

Lake Union HERALD

JANUARY 2016



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND
FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE



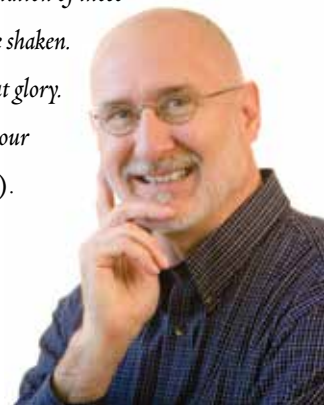
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In this issue...

Seventh-day Adventists are known for being champions of religious liberty. Our passion for freedom of conscience was birthed in the great protestant reformation and punctuated by the voyage of the Puritans. Religious liberty and freedom of conscience have been threatened from every side. With the world political landscape changing rapidly, it's not hard to imagine that we are living in a time when we see *men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.* So remember, *when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near* (Luke 22:26–28 NKJV).

Gary Burns
Gary Burns, Editor



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Mile Markers to Glory

I'm not aware of any Christian church that spends as much time examining and studying prophecy as Seventh-day Adventists. After all, this movement was born in prophecy. The 2300-day prophecy of Daniel 8:14, first brought forth by William Miller, had a profound effect on the world of his day. There was something quite special about those early adventists. Not only did they believe Jesus was coming soon, they were excited, focused and fully committed to going home with their Savior.

William Miller had calculated that the 2300-day prophecy pointed to October 22, 1844. So these committed advent believers gathered together on "ascension rock" that day to greet the Lord upon his return. Some years ago I stood on that rock and imagined their anticipation to meet Jesus and how great would have been their disappointment, and how in the days and weeks that followed, a core of advent believers did not loose faith in the "blessed hope" and continued to study prophecy coming to the conclusion that, though the calculations were correct, they had misapplied the prophecy to the wrong event.

Through the years, there are those who spend more time in "eschatology," the study of last day events, than time with the person and focusing on the reason for the advent — being in the presence of Jesus. When Barbara returns from a trip I anticipate being with my cherished friend and wife. When she sends me a text, or as I track her flight, I don't obsess about the indicators of the progress of her trip, I simply note that the one I long to be with is getting closer.

Another way to look at prophetic indicators of the second coming is highway mile markers. Before GPS, I paid attention to the mile markers on the highway. Each one showed the progress of my journey. But I've never seen a mile marker, or a mileage sign, that warranted pulling off the road and obsessing about the mile marker, calling friends, writing articles, disrupting my progress. No, each marker was simply another indicator that I was getting closer to home. Now, I admit, I have stopped at a "welcome" border sign and taken a photo to mark a major transition. That's what happened in 1844, when we entered a new dimension of our redemption.

I recently overheard two men on an airport shuttle talking about the "Blood Moon" eclipse and the papal visit to the United States wondering if it meant the apocalypse was close. I am aware there are some in our church community who bordered dysfunction, expressing fear, contempt and other emotions. To some, the mile marker was a distraction away from our mission of telling the good news of Jesus' return!

Fear is often used as a great motivator for financial gain by opportunists. But it only works on some people. Jesus said, *Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed* (Mark 13:5–7 NIV).

So is your motivation fear and despair or a hopeful joy? The mile markers tell us its more imperative to move forward with Christ in our commission to prepare a multitude of people ready to greet him with, "Lo, this is our God!" What's your response to the mile markers to Glory?

What Inspires You?

BY CYNTHIA SALINAS

I drove into the parking lot of the place I would possibly soon call my job. My palms were sweaty and my heartbeat escalated as I parked my car. Professionally dressed interviewers entered the office building and thoughts flooded my mind as I sat in my car watching them. My inner instinct desired to put the car in reverse and leave the scheduled interview — a nice thought. Nevertheless, I reassured myself. It was just an interview and God would reveal himself through it. I said a prayer, grabbed my keys and locked the car. The short walk to the office building was filled with recitations of responses to potential questions and probable scenarios. It was my first official interview and I was filled with anticipation.

“Cynthia Salinas,” announced the manager, walking toward the waiting area. He introduced himself and directed us to his office, where he signaled me a chair. Those quiet seconds prior to the interview seemed endless, as he gathered his paperwork. My thoughts were disengaged from the current reality.

The interview began and it was hard to focus. As the man inquired, I found myself instinctively responding to him, while I drifted to my revolving thoughts of how I had come to this place. I viewed myself from his position, and instantaneously the job opportunity appeared glum.

Memories from the joys of summer canvassing programs, experiences that not only kept me in the church but also gave me a passion for being involved in ministry, serving the Lord, and participating in church activities flooded my mind and consumed my attention at that moment. I heard the man before me, faintly, in the background of my thoughts. I tried to focus my energies on the interview by making eye contact, and attempting to answer his questions “correctly,” nonetheless, I could not. Every time he paused to note my response, I ruminated on how I longed to help people and bring them



Cynthia Salinas

to Jesus. Interviewing for the marketing firm, who advertised for major television networks, did not suit that yearning.

At that time I had been reading *Mind, Character, and Personality* by Ellen G. White, where I had read the following quote: “There are many of our youth whom God has endowed with superior capabilities. He has given them the very best of talents; but their powers have been enervated, their minds confused and enfeebled, and for years they

have made no growth in grace and in a knowledge of the reasons of our faith, because they have gratified a taste for story reading.” That quote and the subsequent one left quite an impression on me. It was said of those youth “these might today be connected with our publishing houses and be efficient workers to keep books, prepare copy for the press, or to read proof; but their talents have been perverted until they are mental dyspeptics, and consequently are unfitted for a responsible position anywhere.”

My heart was tugged by the passage and I wondered, “Had I been deterred from becoming God’s great plan for me? Were the gifts endowed to me by God, left in waste

...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few



because of my pursuit of false realities?" I began to pray for God to grant me opportunities to serve him. I acknowledged my quest for a new job and I laid the search at his feet.

The man turned the page of his packet and there was a change in his countenance. He looked me right in the eyes with a smile and asked, "What inspires you?" and for the first time in the interview, I was 'all there.' I asked "Personally?" The man seemed open to anything I had to say. Then the words blurted out of my mouth, "my church!" I could feel the smile burst across my face.

Then it hit me, I was in my interview. In a secular interview no less, advertising television's popular networks, and their main goal was making money! Nevertheless, I had said it! The man looked at me, shrugged, and went back to his paper to write my response with a smirk on his face. Uh oh, it was over.

I exited the office building, telling myself, "Cynthia, you bombed the interview!" "What were you thinking?" I asked myself.

Then a still small voice seemed to speak to me and say, "You do not belong here. I did not create you for this." "But, what did you create me for?" I mused.

In Jeremiah 1:5, God says, *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee....* So he made it clear to me. Before you were conceived, before I was even conceived, he had a plan for you and me. He formulated a specific calling for you, a specific calling for

me. Accustomed to measuring our success by the standards of others, we often allow our calling from God to be tainted by others. Exodus 19:5 says, *...If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people....* Our Creator, who knew us before our conception, intended for us to reflect his image in our individuality.

God has shown me that even though my personal choices have not always been his ideal plan for my life, he has always stayed close by and never given up on me. There have been moments of discouragement, of rebellion, and moments of doubt, but God has used them to help me find him (Acts 17:26-27).

Your story may not be like mine, but He is calling you and *...Who knows whether you are come to the kingdom for such a time as this?* (Esther 4:14)

God needs you! If you have doubted God's plan for you or have felt that you have failed him too many times, claim the promise in Romans 11:29, *For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.* No matter how much we have messed up, the Lord does not regret having invested in us.

...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few (Matthew 9:37).

Again, he needs you! Will you accept his plan for you?

Cynthia Salinas is a graduate of Grand Rapids Community College and currently works at Adventure's Learning Centers, Grand Rapids, Michigan.



FAMILY TIES

A Wintertime Mindset

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Having spent from August 2014 to June 2015 in Tromso, Norway, to study residents' overall mental health because rates of seasonal depression were lower than one might expect, Kari Leibowitz discovered the Norwegian secret to enjoying a long winter.

Rather than “indulging in gloom,” Kari suggests that changing your mindset can do more than distract you from the weather. At first she was asking, “Why aren’t people here more depressed?” But once there she realized that was the wrong question. When she asked people, “Why don’t you have seasonal depression?” the answer was, “Why would we?” She discovered the people in northern Norway view winter as something to be enjoyed, not something to be endured. And that makes all the difference.



Kari found that even though some circumstances are different in northern Norway from her home in New Jersey, there were lessons that can help anyone think differently about cold weather. She found Norwegians celebrate the things one can only do in winter. Norwegians keep going outside, whatever is happening out there. According to Kari, “There’s a saying that there’s no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing.”

Norwegians also have a word, *koselig*, meaning a sense of coziness. “It’s like the best parts of Christmas, without all the stress. People light candles, light fires, drink warm beverages, and sit under fuzzy blankets. There’s a community aspect to it too; it’s not just an excuse to sit on the couch watching Netflix,” says Kari. Finally, people were

enamored with the sheer beauty of the season.

Likely you can’t cross-country ski straight out of your house, or see the Northern lights on a regular basis, but there are many things non-Norwegians can do. “One of the things we do a lot of in the States is we bond by complaining about the winter,” says

Kari. “It’s hard to have a positive wintertime mindset when we make small talk by being negative about winter.”

For a more positive mindset about winter, here are some suggestions: Refuse to participate in the “Misery Olympics” suggests Laura Vanderkam in “The Norwegian Secret to Enjoying a Long Winter” (<http://bit.ly/1MZ7rft>). Bundle up for a walk outside, knowing you will likely feel warmer and better after a few minutes. Participate in community festivals and events that celebrate the cold weather. And may I add, if you have SAD (seasonal affective disorder) symptoms, buy a “Happy Light” and use it! Also, wintertime is an opportunity to spend some *koselig* time considering Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and the full meaning of *To everything there is a season*.

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



Press the Refresh Button

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

We all desire the New Year to be better than last year. This will depend upon the daily choices we make, such as what we eat and drink, how active we are, how much sleep we get. People are happier and their health is more likely to improve when they take personal responsibility for their health and feel in control of their life.

After the holiday season is over people, often look for a productive way to lose weight. Fasting has become a popular option to achieve weight loss. Whether they practice an intermittent fast in which one eats their normal diet 4 to 5 days a week and on the remaining 2 to 3 days eat only one-third of what they would normally eat, or an alternate day fast, the results are similar (in weight loss, and a reduction in blood lipids and glucose levels) to simply eating one-third of your usual food intake every day. However, people following the intermittent fast and alternate-day fast appear more likely to stick with those plans than cutting back calories every day.

One of the best decisions one can make for the New Year is to walk for 30 minutes every day. That will lower your risk of heart disease, colon and breast cancer, diabetes, and depression, and improve your outlook on life.

Women, aged 50 to 79 years, who walked briskly for 1.25 to 2.5 hours a week had a 18% lower risk of breast cancer over a five-year period. But walking not only lowers the risk of cancer, it is beneficial for patients with cancer. Brisk walking by those with colon, prostate or breast cancer experience less recurrence or progression of their tumors. It also helps them recover more quickly after their treatments. Patients with colon cancer who walked briskly for 2.5 hours a week were 35% less likely to die of their cancer and to enjoy



a better quality of life than those doing little exercise.

Walking also helps one to live longer. A new European study showed that those who did 20 minutes a day of brisk walking were 20% less likely to die during the next 12 years. Walking at least 40 minutes a day three times a week can significantly reduce the pain in arthritic knees after 18 months, as well as enabling one to experience greater mobility. Older folk who walk 1 to 2 miles a day tend to have a 35% lower risk of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Walking also increases the areas of the brain that control memory and reasoning.

Are you having trouble with your memory, or staying focused? Maybe you need better quality sleep and more of it! Research validates that adequate sleep and a regular walking program supports improved brain function. Some people, however, resort to pills such as Alpha Focus, Cerebral Success SmartX or Brain Quicken to boost their brain power. Many of these products contain B vitamins, amino acids, huperzine A, and herbal extracts touted for their ability to boost memory and improve cognition. Unfortunately, these products don't deliver what they promise.

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



PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

In the World, But Not of the World

BY ELLEN G. WHITE

With the Seventh-day Adventist Church suddenly a go-to destination in the index files of the national media, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to represent ourselves and our Redeemer well. Are we prepared for such a time as this? Note this wise counsel that, if heeded, may have a forever impact in the lives of many in high places. —The Editors

Solemn, serious times are upon us, and perplexities will increase to the very close of time. There may be a little respite in these matters, but it will not be for long. The hearts of those who advocate this cause must be filled with the Spirit of Jesus. The Great Physician alone can apply the balm of Gilead.

I am often greatly distressed when I see our leading men taking extreme positions, and burdening themselves over matters that should not be taken up nor worried over, but left in the hands of God for him to adjust. We are yet in the world, and God keeps for us a place in connection with the world, and works by his own right hand to prepare the way before us, in order that his work may progress along its various lines.

The Lord does not move upon his workers to make them take a course which will bring on the time of trouble before the time. Let them not build up a wall of separation between themselves and the world by advancing their own ideas and notions. There is now altogether too much of this throughout our borders. The message of warning has not reached large numbers of the world, in the very cities that are right at hand, and to number Israel is not to work after God's order. Just as long as we are in this world, and the Spirit of God is striving with the world, we are to receive as well as to impart favors. We are to give to the world the light of truth as presented in the Sacred Scriptures, and we are to receive from

the world that which God moves upon them to do in behalf of his cause.

The Lord would have his people in the world, but not of the world. They should seek to bring the truth before the men in high places, and give them a fair chance to receive and weigh evidence. There are many who are unenlightened and uninformed, and as individuals we have a serious, solemn, wise work to do. We are to have travail of soul for those who are in high places, and go to them with the gracious invitation to come to the marriage feast. Very much more might have been done than has been done for those in high places. The last message that Christ gave to his disciples before he was parted from them, and taken up into heaven, was a message to carry the gospel to all the world, and was accompanied by the promise of the Holy Spirit. The Lord said, *Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth* (Acts 1:8 KJV).

Ellen G. White, co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, *Review & Herald*, March 23, 1911 Art. B, adapted

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

- *What place has God kept for you in connection with the world? For what purpose?*
- *What about those in your social media community?*
- *When was the last time you experienced “travail of soul” in prayer for those who are in high places?*
- *How does expressing criticism on social media against individuals in high places impact your opportunity and ability “to go to them with the gracious invitation to come to the marriage feast?” —The Editors*

The Joy of Prayer

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

T rue joy is joy in God. No joy on earth can compare with the joy we have in God. This joy is the joy of knowing God and living in a love relationship with him. David had a taste of it when he said to God: *You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand* (Psalm 16:11).

Joy is also a gift that Christ promises us. He too connected joy to a love relationship. After telling his disciples how to remain in his love he said, *I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete* (John 15:11).

Prayer is a pathway to joy because it involves us in a love relationship with God. In my previous book, *Love to Pray*, I defined prayer as “the conversational part of the most important love relationship in our life — our love relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit” (p. 8). It’s impossible to talk with or listen to God and not, in the end, experience joy.

It shouldn’t surprise us, then, that prayer and joy meet head on in a place — that place where Old Testament believers met God — in the temple at Jerusalem. God said of those who came to meet him there, *I will...give them joy in my house of prayer* (Isaiah 56:7).

The joy people experienced in God’s “house of prayer” was the joy of prayer. The temple was the place where God chose to dwell. For more than a thousand years the temple in Jerusalem stood as the place where God’s people came into his presence and communicated with him. Though not visible, God was really there. Those who came to the temple came to meet God. And because they met him, they experienced joy.

Everything about the temple spoke of prayer. The altar of incense in the holy place was an altar of prayer. The smoke of the incense that rose up-

ward from it symbolized the ascending prayers. The required offering — the burnt offering, meal offering, peace offering, sin offering and guilt offering — were really acted-out prayers, each one touching a different aspect of the believer’s relationship with God.

Today we can have the same joyful experience in prayer that people who went to that earthly “house of prayer” had, and we don’t have to go to a place to meet him. God the Father, through the atoning death of his Son Jesus, has provided a new and living way for us to come freely into his presence. We can come to him in prayer anytime, anywhere, about anything, and in so doing we always will know the joy of prayer.

The truth is that even prayers that arise out of heartbreak and despair will end with joy if we let God meet us and minister to us in the midst of our distresses. It is precisely because prayer brings us to God that it can bring us from sorrow to joy. Jesus himself traveled such a path as he journeyed from the depths of sorrow in Gethsemane, through the agony of death on a cross, and then on to resurrection joy and a glorious ascension to God’s right hand. Our paths will lead there too.

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.



I Can't Say Enough Good About Wisconsin Academy

BY VICKY HILGART

When I became a Seventh-day Adventist in 2006 it was hard. My husband was against it, but I poured my heart out to God and decided to persevere. I wanted to see my children saved. Two years later my 12-year-old daughter, Hailey, agreed to come to church with me. A church family took her under their wings and soon Hailey was going to Camp Wakonda with their children, I could see she was beginning to grow in Christ.

When she was 13 she asked to be baptized. Then when she was ready for high school she asked to go to Wisconsin Academy. I didn't have the money, and just blew it off, but God kept it on Hailey's heart and she didn't give up. By her junior year, through a miracle of God, she finally got to go to WA.



Hailey and Vicki Hilgart

I thank God we had a church family that were willing to help support her through the YES program. I gave what I could, and there were even some people I don't know that were willing to give. It is awesome how God just provides for us.

The support Hailey received at WA was amazing. She found Christian friends and was able to find a father figure in the male teachers that she was missing at home. Her boss, Mr. Carter, showed her how to change the oil in a car and many other things a father would do. She had many talks

with Mr. Brown and he was a real encouragement to her.

If I had kept Hailey at home, I am quite certain she would have gone down the wrong road. I saw some of the friends she was getting hooked up with. It was difficult, but I had to just let go and really ask God to provide.

Now as I see how God has grown her character, I know the importance of sending her there. She has struggles, we all do, but Hailey blossomed in the Christian atmosphere of Wisconsin Academy. I can't say enough good about WA!

I'm convinced Wisconsin Academy is where we need to send our kids. We may not see the benefits immediately, but if we just look down the road a ways we will see God's hand in it.

Vicky Hilgart, Marshfield SDA Church, as told to Juanita Edge, Communication Director of Wisconsin Conference

Wisconsin Academy's Youth Educational Scholarship (YES) is a creative way for a local congregation to share the hope of an Adventist education. YES has been established to provide revenue from five sources for qualifying students: the student's family, the student's labor, the student's local church congregation, Wisconsin Academy and the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For more information visit <http://www.wisacad.org>.

A number of local Adventist church schools have found creative ways to share the hope of an Adventist education, not only for their members, but for the community as well. If you know of other creative ways to share the hope of an Adventist education, we'd like to hear from you: herald@lakeunion.org. —The Editors



Jóvenes en busca de almas

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Amigos jóvenes, si ustedes se encargan de trabajar en el lugar en donde están, haciendo lo que puedan, tengan la seguridad que tendrán la ayuda de Jesús. Comiencen esta obra trabajando en favor de sus compañeros. Los ministros y los miembros de edad más avanzada, no pueden tener la mitad de la influencia sobre sus jóvenes compañeros que la que ustedes son capaces de ejercer; y deben sentir que descansa sobre ustedes la responsabilidad de hacer todo cuanto puedan por su salvación” — Ministerio pastoral, p. 320.

En el mes de octubre tuve el privilegio de asistir a la inauguración de un nuevo ministerio dirigido por jóvenes con el propósito de alcanzar a otros jóvenes. En la Universidad Andrews existe una iglesia multicultural llamada Living Word Fellowship, que se reúne regularmente. Fue organizada originalmente por adultos de procedencia coreana para alcanzar a jóvenes coreanos universitarios que preferían que los cultos fuesen en inglés. Asistí a dos de sus cultos y noté que aunque un buen número de los presentes era de descendencia coreana había también jóvenes de otras culturas.

Lo alentador de esta nueva congregación es que tiene como meta ganar almas para Cristo. Los jóvenes que dirigen esta iglesia sienten la necesidad de alcanzar a los jóvenes que han dejado de asistir a la iglesia, y las personas mayores de la congregación se han unido para apoyar esta idea. Esto ha resultado en la creación de un nuevo ministerio llamado Adventist Global Internet Church, que en español se traduce a “Iglesia Adventista Global de Internet”. Lo que proponen hacer es simplemente grabar y transmitir por internet mensajes y testimonios de los jóvenes cada sábado en una forma creativa que llame la atención de otros jóvenes. Se espera que con el pasar del tiempo éstos regresen a sus iglesias o acepten este ministerio como su iglesia.

El que estos jóvenes tengan el deseo de hacer evangelismo es admirable. Es muy animador, además, que los adultos de esta congregación (que suman solo unas 30 personas) tengan el deseo de apoyar este ministerio y de

sacrificarse financieramente para se haga una realidad para estos jóvenes de visión.

Este año la Unión del Lago tiene como meta ayudar a los jóvenes para que usen sus talentos y energías para compartir las buenas nuevas de Jesús. Ya se llevó a cabo un adiestramiento en evangelismo para jóvenes en la ciudad de Milwaukee, y habrá otras sesiones similares en las ciudades de Chicago, Indianápolis y Detroit. Al concluir estas sesiones de adiestramiento presentaremos un gran informe de lo logrado y pondremos énfasis en evangelismo durante el congreso de jóvenes bilingües “Conéctate”, del 3 al 5 de junio. Para obtener información adicional acerca de este congreso y de los entrenamientos que se han de realizar en las ciudades mencionadas anteriormente, visite el sitio web www.conectateluc.org.

No tengo duda alguna que los jóvenes de nuestra Unión aman su iglesia y mi deseo es que cada iglesia se esfuerce para trabajar con ellos de manera que puedan cumplir la misión que Dios les ha encomendado.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



Jóvenes de la Iglesia Living Word Fellowship en la inauguración de su nuevo ministerio “Adventist Global Internet Church”

Jesus Calling

BY OBEIDA EHM

One day, as I was driving to the shopping mall, I was passing near a familiar store when I heard a voice saying, “go to [that store].” I said to myself I am not going to [that store]. In the course of my journey I continued to hear the same voice two more times. When I entered the parking lot of the mall, again I heard the voice, and again I said out loud to myself, “I am not going to [that store]. I have nothing to do there; I have no money; also every time I go, I end up buying things I don’t even need.” However, I now felt an urge to go. Still not understanding, I went to [that store] and started walking around not having any interest in buying anything.

After a short while I heard someone speak Spanish. I was struck and looked around, but did not see anyone. I continued my tour through the store and suddenly heard the same voice again, but this time very close to me. Immediately I looked and saw a woman with a child around seven years old, and she was talking on her cell phone.

Without realizing it, I started walking behind her. When she finished her phone call, I immediately introduced myself and we started a conversation. “Do you lived in Onalaska?” “No,” she replied, “I live in Sparta.” “I’m starting a ministry in Sparta with the Hispanic community,” I replied, “I help people with various needs and offer Bible studies for people who want to know the wonderful messages that God gives us in the Bible. I call my ministry Light in the Darkness.” She answered, “That’s a pretty name. I have so many questions, and I have been praying, asking God to send someone to help me answer all my questions. Obeida, I think God put you in my path to help me, because no matter how much money and success I have in life, there is always an emptiness inside. I would love to study the Bible with you. Can we begin as soon as my son starts school.” At that very moment I realized, the voice I heard was the voice of God. I



Obeida Ehm (on right) is a Bible worker and pastor's wife in the La Crosse District. She is working to plant a church in Sparta for the Hispanic community. Pictured left is Obeida's newfound friend, Rosario.

immediately praised and thanked God for being so wonderful to me.

Rosario and I have been studying the Bible for over five weeks now and each week she is more excited with each new lesson. Rosario is now also interested in reading the Bible on her own throughout the week. In fact, just about the third week into our studies she said, “Obeida, I know you have not told me anything about the seventh-day Sabbath ... but this week, I was reading the Bible and I found that there is a rest day in the Bible and it is Sabbath. I read and re-

read and I could not believe that God gave us the Sabbath to rest, and not Sunday.”

After five weeks the studies continue. Rosario is now very happy to not only learn of the Sabbath message but also the wonderful message of salvation that Jesus freely gives.

Dear friends, like Rosario, there are so many people in this world waiting for someone to bring them the message of Christ. He has given us all the great commission in Matthew 28:18–20, *Today, if you hear His voice calling you, do not fear, for He says, “Behold I am with you always.” Amen!*

Obeida Ehm is a Bible worker in the La Crosse District.

AU Field School

BY PHILIP WILLIS JR.

Working and evangelizing in an urban ministry context presents unique learning opportunities. Gary, Indiana, was once a lively and booming industrial city with many community members employed by the burgeoning steel industry. Today there are few jobs, numerous vacant lots, abandoned homes, burnt out buildings and countless closed city schools. Attrition from an aging community and urban flight for better jobs has had a negative impact on area church membership.

In response, Philip Willis Jr., pastor of the Mizpah Church, in collaboration with the Andrews University Evangelism Field School, gave ministerial students an opportunity to integrate into a city mission context. These pastoral students utilized their diverse skills to bring people to God and God to people in an urban environment.

Several of the Andrews University ministerial students initially had mixed feelings. Emersond Jean-Baptiste said, "I drove around town and saw the burned down buildings, broken windows, and boarded up buildings and I posed myself the question, *Who am I going to minister to in this broken down deserted city?* The reality was God needed to minister to me as he used me to minister to others." Jesse Santos added, "It was very sad to see the city of Gary in so much ruins as it has been dying for quite a while. However, among the ruins and abandoned homes and businesses, I found many sweet and loving people who Jesus died for. In the process of knocking on doors, visiting people, inviting them for the meetings, I found nothing else than very receptive, loving and caring people." Edmilson Villalba added, "The church of Mizpah impressed me with their daring to plan and execute this campaign even in face of the discouraging appearances."

According to Philip, inner city mission sites like Gary call for outside-of-the-box evangelistic solutions. A lot of Gary residents, in addition to economic challenges, are em-



Fourteen candidates prepared for baptism

bedded in their own faith tradition or don't feel a need to attend a church to have a belief in God. Philip found that having the assistance of the Andrews University ministerial students added a youthful enthusiasm that broke through some of those barriers. That prayerfully fearless enthusiasm accompanied them on their visits and led many residents to come to the Mizpah Church.

Another student, Marcus McIntyre commented, "The visitation aspect called for prayer and total dependence on God. Each situation was different, and to see the power of God on display and his presence throughout the visit was remarkable. When this series started, I concluded that only one individual would get baptized. God embarrassed my little faith number and brought glory to His name. And for that I am thankful. God uses unconventional ways, people, and methods to simply remind us that it is He who is working!"

As a result of this partnership, 14 new believers were baptized and became members of the Mizpah Church, and two of the Andrews University Field School students elected to continue their community-work in Gary after the meetings ended. Since October of 2014, the Mizpah Church has completed two evangelistic series in Gary and are looking forward to another partnership with Andrews University Field School again in 2016.



Marcus McIntyre, student of Andrews University Evangelism Field School

Philip Willis Jr. is pastor of the Mizpah SDA Church in Gary, Indiana.

PROPHETIC FOOTSTEPS

BY LAKE UNION CONFERENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



The events of 2015 have been of special interest to students of Bible prophecy. A papal presidential reception at the White House, an address to a joint meeting of Congress, and a speech at the United Nations to the largest gathering of world leaders ever, were all covered favorably by a secular media that is often skeptical of religion and religious leaders. The popular reception, bordering on adulation in some quarters, is consistent with the Adventist end-time understanding of a rejuvenated papacy bridging the gulf between Catholicism and Protestant America. For those familiar with Adventist biblical teaching, these events have prophetic significance.

Interestingly, the papal messages have echoed many of Adventism's values in calling for religious freedom, the protection and support of the family, stewardship of the environment, care for the poor, and the pursuit of peace. Concerns about capitalistic excess, the spreading immigration crisis, conflict in the middle-east, the need for greater moral accountability among nations and corporations has led to an appeal for international cooperation among nations of the world to confront these and other global problems. However, recent papal letters continue the traditional and anticipated calls for an international religious authority to help oversee global cooperation to solve these problems, and the prospect for the observance of a mandatory day of rest to protect workers and families pose real threats to religious freedom.

EDEN'S TWIN INSTITUTIONS

Adventists have understood that in the last days, the Sabbath, instituted in Eden and found at the heart of God's law, would come under assault by those with a popular and over-zealous religious enthusiasm. However, since the 1960s, we have seen a progressive assault on the institution of marriage to the point that it has now been completely redefined by the courts.

Indeed, Ellen White alluded to a special connection between Sabbath, marriage, and the last days when she described marriage and the Sabbath as Eden's "twin institutions for the glory of God in the benefit of humanity." She then continues, "...as the Creator joined the hands of the holy pair in wedlock, saying, A man shall *leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one*, He enunciated the law of marriage for all the children of Adam to the close of time."¹

Secular ideologues have led the campaign to undermine the Biblical, traditional and natural view of marriage, which, like the Sabbath, is also anchored in the Ten Commandments, with the fifth and seventh commandments protecting and identifying the family unit of father, mother, and child. This secular campaign is currently the most obvious legal threat to the free exercise of conscience and religious freedom in America.

In the face of this attack, the papacy is currently one of the strongest public voices in defense of the family and biblical marriage and giving support of the religious freedom of believers, even of government officials, to live by their moral beliefs regarding the family. While we may oppose a system, it is hard to completely criticize one who seems to be on the biblical side of an issue that is most pressing and urgent in relation to public morality and religious freedom.

PROPHETIC HUMILITY

These events remind us of the wisdom of resisting the temptation to predict exactly how last-day events will transpire. Adventists have an important history of a closer and more careful study of the Bible when responding to real world events. That is how we discovered the truth and corrected our misunderstanding of the Sanctuary following the Great Disappointment, when it was wrongly assumed that Christ would return on October 22, 1844.

Ellen White saw her mission as directing others to the Scriptures, and her writings are replete with quotations from the Bible supporting that fact, with her primary focus being on the love of God as expressed throughout Scripture and especially through the person of Jesus Christ. As early as 1851, Ellen White urged, "I recommend to you, dear reader, the word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the 'last days'; not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of his people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth."² She understood and anticipated there would be challenges and problems yet to come, for which we would need the Holy Spirit's guidance from the Bible. That is why she insisted, loudly and often, that we must personally and individually study the Bible.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE

How should thoughtful Adventists respond to current events? We believe there is risk in both ignoring these developments, as well as in over-reacting to them through



LET US BE CAREFUL OF OUR WORDS. LET NOT OUR MINISTERS FOLLOW THEIR OWN IMPULSES IN DENOUNCING AND EXPOSING THE MYSTERIES OF INIQUITY. UPON THESE THEMES SILENCE IS ELOQUENCE.

wholesale opposition and condemnation. We can, and should, appropriately communicate the important principle of the separation of church and state, and the religious freedom guaranteed by the United States Constitution — that all may worship God in the manner, and at the time dictated by their conscience. These rights are basic human rights that we should protect and extend to all. Sometimes in our zeal, we may forget to extend these rights to others in real and practical ways.

The papal announcement of the “Year of Mercy,” during which Catholic priests can forgive the “sins” of abortion and divorce more easily than usual, may provide an opportunity for us to share the message of God’s free gift of grace with our friends and neighbors, emphasizing the privilege all have in seeking salvation and forgiveness directly through Christ who even now ministers as high priest on our behalf in the heavenly sanctuary. We can share the good news that, there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5 KJV) to whom all can go to receive grace, mercy and forgiveness. We can remind people that God is the ultimate protector of religious freedom and has personally ensured that each of us has the freedom to choose.

Therefore, our responses should be compassionate and redemptive, keeping in mind the appeal Ellen White made for caution and a more restrained, positive tone when dealing with these matters. “Decided proclamations of truth are to be made. But in regard to this line of work I am instructed to say to our people: Be guarded. In bearing the message make no personal thrusts at other churches, not even the Roman Catholic Church. In the different denominations angels of God see many who can be reached only by the greatest caution. Therefore let us be careful of our words. Let not our ministers follow their own impulses in denouncing and exposing the mysteries of iniquity. Upon these themes often silence is eloquence. Many are deceived. Speak the truth in tones and words of love. Let Christ be exalted. Keep to the affirmative of truth. Never leave the straight path God has marked out, for the purpose of giving someone a thrust. That thrust may do much harm and no good. It may quench conviction in many minds.”³

Ellen White envisioned a time when, “We may have less

to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the papacy, but we should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit has so shaped matters, both in the giving of the prophecy and in the events portrayed, as to teach that the human agent is to be kept out of sight, hid in Christ, and the Lord God of heaven and His law are to be exalted.”⁴

In light of this counsel, Seventh-day Adventists should endeavor to present Bible prophecy in a redemptive and positive light. Where we can, we should affirm the denunciation of abuse and evil in our world while maintaining our firm stand on the importance of the separation of church and state to the health of religious freedom.

Now is not the time to back away from our prophetic heritage. While the overall direction of events points towards a familiar and expected outcome, we may also encounter unexpected and additional developments that will expand our understanding. The experience of Christ’s disciples, and our own pioneers, should teach us new light will continue to shine on familiar themes as we grow from faith to faith. We can rest assured, based on inspiration and the authority of God’s word, that our foundational prophetic heritage remains true. We should be wary of reading today’s headlines back into the Bible and neither do we want to bury our heads in the perspectives of yesteryear. We must allow truth to emerge from our studies.

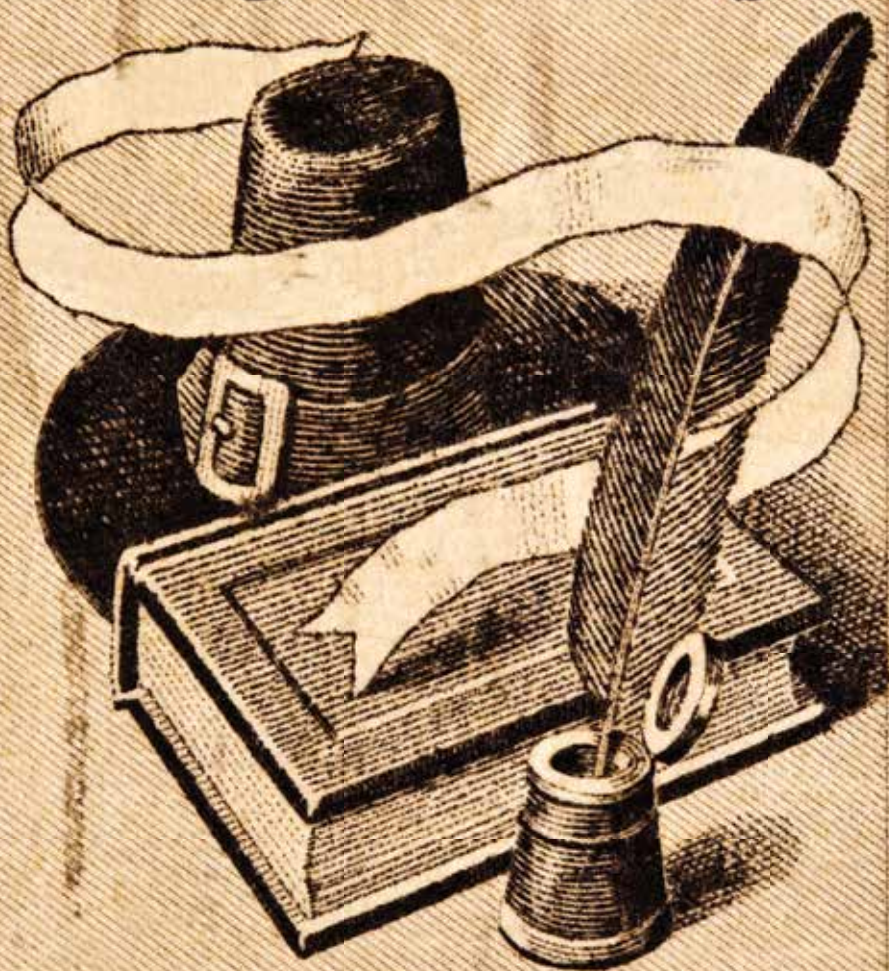
By the grace of God, let us not become a barrier or stumbling block to people seeking Christ. Let us be kind, considerate, winsome and thoughtful as we share the sure prophetic pathway revealed in God’s word.

Lake Union Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty

1. Ellen G. White, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 63
2. *A Sketch of the Experience and Views of Ellen G. White*, p.64
3. Ellen G. White, *Pacific Union Recorder*, October 23, 1902
4. Ellen G. White, *Letter 57*, written to J.H. Kellogg, 1896

The Question of Religious Liberty

BY ELLEN G. WHITE



I am unable to put away the anxious thoughts that fill my mind in regard to the work of God. I feel that to weep would be a relief. I am sure that a work must be done for those in positions of trust in Battle Creek. They will never be safe, trustworthy men until they are laborers together with God. The question often comes to me, "Has God chosen these men to devise and plan and execute in behalf of His work,

when they have not a vital connection with Him?" The men God chooses to bear burdens in His work are to sit at the feet of Jesus, and learn from Him how to repress their unChristlike desires and inclinations. God has not given men power to interfere between a human being and his conscience.

The question of religious liberty needs to be clearly comprehended by our people in more ways than one. With outstretched arms men are seeking to steady the ark, and the anger of the Lord is kindled against them because they think that their position entitles them to say what the Lord's servants shall do and what they shall not do. They think themselves competent to decide what shall be brought before God's people, and what shall be repressed. The Lord inquires of them, "Who has required this at your hand? Who has given you the burden of being conscience for My people? By what spirit are you guided and controlled when you seek to restrict their liberty? I have not chosen you as I chose Moses — as men through whom I can communicate divine instruction to My people. I have not placed the lines of control in your hands. The responsibility that rested on Moses — of voicing the words of God to the people — has never been delegated to you."

Moses was especially chosen to be the visible leader of the children of Israel. Through long years of discipline he learned the lesson of humility, and he became a man whom God could teach and guide. He endured as seeing Him who is invisible. God

The question of religious liberty needs to be clearly comprehended by our people in more ways than one.

trusted him — a daily learner in the school of Christ — with the leadership of the host of Israel. God talked with him face to face, as a man talketh with his friend. He was the meekest of all men. He did not seek to control the Holy Spirit, but was himself controlled by the Spirit.

Do the men who are today swaying and molding the work of God give evidence that they are swayed and molded by divine power? Do they give evidence that they have received the Spirit of God? Is truth enthroned in their hearts? Is Christ revealed in their daily experience? Is the law of kindness on their lips?

There is an evil, a great evil, that is to be rooted out of all council meetings and board meetings. We are living in perilous times. Men are striving for the control over their fellow men. God is displeased and dishonored. Man is led to fear man rather than God. My brethren, has not the Word of God been dismissed from your councils? Have not the words of men had too much power? Has not religious freedom been excluded from your assemblies? Have you not censured your fellow man, when you yourselves were standing under the censure of God? Take your hands off your brethren. They are not to be under the control of any man or set of men. Men are not to league together to bind their fellow men by rules and restrictions. God knows the characters of men. He sees their weakness, and He has not put into their hands the power that belongs alone to Him. He has not given them the right to say what their fellow-men shall do and what they shall not do.

It is the greatest presumption for man to assume the right of dictation and control over his fellow men. God is the owner of man. To his Maker,

man stands or falls. To God he is responsible, not to his fellow men. Every man has an individuality of his own, which is not to be submerged in any other human being. The life of each one must be hid with Christ in God. Men are under God's control, not under the control of weak, erring human beings. They are to be left free to be guided by the Holy Spirit, not by the fitful, perverse spirit of unsanctified men.

The encroachments made by men on the liberty of their fellow men are condemned by God. These encroachments, which are not seen in their true bearing, are inspired by the enemy of God to cut off the opportunity for God to work on minds by His Spirit. Those who do not know God, who refuse to hear His voice, or to be ruled by Him, will stand with cord in hand, ready to bind the Lord's workers and trammel them in their efforts.

Let God be recognized as the supreme Ruler of His Heritage. Let every man place himself under His control. Let Him be recognized in all our assemblies, in every business meeting, every council, every committee. He sees all that is done, and hears all that is said. "Thou God seest me." Let these words be kept ever in mind. They will be a safeguard against imprudent, passionate speeches, against all desire to domineer. They will repress words that should never be spoken and resolutions that men have no right to make—resolutions that restrict the liberty of human beings.

Let God place restrictions on His workers, but let man beware how he places restrictions where God places none. If men are permitted to control the judgment of their fellow men, oppression will result. The cause of God will be bound about. Scheme after scheme that is unjust will be

planned. Let not men take on themselves the responsibility of controlling the words and actions of their fellow men. Let our institutions give place to the working of God on human minds. Let God have opportunity to control. Should the principle obtain sway that in speaking and writing, men are to be under the control of human beings, deadly evils would be the result.

God calls upon men to act under His supervision, to accept His standard, to take all their decisions and plans to Him for approval. His holiness, His justice, is to keep them from unprincipled actions.

“Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; for wherein is he to be accounted of?” (Isaiah 2:22 KJV). “Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth; he returneth to his earth; in that very day his

thoughts perish. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, which made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is; which keepeth truth forever; which executeth judgment for the oppressed; which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners. The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind; the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down; the Lord loveth the righteous; the Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow; but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down. The Lord shall reign forever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the Lord” (Psalm 146:3-10 KJV).

Ellen G. White is a co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This article was written August 1, 1895, at Granville, N.S.W., Australia and recorded as MR No. 1335—God to Control His Heritage, Ellen G. White Estate, Washington, D.C., December 17, 1987. Entire Ms.

Men are striving for the control over their fellow men. God is displeased and dishonored. Man is led to fear man rather than God.

Religious Slavery

BY ELLEN G. WHITE

Satan’s skill is exercised in devising plans and methods without number to accomplish his purposes. He works to restrict religious liberty, and to bring into the religious world a species of slavery. Organizations, institutions, unless kept by the power of God, will work under Satan’s dictation to bring men under the control of men; and fraud and guile will bear the semblance of zeal for truth and for the advancement of the kingdom of God. Whatever in our practise is not as open as the day belongs to the methods of the prince of evil.

Men fall into error by starting with false premises, and then bringing everything to bear to prove the error true. In some cases the first principles have a measure of truth interwoven with error; but it leads to no just action; and this is why men are misled. They desire to reign and become a power, and, in the effort to justify their principles, they adopt the methods of Satan.

Pamphlet 102, (Testimonies on Fair Dealing and Book Royalties)

Let not men take on themselves the responsibility of controlling the words and actions of their fellow men.



THE CHURCH, THE STATE AND THE INDIVIDUAL

GENERAL CONFERENCE STATEMENT OF CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS

At the heart of the Adventist message is our abiding belief that freedom of conscience must be guaranteed to all. Freedom of conscience includes the freedom to believe and fully practice the religious faith of choice, the freedom not to believe or practice religious faith, freedom to change faiths, and the freedom to establish and operate religious institutions in accordance with religious beliefs. We are dedicated to working for the advancement of legal and political protection of religious freedom and in support of the broad interpretation of national and international charters that guarantee the protection of this freedom.

As Christians, Seventh-day Adventists recognize the legitimate role of organized government in society.¹ We support the state's right to legislate on secular matters and support compliance with such laws.² When we are faced with a situation in which the law of the land conflicts with biblical mandates, however, we concur with the Scriptural injunction that we ought to obey God rather than man.³

The Adventist dedication to freedom of conscience recognizes that there are limits on this freedom. Freedom of religion can only exist in the context of the protection of the legitimate and equal rights of others in society. When society has a compelling interest, such as the protection of its citizens from imminent harm, it can therefore legitimately curtail religious practices. Such curtailments should be undertaken in a manner that limits the religious practice

as little as possible and still protects those endangered by it. Limitation of freedom of conscience in order to protect society from offense or similar intangible harms, from hypothetical dangers or to impose social or religious conformity by measures such as Sunday laws or other state mandated religious observances, are not legitimate limitations on freedom.

Seventh-day Adventists are called to stand for the principle of liberty of conscience for all. In keeping with our love for others,⁴ we must be ready to work on behalf of groups whose freedom of conscience is inappropriately impinged by the state. Such work may result in personal and corporate loss. This is the price we must be willing to pay in order to follow our Savior who consistently spoke for the disfavored and dispossessed.⁵

PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

The growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has resulted in a corresponding growth in our ability to exert political influence in some areas of the world. This political influence is not in itself problematic. Indeed, Adventists may properly aspire to serve in positions of civil leadership.⁶ Nevertheless, we must remain ever mindful of the dangers that are associated with religious influence on civil affairs and assiduously avoid such dangers.

When Adventists become leaders or exert influence in their wider society, this should be done in a manner consistent with the golden rule.⁷ We should therefore work to establish robust religious liberty for all and should not use our influence with political and civil leaders to either advance our faith or inhibit the faith of others. Adventists should take civic responsibilities seriously. We should participate in the voting process available to us when it is possible to do so in good conscience⁸ and should share the responsibility of building our communities. Adventists should not, however, become preoccupied with politics, or utilize the pulpit or our publications to advance political theories.⁹

Adventists who are civic leaders must endeavor to adhere to the highest standards of Christian behavior. As modern-day Daniels, God will lead them and their fidelity to Him will inspire their community.

Indeed, Adventists are called to be a voice for liberty of conscience to this world.¹⁰ Integral to this mission is the development of relationships with temporal rulers.¹¹ In order to do this, the Seventh-day Adventist Church appoints representatives to governments and international bodies that have influence over the protection of religious liberty. This work must be viewed as essential to our gospel mission and should be accorded the resources necessary to ensure our representation is of the highest order.

EXPECTATIONS OF GOVERNMENTS

Governments are established to serve the needs of the governed. As such, they must ensure the protection of the population's fundamental human rights, including freedom of conscience. The state must also endeavor to build communities with public order, public health, a clean environment, and an atmosphere that does not unduly inhibit its citizen's ability to raise families and freely explore the facets of their humanity. It is the state's responsibility to endeavor to eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, social class, religion, political persuasion and gender and to guarantee its residents equal access to an impartial

judiciary. States have a responsibility not only to protect all those living within its borders but also to work for the protection of human rights in the international community and to provide a haven to those fleeing persecution.

CONCLUSION

God has put each individual on earth with the capacity to determine right from wrong under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in accordance with His Word. This declaration, therefore, is not designed to supersede divine counsel and nor is it designed to be an authoritative interpretation of that counsel. Rather, the declaration serves to encapsulate the understanding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at this time.

The way in which Seventh-day Adventists conduct our church-state relations has a significant impact on our worldwide efforts. We must therefore approach this area with significant thought and prayer. Working under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Adventists will continue to champion the gospel principle of freedom of conscience.

Portions of a document adopted by the Council of Interchurch/Interfaith Faith Relations of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in March 2002. The document is used by the Church's Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty.

1. I Peter 2:13–17.
2. Romans 13.
3. Acts 5:29; "The people of God will recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment and will teach obedience to it as a sacred duty within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, the word of God must be recognized as above all human legislation. 'Thus saith the Lord' is not to be set aside for Thus saith the church or the state. The crown of Christ is to be uplifted above the diadems of earthly potentates." Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 402.
4. Matthew 22:39.
5. See, e.g., Luke 4:18; Matthew 5:1–12; Luke 10:30–37.
6. "Have you thoughts that you dare not express, that you may one day stand upon the summit of intellectual greatness; that you may sit in deliberative and legislative councils, and help to enact laws for the nation? There is nothing wrong in these aspirations. You may every one of you make your mark. You should be content with no mean attainments. Aim high, and spare no pains to reach the standard." Ellen G. White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 82.
7. *Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you.* Matthew 7:12.
8. While Seventh-day Adventists are to vote, they are to cast their vote with prayerful consideration. See Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, vol. 2, p. 337 (admonishing Adventists to vote); Ellen G. White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 475 (stating that Adventists cannot safely vote for political parties); and Ellen G. White, *Last Day Events*, p. 127 (Adventists become partakers in the sins of politicians if they support candidates that do not support religious liberty).
9. Ellen G. White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 475.
10. "We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscious." Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 5, p. 714.
11. "Kings, governors, and councils are to have a knowledge of the truth through your testimony. This is the only way in which the testimony of light and truth can reach men of high authority." Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, April 15, 1890.



Adventist Medical Center Bolingbrook to Open New Older Adult Behavioral Health Unit

As our elder population continues to grow, so does the need for services to address the acute mental health challenges associated with aging and diseases such as Dementia, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Adventist Health System serves the critical mental health needs of the elderly and many its locations are often full – with a waiting list of patients and their families seeking the specialized care offered by these facilities.

Now, after performing a feasibility study and identifying an opportunity to address this growing need within their own community, Adventist Medical Center Bolingbrook recently completed the conversion of one of its medical surgical units into an area devoted to providing critical behavioral healthcare for older adults.

Newly opened in December, the new 24-bed Older Adult Behavioral Unit at Bolingbrook offers inpatient support and therapeutic intervention to those suffering from critical episodes of mental confusion or distress. This will not be a facility devoted to long-term care, but will provide behavioral support where urgency is required – with inpatient services lasting 10-12 days at most.

Caregivers in the Older Adult Behavioral Unit will use a holistic approach – ruling out medical issues and adjusting medication, if necessary, before establishing a program to help guide the patient's mental health back to its pre-episode status. In-patient treatment programs will incorporate an array of proven methodologies – at times combining familiar psychiatric and counseling work with lesser-known, but highly effective,



Older Adult Unit Opens at Bolingbrook

tools such as pet, music and other expressive therapies individualized to patient need.

Jane Mitchell, director of behavioral health for the AMITA Health Southern Region, notes that the new unit provides an opportunity to give back to those who helped build the Bolingbrook community. "Many of the people we will be treating here have devoted their lives to serving this community. These people who were once caregivers themselves can now receive the compassionate care and behavioral assistance necessary to help them deal with the mental challenges brought on by their illness," states Mitchell.

The Bolingbrook unit will be led by Medical Director and Board-certified Psychiatrist, Dr. Mehrdad Abbassian and a comprehensive team

of psychiatrists, nurses, patient care technicians, behavioral health counselors, social workers and expressive therapy professionals.

With the addition of the Bolingbrook facility, Adventist Health System now offers six units in the Chicago area to serve the critical mental health needs of the elderly.

Julie Busch, assistant vice president for communications, AMITA Health



“I cannot remain idle”

A humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis

In October, Georgette Bennett and Amin Ahmed from the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees (MFA) delivered a one-hour lecture in Garber Auditorium of Chan Shun Hall on the humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

The MFA is the only interfaith organization in the United States to address the Syrian refugee crisis. Consisting of multiple religious sects and major secular organizations, MFA seeks to galvanize global multifaith support to alleviate the Syrian refugee crisis, and promote awareness of the dangers such regional instability can cause.

Bennett founded the MFA as an effort to “delegitimize the use of religion as a justification for extremism.” Citing her Jewish roots, Bennett claimed, “I cannot remain idle while suffering abounds.”

“You may think it odd that I, as a Jew, would have been motivated to do something about this horrific humanitarian crisis,” said Bennett. “You may be asking yourself, ‘are Syrians your brother as a Jew? Syrians are your enemies.’”

“I think what you are also going to get out of this is an inspirational story about how enemies can rise above politics in order to work together to alleviate horrific human suffering,” said Bennett.

According to Bennett, religion has moral authority and consequently provides a moral imperative to take care of people. Bennett contended that religious

groups are easier to mobilize and have inbuilt communication networks.

Bennett concluded her portion of the lecture with a three-part call to action: first, that Andrews’ students counter hateful websites which argue against resettling refugees; second, she suggested that Andrews create a scholarship for refugee students; and finally she encouraged students to host a sleeping bag and blanket drive, as many refugees are heading into winter severely under supplied.

“I’m not just here to teach,” said Bennett, “I’m an activist now.”

Ahmed’s portion of the lecture focused on his personal experiences in Syria as a hospital administrator. A self-proclaimed member of the “old generation,” it was the atrocities of the Assad regime against unarmed demonstrators that convinced Ahmed to become an activist.

“I was the manager of a hospital located next to a university,” said Ahmed. “I would see these kids going out from university; some of them were caught, and they were beaten in front of us — we couldn’t do anything to help them.”

When demonstrators came seeking medical treatment, Ahmed was forced to report them to the authorities — who would imprison and torture them. This became a moral dilemma for Ahmed, who felt he could not stand by idly, so he mobilized a team of medical staff to supply underground medical assistance.

“We decided, my friends and I, that we should act,” said Ahmed. “We shouldn’t let anything stop us from acting. We organized doctors and medical workers and other professions. We started providing a network of medical supplies and treatment for people who were getting hurt in these demonstrations.

“Of course this was one of the most dangerous professions you could have in Syria. Some of our colleagues got killed — we don’t know where they are now.”

After one and a half years of successfully running the underground operation, Ahmed was forced to leave all his possessions behind and flee Syria with only a small suitcase.

“We continued our work until we were discovered,” said Ahmed. “I had to leave the country and my hometown. All of a sudden I became a refugee. I was planning where I was going to spend my life and all of a sudden I lost everything. My property was confiscated, and I left with one suitcase. I barely made it out of Syria.”

Ahmed continues to work with MFA to help refugees with stories similar to his own. He repeated Bennett’s call to action and asked Andrews students, staff and faculty to take an active stance in alleviating the suffering of this conflict.

“I felt it was still my duty to do what I could do. I started helping refugees and organizing aid to bring back to Syria,” said Ahmed. “This is the generation we fear we are losing. If we don’t do something for them, we are going to have hundreds of thousands of them who feel abandoned by the whole world.”

Those in attendance were inspired and motivated by Bennett and Ahmed’s presentations.

“Amin Ahmed’s story really touched me,” said junior political science major Laisa Vakaloloma. “I think that as students of Andrews University, we need to get involved in this cause. We, too, have the ability to make a difference in the lives of the refugees.”

“I was lucky that I could travel to safety,” said Ahmed. “It’s my obligation to help my countrymen and others who are in need, because it’s Syria now, but there were lots of countries that were affected before Syria. It was Darfur, it was Somalia, it was Bosnia, and I feel so sorry that I didn’t have the freedom to help those who were in need before. But now, I have the ability. I hope you will join us in this effort to help other refugees throughout the world.”

If you would like to know how you can get involved or contribute to the Multifaith Alliance’s efforts, you can visit their website at <http://www.multifaithalliance.org>.

Alaryss M. Bosco and Samuel J. Fry

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Geography students send cameras to space

Wisconsin— On the morning of Sept. 8, the entire student body, with guests from the conference office and Petersen Elementary, gathered on the Wisconsin Academy ball field to launch a weather balloon.

For the previous two weeks, a team of fourteen World Geography students under the direction of Terry Cantrell and science teacher Kelly McWilliams had been preparing for the launch. The 20-foot weather balloon itself was filled with 125 cubic feet of helium. From it hung a radar reflector, a custom-built parachute constructed by the geography students, and a small Styrofoam box. Inside the box were two GoPro high definition video cameras — one pointing straight down and the other pointing to the side. Also inside was a GPS tracker and a note to anyone who might find this balloon before we tracked it down. Taped to the outside of the Styrofoam box was what the class called the “First Big Frank in Space.”

All went according to plan. The morning was still as we watched the balloon rise and disappear from sight. Then the GPS tracker stopped working. For two weeks we heard nothing. We estimate the balloon reached an altitude of 80,000–120,000 feet, over twice the altitude of commercial airline flights. The human body would require a pressurized suit or capsule to survive this altitude.

Then one morning, Cantrell got a call. The balloon had been found. An email followed, telling the story. While fishing, a husband and wife had found the Styrofoam box and radar reflector floating in Lake Michigan a few miles off the coast of Manistee, Michigan. Upon opening the box and reading the note, they called and said they were sending the box and cameras



After a final call to the Madison air traffic control, history teacher Tyler Cantrell prepares to release the 20-foot balloon.



A still from the video footage taken at the edge of space. The balloon has just popped and fragments are visible across the top of the image. The blue parachute is at the upper right corner. Notice Lake Winnebago faintly visible. More images are available on our Facebook page.

back. Only the Big Frank was not sent back. It had survived the flight, but was worse for the wear.

There was much rejoicing when the cameras arrived safe and sound. Check out the images posted on our Facebook page. Search for: wisacad.

Greg Edge is the director of marketing at Wisconsin Academy.



World Geography students construct the parachute that will bring the balloon's payload safely back to earth. The launch was a cooperative project between the science and social studies departments.



Linda Rosen, Superintendent of Education, Wisconsin Conference

From the Superintendent's Desk: What's happening in Adventist Education across Wisconsin

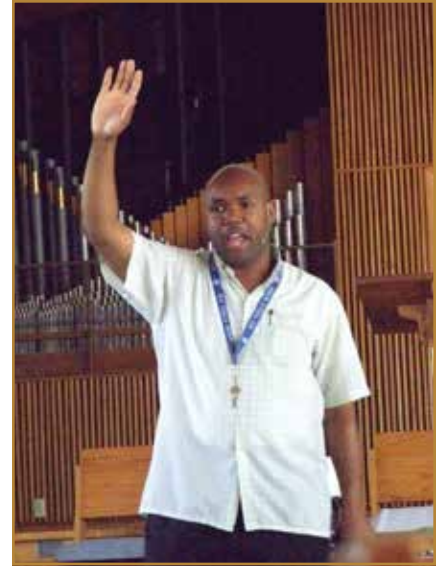
Wisconsin—Launching the new school year at the annual August teacher in-service, teachers were challenged to try new strategies and implement more technology into classroom instruction by presenters Martha Ban, NAD Director of Technology and Support, and our very own teacher-trainers. Larry Blackmer, Vice President, NAD Office of Education, gave teachers a view of happenings and issues in education across the country. Teachers were pleased to have the opportunity to ask questions and learn what the NAD is doing to address relevant issues and challenges facing school boards and teachers.

Over 60 fifth and sixth graders arrived at Camp Wakonda on Sept. 8. The eager students settled in and began the unique outdoor classroom experience we call Outdoor Education. Spiritual lessons in Nature, Life in a Log, Forces Around Us (magnetic field), Love a Tree, Plant Art, are some of the classes taught. We were honored to have our conference president Mike

Edge come for the evening worships and to lead the night walk. Students learned about their best friend Jesus through nature illustrations and how to see spider eyes in the dark. Something you may want to ask Edge about next time you see him.

It is a privilege to work with talented teachers and principals who have accepted God's call to service in Adventist education. They teach and facilitate in the many classrooms accommodating our more than 370 students enrolled in our nine Adventist schools. Thanks to the pastors, teachers, parents and church members for their commitment and support for Adventist education. This gives many students the opportunity to have an Adventist education. As God leads we hope to make Adventist education available to more children. Recently, I received several requests for information regarding the opening of schools. Please join us as we pray for God's leading and blessing in this effort.

Linda Rosen is Superintendent of Education for Wisconsin Conference.



Rodney Palmer, pastor of the Racine District

Week of Prayer results in decisions for baptism

Wisconsin—The week of Aug. 1—Sept. 4 we were blessed to have Rodney Palmer of the Racine District share our Week of Prayer with us. His morning and evening meetings centered on encounters with Jesus.

By Friday evening, two students had made decisions for baptism and several others requested Bible studies. Nearly all the students responded to his calls to a deeper relationship with Jesus and preparation for his soon coming. Several said they wished he could stay and continue his series.

In the weeks following the Week of Prayer, students have been involved in small group Bible studies and several are studying with the pastor. One student has been baptized. Thank you for continuing to pray for Wisconsin Academy. Please pray for the students who are growing to know Jesus better and for the faculty, that we will represent him truly.

Greg Edge is Marketing Director at Wisconsin Academy.



The Benton Harbor Health Fair Team

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Benton Harbor Health Fair nudges volunteers out of their comfort zone

Michigan—Several years ago, Jay Clough, outreach leader for Fairplain SDA Church in Benton Harbor, Mich., was sent by his employer to landscape Broadway Park, located in a rough neighborhood known for its frequent altercations with police. “But I never felt in danger,” Clough recalls, “Actually, it was there that God gave me a great idea, a thought that became a reality.”

Clough believes God’s timing for this revelation was perfect. “The Fairplain Church had recently held a Health Fair. We did health screens like diabetes checks, blood pressures, BMI testing and encouraged a healthier natural lifestyle, but few people from the community showed up at our church to benefit from the program. Now, as I looked at all the people loitering in the park, I thought maybe God wants us to take his health message to the community instead of trying to bring the community to us.”

Clough shared this new concept with Phil Mills, pastor of the Fairplain Church, and members of the outreach team. Enthusiasm grew. And on

Sunday afternoon, Oct. 4, the Benton Harbor Health Fair took place at Broadway Park.

“God blessed us,” said Mills. “Robert Beckermeyer agreed to do free dental work and Mark Ranzinger volunteered to staff our ‘Ask the Doctor’ tent. John Carlos signed on to lead out in our Exercise Station and Ray Nelson, and David Sedlacek consented to help with the Temperance booth targeting freedom from addictions.” Many more health professionals and others passionate about health evangelism joined the effort. Even the weather cooperated. Though the weatherman had predicted rain, a dry, pleasant day served us well. As inquisitive people of all ages arrived to see what was happening at their park, our prayer to minister to hurting people was being answered.”

Lizzy Osborn, a young person on the outreach team, relates her experiences at the Fresh Air Station which promoted such things as deep breathing and exercising outdoors and revealed to visitors the harmful effects of smoking. “One dear lady came along and as I showed her how smoking harms the body, she started to share with me why she felt smoking, drugs, and other unhealthy addictions were such an issue in her community. ‘I think it’s because of the constant stress in our lives, and the need to find some

way to cope with the pain,’ she confided in me. The Holy Spirit prompted me to go a little deeper and share with this woman the true Refuge from pain and stress. Are you a Christian? I asked her. ‘Well, I don’t know what a Christian is, but I believe in Jesus,’ she responded. I began to tell her how Jesus is the only One who can truly satisfy the longing in our hearts, and explained what a wonderful Savior He is. ‘I would like to know more about Jesus,’ she told me empathetically. I couldn’t have been more thrilled to hear those words! Would you be interested in studying the Bible to learn more about Jesus? I asked her. I began to tell her of different options — we could drop off lessons or mail them to her. She didn’t seem satisfied. ‘Can’t someone come and study with me?’ Again, I was surprised! Absolutely! That would be my choice, too! I told her. Happily, she gave me her contact information, and reminded me not to lose it and to be sure to get back with her soon!”

Another lady Osborn encountered admitted to smoking heavily, although she desired to quit. As she and her 10-year-old son learned about the health risks of smoking, her son began to plead with his mom to stop smoking. He even took her cigarettes and threw them in the dumpster! “Praise God that the mother is now one of many signed up to participate in Fairplain’s upcoming freedom from addictions seminar called ‘Celebrating Life in Recovery,’” she said.

Because of the neighborhood’s reputation, the City recommended that the church hire a police officer to be on hand during the day. A Health Fair volunteer youth, Theodore Parker, enjoyed talking with this officer.

“He began recounting cop stories and vividly described to me how on the very spot where he and I stood, he had been involved with high-profile drug busts, foot pursuits, and gunfire. He seemed thrilled that today wellness was being presented to a community often caught in the middle of turmoil.”



Team members prayed with participants who shared personal requests.



Phil Mills, pastor, talks with Benton Harbor police officer.

Parker, as well as the rest of the Health Fair team, expected the policeman to leave right at 5 p.m. since that had been the agreement. However, he stayed until all the tents were packed up. “He proudly showed us boys his cruiser with all of the latest equipment,” said Parker. “As I stood there fascinated by the dazzling red and blue lights, I saw his kindness and suddenly felt the impression to invite him to visit the Fairplain SDA Church. He quickly answered, ‘You know something, I think I will have to do that!’ It was truly awesome how the Holy Spirit worked. I learned later that the officer had asked for one of our free Bibles earlier in the day.”

This story is not complete without noting that everyone who took part in the Benton Harbor Health Fair praises the Lord for his leading. The volunteers began friendships in a difficult-to-reach area and plan to cultivate them! Dr. Carlos plans to visit a family of four (one in a wheelchair) who live right across from the park. They told Dr. Carlos they watched people all afternoon going from booth to booth and finally couldn’t resist coming over. Osborn and many others will follow up on those who registered for Bible studies and the Fairplain Church volunteers will get acquainted with those who plan to attend the church’s freedom from addictions seminar. God nudged us to get out of our comfort zone and the blessings were abundant.

Sue Rappette, Benton Harbor Health Fair Committee, is a member of the Fairplain SDA Church.

CRAVE for Jesus Outreach held at Indiana University

Indiana— A joint effort among NAD’s Adventist Christian Fellowship, Lake Union, Indiana Conference and the Bloomington Church resulted in 100 new student relationships with one

baptism, new Bible studies and four Life Groups which form a continuing spiritual community. CRAVE was held Sept. 14-18 on Bloomington’s campus right on the student union grounds.

Lay leader John Leis from Bloomington church said the idea came as an answer to prayer as the local church board searched for their new mission for the

year. The church resides next to Indiana University campus, and one-third of church members are Indiana University students. The church board decided to research what programs could help them reach out to their campus neighbors.

The Adventist Christian Fellowship program called CRAVE and NADEI (North American Division



Adrieen Paneto, president of ACF at Indiana University

Evangelism Institute) for campus ministries were the vehicles for them to reach their mission goals. ACF Volunteer Coordinator Ron Pickell jumped on the bandwagon, sending two campus ministry leaders, Javier Melendez and Jermaine Gayle, to be stationed in Bloomington for six months after the week-long CRAVE event to conduct one-on-one Bible studies and organize Life Group activities. Campus evangelists and musician Alison Brooks gave presentations all week and a final concert. Evangelist Jeff Tatarchuk said, "The week was epic in my opinion."

John Leis exclaimed, "These kids want to change the world. They have a lot of energy."

"There were some international students from China there, and they will take God back with them."

The event would not have been a success without the help of seven Michigan campus missionaries from the Michigan Conference Public Campus Ministries Department who were there the week prior and of the CRAVE event. They were on campus connecting with IU students and helping get the word out. Prior to the CRAVE meetings flyers and posters were distributed on campus along with "sidewalk chalk signs." Free hugs and chair massages were offered to students; and as they signed up with text



Students enjoyed Alison Brooks (right) who provided music all week and a final concert.

messages, they received T-shirts and free food along with spiritual food.

"We at ACF have conducted three prior CRAVE events from 2012 to 2014 at University of Florida at Gainesville, Cal State at San Marcos, and at the Church of the Wild," said Pickell. "But no follow-up was organized to continue the work. We hope that the Bloomington model will serve as a pilot for conducting a similar campus ministry next year at University of California-Berkeley."

A Reaping Series is planned in November in Bloomington targeting the September CRAVE attendees to continue their CRAVE for Jesus! "We want to work with the rhythm and flow on campus and need to work with that," Pickell said.

Today Adventist Christian Fellowship serves more than 100 student groups in Canada, the U.S., Bermuda and Guam with some 1,500 to 2,000 students participating. According to our most current estimates there are between 80 to 100,00 SDA students attending some 15,000 degree granting organizations of higher education among a larger 22 million student population in Canada and the US. ACF has grown to include large campus ministry departments such as the Georgia Cumberland Conference with a student center at UT Knoxville, full

departmental director at the conference level, and nine other campuses in participation. The Boston area has ministries all around Boston including Harvard and MIT. Boston also has a student center in close proximity to the Harvard and MIT campus. Michigan Conference also has a strong campus ministry program through CAMPUS that offers training and student missionary leadership and additional 10 college groups in their program. Other campus groups are being added every year.

This is an auspicious beginning. Over the years, Adventist ministry on non-Adventist college and university campuses have come very far with mostly volunteer support. Look what God has accomplished! As Jesus once commented on the important missionary work ahead of the disciples among the Samaritans, *Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest* (John 4:35 NIV). With the Adventist whole life approach to the Christian message and our world wide presence, public campus ministry is a rich mission field for Seventh-day Adventist's. It is a mission field that we have been very successful with over the years and one that we hope and expect will broaden the mission of the church and help prepare thousands of students for service to Christ. All For Christ and Campus!

Timeline

2000 — Berkeley Resolution requesting church leadership give official recognition for Adventist

ministry on non-Adventist college and university campuses.

2002 — Campus Spiritual Leadership Certificate Program, Andrews University Religious Education Department. Specialized training for campus ministry leaders and chaplains.

2005 — Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) organized as an official ministry of the NAD Youth/Young Adult Ministries Department. Ron Pickell asked to serve as Volunteer Public Campus Ministry Coordinator.

2007 — *Word On Campus: A Guide To Public College Ministry*, handbook for Adventist public campus ministry by Kirk King with Ron Pickell.

2008 — Center For College Faith (CFCF) organized through the Berkeley SDA Church as a campus ministry resource center by Ron Pickell and Kirk King to develop resources, provide training and mentoring for

Adventist campus ministries. Most recently CFCF is a separate 501(c)3 under the name of Affiliated Resources For Campus Ministries (ARC).

2008 — Pacific Union Conference Campus Ministry Initiative: CFCF conducted a study of Adventist campus ministry initiatives for the conferences in the Pacific Union developing training materials and identifying ten existing ministries and launching 12 new ministries throughout the seven Pacific Union Conferences.

2009 — Word In Action workbooks (3) and Campus Catalyst weekend seminars were developed to help train local churches on how to launch and support ACF chapters on nearby college and university campuses.

2010 — Spiritual LIFE For College and Beyond workbook for high school/SDA Academy seniors headed off to college was developed as a resource to encourage the spiritual life of students when they leave home.

2011 — Campus Ministry Quick Start Guide as a shortened version

of The Word On Campus laying out specific steps for launching a ministry on campus.

2011 — MA in Campus Chaplaincy, Andrews University

2012 — Ad Hoc Committee for Public Campus Ministry met in Florida giving recommendations for a broader and stronger support for Adventist ministry on public college campuses.

2012 — ACF/NAD Conference: First NAD-wide campus ministry conference, Columbia University, N.Y.

2012 — ACF INSTITUTE: First NAD-wide two week on campus evangelism/ministry training program, July 22–August 3, La Sierra University/UC Riverside campus.

2013 — *Second Edition of the Word on Campus Guide to Campus Ministry*.

Colleen Kelly is Education Marketing Director for the Indiana Conference.

[CONFERENCE NEWS]

Embracing 2016, the Year of Evangelism

Wisconsin—In the late winter of last year, Don Livesay, Lake Union Conference president, invited conferences in the Lake Union to embrace 2016 as the Year of Evangelism. Livesay went on to indicate that this emphasis should not be a mere program to highlight the year — this should be a transformation in the way we do church.

The Wisconsin Conference has responded wonderfully to Livesay's invitation. The conference is giving a threefold emphasis to cooperate with God in this transformation:

1. RECLAIMING MINISTRY

— Mike Edge is giving professional in-service training on reclaiming missing members. It is estimated that

one-third of our members who no longer attend church will come back if they are approached with sincerity and earnest prayers. Training is available to the churches.

2. DISCIPLESHIP — The conference has invited pastors to give special emphasis to training members in discipleship:

The work of a disciple of Jesus is to make more disciples. Disciples seek to inspire and train people to become disciples who in turn will lead others to become disciples.

- James Fox, evangelism coordinator, is training church members in finding interested persons who want to study the Bible.
- Wisconsin pastors have embraced the mission of training members to give Bible studies.
- The conference is subsidizing churches (two-thirds of the cost)



James Fox, Ministerial Director for Wisconsin Conference

in purchasing Andrews University Bibles to resource pastors and members to use in giving Bible studies.

- The conference is subsidizing churches (two-thirds of the cost) in purchasing “It Is Written” (John Bradshaw) Bible studies and “Truth-Link” (Ty Gibson) Bible Studies to resource pastors and members to use in giving Bible studies.
- Greg Taylor is leading a Public Campus Ministry seeking Adventist university students and their peers to bring them to become disciples of Jesus.
- Taylor also is working in our church schools with weeks of prayer, training, and inspiration so that they

might do their part for Jesus.

- Education Superintendent Linda Rosen is inviting the church schools, teachers and students, to be partners in this great work of preaching the gospel and winning people to Jesus.

3. PUBLIC EVANGELISM — The pastors and lay evangelists in the Wisconsin Conference have committed to holding 156 outreach events in 2016. This is the largest evangelistic outreach in our conference history.

- Every pastor is holding multiple meetings.
- Ministers working in the Conference Office are holding meetings including: Mike Edge, Greg Taylor and James Fox.
- The majority of the evangelistic

meetings this year will be conducted by lay people.

The harvest will depend on personal work done by committed Christians before the public evangelism begins.

We are investing deeply in our people. We believe that God can bless all of us in finding interested people and leading them to a close walk with Jesus.

Wisconsin is not just holding extra meetings and calling it a special year. We are inviting the Lord to transform the way we do church.

Please pray for God’s blessing on his work. When you observe him working, join him and fulfill his joy.

James Fox is Ministerial Director for the Wisconsin Conference.

[NAD NEWS]

NAD Year-End Meeting — three Dulles Reports

Three special reports examining the Adventist Church’s missional structure were presented during the 2015 North American Division Year-end Meeting. Stemming out of the Dulles, Va., meetings of church administrative leaders in North America on May 13–15, 2014, the reports centered on advancing mission to contemporary audiences, advancing Adventist Christian education, and the restructuring of the Adventist church in North America for mission (church governance). These reports led to discussion on the future of the church and its structure, organization, and mission. After a discussion period, sheets for two of the reports were distributed for attendees to choose priorities for the next phase of study and implementation. At the conclusion of the third report, attendees were asked to participate in a digital survey.

Five specific action opportunities were presented in the first report, “Advancing Mission to Contemporary Audiences,” in answer to several areas of concern expressed at the Dulles meeting. Recom-



Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division, holds a copy of the report on *Advancing the Adventist Mission in North America*, during the NAD Year-end Meeting, Nov. 3, 2015.

mendations include developing a branding strategy centered on “Hope and Wholeness,” developing methods for “extending mission to modern and post-moderns,” creating relation-based evangelism, preparing mission-focused leaders and churches in local congregations through use of the book *Becoming a Mission Driven Church*, and developing a church officer “tool kit” through collaboration with on-line resource Adventist Learning Center.

Three committee members, Mike Cauley, José Cortés Sr., Paul Brantley, each

presented sections of the report. In talking about relational evangelism, Cortés said, “We want to talk, talk, talk ... but people cannot relate to this. We need to relate with love and compassion.... Friendship evangelism, relational evangelism — this is the way Jesus did it with the disciples.”

Paul Brantley spoke about the church officer “tool kit.” He asked, “We want the resources to be indispensable ... What is indispensable?” and he held up his smartphone.

In a concluding thought, Cauley

added, “The Lord will give us the grace to embrace change for effective mission.”

The second special report offered ways for “Advancing Adventist Christian Education in North America.” The committee, chaired by Director of the Center for Research on K–12 Adventist Education Elissa Kido, included Larry Blackmer as secretary, and 15 other educators, pastors, and administrators from unions and conferences across the NAD, as well as Brent Geraty, legal counsel from University of Redlands, Calif.

The committee, known as NADET (North American Division Education Taskforce), was charged with “examining, addressing and prioritizing the eight recommendations” they received from the NAD Dulles summit. Some of these include innovative strategy development for the delivery of Adventist education, program development tied to educators, pastors, and members to encourage students in engaging in personal evangelism, and the appointment of a study group to compare Adventist education with better public and private schools in determining the quality of education and cost.

During the presentation, Kido shared good news: students in Adventist schools had higher-than-expected academic achievement based on their individual ability. This was ascertained through studying outcomes of standardized tests taken by millions of students in the United States.

In his remarks during the presentation, Blackmer said, “Choosing between education and evangelism is a false dichot-

omy.... I wonder what would happen if we planted schools and grew churches around them?”

NADET, after months of study and analysis, divided the 18 recommendations listed in their report into two categories, leadership and financial, and asked for attendees to prioritize their top five.

NAD Associate Secretary Kyoshin Ahn introduced the final Dulles summit report on church governance, “Advancing Adventist Mission in North America.” The 24-member committee ranged from pastors and administrators from the nine NAD unions (Atlantic, Columbia, Lake, Mid-America, North Pacific, Pacific, Southern, Southwestern and the Adventist Church in Canada).

The 110-page report gave details on what and how the committee studied the topic, as well as how and why the committee arrived at its conclusions.

Dan Day, an invitee to the committee, said, “We tried to create a report that would make sense to you.” Process and church history experts, including Monte Sahlin and Bert Haloviak, were invited to give the committee input through reports and historical documents. The committee conducted a survey of pastors, sending 8,000 email surveys out and receiving about 2,000 back; administrators division wide were also surveyed.

Dennis Williams presented a cost-per-membership analysis, a case study based on the NAD church in Canada.

Key findings were highlighted in the report — and recommendations center on tithe redistribution and church restruc-

turing. Committee secretary Alvin Kibble said that the group recognized that driving tithe back toward the local church, “where mission is most fully expressed,” was crucial in proposing the three redistribution scenarios of tithe.

Monte Sahlin, asked to study denominational structure options, presented his report segment by video, which detailed cost savings and reallocation of resources through three scenarios where the driving model is a restructuring to a “union of churches.”

Kibble reiterated that the top priorities given to the committee included making recommendations “specifying ways that administration and ministries of the church can streamline operations and eliminate duplications where unnecessary,” and exploring at least three scenarios for “the redistribution of financial support from members for furthering the mission of the church.”

With their handheld voting devices, attendees were asked to rank their interest in the 14 categories that emerged from the report. The top five recommendations will guide the committee as they continue their work.

Each of the three groups will proceed with their work and report back in 2016. Information, including reports from these committees, is available at <http://www.nadchurchstudy.org>.

Kimberly Luste Maran, writing for the NAD
Office of Communication

NAD Year-end Meeting report on human sexuality

The North American Division (NAD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church proposed a “Statement on Human Sexuality” at their Year-end Meeting on Oct. 29, 2015. After more than two hours of discussion, several revisions were incorporated into the statement, and the

statement was approved on Nov. 2, 2015, by a vote of 74-17.

“Practical and compassionate theology,” was the description given by one executive committee member. The document states that the Adventist Church in North America seek to “follow the model of Jesus” and offer “unconditional love and compassion to everyone.”

The statement declares that the NAD stands in full support of the General Conference (GC) guidelines regarding human sexuality, marriage, family, homosexuality



Don Livesay, president of the Lake Union Conference, discusses the NAD Statement on Human Sexuality during the NAD Year-end Meeting held Oct. 30, 2015.

and same-sex union. The GC guidelines, released in spring 2014, address how the church responds to “changing cultural

attitudes regarding homosexual and other alternative sexual practices.”

The statement is “presented not as a theological document but as one drawing from biblical teachings, some practical understandings and guidelines for the Adventist Church in North America.” (A copy of the statement is available at <http://bit.ly/1XooGW6>)

During the late-morning presentation on Oct. 29, Kyoshin Ahn, NAD associate secretary and chair of the human sexuality committee, referenced the GC guidelines, introduced the committee and process, and presented the human sexuality statement. Ahn explained that the committee recognized that the church should “follow the model of Jesus Christ in the way we treat people. No way can we handle every situation; we wanted to set a direction.”

Committee members took turns reading sections of the four-page statement, which was read in its entirety. The statement, after final revision on Nov. 2,

addresses 12 topics: biblical principles, orientation and practice, nature and nurture, church attendance and Christian fellowship, church membership, leadership roles, employment, educational institutions, facilities use, marriage ceremony, healthcare ministries, and transgenderism. Committee members, including Ahn, Larry Blackmer, Claudio Consuegra, Marcus Harris, Heather Knight, Grace Mackintosh, Alan Parker, Katia Reinert, and Gerald Winslow, answered questions and listened to concerns during the discussion periods.

While a few spoke on how the document was “a good start” but wondered “how much was based on real-life conversations with people who are in the categories listed,” comments from the NAD constituency were appreciative and generally favorable.

One executive committee delegate thanked the NAD for the statement, saying it was caring and biblical, and that

“Jesus was crucified in the middle — where truth and love connect.”

Before NAD presented the statement, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Mich., shared a 21-page position paper on “An Understanding of the Biblical View on Homosexual Practice and Pastoral Care.”

According to Jiří Moskala, Ph.D., dean of the Adventist Theological Seminary, “The [Andrews] document is very balanced ... it combines love and grace together. In this, it is very Adventist.” The document uses Scripture to show the “Biblical teaching on sin and how our sinful inclinations can be controlled by the Holy Spirit, by God’s grace.” (To read the Andrews document, visit <http://bit.ly/1j8JWtc>)

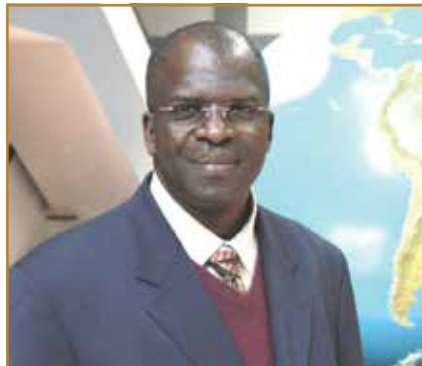
Kimberly Luste Maran, writing for the NAD Office of Communication

[WORLD NEWS]

Seventh-day Adventist Religious Liberty leader Ganoune Diop addressed the diverse group of public AN

Dateline November 09, 2015

The event, the Third International Forum on Religion and Peace, was jointly organized by Russia’s Presidential Council for Cooperation with Religious Organizations, and Moscow’s department of National Policy, Inter-Regional Relations and Tourism. It was supported by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, along with other religious and public leaders. Franklin Graham, son of well-known evangelist Billy Graham, attended the forum, along with Metropolitan Hilarion, director of the Department for External Church Relations of Russian



Ganoune Diop

Orthodox Church, and Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade, chairman of the Caucasian Muslims Office.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church was represented by Ganoune Diop, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department for the World Church, and Oleg Goncharov, PARL director for the church in Euro-Asia.

In his address to the assembly, Diop focused on the foundational place of religious freedom within the pantheon of human rights. He emphasized that it

is a God-given right, not one subject to political agendas, and he urged all those present to work together to preserve and extend this “first freedom.”

On the day before the forum, Diop and Goncharov visited the national Duma, or parliament, to meet with various public officials responsible for church-state relations in Russia. They also met with Alexander Kudryavtsev, who heads one of Russia’s most active public organizations focused on religious liberty, the Russian Association for the Protection of Religious Freedoms (RARF).

At the conclusion of the forum, the participants adopted a resolution expressing deep concern about rising religious extremism. They also urged greater action on the part of the international community in stemming the continued destruction of Christian communities in the Middle East and Africa, and they expressed solidarity with all those suffering persecution for their faith.

Bettina Krause, Euro-Asia Division Public Affairs and Religious Liberty



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

Please take notice that a quinquennial meeting of the members of the Andrews University Corporation (commonly known as a “constituency meeting”) will take place on Tuesday, **March 1, 2016**, beginning at 3:00 p.m., in the Garber Auditorium of Chan Shun Hall on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. At the meeting, the members will receive reports from Andrews University administration, elect a portion of the Andrews University Board of Trustees, and consider minor amendments to the bylaws.

Theresa C. Popp
Secretary of the Corporation

Andrews University will host Adventist Engaged Encounter (AEE) on the weekend of **March 4-6**. It is an enrichment weekend for engaged and recently married couples, which offers couples the insights, tools and confidence to develop their relationship and strengthen their commitment for one another. For registration information, contact the Undergraduate Leadership Program at Andrews University at aee@andrews.edu or 269-471-6636. Registration fees required – discount if at least one attendee is an Andrews student.

Howard Performing Arts Center events: For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, contact HPAC Box Office by phone at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or email at hpac@andrews.edu, or on its website at <https://howard.andrews.edu/events/>.

Jan. 10, 4:00 p.m.: Second Sunday Concert – Jason Gresl

Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.: Phil Wickham in Concert, the popular Christian artist known for “This Is Amazing Grace” and “Safe.” (Tickets required.)

Jan. 22, 3:30 p.m.: Guest Master Class – Lyndon Taylor. Violinist Lyndon Taylor comes from a family of musical excellence. While his parents performed as duo pianists, he and his siblings concertized as the Taylor String Quartet, appearing extensively throughout the

United States and abroad, including performances at over 50 colleges and universities, and on national radio and TV in Great Britain, Sweden and Norway. While in secondary school, Taylor received training from America’s top string quartets. (Tickets required.)

Jan. 22, 7:00 p.m.: Department of Music and English Vespers. Welcome the Sabbath with an evening of music and poetry. (Tickets required.)

Jan. 24, 4:00 p.m.: Andrews Symphony Orchestra (Tickets required.)

Jan. 31, 5:00 p.m.: High School Choral Invitational. Featuring the vocal talents of University Singers and the Great Lakes Academy Choir. (Tickets required.)

Feb. 6, 8:00 p.m.: The Andrews University Wind Symphony will perform under the direction of Alan Mitchell. (Tickets required.)

Feb. 7, 2:00 p.m.: Ladysmith Black Mambazo in Concert. This group is known for its intricate vocal rhythms and harmonies borrowed from traditional music from the mines of South Africa. (Tickets required.)

Feb. 11, 7:00 p.m.: The Andrews University Symphony Orchestra will perform under the direction of Claudio Gonzalez. (Tickets required.)

Illinois

Broadview Academy Alumni Association BVA Alumni Weekend is **April 30-May 1** at North Aurora SDA Church, North Aurora, Ill. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars. Call your classmates and start planning for this weekend now. Honor classes: 1946, ‘56, ‘66, ‘76, ‘86, ‘91, ‘96 and 2006. Friday night Vespers, Sabbath school, Church, lunch and afternoon music program. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes we need your email addresses – postage is too expensive. Send it to Ed Gutierrez at edjulie1@att.net or call 630-232-9034. More information to come. Don’t miss it! Check the BVA website: <http://www.broadviewacademy.org>.

“**Mission Akita,**” **June 1-8**, is a unique mission opportunity for adult volunteers.

Nestled in the rolling hills of central Illinois, our youth camp needs a boost of energy. You are just what is needed! Join us to help get camp ready for our summer activities. Morning work projects include gardening, painting, repair projects, mowing, cleaning and much more. Bring your RV, trailer or tent and enjoy our rustic setting. Three scrumptious meals are provided each day. Spend your afternoon enjoying camp life and relaxing by the lake. Special worship services are planned! To request registration information, please email jdaum@ilcsda.org.

Indiana

Indiana Academy Admissions Dates for 2016-2017:

Oct. 23: IA Online Application Open

Oct. 23-Jan. 15: Priority Acceptance

Jan. 16-March 4: General Acceptance

March 5-May 13: Late Acceptance

(as space is available)

Lake Union

Offerings

Jan. 2 Local Church Budget

Jan. 9 Local Conference Advance

Jan. 16 Local Church Budget

Jan. 23 Religious Liberty

Jan. 30 Illinois: *Go and Tell*
Conference Evangelism;
Indiana: Indiana Evangelism;
Lake Region: Conference Designated;
Michigan: Conference Designated;
Wisconsin: Camp Wakonda
Worthy Camper

Special Days

Jan. 2 Day of Prayer

Jan. 17-23 Religious Liberty Week

Michigan

Battle Creek Tabernacle Sacred Concert Series 2016: Concerts will be held at 264 West Michigan Ave., Battle Creek. All of the concerts are free. For more information, visit <http://www.battlecreektabernacle.com>.

Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m., Kelley Lorencin, Singer and Songwriter. Kelley Lorencin’s passion for music and God has resulted in songwriting, singing and playing the piano. Her Christmas album, *Midnight Clear*, features the familiar words of carols with all-new music.

Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., Steve Martin, Musician. Steve Martin is a talented and versatile

musician. Whether he’s playing the guitar, banjo or a number of other instruments, Steve uses his God-given talents to praise God.

March 26, 7:30 p.m., Buddy Houghtaling, Singer and Songwriter. Buddy Houghtaling is from Battle Creek and is well known in Michigan. He also can be seen on Three Angels Broadcasting Network as a solo artist, as well as on the 3ABN show “Kid’s Time.”

April 23, 7:30 p.m., Jaime Jorge, Violinist. Jaime Jorge was born in Cuba and began playing the violin at age 10. Originally planning to be a missionary doctor, Jaime left medical school in 1996 to devote himself to full-time music ministry. He has traveled around the world presenting concerts, and has recorded and released 17 albums.

North American Division

Union College Homecoming April 7-10: Honor classes are 1946, ‘56, ‘61, ‘66, ‘76, ‘86, ‘91, ‘96 and 2006. Special start to our 125th year celebration and 30-year Warriors Reunion. For more information, contact the alumni office at 401-486-2503; 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or alumni@ucollege.edu.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend 2016 will be held **April 22-23** on the LSA campus. Please update your mailing address and contact info: JNelson@sak12.com or 951-351-1445, ext. 244. Honor classes: 1956, ‘66, ‘76, ‘86, ‘91, ‘96, 2006 and pre-50 year classes. For more information, visit <http://www.isak12.com>.

Correction

Called to Serve Youth Evangelism Congress: In 2013, 450+ senior youth and young adults, ages 16-35, of the Lake Union Conference gathered together to be empowered and resourced for evangelism back in their local churches and communities. As a result, young adult leaders used up to \$32,000 dollars from a joint evangelism fund from the Union and local churches to launch new ministries. Coming in 2016, senior youth and young adults will meet again in Chicago for a congress. On **Feb. 12-14** the Lake Union Conference will offer another Youth Evangelism Congress for those who believe they have been “Called to Serve.” **For more information, contact Alexandra Mora at email: alexandra@cye.org; phone: 269-471-8385; or website: <http://www.lucyouth.org>.**

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

Anniversaries



Gary and Sandi Case celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 22, 2015, with their son Tim and his family in Baroda, Mich. Later, they were surprised at a dinner with many longtime friends hosted by their son Gary and his family in Riverside, Calif. They have been members of the Shelbyville (Ind.) Church for many years.

Gary L. Case Sr. and Sandra K. Hess were married Aug. 22, 1965, in San Diego, Calif., by Calvin Osborn. Gary has spent 43 years in ministry in the Southeastern California Conference, and served the Indiana Conference as district pastor, Health & Temperance Secretary, and Director of Planned Giving & Trust Services. Sandi has been a secretary, retiring from Eli Lilly and Company, and mother.

The Case family includes Gary and Deanna Case of Riverside, Calif.; Tim and Karen Case of Baroda, Mich.; and four grandchildren.

Obituaries

DICKEY, Marylou (Flick), age 87; born Dec. 4, 1927, in Kokomo, Ind.; died Oct. 2, 2015, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the Kokomo Church.

Survivors include her son, Alan; daughter, Julie Dickey; one grandchild; two step-grandchildren; one great grandchild; and one step-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Don Inglish, and interment was in Sunset Memory Garden Mausoleum, Kokomo.

HESS, Jane (Comonar), age 92; born Feb. 23, 1923, in Detroit, Mich.; died Oct. 2, 2015, in Canton, Mich. She was a mem-

ber of the Metropolitan Church, Plymouth, Mich.

Funeral services were conducted by Daryl Bentley, and interment was in Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery, Flat Rock, Mich.

LASTINE, Janice C. (Willsey) Starkey, age 81; born Dec. 7, 1933, in Cincinnati, Ohio; died Oct. 1, 2015, in Urbana, Ill. She was a member of the Paris (Ill.) Church.

Janice was once dean of girls at Indiana Academy and her husband, Jerry, worked in the Indiana Conference for many years.

Survivors include her husband, Jerry Lastine; sons, Gary and Mark Starkey; stepsons, Don and Robert Lastine; daughters, Sherry Smith and Sandy Curtice; brothers, Steven, Larry and Tim Willsey; sister, Sandy Rule; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Ed Barnett, and interment was in Brownsburg (Ind.) Cemetery.

MOENKHAUS, Charlene B. (Harris), age 72; born March 6, 1943, in Indianapolis, Ind.; died Nov. 6, 2015, in Beaumont, Texas. She was a member of the Bedford (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Wayne W. II; adopted sons, Mikell and A.J.; daughters, J. Rene'e Recchia and Kristie K. Stacey; adopted daughters, Rose Nash, Erika Moenkhaus and Jynifer Moenkhaus; half brothers, Marion and Jim Quilter, and Daryl Neville; 18 grandchildren; one step-grandchild; and five great-grandchildren.

Private inurnment was beside her husband in St. John's United Church of Christ "family" Cemetery, Bretzville, Ind.

NELSON, Kenneth L., age 91; born Oct. 22, 1923, in Clam Falls, Wis.; died Oct. 8, 2015, in Frederic, Wis. He was a member of the Frederic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Betty J. (Roese) Pace; sons, Wallace L. and Curtis A. Nelson; stepsons, Dennis, Donnie and David Pace; daughter, Sandra J. Berg; brother, Robert; and sisters, Naomi Johnson and Doris Stotz.

Memorial services were conducted by John Redlich, and private inurnment was in Lewis Cemetery, Clam Falls.

PHILLIPS, Harold R., age 86; born Nov. 6, 1928, in Savannah, Ga.; died July 9, 2015, in Altamonte Springs, Fla. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Betty (Cumplings); son, Dennis; daughter, Karen Ellis; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Bradley Galambos, with private inurnment, Howey in the Hills, Fla.

SLATER, Marjorie A. (Slikkers), age 73; born Aug. 1, 1942, in Holland, Mich.; died Nov. 2, 2015, in Holland. She was a member of the Holland Church.

Survivors include her husband, James; son, Jim; daughters, Jeannine Dawson and Julie Rawls; brother, D. Gerit Slikkers; and six grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Gene Hall, and interment was in Pilgrim Home Cemetery, Holland.

UTZ, John B., age 94; born Sept. 22, 1921, in Indianapolis, Ind.; died Oct. 29, 2015, in Spencer, Ind. He was a member of the Spencer Church.

Survivors include his stepdaughters, Sylvia E. (Curtis) Haygood, Ginny (Curtis) Tracy and Gleda (Curtis) Sejmanovich; five step-grandchildren; and five step-great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Steve DeLong, and inurnment was in Splinter Ridge Cemetery, Spencer.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Therefore encourage one another with these words. —1 Thessalonians 4:16–18

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29	Feb 5
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:24	5:30	5:38	5:46	5:55	6:04
Chicago, Ill.	4:29	4:35	4:43	4:51	5:00	5:09
Detroit, Mich.	5:09	5:16	5:23	5:32	5:41	5:50
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:30	5:36	5:43	5:51	5:59	6:07
La Crosse, Wis.	4:37	4:44	4:52	5:00	5:10	5:19
Lansing, Mich.	5:14	5:21	5:28	5:37	5:46	5:55
Madison, Wis.	4:32	4:39	4:46	4:55	5:04	5:14
Springfield, Ill.	4:44	4:50	4:57	5:05	5:13	5:21

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>.

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Travel/Vacation

COLLEDALE, TENN., GUESTHOUSE: Fully equipped condo with kitchen and laundry, 1-1/2 bedrooms, no steps, huge deck, secluded woodland setting. "What a find!" say guests, "Delightful!" \$70/night for two (two night minimum). For information, call 423-236-4688 or 423-716-1298. See pictures at <http://www.rogerkingrentals.com>.

Miscellaneous

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more. Invest in your health and call 800-634-9355 for more information or visit <http://www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle>.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS MASTER'S DEGREES in busi-

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

GUIDE MAGAZINE wants to reach readers ages 10-14 with your true, character-building story. Visit <http://guidemagazine.org/writersguidelines> to read about our guidelines. Visit <http://guidemagazine.org/storysubmission> to submit your story. Call 800-447-7377 to subscribe.

TESTIMONIES FROM FORMER EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRY:

Vladimir Slavujevic and his family have testimonies to share with you through music and spoken word. Come celebrate God's blessings past and present through heartfelt songs of victory in Christ. In addition to being an active musician/educator in Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, and Andrews University as an adjunct voice instructor, he has recorded/appeared on 3ABN and performed as soloist at the 2010 GC in Atlanta. For more information, contact Vladimir at vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com or call 269-473-2826. Appointments accepted through Mar. 31.

THE ADVENT GOD SQUAD NEEDS YOU. Jesus told us *I was in prison and you visited me*. Through Paper Sunshine you may write an inmate through a screening process which reduces risk. You write through our address. We read their letters and forward to you. From the comfort and safety of your home you can share the Love of Christ. With V.O.P. over the years, over a million inmates have completed Bible studies. Become a Pen Friend.

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CARE FOR CUBA – EQUIPPING CUBAN

PASTORS FOR MINISTRY: After 50 years of strict communist rule, the doors are opening for us to equip Cuban SDA pastors with crucial resources. Help today by giving to one of the projects listed on our website, <http://CareforCuba.org>. Your donation is 100% tax deductible.

Employment

UNION COLLEGE seeks a Seventh-day Adventist Masters Prepared PA faculty member. The ideal candidate will have clinical experience in Family Practice and Emergency Medicine. Prior teaching experience is desired but not necessary. Start date June 1, 2016. Send CV and references to Jodi Chewakin at jochewak@ucollege.edu.

LARGE WHOLESALE NURSERY IN ANDERSON, IND., looking to fill opening for an on-nursery irrigation and spray program operator. Good pay and benefits. Long-term, well-established SDA church and K-8 school in town. Near Indiana Academy. For more information, contact Brent Schalk by phone: 800-346-0272 or email: schalk@bluegrassfarms.net.

LARGE WHOLESALE NURSERY IN ANDERSON, IND., looking for a qualified detail-oriented accounting and sales assistant. Good pay and benefits. Long-term, well-established SDA church and K-8 school in town. Near Indiana Academy. For more information, contact Brent Schalk by phone: 800-346-0272 or email: schalk@bluegrassfarms.net.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC seeks a faculty member. This individual is responsible for teaching full-time undergraduate and graduate courses in music history, musicology and research in music. A preferred qualified person should have a Ph.D. in Musicology/Music History. Evidence of excellence in teaching and potential for scholarly activity are essential. Commitment to teamwork and collegiality. Excellent interpersonal skills. Ability to work with students and colleagues with a wide range of national, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/838>.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS seeks Dean. This individual is responsible for the operation of the School of Business Administration and will report to the Provost. Candidate must have a terminal qualification in Business or Educational Administration and have administrative/mid-management experience in higher education or in a business setting. The candidate also should have experience in teaching/scholarship, as well as some knowledge of accreditation processes. For more information and to apply, visit: <http://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/900>.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks faculty in Management/Marketing. Responsibilities: Teach Marketing and related courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as perform various duties described in the *full position description*. Qualifications: Doctorate in Marketing as well as sufficient teaching experience in Marketing at the graduate and undergraduate levels and be actively engaged in research, student advising and supervising student projects. For

more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_6.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY BUSINESS DEPARTMENT seeks finance faculty to begin Spring or Fall term 2016. Successful candidate will possess proficiency in previous teaching experience. Candidate should hold earned doctorate in finance or related field. Master's candidate with minimum of 18 graduate hours in finance considered. Instruction in multiple areas preferred. Send cover letter and CV to Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY is seeking applications for a tenure-track faculty position in psychology to begin Sept. 2016. We are seeking an enthusiastic person who will lead and direct WWU's master's program in counseling psychology. An earned doctorate in Clinical or Counseling Psychology or Counselor Education is required. Applicants should be license-eligible in the State of Washington. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

UNION COLLEGE seeks Senior Vice President for Academic Administration beginning June 2016. The VPAA leads out in the vision, strategy and execution of the college's academic goals. Doctorally qualified SDA candidate will be an experienced leader, innovative thinker and excellent communicator. For more information, see <https://www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings>. Send CV to Vinita Sauder at visauder@ucollege.edu.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE seeks **Manager for College Market**. Candidate should possess a degree/experience in business/management or

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JANUARY 23 2016

ONE VOICE

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If you are a creative teen or young adult who has something to say, it's time to get it off your chest. The Lake Union Herald is looking for stories of faith and challenge written by readers between the ages of 14 and 30. A \$100 scholarship will be awarded for each published entry. It's time that you are heard!

...and get \$100 for speaking your mind.

Send 450 words of hope, inspiration and challenge to: herald@lakeunion.org. Place "One Voice" in the subject line.

related field. Knowledge and experience of merchandising, logistics and financials. For more information, visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is a great place to work! Vacancies in hourly positions include **Human Resources Officer; Office Manager; Cashier; Preschool Teacher; Flight Instructor; Recycling; Driver.** For more information, visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

NEEDED: Adventist physicians to join large multi-specialty group in Mankato, Minn.: OB/GYN, dermatologist, endocrinologist, otolaryngologist, pulmonologist, psychiatrist, internist and family practitioners. Comprehensive relocation, profit-sharing and excellent health benefits. For more information, call/text Priscilla at 406-579-6395.

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PROJECT MANAGER: Would you like to be part of a technology team working to empower Adventist ministries to fulfill the Gospel commission and proclaim the Three Angels' messages? Are you a detail-oriented person with leadership skills? Learn more about K3 Integrations' opening for a Project Manager at <http://bit.ly/k3pm>.

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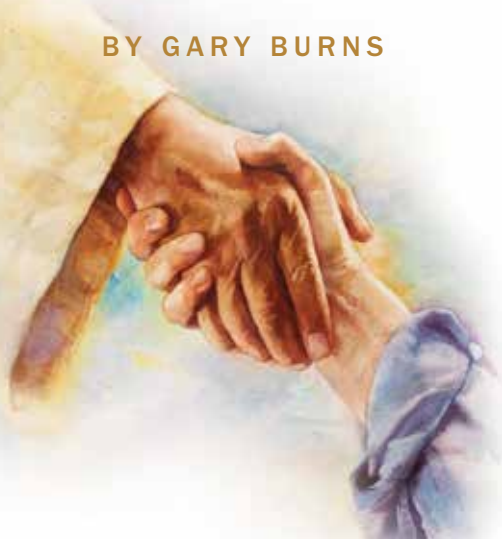
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PARTNERSHIP with GOD Worth Dying For?

BY GARY BURNS



I'm amazed at how freely expressions of fear, followed by angry declarations of retaliation and compromise flow from the lips of people desperate for security in response to the growing number of shocking acts of terrorism. Some of my most unlikely relatives and friends are now arming themselves with guns to fight in a war of words, beliefs and ideologies.

I am inspired by the faith, and culture, of the medieval Waldensian community in the Cottian Alps bordering France and Italy. With the Bible, and the Bible only as their sole rule of faith and practice, they embraced Christ as the only mediator between God and man, and were the first to declare Rome to be the apostate "Babylon" described in Revelation 17. In response, Innocent III ordered their extermination in

1487. They continued to practice their faith and many lost their lives, not only for living by what they had discovered in God's Word, but for sharing it with others. That's how they grew. By 1655, they were still going strong when over 1,700 were exterminated.

That takes an incredible commitment of faith. Sometimes I wonder if my faith could stand that kind of test. I'm feeling like it may not be long before I might have an opportunity to find out.

Those who live *by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*, will always find themselves having to choose between a partnership with God and a partnership with the world. How's your partnership with God? Is it worth dying for?

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

God Remains Faithful

BY MERITSA PHILIBERT

God is faithful. Literally faithful. That is a basic promise from the Bible that God not only tells us Himself, but which is proven countless times by many notable Bible characters. Through my mission experience so far, especially preparing to leave for the Philippines, this simple Bible promise came to life for me.

As a prospective student missionary, I was expected to raise all of the funds for my mission myself. I honestly did not raise my own money. When people ask how I was able to raise it all, I simply say “God did it for me,” because, honestly, he did. I merely mailed out some letters and posted a website. He did the rest.

Let me explain how he did it. I am involved in a community-based ministry called L.E.G.I.T. Kids, a week-long summer camp with a loving, caring, fun and God-centered environment for kids. The week includes games, skits, music and pool time. This ministry is all-hands-on from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and, if you’re doing your job right, you’re exhausted at the end of it! Needless to say, I was occupied with this ministry for about the whole summer, so that left me with no time to go to churches and promote my mission year like all of my other missionary friends were doing.

I clearly remember the day, mid-camp, kids dancing and running all around me, suddenly remembering that I only had a few short weeks until I had to leave and I still didn’t have enough money.

Just as soon as that thought came, I quickly told God, “I can’t worry about that now, Lord! Please take care of it for me. I give this errand to you.” And that is exactly what happened.

I wasn’t able to find a summer job, so I didn’t work one single day. Instead, I committed myself to God’s work. Even if I did work, I would have never made anywhere near what God provided for me for my mission in the end. God opened



Meritsa Philibert

the floodgates for me! I received hundreds of dollars from a church at which we conducted camp, thousands from churches with which we collaborated to make L.E.G.I.T. Kids happen, including my own church, donations from church members, donations from family friends and even more than I could ask for from my own family.

Here in the Philippines, I serve primarily as a nurse’s aide in the Pagudpud Adventist Wellness Center. On my days off I go to the local preschool and teach them songs and stories about the Bible, and also accompany the pastor to visit church members and Bible study interests. Just recently we teamed up with a hospital from Illinois and conducted medical missions in all of the little communities of our town; we were able to help over 200 patients each day.

I’m still learning about why God specifically brought me here to the Philippines, but I know that he will unveil his will soon enough. Just being here, just being a part of the community and a smiling face in the clinic, giving an encouraging word to the members, or telling a cool story to the kids may just be God’s will for me.

When we remain faithful to God, even if it means putting our own agendas on the back burner, God will remain even more faithful.

Meritsa Philibert is a student missionary from Andrews University currently serving as a medical missionary, preschool teacher’s aide and Bible worker in Pagudpud, Philippines.

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Unchurched to Chaplain

BY PIETER DAMSTEEGT

“People make me happy. I seriously just enjoy talking to people and learning their stories and seeing where they come from and being able to share where they come from and being able to connect with people like that is my favorite thing to do,” says Javier Melendez. Javier is an Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) chaplain on the campus of Indiana University.



Javier Melendez

Originally from Del Rio, Texas, Javier was unchurched until he decided to give Christianity a try. After being with a pentecostal church for a couple months, he asked the pastor if there were any Bible studies. The response he got was that there were no Bible studies available at the time and that the best option would be to read the Bible for himself.

He and his mom started praying for understanding. A short time later a couple of Adventist colporters from Argentina stopped by his house and, to make a long story short, they signed Javier and his mother up for weekly Bible studies. A few months later they were both baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Javier was studying at Angelo State University at the time and though there were many campus ministries, there was no Adventist group meeting. “When I was looking around at my campus,” he said, “I realized there were a whole bunch of different campus ministries. But there was nothing for Adventists, and as far as I knew I was the only Adventist on campus because there were rarely any college students that would show up at the local Adventist church.”

After a bit of sleuthing around on the internet, Javier found the C.A.M.P.U.S. website then the ACF website. As he looked through the website he thought, “Yes this is exactly what I want to do! I want to work for campus ministry and this and that,” Melendez continued, “and that’s why I ended up in seminary to get involved in that.”

Though he wasn’t able to start a campus ministry at that point, he began leading out in Bible studies with friends and invited some of them to church.

“I really enjoy hanging out with people. I’m very, very social.” That’s why after getting two masters degrees at Andrews University, Javier found his niche working in Indiana as a campus ministries chaplain.

Javier also has a great interest in learning new languages and hopes to have the opportunity to use those languages in their countries of origin.

Pieter Damsteegt is a communications intern at the Lake Union Conference.

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