended, the woman asked, “Are you sure you’re not an angel?”

As I left and continued down the street, every trace of disappointment was gone. God used me in ways I never dreamed possible!

Kristina Reeve McFeeters, a pastor’s wife, now lives in eastern Kentucky with her husband, Daniel. They serve as missionaries in Appalachia, where she operates Kristina’s Kitchen, a vegetarian restaurant. Learn more at <http://www.kristinaskitchen.org>.

They Need Your Prayers

BY REBECCA COLEMAN

Two years ago, I felt God tugging at my heart; I knew I needed to leave the hustle and bustle of college life, if only for a short while, and take time off to give of myself to others. I decided to serve as a student missionary; through lots of prayer, I accepted a call to be an English teacher in Guinea, West Africa.



Rebecca Coleman

From the beginning of my student mission experience up until the very end, I had prayer partners. Friends and family uplifted me in their daily prayers as I fundraised, prepared to leave, and traveled.

Whatever doubts I may have had, about my decision to serve overseas, were quickly dispelled when I arrived. After my first few days in Guinea, I realized I was right where God wanted me to be.

Working in a Muslim country was not the easiest; I dealt with culture shock and homesickness. However, through it all, I could see God working through me to reach the children I was teaching.

Every step of the way, I felt the prayers of my partners back home. When I left Guinea a year later, my life had completely changed. Not only did I have an impact on my students' lives, but they had a lasting impact on mine. I am so thankful for the time that I spent there and the way God used me to spread his love.

Every year, Andrews University sends out student missionaries all over the world. They each face joys and happiness, but also times that can be difficult and faith-shaking. One way you can help see them through their journey is to pray for them. God's plans for us are far beyond what we can imagine, and maybe yours is to partner with those who are spreading God's love overseas.

More information about current student missionaries and their locations can be obtained by contacting Student Missions in the Andrews University Campus Ministries Offices. Call 269-471-3211 or email cm@andrews.edu.

Rebecca Coleman is communication director for Pioneer Memorial Church and editor of the weekly electronic newsletter *PioneerMidweek* and *Pioneer Connect* bulletin. (Article reprinted with permission; originally published in *PioneerMidweek*, #12, February 18, 2015)

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