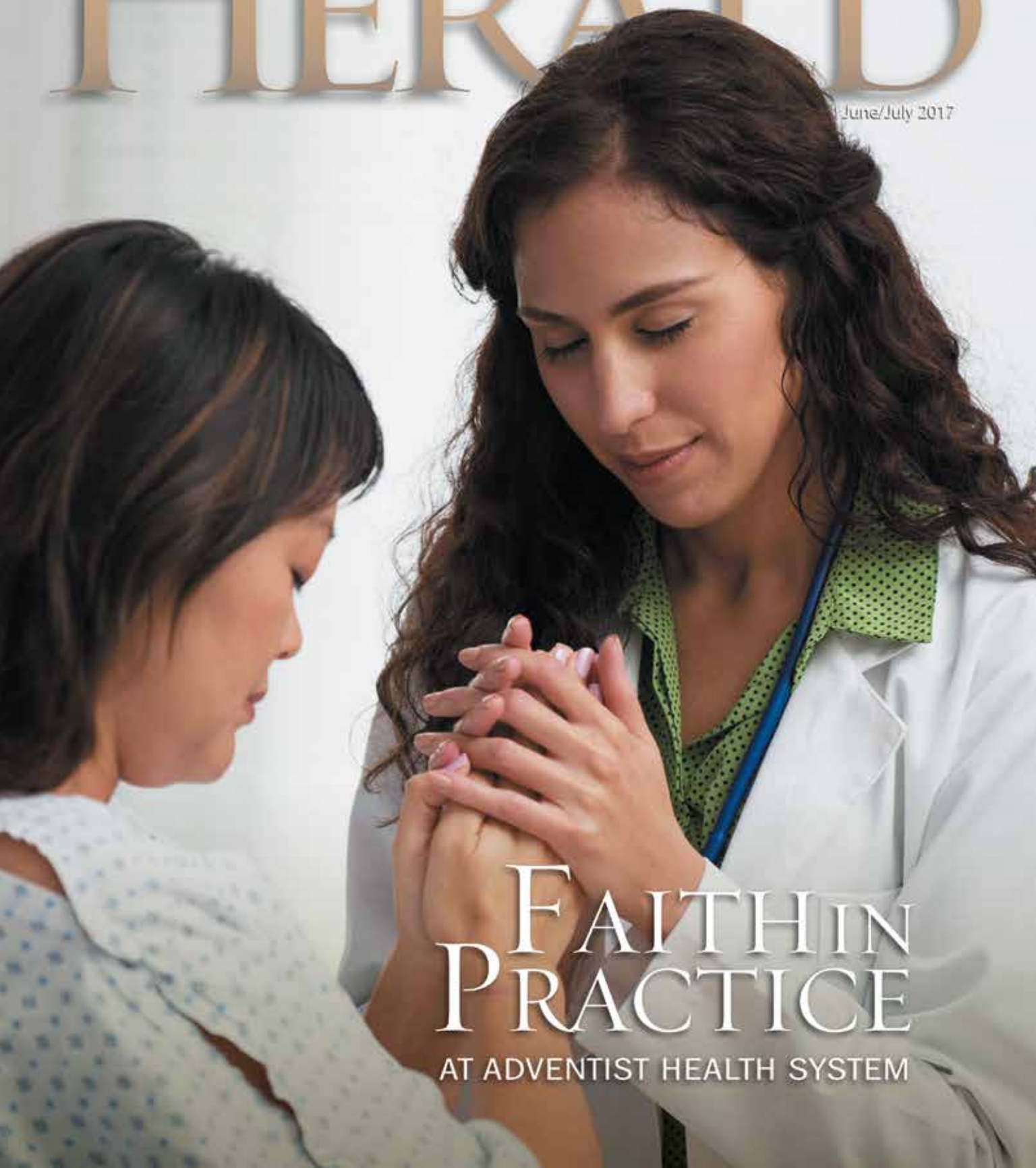


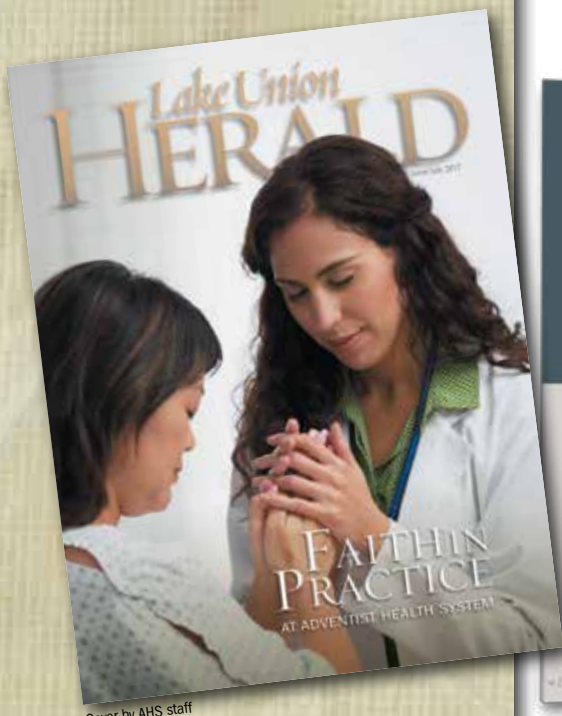
# Lake Union HERALD

June/July 2017



## FAITH IN PRACTICE

AT ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM



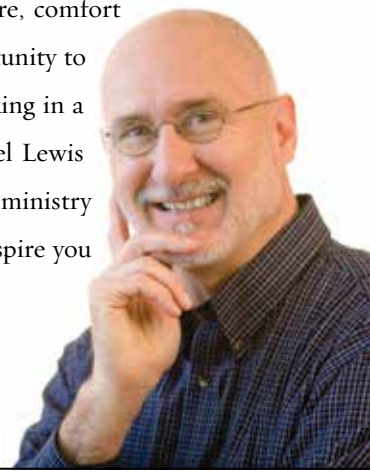
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## In this issue...

My first institutional job was at a hospital, stripping and buffing hallways, mopping up after surgery and hauling carts of hazardous trash bags to the dumpster. Not a very glamorous job, but essential to patient care, comfort and safety. It's also an essential component and opportunity to participate in the ministry of healing. No longer working in a hospital environment, I still identify with what Daniel Lewis says in his article on page 37: "...we all are called to the ministry of healing in some way or another." This issue may inspire you to consider an opportunity near you.

  
Gary Burns, Editor



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## Values

**T**he Lake Union office staff recently held its semi-annual week of spiritual emphasis. After our Bible study on Tuesday, we transitioned into a visioning process. The first step was to identify felt values important to effectively serve the Lake Union. Each of the three groups had several minutes to write values on post-it notes and place them on a board.

Extensive discussion within each group ensued on the meaning and importance of the posted values. After individually voting for their top five values, each group then shared their priorities with the other two groups.

Eighty-five different values were collectively posted. Here is a pared-down, alphabetical list:

Accountability, affirmation, all-inclusive, authenticity, caring, character, collaboration, commitment, communication, community, compassion, courtesy, creativity, diversity, empathy, equality, excellence, family, follow-through, helpful, hospitality, humility, ingenuity, innovation, integrity, joyfulness/smiles, kindness, leadership, listening, love, loyalty, meekness, mentoring, merciful, mission-focused, observant, organized, patience, prayerful, pro-active, reflecting Christ, respect, responsiveness, safety, servanthood, strong work ethic, supportive, teachable, teamwork, timeliness, truthfulness, understanding others, unity and visionary

We then identified the felt strengths of our office. While the value of self-affirmation is limited, it is important to identify, affirm and continue productive practices central to good function — again, in alphabetical order:

Accessibility, build internal and external community, continuity, empathy, engaging more of our union in our service and ministry opportunities, expertise, friendly, importance of prayer, intentionality, joyful, mission-driven, mission-supportive, functional office building, an open door policy, organized, positive office climate, quality, respectful, responsive to conference needs by serving/supporting the field, sharing, stewardship of God's funds, strong spiritual leadership, a talented group, teamwork, understanding, valuing mutual respect and appreciation, willing and open to tackle the tough topics

But it's not enough to affirm ourselves, we must consistently find areas of needed growth. So we next explored areas we need to improve:

More internal affirmation, improved engagement of young adults, better internal and external communication, enhanced calendar coordination, identify seasonal workloads for more efficient work distribution, more intentional engagement with churches and conferences, evaluate and streamline our office processes, consistent friendliness, improve timely responses to internal and external requests, more accountability, better social interaction with our community, increase our social media presence, understanding implications of decisions

I've led several of these exercises through the years; this one was most fulfilling. I observed our wonderful and dedicated staff leaning in, fully engaged, identifying and describing important values we as an office family should apply as we serve God's church. This three-hour exercise was far from reaching a complete package of needed values and improvements. This kind of journey must be linear.

Here's how Paul defined important values: *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you* (Philippians 4:8, 9 NIV).

We must seek to make all things that happen within God's Church of the highest quality. God's business should be good business. Whether in the home, school, church, conference or union office, we must strive to honor God. Let's be intentional to seek the best ways to serve.

# Take Off Your Shoes

A MESSAGE TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

BY SUSAN ALLEN

It was 38 years ago that I attended my own nurses' dedication at Andrews University. I remember my professors welcoming me into the profession, presenting me with a lamp which holds a prominent place in my home. It was only recently that I got rid of the uniform that I wore when I graduated. Even though it still fit me, I knew I would never wear it again.

Think about the reasons you chose to be a medical professional, whether a nurse, doctor, dentist, physical therapist, etc. Serving in the medical field is not a profession, but a calling. Which brings me to Moses.

Moses was busy with life. He worked every day. He did all of the ordinary things that people did in his day. He was an ordinary man with an ordinary life. One day he was out tending his father-in-law's sheep. They weren't even his own sheep. They belonged to someone else. But his life was about to change. As he was watching the flock, he saw a bush on fire. He watched it carefully but the fire did not consume the bush. He was curious why the bush didn't burn up so he went cautiously to investigate. As he got closer, the Lord spoke to him from the bush and called him by name. Moses answered and said, "Here I am." At that point, the Lord instructed Moses to take off his shoes because the ground on which he was standing was holy ground.

Then the Lord told Moses that he had heard the cries from his people and wanted to relieve their suffering. He told Moses that he was going to use him to set his people free. God called Moses to be his servant to relieve the suffering of his people. Moses was afraid, but he obeyed the Lord, answered the call, and mighty things began to happen.



Susan Allen

Serving as a medical professional is a calling. Just as much as Moses was called, you are called. And when the Lord calls you, take off your shoes because the ground on which you are standing is holy ground. When you go to work, take the Lord with you. Ask him to be with you every day and every time you go in to care for a patient. Remember, your patient is his child. Just as Moses was used to relieve the suffering of God's people, so you are called to relieve the suffering of his people. When you are starting that IV and the veins are hard to

find, or are atherosclerotic and rolling all over the place, remember his promise: *For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you* (Isaiah 41:13 NIV). You are not in this alone. You are partnering with the Lord, the Creator of the universe. And when you partner with the Lord, you will see mighty things.

There may be times when you are taking care of a person who is not only sick, but lonely and desperate as well. You may be the only person there to comfort them, *take off your shoes* — you are on holy ground. When you are taking care of a crying child, miserable with fever, *take off your shoes*. When you have a person who just lost a family member, and you are there to help them grieve and to try to make sense of it all, *take off your shoes*.



Darren Heslop

You have the privilege of working with those from all walks of life. The rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated, those who have gender differences. You will serve those of a different religion, race, gender and culture. Remember, Jesus said, *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me* (Matthew 25:14 NIV). *Take off your shoes* — you're on holy ground.

If you are in this profession for very long, you will see miracles. When you do, don't allow anyone to explain them away for you. Instead, praise God! I would like to tell you about Matthew. Matthew was six months old and had leukemia. At first, he just seemed to have an illness that children get from time to time. He had a fever and seemed listless. His mother took him to the doctor who ordered some lab work. The results showed leukemia. For the next several weeks, Matthew underwent chemotherapy, but his condition worsened. As he was lying in his hospital bed, the doctor delivered the worst news a mother could hear: "Your son will not make it through the night." This mother was a praying mother. She believed in the power of prayer. She called everyone she knew to pray for Matthew and had him anointed. Entire churches were praying for him. When the doctor came the next morning, he saw a baby that was not only still alive, there was no fever! Matthew was drinking his formula and no longer listless. More lab work was done which revealed the leukemia was gone! Matthew was not in remission; he was healed and grew up to be a successful man who follows the Lord. The only trace of this deadly disease was that Matthew lost most of the hearing in one ear due to the chemotherapy. The doctors acknowledged that this was indeed a miracle. This was holy ground!

I would like to encourage you to pray for your patients. You don't have to have anyone's permission to pray for a

patient. God has already asked you to do that. The patient can either know you are praying for them, or not. Research actually has been done on this and has shown that patients do much better in their recovery when their doctors/nurses are praying for them. Just as the pastors pray for those entrusted to their care, so you are called to do the same. *Take off your shoes!*

I would also like to encourage you to make God real in your everyday life. Pick up his Word. Read it and apply it. Drink it in! You will find many promises in the Bible. Claim those promises! And when you do, write a "T" next to that verse with the date because you are trying that promise. And when the Lord answers your prayer put a "P" next to the "T" with the date to indicate that promise has been tried and proven. It will be a reminder every time you open your Bible that the promises of God are real, that God is real and can be trusted. You will never have to fear for the future, if you remember how God has led in the past. *Take off your shoes!*

This is not a science. By that I mean that you cannot follow a formula and manipulate the will of God. Nor would you even want to if you could see as God sees. Your patients won't always be healed. Your prayers won't always be answered in the way you think they should, or when you think they should. When Jesus prayed, *Take this cup from me, he prayed with trust and submission: Yet not what I will, but what you will* (Mark 14:36 NIV). When you have that kind of faith, you are on holy ground!

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Susan Allen is a family nurse practitioner and director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program (DNP) at Andrews University. This article is a condensed version of an address she gave at the nursing dedication ceremony earlier this year.



## Love is Spelled T-I-M-E

BY JASMINE FRASER

*Tell them to your children over and over again . . . whether you're at home or walking along the road, or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning (Deuteronomy 6:7 CEV).*

**N**ot long ago I attended a funeral and, as I watched the subdued faces and listened to the tributes given in honor of the one now lying breathless, I thought: “What fitting words to describe the life of one who epitomized the true essence of faithfulness!” When the time came for the children of the deceased to speak of their father, one message was recurrent in all they said: “Dad loved us with his time.”

Many parents today strive to find ways to love their children. As an expression of love, some parents lavish their children with gifts — toys, clothes, electronic gadgets — you name it, and parents get it for their children.

Some parents go to great lengths to find the ideal schools, programs or activities in which to enroll their children. For Christian parents, it's making sure their children are a part of the activities within the local church that are relevant for their development.

Yet, in spite of all the efforts that parents make to give their children the best materially, academically or through extracurricular activities, nothing measures up to the benefits of direct parent-child quality time.

Research proposes that nothing contributes better to a child's development and well-being than time spent with parents. Added studies indicate that, at the foundation of various parenting styles, is the need for intentional parent-child relational engagement. In ongoing dialogues, parents are urged to consider the importance of parent-child quality time. “Your children need to spend meaningful time with you. They need to see who you are and how you live



your life,” says pediatrician Harley Rotbart. Parents are charged with the duty of being the “first teacher” to their children, a responsibility that requires quality time.

Yet, with the demands of life, many parents may wonder how to find that quality time. A key to spending quality time with children is to be present in the mo-

ment. That is, pay attention! Look at how your children are changing daily. Listen (without interrupting) to what they are saying (or not saying)!

Parents also may revisit the ritual of family narratives by sharing stories of faith embedded in their family history. Telling and retelling family stories is in keeping with instructions given by God to parents. “Repeat [the commands I give you] again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up” (Deuteronomy 6:7 NLT).

Children will remember the times spent making family memories long after material things wane.

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Jasmine Fraser is a doctoral candidate in Religious Education at Andrews University. Her area of emphasis is in Family Life Education.

**Form relationships  
with people who  
appreciate your  
talents**

## Being Connected

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

**Strong social  
connections make  
for a stronger  
immune system**

**H**ealthy social networks and meaningful connectedness are vital to living a healthy lifestyle. Relationships are very important. We were created for community and to enjoy fellowship. Strong social connections throughout life have been linked with such benefits as a greater pain tolerance, a stronger immune system and a lower risk of depression. When we feel appreciated and nurtured, valued and supported, we are much more likely to thrive and live a healthier lifestyle. However, the typical network of friends of an adult has significantly shrunk over the past 35 years, resulting in 40 percent of Americans now reporting they are lonely.

Loneliness can have a serious detrimental effect on one's mental and physical health. Long-term loneliness is a leading cause of premature death in the United States and a major risk factor for heart disease, psychiatric disorders and other illnesses. A recent report suggested that loneliness might be a bigger health risk than obesity and smoking. Lonely people tend to eat worse, get less exercise and not sleep as well.

People have learned to keep themselves busy and stimulated to avoid the pain of emptiness and loneliness. Social media is designed to connect us, but can act as a barrier, making loneliness worse. People can have 300 or more Facebook acquaintances, yet have only two confidants.

Patients with malignant melanoma who participated in six 90-minute sessions with a support group that fostered relationships had a 50 percent reduction in death and recurrence compared to those who only had the usual care. Over a six-year period, more than three times as many patients died in the group that was not receiving therapy involving social connectedness.

Married people are not only more likely to live longer, they are better able to survive a variety of diseases. They are more likely to be cancer survivors and have a higher chance of survival after a heart attack. Researchers found that



people with heart disease who lived alone were twice as likely to die of a heart attack or suffer another heart attack. Furthermore, 50 percent of heart attack survivors who were socially isolated died within five years, while among those who had healthy social connections, the death rate

was only 17 percent. Among volunteers who were infected with the common cold virus, the risk of developing cold symptoms was greatest in those with the least number of social connections.

People who attend church live longer. Church attendance increases a person's involvement in social activities and, hence, decreases loneliness. Owning a cat, dog or parrot protects a person against loneliness. In heart attack patients, those who did not own a pet had four to five times the rate of death within one year of discharge from hospital compared to pet owners.

Volunteering develops a sense of purpose and takes the focus away from one's self to the needs of others. Taking beautiful pictures of a sunset, a friendly puppy and a laughing baby helps take the mind off loneliness. Participating in a weekly Bible study group or a fitness club also can help foster community.

Winston J. Craig, Ph.D., RD, is a professor emeritus of Nutrition with Andrews University.



# LEST WE FORGET

*Following the Lamb wherever He goes*

## Victory at Minneapolis on the Authority Issue

BY GEORGE R. KNIGHT

*[All Scripture] is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do (2 Timothy 3:17 NLT).*

Quite a number of the ministers took to heart Ellen White's plea at Minneapolis for personal Bible study. "Many go from this meeting," W.C. White wrote on November 2, 1888, "determined to study the Bible as never before, and this will result in clearer preaching."

R. DeWitt Hottel jotted down in his diary that one of his first activities after returning home from Minneapolis "was reading in Brother Butler's book on Galatians and also Bro. Waggoner's reply. Also read in the Bible." Hottel was apparently testing the conclusions of both men by the Scriptures.

Another success story was that of J.O. Corliss, who had been examining God's Word with gratifying results. "I never had such floods of light in the same length of time," he declared, "and the truth never looked so good to me as it does now. All alone by myself, I have studied the subjects of the covenants, and the law in Galatians. I came to my conclusions without consulting anyone but the Lord and His Holy Word. I think now that I have the matter straight in my mind, and I can see the beauty and harmony of the Dr. [Waggoner]'s position on the Galatians law."

Apparently not everyone had tuned out Ellen White at Minneapolis. During the 1889 General Conference session, she could write that she was "thankful to see with our ministering brethren a disposition to search the Scriptures for themselves" (MS 10, 1889).

During the early 1890s, the General Conference sponsored annual schools for the ministers as a response to the call at Minneapolis for the Adventist clergy to become better Bible students. The 1888 meetings had highlighted their inability to interact with the Bible. The domineering G.I. Butler was no longer president of the General Conference, and O.A. Olson's administration did what it could to enable the denomination's ministers to become better students of Scripture.

Given the importance of the Bible, one of the wonders of the twenty-first-century church is that we don't spend more time with it. Most of us pass more time before the TV than before an open Bible.

Today is the day to change that pattern.

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George R. Knight is a retired professor of Church History at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. This article is from his book, *Lest We Forget*, a daily devotional, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, page 261, printed by permission.



# Prayer — It's All About Jesus

BY RON SHULTZ

I remember being in a board meeting at a church I pastored in another conference, over a decade ago, encouraging a culture of prayer and getting significant pushback from one of our key members who just didn't get it. I was getting very frustrated and a little crusty around the edges about it, becoming irritable that I couldn't help people catch a vision for prayer. It was like herding cats. At the same time, we were doing a number of incredible things in our community.

I then had the opportunity to attend a prayer conference in Minneapolis by Jonathan Graff, then editor of *Pray* magazine (now *Prayer Connect*), and part of the team at Harvest Prayer Ministries in Terra Haute, Indiana. I experienced people with a passion for prayer like I had never seen or experienced before in my life. One of the speakers said something that really stuck with me. He said the reason we should pray for the second coming is so that Jesus can receive the consummation of everything for which he has worked. That completely un-selfed me and shifted my focus on why I want Jesus to come. I like all the benefits, but my focus has shifted to be all about Jesus rather than all about me.

I had been focused on how prayer was not being received and what wasn't happening in prayer in the local church. I then realized that God had called me to prayer and to lead people to prayer because Jesus is worthy. It completely shifted my focus from how many were showing up to being all about Jesus and in his presence together, whether one or two, or a larger group. That was the turning point in my ministry.

When I arrived in the Illinois Conference, then president Ken Denslow started a formal prayer ministry and asked Ed Barnet to be the coordinator. I served on a committee to get things going and we had our first prayer conference in 2007. I discovered that prayer is the sail that catches the Spirit's power and direction. Without the sail, without prayer, we're dead in the water. That is how prayer

became a focus in my ministry, yet I am unsatisfied that I haven't begun to grasp prayer, and feel so unsatisfied at times with my own prayer life and efforts to lead others to prayer.

I realized there is more to mission than just going out and making disciples. One day we are going to be on (or by) the Sea of Glass and we're going to be worshipping Jesus. I see myself as a choir recruiter. I want to get as many people there as possible to sing the praises of Jesus because he is worthy.

I realize we won't be able to finish the mission Jesus has given us without our focus being on Jesus through prayer. Luke introduces the parable of the persistent widow with this statement: *Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.* Luke ends the story quoting Jesus, *However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?* (Luke 18:1, 8 NIV). This makes prayer a part of our eschatology. If you look at what faith is in that context, it's about a praying people who are persistent in prayer.

It is my own conviction that keeps me moving and focusing on prayer because we're just machinery doing a lot of good without the undergirding of prayer. For me, it is essential to understand the theology of prayer and its role in the end times. That is why prayer has become so important to me.

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Ron Shultz is the prayer coordinator for the Illinois Conference, pastor of the Lombard Fellowship Company, Lombard, Illinois, and interim pastor for the Romanian Church, Chicago, Illinois.



## Home Run

YOUTH TRIATHLON WINS FAMILY TO CHRIST

BY ERNEST WOLF

**T**he 60-member church in Gaylord, Michigan, graying yet wanting to bring young people into the church, was having a hard time getting anyone from the community to attend our vacation Bible school. Our NEWSTART program was well attended, but most of the participants were older. We began to ask how we could reach a younger generation with the principles of health before they ran into health issues. So, we put our heads together.

God impressed us to host a youth triathlon in our little town of Gaylord. We put a triathlon flier in every public elementary and middle school box and offered a free bike to those who trained with us for three months. We had over 50 kids sign up the first year — more than 80 percent of them from the community!

To pay for it, we asked local business owners to sponsor the youth in our community for \$100 per child. This gave us an opportunity to demonstrate to local business owners that the Adventist church cares for the health of the young in our community. We raised over \$3,000 our first year and gave 20 free bikes to the triathletes who qualified.

It's crucial to follow the method of Jesus by going out into the community to meet their needs. When the church goes out, God opens doors and helps make connections that otherwise would be impossible. When you reach out to kids, you also reach the parents.

This last December, we had the privilege of baptizing the first couple that came through our triathlon program. Christy and Shannon Somes' 10-year-old son was one of the participants and they were impressed to learn more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church and God.



*Gaylord pastor Chris Ames with newly-baptized couple Shannon and Christy Somes. The Somes' son Darren participated in the triathlon event hosted by the church.*

If you desire to host a youth triathlon, don't let a shortage of funds stop you. God can provide all you need from your community. Don't let the size of your church stop you. In fact, if you are a small church, you especially need to start a triathlon.

Don't let the lack of experience with such events hinder you. We had no experience either, but God blessed. Parents helped kids warm up and provided training on proper swimming and biking techniques, and supervision. The Kiwanis Club in our community donated

\$500 and provided five volunteers on race day; its members told us, "We do a lot of youth programs, and this was the best program for young people we have ever been involved with!" The Lord knows our needs, and he provides!

If you're inspired to get your church ready to host this exciting youth evangelistic event, email me at [pastorwolf@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwolf@gmail.com), and I'd be happy to give you more information.

Ernest Wolf is the former pastor of the Gaylord church. He now pastors the Ithaca and Frost churches and is planning to launch a similar children's triathlon event this summer.



## Alcanzando al extranjero en su comunidad

POR CARMELO MERCADO

*Dadme a los cansados, a los pobres, a tu gente apiñada que desea respirar libremente, al desecho miserable de tu costa agitada.*

*Enviádmelos, a los indigentes, a los afligidos: Levanto mi antorcha junto a la puerta dorada.*

Estas palabras se encuentran al pie La Estatua de la Libertad, uno de los monumentos más importantes en los Estados Unidos. Este monumento fue donado por Francia con motivo la celebración del primer centenario de la Declaración de la Independencia de este país. Desde entonces la estatua es lo primero que ve todo viajero que llega en barco a la ciudad de Nueva York. Ha sido vista como el símbolo de un país que recibe a todos los inmigrantes que buscan libertad.

Los inmigrantes y refugiados siguen viniendo en la actualidad, pero encuentran un ambiente muy diferente. Hay mucha discusión acerca de su llegada a este país y desafortunadamente mucho de lo que se dice es negativo. Inclusive, se los describe a algunos como personas peligrosas. Sin embargo, cuando leo la Biblia encuentro una enfoque muy diferente: “Como a uno de vosotros trataréis al extranjero que habite entre vosotros, y lo amarás como a ti mismo, porque extranjeros fuisteis en la tierra de Egipto”, Levítico 19:33-34. En el libro *Evangelismo* Elena White afirma lo que dice la Biblia con respecto al trato hacia el extranjero: “Mientras se están llevando a cabo los planes trazados para amonestar a los habitantes de diferentes naciones en países distantes, hay que hacer mucho en beneficio de los extranjeros que han venido a las playas de nuestro propio país”, p. 414.

La mayoría de las personas que leen esta página han venido de otros países, y muchos de los que han nacido en este país tienen sus raíces en otros países. Me resulta muy difícil pensar que existan algunos cristianos, incluso adventistas, que no quieran aceptar al extranjero. Sin embargo, hay muchos que sí desean ayudar a las personas que han llegado



Refugiados de la Unión del Lago en entrenamiento

recientemente a este país y abrazarlos como parte del pueblo de Dios.

Para cumplir esta comisión la Unión del Lago se ha unido con el Seminario Teológico Adventista y NADEI para auspiciar una convención en la que se dará entrenamiento y enseñanza sobre cómo ayudar y alcanzar a los extranjeros. Se pondrá énfasis sobre cómo ayudar a los inmigrantes, incluyendo al indocumentado,

inseguro de su estadía. Se llevará a cabo del 13 al 16 de septiembre en la Universidad Andrews. Los seminarios serán ofrecidos en inglés y en español. Además se presentarán estrategias acerca de cómo evangelizar a refugiados, ya sean de África, Asia, o el mundo musulmán.

El costo de la inscripción temprana para el laico es \$35.00 hasta el 1 de agosto. Después de esta fecha el costo será \$50.00. Para inscribirse en línea puede ir al sitio web *Adventsource* o puede hacerlo enviando un giro postal (*money order*) a mi oficina.

La Biblia nos dice que debemos amar a nuestro prójimo. Mi oración es que esta convención nos ayude a saber cómo expresar ese amor de tal manera que muchas almas puedan ser ganadas para Cristo.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



## Between You and Me

BY HARLENE SMITH

**H**i, my name is Harlene Smith. I'm a recovering alcoholic and a grateful child of God. Twenty-six years ago this month I decided to stop drinking. I tell you my story now because it's important for us to understand that addictive behavior touches lives all around us, regardless of age, race or wealth. It shouldn't surprise you that the silent cries of addicts and their families are in our church pews. The couple next to you is dealing with a son who can't stop puffing on marijuana. The gentleman behind you is wrestling with Internet porn. The little girl across from you is wondering when her mom will stop popping painkillers.

Research shows us that in 2011 about 20.6 million Americans over the age of 12 were addicted to some form of substance. And, not to mention, almost daily we hear of the scourge of opioid abuse ravaging small towns across America, especially here in the Midwest.

My alcohol abuse started after a near fatal head-on car accident on a snowy day in 1980. My body was mangled and my personal secrets were thrown out in the consciousness of my mind and I couldn't deal with them. Those personal secrets? Sexual abuse by my father, which began when I was two years old. Then, when I was nine years old, my mother was hospitalized for breast cancer surgery. After school one afternoon, my father picked me up to go visit Mama and I asked, "So how's Mama doing, Daddy?" He told me she was at death's door. All I knew in



Harlene Smith

my little nine-year-old mind was that Mama was dying and Daddy was raping me.

During the 1950s, the unspoken rule in the church was "don't air your dirty laundry for everyone to see," "what happens in the family stays in the family," "don't tell a soul what Daddy has been doing to you." I've come to see this only creates shameful victims.

Eventually Daddy died when I was 12 and Mama passed away when I was 17.

The young man I was dating at Ozark Adventist Academy, Lonny Smith, came to my mother's funeral; I couldn't have made it without him there to help me with my older brother and sister who both had Muscular Dystrophy. Lonny asked me to marry him the night before my mother's funeral and, of course, I said, "Yes." We married the following summer



Harlene (standing), was rebaptized by her son Jeff. She is pictured here with Jeff Smith, program director for WAUS 90.7 FM, and his wife, Twyla, assistant professor of social work at Andrews University.

in 1966 and he continued his ministerial studies at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, and then at the Seminary, Andrews University. We pastored churches for 10 years in Missouri, during which time I gave birth to three precious children.

After the near fatal car accident, I found myself not trusting God. How could such a loving God allow such unspeakable things to happen to one of his vulnerable little girls? I began self-medicating with alcohol and later that year I had an affair. Lonny and I divorced after nearly 18 years of marriage.

I later moved to California, in the fall of 1984, leaving my children then ages 10, 12 and 14 to live with their father. In a panic and not knowing which way to turn, I ran away because it seemed to be the right thing to do. Leaving my children behind was a good decision because I knew their dad would continue raising them in the church. In Alcoholics Anonymous we call it “doing a geographical,” which doesn’t change anything because wherever you go, there you are with the same problems.

I began working in Los Angeles as a legal secretary with a prominent LA law firm for a wonderful attorney who just happened to be Jewish and whose wife was a producer for NBC News. I worked for this firm for nearly 18 years during which time I was married to a practicing alcoholic-addict con man nearly 14 years my junior. I divorced him after six years of drinking, dabbling in drugs, and assisting him in some illegal behaviors. Our relationship was of an addictive nature — I knew it was wrong in every way, but was powerless to extricate myself from it.

One night, while riding in the covered bed of my pickup truck with my Chow Chow and her puppies on the way to

visit friends in San Francisco, I found myself to be the prodigal daughter and began crying before the Lord, pouring out my heart and singing all the worship choruses I could remember. I decided that, with the Lord’s help, I would take the necessary steps to disentangle myself from that miserable life and begin living for the Lord. I stopped drinking for two months during which time I laid plans to leave and start a new life.

Not long after divorcing my second husband, I met Mick Smith who became my third husband; we remained married for more than 22 years. Mick and I got sober together on the same day, June 16, 1991, a way in which none of us could have planned.

After 35 years of drinking, Mick got a DUI. The judge sentenced him to drunk driving school and also 90 AA meetings in 90 days. Mick decided that he wanted a life with me and knew that could only happen if he stopped drinking. I believe his DUI was not just a “nudge from the judge” but also a “nudge from the Judge of the Universe, Jesus Christ.”

With a renewed focus on God, Mick and I began attending the North Hills Church in California. We sponsored several people in AA over the years and, in 2005, we were asked to start the well-known and successful Celebrate Recovery program at our church, which is still going strong to this day.

Five years ago I began praying for Mick in a new way — that the Holy Spirit would draw him to fall in love with Jesus. He had been taught to know about Jesus and to do confession and Mass every Sunday to avoid going to hell. But, with Mick’s health declining, I knew he was living on borrowed time. During Mick’s last illness, a catastrophic stroke that left him in a hospital bed in our home, God answered my prayer. Mick did fall in love with Jesus and accepted his shed blood to cover his sins!

God has spared my life more than once — first, during the accident, then after a nearly fatal heart attack, and yet again after a bout with ovarian cancer. During these illnesses, I prayed the same prayer, “God, I don’t know what you want me to do, but if you show me what it is and spare my life, I will do it.”

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Harlene Smith is one of the Great Lakes coordinators for Journey to Wholeness, an entity within the NAD’s Adventist Recovery Ministries. Journey to Wholeness is a 12-step program designed to provide ongoing help. Participants meet weekly in an atmosphere of Christian love and acceptance, in a safe place where confidentiality and anonymity are respected. For more information, visit: <http://www.adventistrecovery.org> or email [Adventistrecovery@gmail.com](mailto:Adventistrecovery@gmail.com). You also may visit them at their booth during the Michigan and Lake Region Conference camp meetings.

# Medical Mission Team Provides Care to 1,900 Patients

BY JULIE BUSCH

**T**he woman came to the medical clinic seeking relief for her epileptic seizures. She didn't have enough money to buy her medication and had no insurance. She wouldn't go to the hospital because she was afraid of the cost.

While she was being treated by Andrew Marz, a resident at Hinsdale Family Medicine Residency, the woman had two seizures. An ambulance driver from the local hospital told Andrew nothing could be done. The hospital would not be able to care for her.

But Andrew and others from the team would not give up. They spoke with Agustin Saldana, the Minister of Health for the Province of Chiriqui, and he agreed to transport and care for the woman's medical needs at the hospital at no cost to her. Before she left in the ambulance, some of the team gathered around the woman to pray for her, and many were in tears.

Later, Agustin, accountable for population health in the province, told the team, "These patients are without insurance and normally do not receive any health care, much less from specialists," he said. "The care you are providing will have great impact on our community."

In January, a team of 34 physicians, nurses and staff from Adventist Health System traveled to the city of David in the Chiriqui province of Panama to deliver care to those in need. The team participated in a

special blessing service a week before the trip, where each team member received a 50-pound suitcase of supplies. Prayers, songs and special messages were shared from Leeroy Coleman, pastor, and G. Thor Thordarson, executive vice president and chief operating officer.

"When Jesus came to towns, people came to hear him teach and be healed," Thor said. "I hope you all have that same experience during this trip," he said. "The world is in great need when it comes to healthy living."

In the province of Chiriqui, a clinic was created in a large community center in the city, and patients were bussed from remote areas of the region. Over the course of five days, the team provided care to 1,900 patients.

"Whether it's one patient or 1,000, the most important patient of the day is the one right in front of us at that moment," said John Rapp, senior vice president/chief mission officer. "We offer patients something beyond physical healing — a chance to feel embraced with compassion. We're caring for both the body and soul. It's our mission — to extend the healing ministry of Jesus."



The range and extent of conditions being treated at the clinic were vast. One patient had an injury to his cornea. A metal shard had embedded into his eye while he was welding. There was no topical anesthesia, but Bonny Chen, M.D., chief medical officer at Adventist Medical Center Hinsdale and La Grange,

was able to pick it out with a needle. It was a big relief, as the man would have had to go to the hospital a long way away, with no insurance, if she were unsuccessful.

Another patient, an eight-year-old girl, fell the day before and could not extend her arm. She had an X-ray done, but the equipment available was

decades old, so the team sent the X-ray to Ted Suchy, an orthopedic surgeon, to ensure an accurate reading. He diagnosed a fracture, so Rema Johnson, an E.D. physician, and Mary Lewis, a pediatrician, were able to cast the elbow.

“It’s amazing how much you can do in the field, with very little resources,” said Rema.

One family told Rema that their mother was having trouble hearing for the past year, and they believed that something flew into her ear. Dr. Johnson looked into her ear and saw a lot of wax, but wasn’t really sure if there was something alive in there.

The physicians didn’t have the normal irrigation tools, but they did have some tubing and a smaller syringe. They took some saline and warmed it in a bowl out in the sun on a basketball court for a while, and then three team members tried to flush her ear out. First time — nothing. Second time — some wax. Third time? Two moths. Bingo!

Four family medicine residents — Swetha Dhanireddy and Raju Shah from Adventist Medical Center La Grange, and Andrew Marz and Justin Kohl from Adventist Medical Center Hinsdale — joined the team in Panama for one-on-one training with the eight other physician specialists on the trip. They shared cases and opinions and came up with ideas together.

Physicians were able to perform special procedures, most with a resident by their side. Rema drained an abscess on a young man’s elbow, packing it full of gauze. Andrew drained a cyst from a 70-year-old man’s calf. Many people received injections for knee pain and arthritis.

Several patients had complicated conditions. During an exam, Justin discovered a carotid aneurysm, a very, very rare condition. In fact, many of the physicians on the trip had never seen one before in their years of practice. On her neck, Justin could see and feel the very small aneurysm, which could lead to stroke or sudden death if left untreated. Asymptomatic, she had no idea she had it. The team connected her with local doctors so she would be treated.

“There was a lot of collaboration and mentorship between the physicians and residents,” said Bonny. “Over the week, you could see how they’ve grown as physicians — they were confident, making their own decisions and coming up with their own ingenious ways to treat patients in those conditions.”

The climate in the region poses some problems for the residents. Dermatologist Stephanie Freels treated several patients with basal cell carcinoma. Another rampant problem is cataracts — even people in their 30s have severe cases.

Ophthalmologist James Noth spent his week in Volcan, about an hour away, to perform cataract surgery. There are more than 1,000 people on a waiting list for cataract surgery, and there are no ophthalmologists in the province of Chiriqui. The Ministry of Health gave this top priority during the planning stages of the trip. James was able to perform dozens of surgeries. Many of those treated had very calcified cataracts and were essentially blind, but now they could see clearly. One patient came 250 miles to have the procedure.

Lanny Wilson, an ob/gyn, and his team used a portable ultrasound to do some critical diagnoses — from confirming pregnancies to checking on uterine fibroids. Ultrasounds like this were not available in the community. One morning, Lanny was invited by the Ministry of Health to give a lecture for the ob/gyn residents at the Hospital José Domingo de Obaldia in David. He talked about abnormal uterine bleeding for an hour. The residents were so engaged and were frantically taking notes, and said they wished they could have him presenting on a regular basis.

John Rapp accompanied Lanny, and he also spoke to the residents about purpose and mission. He explained how Adventist Health System’s mission and values are the driving force behind this mission trip, and how mission plays an important role in all medical care.

Many of the patient stories were illustrative of the unique partnership with the Ministry of Health of Panama. “We have never had a governmental resource as influential as our partners here,” said John. “To have local follow-up on these types of critically ill patients means their care will continue long after we are gone.”

One of the groups that made a real impact during the trip was the group of interpreters. Seven interpreters came with the team on the trip. There were four other interpreters who were from Seventh-day Adventist churches and schools who joined the team each day. A few drove 10 hours from Panama City to be a part of the mission.

Berenice Carlson stepped into the role of interpreter director and coached the team on the importance



of the role of a medical interpreter. This role is so important because they are the link between the patient and physician. These patients came to the clinic looking for the best physicians, and it's critical that the language barrier does not hamper the transfer of knowledge.

The pharmacy team was another group that made the days run smoothly. Pharmacist Rich Nahlik and his team spent their days filling physician orders, bagging vitamins and other medications, and educating patients before they left the clinic. Ruby Sumaydeng was the standout, controlling both the intake of orders as well as dispensing medications to the patients. Every single patient who came to the clinic ends up at the pharmacy. Geoff Brooks was Rich's right-hand man — he compounded medications and filled orders, and Jane Harter worked tirelessly filling bags and writing labels in Spanish.

One of the most touching moments of the trip was when a 30-year-old man came to triage to have his ears checked. He was deaf and wanted to make sure his health was okay. Keran Fuentes, an interpreter who is a member of the local Seventh-day Adventist congregation, began working with the team to figure out what the man needed.

The man looked at them helplessly, making gestures and trying to read their lips. Without hesitation, Keran began using sign language to communicate with the man. What are the chances that someone would have this skill in the exact moment it was needed? The team was so joyful that they could offer him comfort and understanding as they helped him.

On the last day of the trip, a seven-year-old patient arrived at the clinic with his mom and brother. The triage team knew something was wrong, so they fast-tracked him to Mary Lewis, the pediatrician. She quickly assessed him and determined he had appendicitis. The ambulance was ready to take him to the city of David, but even before they could bring in the gurney, Mary had carried him to the ambulance in her arms. She said later that the trust she saw in the mother's eyes was a wonderful feeling. Many physicians tell us the trip has rekindled their passion and original calling to practice medicine.

At the end of the day, the team cleaned up the clinic and loaded onto the bus. As they prepared to

leave, they saw people praying with tears in their eyes. The group drove to a nearby river, where the Ministry of Health had prepared a special farewell reception. They presented each team member with a certificate of appreciation and presented John Rapp with a beautiful artwork of the river.

Rosa Espinosa, who worked at Hinsdale as a nurse for many years, served as the coordinator and liaison between the Adventist system and the Panama Ministry of Health. She confirmed the team could return to Panama anytime. At the closing ceremony, the team was thanked over and over for treating the people of Panama so well.

On the artwork given to John, there was an Albert Pike quote that sums up the mission trip experience: "What we do for ourselves dies with us; what we do for others and for the world has an eternal impact."\*

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Julie Busch, AMITA Health associate vice president, Communications





# Faith <sup>in</sup> Practice

BY JAMIE HARRISON



His anxiety was debilitating. Feelings of doubt and anger often consumed his thoughts, while suffering from painful ulcers and migraines left 29-year-old Matthew Norris feeling trapped in a continual state of mental and physical anguish. Sleepless nights, sudden weight loss and various agonizing symptoms caused Matthew to visit his doctor's office numerous times.

"I was having all kinds of problems — issues with anxiety and having thoughts in my head that weren't rational," he explained. "I was feeling sick and tired all of the time and in pretty bad shape."

Eventually, Scott LePor, D.O., primary care physician at Gordon Hospital Internal and Family Medicine, in Calhoun, Georgia, took notice of Matthew's repeated visits and did something unexpected.

Scott decided to pray with Matthew and asked if he felt comfortable sharing any mental struggles that may be affecting his health.

"I feel that praying with my patients builds a deeper connection, brings great relief and oftentimes brings an outpouring of stored up grief that frees the patient and leads them on a path of true inner healing," Scott explained. "It is one of the most freeing and powerful aspects I find in medicine when it does occur."

With the help of Scott's spiritual counseling, Matthew came to an eye-opening revelation.

"We talked about everything that was wrong and we narrowed it down to me having anger and hate in my heart," Matthew said. "I went through a long time of harboring feelings of bitterness towards certain people in my life and Dr. LePor brought that to my attention. It was a major wake-up call."

After realizing that Matthew's suppressed feelings of negativity were causing his health to spiral, Scott shared Bible verses with Matthew and gave him invaluable advice about forgiveness.

"Two of the most common principles that I discuss in my practice are bitterness or forgiveness and fear," said Scott. "Explaining to patients that Christ's commands, as in the command to forgive, are not a benchmark for us to achieve, but are aligning us to the way we were designed to live in fulfillment."

Once Scott spoke with Matthew about forgiveness, acceptance and letting go of his past, Matthew was able to conquer his struggles with anxiety and move forward with a renewed outlook on life.

"At first I was a little upset and disappointed with myself that I let my issues get this far, but once we figured out the cause of it, I was relieved and happy to know that I could fix it," Matthew said. "Since then I haven't any stomach problems, migraine headaches or anxiety issues."

Studies show that religion, spirituality and health have been associated with improved health outcomes and better quality of life. Matthew Norris' testimony is one example of how incorporating spirituality into patient care can have a substantial impact on whole person care.

However, the spiritual needs of patients, especially in outpatient settings, frequently go unmet. For this reason, the training of health professionals on how to integrate spirituality into patient care has been encouraged across health professions.

Adventist Health System (AHS) recently conducted a study called, "Faith in Practice," in collaboration with Harold G. Koenig, M.D., director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health at the Duke University School of Medicine.

The year-long study examined AHS-affiliated health providers and staff regarding various spiritual practices such as praying with patients, sharing personal religious beliefs with patients, and encouraging patients' religious beliefs for health benefits.

The Faith in Practice study was created to infuse prayer and spiritual support into outpatient care. The purpose of this study aligned with AHS' commitment to deliver a continuum of wholeness that embraces patients' physical, emotional and spiritual needs. By integrating prayer and spiritual components into physician/patient relationships, AHS supports a patient's journey to wholeness, which further contributes to the organization's mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ.

"Research shows that 85 percent of Americans believe in a transcendent power," said Ted Hamilton, M.D., vice president of medical mission for Adventist Health System. "Almost three-fourths of Americans would welcome a conversation with their physician about spiritual things, but only about 10 to 15 percent of doctors are comfortable having that conversation.

If we leave out the spiritual part of health care, we leave out a very important part in a lot of people's lives."

The study was conducted with AHS-affiliated outpatient providers in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Illinois. Nearly 445 physicians and providers completed the 12-month research project that involved a baseline assessment, an intensive and educational orientation and a follow-up survey.

In order to ensure physicians were providing whole person care in outpatient settings, AHS created a clinical mission integration team for the study. The clinical mission integration team was responsible for recruiting and educating the physicians on how to incorporate spiritual elements into their patient practices. As part of the overall project, providers also were asked to identify professional staff to assist them in integrating spirituality into outpatient care. Staff included nurses, medical assistants, office managers, social workers and other office staff.

"I didn't meet any providers who declined to participate in the study," said Linda Walker, clinical mission integration specialist. "That in itself was pretty amazing and I knew that God was going before me because there was no way that we could do this on our own."

The clinical mission integration team trained the health professionals on how to ask spiritual questions and how to spiritually assess patients.

"When you are able to share spiritual dialog with your patient and provide for their medical needs, you are ultimately demonstrating whole person care," explained Kathy Perno, director of medical mission integration for Adventist Health System. "This helps us to fulfill our promise as a faith-based organization."

The physicians and providers who participated in the study were of various faiths, including some with no religious affiliation at all.

"Even if our physicians don't believe in Christ, they believe in offering whole person care," Linda said. "That way, we were able to bring on Hindu, Muslim and Jewish providers because they all understand the importance of our whole person care philosophy."

Along with asking patients if they would like to pray during their office visit, the spiritual questions consisted of the following:

- Do you have a faith-based support system to help you in times of need?
- Do you have any religious beliefs that might influence your medical decisions?
- Do you have any other spiritual concerns that you would like someone to address?

"We left it up to the providers when deciding on who they were going to ask. Some of them would ask every patient who came through the door and some would ask patients who they felt were showing signs of depression," explained Linda. "If a patient shared that they are going through a rough time, the physician would go ahead and ask the spiritual questions."

The clinical mission integration team also encouraged each practice to nominate a staff member as a spiritual care coordinator. A clinical mission integration specialist would then train the spiritual care coordinator on how to connect with patients spiritually. If a physician was unable to pray with their patient due to differences in religious beliefs, the spiritual care coordinator would be available to step in and pray with the patient. This enabled the physician and his team to successfully fulfill the spiritual needs of their patient.

"I feel like we've really made a difference out there," Linda said. "We've seen miracles happen. It's much more than I've ever dreamed."

As a primary care physician affiliated with Florida Hospital, Annabell Torres, M.D., has always held a strong interest in integrating spirituality and whole person care into her practice. If a patient was experiencing a difficult time emotionally, Annabell started inquiring about their support system: their family, friends and community. Within the patient's community, she would ask if the patient belonged to a church.

"If a patient's significant other passed away, we try to focus on what would help them cope with the pain and what would nourish them," Annabell explained. "We would ask the patient if they have someone they could trust, or if they have a spiritual leader that they could speak with. After that, the patient would usually open up."

While Annabell was enthusiastic about adding spiritual questions into her patient assessments, there were two main concerns some physicians faced during the beginning of the study.

"One concern was that the spiritual assessments would take too much time and they couldn't afford to get behind in the day," Ted said. "But that ended up being a non-concern. Doctors across the board say that it took very little additional time, if any at all."

Ted explained that the second issue involved physicians' concerns about having the ability to mend complex spiritual dilemmas.

"We organized this referral program so doctors would have a resource to use in difficult situations," he said. "We filled in the blanks. That made it possible for them to participate in the study without compromising their practice."

Family medicine physician, Geoffrey Kuhlman, M.D., from AMITA Health Medical Group Bolingbrook in Bolingbrook,



## THE FAITH IN PRACTICE STUDY ANALYZED OVER 400 PHYSICIANS' EXPERIENCES AS THEY INTRODUCED SPIRITUAL COMPONENTS INTO PATIENT CARE.

*Scott LePor (pictured above) has found that praying with patients and teaching them about forgiveness can alleviate stress and improve their healing process.*

Illinois, found that this study not only provided him a framework to discuss faith with his patients, but also gave him the confidence to do so.

"I've always recognized the favorable impacts faith has on health outcomes," Geoffrey said. "However, I never felt comfortable discussing faith with patients unless they brought it up first. This study challenged me to overcome that fear."

During the course of the study, Geoffrey became more comfortable integrating faith and whole person care into his patient assessments.

"I could see their minds and hearts opening as I asked them about their faith. Some patients admitted that they had fallen out of faith but recognized that they needed to return to it," Geoffrey explained. "Other patients who never really connected with any particular faith, realized that working through their health problems would become much easier if they developed faith and trusted God beyond themselves."

Geoffrey hopes to expand the presence of the Faith in Practice principles to physicians through his health system and eventually beyond.

"Incorporating faith into patient care has been a practice-changing element for me. It hasn't taken anything away from how I practiced before, but it certainly enhances it," he said. "I have aspirations and plans to share the Faith in Practice paradigm with other physicians in our medical group and larger health system."

Neurologist Laura Fleck, M.D., from Foundation in Spine Health in Asheville, North Carolina, explained that examining spiritual issues and needs with patients brought a level of intimacy to the relationship that may have not been present before.

"It says to the patient that I am available on a personal as well as professional level," Laura said. "This helped to inspire trust."

Both Geoffrey and Laura expressed how the Holy Spirit brought countless benefits to their practices and how aligning spirituality with patient care impacted them personally.

Geoffrey described working with the Spirit as "humbling, empowering and joyful."

"Bringing faith into practice has rejuvenated my feelings about my career. It's given much greater meaning to what I do, day in and day out," Geoffrey said.

"Nowadays, medical practice is complicated. We have a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work that is often not gratifying," Geoffrey explained. "But to have one great spiritual encounter with a patient in a day, more than makes up for all of those difficulties that drag us down and lead to physician burn-out. It probably does as much for me as it does for patients."

Laura revealed how discussing someone else's spiritual needs affected her own spiritual well-being as well. She also echoed feelings of reinvigoration and renewal during the study. "It humbled me. I felt honored by the sharing of something as cherished as my patients' spiritual beliefs. I also felt closer to the God I believe in, whose very presence I sensed during many encounters," she said. "The study has refreshed me and given me new enthusiasm for practicing medicine. In a time when physicians are faced with increasing demands and challenges, this is a real blessing!"

As the study progressed, she discovered significant advantages of incorporating wholeness and spiritual beliefs into patient care. "The advantage for the provider is that we can be better at what we do. We can feel good about meeting all of our patient's needs," Laura said. "We get to experience the joy of reconnecting with the reason why we went into medicine in the first place — to make a difference in the lives of our patients."

The Faith in Practice study proved that spirituality is an important aspect of patients' overall health and quality of life. Incorporating Christ and his healing power into medical practices will not only foster better outcomes for the patient, but will reflect our commitment as Seventh-day Adventist Christians to demonstrate his love.

Jamie Harrison is a brand specialist at Adventist Health System.



Adventist Health System President/CEO Terry Shaw delivers his keynote address at the 27th annual Conference on Mission.

## Adventist Health System's 2017 Conference on Mission focuses on wholeness, legacy

Church leaders, physicians and Adventist Health System (AHS) leadership came together as AHS held its 27th annual Conference on Mission in Maitland, Fla. The theme of this year's conference was "Wholeness: Our Legacy, Our Future." More than 400 attendees celebrated the organization's mission of "Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ," and discussed how the expression of wholeness and intentional delivery of whole-person care can further that mission to make an even greater impact on patients and communities.

The conference began with a Thursday evening opening session and banquet that featured songs by Lifelong Music, the music ministry of Florida Hospital Church. In addition, Adventist

Health System President/CEO Terry Shaw delivered an insightful keynote address titled "Wholeness: A Vision for 21st Century Health Care."

"Think about where we all, together, have been called to serve. In the midst of an eclectic mix of society, we have dedicated our lives to 'Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ' — a sacred calling to reach as many people as we possibly can with the healing message of a loving savior," Shaw said in part during his keynote. "Our daily interactions attest to our desire to wholly meet the needs of those entrusted to our care," he added.

The evening also included an awards ceremony, where six AHS employees were recognized for exemplifying the organization's mission. Pamela Foster of Central Texas Medical Center and Irfan Ali, M.D., of Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel received the Christian Service Award; Michelle Brokaw of Littleton Adventist Hospital and Lorna Jean Hagstrom of Florida Hospital DeLand

received the Trustee of the Year Award; and Erika Skula of Manchester Memorial Hospital and Ted Hamilton, M.D., of Adventist Health System received the Crystal Angel Award. The evening concluded with a powerful blessing and dedication of leadership delivered by AHS's own Dr. Ben Reaves. Friday began with a morning work session that consisted of presentations and discussions by AHS leaders about wholeness and whole-person care. The Friday night worship service featured two emotional and inspiring videos and live presentations that shared how two AHS hospitals played important roles in restoring hope, bringing about healing and helping make families and communities whole in the wake of tragedy.

The first was a story of faith and forgiveness depicting how Littleton Adventist Hospital helped to repair the community after a 2013 school shooting that took the life of a local high school student. Her parents, who encouraged the community to forgive their daughter's assailant, were present at the conference. The second video, a story of true resiliency, showcased how, through the care he received at Florida Hospital Orlando, a survivor of the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando was inspired to pursue a career in health care.

In a fitting end to the 2017 Conference on Mission, a Sabbath morning worship service gave attendees the opportunity to gather together in a time of worship and fellowship. A pastor for 18 years, Bill Knott, editor of *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*, delivered a sermon titled "Healed — and Healed Again."

Mario Roberts, senior communications specialist at Adventist Health System



Darren Heslop

*Sarah, a sophomore pre-law student studying communication, feels God sent her to Andrews for a specific purpose.*

## By his will, not mine

“I was born in Toronto, Canada, to two feisty Seventh-day Adventist Caribbean parents. I had to wake up at 8:30 every Sabbath morning to get ready for Sabbath school at 9:30. My hair was tied in two high buns and secured by gumball clips so I resembled Mickey Mouse. I had to wear colorful poufy dresses that would itch the living daylight out of me, the look complete with knee socks. In my eyes, I looked like a piñata more than anything else but, of course, my parents said, ‘You look so cute!’”

Although Sarah Brockett was brought up in a Christian household, as she faced high school graduation, her relationship with God was neither sincere nor strong.

“I just prayed in order to get what I wanted,” she admits. “I had not created my own personal relationship with God.”

Sarah’s household split in two. With regular heated arguments between her parents, she felt like she was caught in the middle of their dysfunction.

“I felt like the more I made an effort to pray, the more things were getting out of hand,” she recalls. “My faith in God was weakening and I wanted to leave the church more than anything else. Since I was the only one in my family to pursue post-secondary education, there was a lot of added pressure and stress on me; [failing] was not an option.”

Through it all, Sarah’s mother kept praying even though Sarah had stopped. When it came time for Sarah to visit Andrews, she could truly imagine herself attending there.

“Andrews offered a variety of program choices, and the environment was peaceful and positive,” she says. “I truly felt at home.”

As Sarah adjusted to life on campus, she began to feel more passionately

about worship and attended church regularly, paying attention to the Word being preached. She felt as if every sermon was designed for her. Sarah was baptized on Nov. 22, 2015.

“I never would have imagined that I would finally take the necessary steps to rebuild my faith and my relationship with God,” she says. “Being baptized was the first time in my life where I felt like whatever barrier I approached in my path, it was never too high for me to get over because I had God on my side.”

Sarah is now a sophomore pre-law student studying communication, and feels God sent her to Andrews for a specific purpose.

“He detoured my path and guided me down a route that would work out for my good,” she says with a smile. “For as long as I live, I will continue to be patient, steadfast and abide by whatever he has in store for me. I may not know the plan, but I trust him enough to let him guide my life.”

For more real stories of people like Sarah at Andrews University, visit <http://andrews.edu/stories>.

Becky St. Clair is the media communications manager at Andrews University.



Sarah and her mom

Sarah Brockett

## [LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

### Sanctuaries swapped at Andrews University

Two-and-a-half months after students urged Andrews University administrators to address the issue of racial inequality on campus, two campus churches embarked on a “Great Exchange” in hopes of further promoting healing and reconciliation.

On the last Sabbath of the 2017 spring semester, in a highly unusual move, Pioneer Memorial Church and New Life Fellowship vacated their normal places of worship and swapped sanctuaries with each other. Pioneer Memorial is an international yet predominantly White congregation, while New Life Fellowship is a predominantly Black congregation; as such, both churches have variant worship styles.

Dwight Nelson, lead pastor at Pioneer, said the motive behind the exchange of worship spaces was “because our two leadership teams wanted to make a symbolic statement about how important is our shared quest for racial reconciliation on this campus.”

Christon Arthur, provost of Andrews University, indicated that, “Over the years, New Life Fellowship has had difficulty accommodating worshippers in the Seminary Chapel.” He added, “This exchange will provide an opportunity for each congregation to experience the worship space of each other; then survey their congregants to collect data on how people felt during the exchange. The data may inform long-term worship plans.”

At the end of their separate services, the two congregations and those at One Place, a collegiate fellowship located at the Newbold Auditorium of Buller Hall, came together in the



Pioneer Memorial Church and New Life Fellowship exchanged sanctuaries at the last Sabbath of the school year.

Johnson Gym for *koinonia* (Greek word for fellowship) and socialization. The popular Adventist delicacy, haystacks, along with dessert was served to over a thousand people.

Tables were set for 10; coded stickers were given to participants to indicate at which table to sit. This was done to encourage mingling between different races and ethnicities. On each table, the organizers placed a note that read, “Welcome to *Koinonia*. PLEASE USE THE CHAT PACK TO GET TO KNOW EVERYONE AT THIS TABLE! Each person takes a turn drawing a card.” Some of the cards asked participants to describe experiences, such as: their best and worst birthday experience, dating, a new topic one would like to learn about.

One person who worshipped with the New Life Fellowship at Pioneer Memorial Church house, Walton Yeboah-Amoako, said that he had a great time, and enjoyed every bit of the worship.

Doris Omari, another worshipper who was at the New Life’s Chapel at

the Seminary building, said, the place was too small, to her that might have prevented a lot of people coming to the place, because, according to her, not all people who normally attend the second service at PMC were in that small building.

Francis Tuffour graduated with a master’s degree in communication from Andrews University.



At the end of their separate services, the two congregations and those at One Place, a collegiate fellowship located at the Newbold Auditorium of Buller Hall, came together in the Johnson Gym for *koinonia* (Greek word for fellowship) and socialization.



## Southern Illinois Women's Ministry actively engages with the community

**Illinois**—The Marion Illinois Women's Ministry had a busy year in 2016, led by co-leaders Gail Carter and Kay Kelton. Each month the group served an evening meal at the local Lighthouse Homeless Shelter.

This ministry has been in place for many years with a core group of women and men participating who, they believe, receive the greater blessing.

In March, the Ministry began gathering baby supplies and, in June, hosted a District-wide luncheon with members from DuQuoin, Carbondale and West Frankfort churches participating. The baby supplies that were



Marion Women's Ministries were busy last year hosting meals for homeless residents, distributing baby supplies to the local women's shelter and studying the Bible with nursing home residents.

prepared were then donated to the local Women's Shelter.

In the fall, Tom Ferguson challenged each church ministry to form small groups for studying Galatians, using the *Sharing Scripture Discussion Guides*. The Women's Ministry meets twice a month at a local assisted living home where one of our church members resides. Other residents interested in studying the Bible have participated as well.

In November, a second luncheon was hosted and this time personal toiletry items had been gathered, again destined for the local women's shelter. The results of this ministry have been closer sisterhood in Christ within our church and our District churches, with a servant ministry that has been a blessing to all.

Marietta Kellum is communication secretary for the Marion Church.

## Hispanic Small Groups growing in Chicago

**Illinois**—Hispanic congregations in the Illinois Conference have grown steadily over the last few years, creating the need for smaller groups to train new disciples.

Last year, three well-established churches in the Chicago area — South, Melrose Park and Chicago Central — spawned new congregations with each tracing the hand of God in their development.

The South Church has formed the group La Esperanza (Hope) with the intention that it will soon become a church. When a regular meeting place was sought for the new group, the Ghanaian Church, belonging to the Lake Region Conference, welcomed them with open arms. The pastor



Second Generation church members

confided that, after failed attempts, his church had been praying for ways to reach Hispanics in their area. "This is the first time that a church from one conference is voluntarily sharing

their building to plant a church from another conference," said Luis Eguiluz, ministerial leader for Area Six and pastor of the Chicago Central Church. "Praise be to God for his miracles."

Another miracle unfolded with the Melrose Park Church congregation, which has formed a group called Embajadores de Cristo (Christ's Ambassadors). After much prayer, one of the members of Embajadores de Cristo approached the pastor of a large and beautiful Methodist church to request renting the space for Sabbath worship. The pastor replied that her church had been praying for a long time for a Spanish-speaking group in their area. When negotiations began, the group admitted they could only afford \$600. The Methodist church board had a

higher amount in mind, but eventually accepted this price. Eguiluz said, "This is a divine confirmation of God's guidance in this project."

As the two groups, La Esperanza and Embajadores de Cristo, move forward as separate congregations, they plan to work alongside each other with the shared purpose of mission.

Meanwhile, the Chicago Central Church youth, together with English-speaking members, have organized a small group called Second Generation. Second Generation gathers together with friends and neighbors

who wish to have their worship experience in English.

"We hope that the establishing of small groups, where we form new disciples, continues throughout the conference, leading us to have more leaders committed to the Word," said Eguiluz who is focused on training and supporting churches within Area Six. "This new strategy cannot fail. God will bless the growth efforts of these three groups."

Lake Union Herald staff

## [ EDUCATION NEWS ]

### 222 baptized in Care for Cuba Study Tour

**Michigan**—Two hundred twenty-two new believers were baptized in Cuba at the culmination of a mission trip hosted by the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary over spring break.

For nine days, the team of 24 Seminary students and three faculty sponsors led six simultaneous evangelistic series in various parts of Holguin, Cuba. The team also gave away clothing, musical instruments, 100 bicycles, 20 computers and 12 tablet libraries to pastors and Bible workers who have no transportation or access to Bibles, devotionals or ministry materials.

On the final night, the six groups joined together in a basketball arena for a worship service, ending in a call to baptism, with over 2,000 in attendance. The next morning, after a Sabbath program in the same facility, 222 new believers were baptized.

"A few years ago, it was unthinkable to do religious services in a public arena," said Fernando Ortiz. "This was only the second religious congress held in



A group of seminary faculty and students led several evangelistic series in Cuba. The team also gave away clothing, musical instruments, 100 bicycles, 20 computers and 12 tablet libraries to pastors and Bible workers who have no transportation or access to Bibles, devotionals or ministry materials.

Cuba, and the first one also was Adventist-led. None of this would have been possible or even imaginable at the height of Fidel Castro's power when public worship or religious activities in a public setting were forbidden," said Ortiz.

Ortiz led the first mission trip to Cuba in 1998. When he became the director of the Masters of Divinity (MDiv) program, he united his passion for preparing pastors for ministry with his call to meet the needs of the Adventist church in Cuba. The result was Care for Cuba, the yearly study tour that made history in 2013 as the first North American Adventist educational institution to reach Cuba in almost 50 years.

"For decades, Cuba felt forgotten by the world, even the Adventist world," said Ortiz, director of the MDiv program and Care for Cuba organizer. "We could not go there or send money for decades, and now it is time to regain what we haven't been able to do for 50 years."

Since Care for Cuba began in 2013, 120 seminarians and seven faculty members have done ministry in Cuba, resulting in over 800 baptisms and hundreds of Cuban pastors and Bible workers equipped to do more effective ministry.

One unique aspect of this year's trip is the first Care for Cuba youth evangelistic effort, where seminarians practiced creative evangelism techniques

such as a Frisbee ministry. The efforts drew 60–80 youth, young adults and university students to a rented Quaker church each evening.

“It was a true inside look of how to do ministry,” said Samuel Ulett, a trip attendee who will graduate from the Seminary in December. “It was a great learning experience and an opportunity to learn how to do ministry in a different environment.”

The trip not only benefits the Cuban people, but also transforms the ministry of the pastors-in-training who attend.

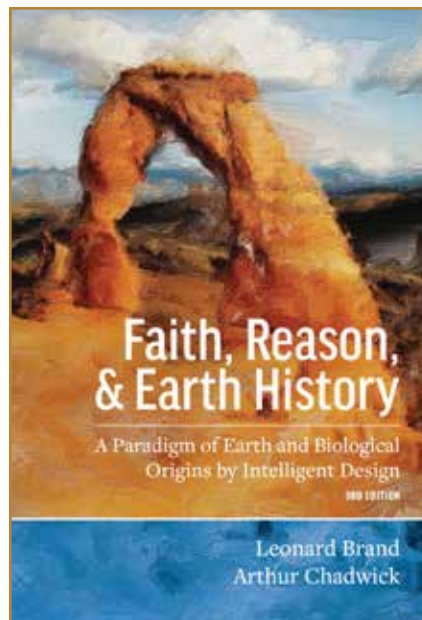
“If there’s anything I learned from going to Cuba, it’s the fact that people are longing for healthy relationships,” said Michael Shelton, a 2017 trip attendee. “They don’t want to know how much you know about the Bible — they want to know that you care about them, and that’s what it’s all about.”

Care for Cuba’s goal is to give 1,000 bicycles, 500 tablet libraries and 500 computers to the pastors and Bible workers in Cuba. To find out more, visit <http://CareforCuba.org>.

Samantha Angeles, graduate assistant,  
Theological Seminary at Andrews University



Since Care for Cuba began in 2013, there have been over 800 baptisms.



## Innovative publishing partnership makes landmark Creation textbook free to digital users worldwide

Students, teachers and general readers anywhere in the world eager for access to the acclaimed go-to textbook on the latest in creation science studies can now get it for free in digital format, thanks to a unique partnership among three Adventist entities.

The book, just released in its new, third edition by Andrews University Press, is *Faith, Reason, and Earth History: A Paradigm of Earth and Biological Origin by Intelligent Design*, authored by Leonard Brand of Loma Linda University and Arthur Chadwick of Southwestern Adventist University.

The worldwide free e-book release was formally announced at the spring meeting of the General Conference Faith and Science Council (Council), held in Loma Linda, Calif., April 19–20. The Council, comprised of practicing

scientists, theologians, educators, pastors and church administrators, meets twice a year to sponsor and promote scientific investigations, publications and other activities with particular attention on creation.

The new publishing initiative was made possible by cooperation among the Council, the North American Division Adventist Learning Community and Andrews University Press. *Faith, Reason, and Earth History* by Brand was originally published by Andrews in 1997. A second edition appeared in 2009. This third edition, now co-authored by Brand and Chadwick, was made possible by funding from the Council, chaired by Mike Ryan, assistant to the General Conference president.

“This outstanding book is exactly in line with the goals and purposes of the Faith and Science Council,” Ryan said. “Andrews had the vision to publish the earlier editions and get Dr. Brand’s book established as the standard in its field. But with new developments and discoveries happening all the time, we also had to find a way to get an updated third edition in places where typical academic publishing operations like Andrews would have a hard time reaching due to costs. We had to do something creative to get this book out around the world to do its important work. In this day of demands for ‘open access,’ finding a way to make it free, at least electronically, is the way to go.”

The e-book is available now at <http://www.adventistlearningcommunity.com/fait-reason-earth-history>. The print edition is available from Amazon.com, Adventist Book Centers (800-765-6955) and from Andrews University Press at <http://www.universitypress.andrews.edu> (800-467-6369).

Becky St. Clair, media communication manager, Andrews University

## Lake Union ASI meeting features emerging ministries

Building on the tradition of uniting businesses and ministries, the Lake Union chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) gathered in Indiana in April for their annual spring fellowship, which raised more than \$16,000, some of which will go toward supporting four new projects.

According to ASI's Lake Union chapter president Tom Morrissy, "The main thing about ASI is getting business people and professionals together with the ministries. We raise funds when we find ministries which we think are really doing God's work."

These donations will be divided as follows:

- **(Un)Scene Media Group:** \$2,000 from the offering, \$2,000 match from existing ASI funds
- **Maranatha Panama Mission Trip 2018:** \$2,500
- **Adventist Frontier Missions Mali Project:** \$1,200 from offering plus \$1,200 match from existing funds
- **Motor City Medical Mission:** \$4,800 from offering and \$1,200 from existing funds

(It has not yet been decided where the overflow offering will go).

In total, eight ministries were represented, with influence from Detroit to Haiti, and below is a description of some of the emerging ones.

(Un)scene Media group is both an Adventist production company and training program, which focuses on film production. Based out of Thompsonville, Ill., the ministry operates digital film schools for ages 13–17 out of the Three Angels Broadcasting Network



Various ministries, with influence from Detroit to Haiti, were featured at the Lake Union ASI chapter spring fellowship.



headquarters, but also has a branch at the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. The group has collaborated with 3ABN, Dare to Dream Network, and Little Light Ministries, and is led by executive director Ryan St. Hillarie and Evangelist Dee Casper.

Similar to the 2016 Pathways to Health event in Los Angeles, **Motor City Medical Missions** is a free dental, optical and medical services program that operates out of the COBO Convention Center in Detroit, Mich. According to Wendell Lawrence, head of the event's dental department, the next convention will be held from Aug. 7–9.

Though not sponsored this year by ASI, another ministry featured at the spring fellowship was **FARMSTEW**, a farming and nutrition ministry founded by Joy Kaufman, which focuses on

making NEWSTART principles applicable to farming and environmental health. The acronym stands for Farming, Attitude, Rest, Meals, Sanitation, Temperance, Exercise and Water, and although the ministry is based out of Illinois, the majority of its involvement has been with Africa, and their story was featured in the June/July 2016 issue of the *Lake Union Herald*.

Addressing the 9–15 age group, **God's Show and Tell Ministries** is a program that attempts the daunting task of teaching concepts of the sanctuary, end times and state of the dead to children and teens. Their books, *God's Show and Tell*, provide kids, teens and teachers a resource to learn about the sanctuary message, while "What Happens When We Die" and "The First Lie" tackle the state of the dead. The book's author, Barbra Weimer, illustrates the events of the second resurrection, immortality, second comings and entering heaven as links in a chain, with each connected, but not exchangeable or removable.

The next ASI event is the 2017 Convention in Houston, Texas, from Aug. 2–5. This year's theme will be "Called. Chosen. Committed." and will commemorate the 70th anniversary of Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries.

Konner Dent is a junior journalism major at Andrews University.

[ NAD NEWS ]

## Eighty teams participate in the division-level Pathfinder Bible Experience

An atmosphere of excitement and nervousness filled the air as Pathfinders from around the world participated in the annual North American Division Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) Division Finals held in Chicago on April 22. For an entire year, Pathfinders had devoted their time to studying the books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and First and Second Timothy, in hopes of exceptional results at each of the three meets prior to Division Finals in the spring.

Charlie Thompson, youth director for the Indiana Conference, said that he appreciated that PBE gives young people an opportunity and purpose for opening God's Word and studying it. "Nothing excites me more than to see young people studying the Bible," he said.

Mentorships that come from being on a team are invaluable and many last a lifetime. PBE has forged a way to help bridge the gap between the younger and older generations, and it was evident in the Division Finals, as adults and youth convened to hold a Sabbath of fellowship and unity.

Michael Campos, Illinois Conference's youth director, says that PBE is not only making an impact in the lives of young people. "For adults, it's an opportunity to serve by passing along the beauty of Scripture to the next generation," he said.

PBE generates an impact that extends beyond that of the local level, stretching from the Lake Union to the British Union. Not only is it reaching across borders but beyond the team practices



Jonathan Logan



Levi Shuler

Pathfinders from around the world participated in the annual North American Division Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) Division Finals held in Chicago on April 22. For an entire year, Pathfinders had devoted their time to studying the books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and First and Second Timothy.

as well. The Bible is crucially relevant to society today as the struggle of living in an ever-growing secular world calls out to the youth to preach the message of God's love. The Bible is a source that undeniably tackles issues that enable youth to be well equipped to witness to others and defend their faith.

Executive director of the Center for Youth Evangelism, Ron Whitehead, sums it up best by providing the idea that, "PBE is growing because, as young people explore their values in a secular world, the Bible tells them that they have an authentic friend that will be there for them."

### Lake Union Team Results

#### Indiana Conference

Carmel Conquerors: Second Place  
Southeastern Soldiers: Second Place

#### Michigan Conference

Centreville Sentinels: Third Place  
Eau Claire Critters: First Place  
Lansing Capitals Team A: First Place  
Lansing Capitals Team B: First Place  
Pioneer Memorial, PMC Evergreen  
Pathfinders: First Place

#### Wisconsin Conference

Monroe Trailblazers: First Place

Rebekah Amaya served as one of the coaches for the Pioneer Memorial Church Evergreen PBE team.

## Andrews University students earn several awards at Sonscreen Film Festival

More than 200 student and professional filmmakers and guests attended the 2017 Sonscreen Film Festival held at Loma Linda University in California. The three-day festival, run by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America (NAD), screened 39 official selections from student filmmakers. The event culminated with a closing reception and awards ceremony, with 10 student films garnering awards.

For 17 years, Sonscreen has provided young adult filmmakers the opportunity to share their work, learn from professionals, network and receive recognition for their work. The 39 official selections were divided into five categories: animated short, dramatic short, documentary short, comedy short (a new category), and high school short.

Andrews University students took home prizes for Best Documentary



"Foreign Native," a film produced by Andrews University students Denae Keizs, Heidi Ramirez, Kiana Gurley and Madai Villa. They are pictured here flanked by Julio Muñoz, Sonscreen director and Kimberly Luste Maran, NAD Office of Communication assistant director.

Short with "The Hugs Project" by Stephen Allcock, Jeriah Richardson and Maxine Murray named as the winner (view trailer here: <https://filmfreeway.com/project/hugs>), while "Foreign Native" by Denae Keizs, Madai Villa, Heidi Ramirez and Kiana Gurley received an honorable mention. "Foreign Native" also was selected as the Audience Choice winner, and can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/194252013>.

"This year's festival showcased some of the best student filmmaking

we've ever had. We also were able to host several award-winning professional filmmakers to share their knowledge with the students," said Julio Muñoz, director of the Sonscreen Film Festival and associate director of the NAD Office of Communication. "We want these students to grow artistically, and to know that their films play an important part in sharing hope and making our world more inclusive."

Kimberly Luste Maran, with *Lake Union Herald* staff

## Free online resource available to bridge elder care gap

According to multiple studies, most caregivers live an average of 480 miles from the people for which they care. Coordinated by Adventist Community Services (ACS), the Elder Care Ministries program called CareOptions helps to bridge that gap between family caregivers and their parents and grandparents.

Wynelle Stevens, assistant director of Elder Care, said, "CareOptions serves as a communication and caregiving resource that brings long-distance

families closer together as they work with prevention, early detection, care planning tools and information to address healthcare issues early, before they become unmanageable."

The user-friendly online CareOptions system contains over 2.5 million resources that include assessment tools, cost-of-care calculators, evaluation criteria for hospitals, home care and nursing homes, the ability to create advance directives, evaluate medication compatibility, and much more. CareOptions began as a telephonic professional counseling service for caregivers prior to becoming an online resource.

Stevens stressed the need to focus on the elderly, "While the CareOptions

Bulletin inserts are available for churches to promote this new free service.

resources are important to the entire family, regardless of age, we believe it is critically important to raise awareness among families to care for their own parents. A study from the Administration on Aging found that, 'Of those caring for someone 65 years or older,

the average age of the caregiver is 63 years and 33 percent of them are in fair or poor health.' That is a very troubling statistic. First Timothy tells us to care for our parents and grandparents as a way to repay them and because it is

pleasing to God. That's an important part of our mission."

Adventist Community Services (ACS) has been established as a humanitarian relief and individual and community development ministry to fulfill the

mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Wynelle Stevens is the assistant director for NAD Adventist Community Services.

## [ GC NEWS ]



Brent Hartlage

Artur Stele, Seventh-day Adventist Church vice president, introduces the Statement on Transgenderism during the 2017 Spring Meeting in Silver Spring, Md.

## World Church Executive Committee votes statement on transgenderism

Document acknowledges limited knowledge, seeks biblical guidance and calls to love transgender people

The members of the Executive Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Church voted to accept a statement on transgenderism on April 11. The document was voted on the first day of the Spring Meeting, one of the two major annual business meetings of the world church.

While the statement acknowledges "the limitation of our knowledge in specific instances," the 1,400-word document sets out to first define the key terms commonly used when referring to the topic, then to review the biblical principles relating to sexuality and what it calls "the transgender phenomenon." The biblical principles section is based on the belief that

"Scripture provides principles for guidance and counsel to transgender people and the Church, transcending human conventions and culture." Finally, it includes some advice for church leaders and members engaging with transgender visitors or adherents in their local congregations.

Quoting the last edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, the statement reminds that transgenderism, formerly clinically diagnosed as "gender identity disorder" and now termed "gender dysphoria," may be understood as a general term to describe the variety of ways individuals interpret and express their gender identity differently from those who determine gender on the basis of biological sex. "Gender dysphoria is manifested in a variety of ways, including strong desires to be treated as the other gender or to be rid of one's sex characteristics, or a strong conviction that one has feelings and reactions typical of the other gender," the statement reads.

The statement explains that "due to contemporary trends to reject the biblical gender binary (male and female) and replace it with a growing spectrum of gender types, certain choices triggered by the transgender condition have come to be regarded as normal and accepted in contemporary culture." These trends, states the document, present problems for Bible-believing people, since "the desire to change or live as a person of another gender may result in biblically inappropriate lifestyle choices."

"It is not an easy topic," admitted world church president Ted Wilson in introducing the rationale for the statement, "and we did not have anything in writing about this particular topic." Wilson explained that the focus of the statement was on the biblical framework as a foundation to address this topic, not on particular cases. Then, he said, "regional areas can use this biblical framework to give it a more regional application."

"Our emotions, feelings and perceptions are not fully reliable indicators of God's designs, ideals and truth."

Wilson also shared that much effort was made to include as many experts in the field as possible. His words were echoed by Artur Stele, a vice-president of the world church and chair of the committee that oversaw the process of preparing the document. "Many groups and committees have been involved in providing guidance and counsel," said Stele. According to him, the Biblical Research Institute (BRI), a major contributor to the document, "sought advice, counsel, and feedback from theologians, medical specialists and psychologists from inside and outside the Church." The committee's "main goal was to provide a biblical and Christ-like approach," he said.

To read the full text of the Statement on Transgenderism, please go to: <https://executivecommittee.adventist.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/III-G-Statement-on-Transgenderism.pdf>.

Adventist Review Staff

# Announcements

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

## Indiana

**Fan the Flame!** Indiana Camp Meeting, **June 11-17**, Indiana Academy, Cicero, Ind. Enjoy a week of family life, enriched with prayer ministry, evangelism, health messages and enlightening thought with presentations in the newly air-conditioned auditorium, enhanced RV campgrounds and five newly-constructed cabins. Visit the Indiana Conference website to register and for updates: <http://www.indysda.org>.

## Lake Union

### Offerings

- June 3** Local Church Budget
- June 10** World Budget/NAD  
(emphasis: Multilingual/  
Chaplaincy Ministries)
- June 17** Local Church Budget
- June 24** Local Conference Advance
- July 1** Local Church Budget
- July 8** Women's Ministries/NAD
- July 15** Local Church Budget
- July 22** Local Conference Advance
- July 29** IL Conference: Local  
Church Budget;  
IN Conference: Timber Ridge  
Camp; LR Conference: Camp  
Wagner; MI Conference:  
Evangelism; WI Conference:  
Outdoor Education

### Special Days

- June 10** Women's Ministries  
Emphasis Day
- June 10** Refugees Awareness  
Sabbath
- July 8** Griggs University

### Mission in an Era of Migrants and Refugees: Save the date! Sept. 13-16.

Refugees and migrants make up a massive political, economic and healthcare challenge in our day. Even before the current refugee crisis, the process of globalization was bringing new people groups into local communities. Adventist mission, in both evangelistic and humanitarian dimensions, needs to become more effective in addressing the realities of our times. Come to Andrews University to participate in a combination of plenary and break-out track presentations. For more information, call 708-925-3091, or email Carmelo Mercado at [carmelo.mercado@lakeunion.org](mailto:carmelo.mercado@lakeunion.org). Registration can be done through AdventSource: <https://www.adventsource.org/as30/event.registration.details.aspx?event=449>.

### North American Division

**Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference 2017:** This convention, to

be held **Oct. 13-15**, is designed to help prepare people to serve effectively in their churches in the areas of Personal Ministries, Prison Ministries, Children's Ministries and Youth Ministries. Featured speakers include: J. Alfred Johnson II, NAD Adult Ministries director, NADEI SEEDS representative; Mark Finley, Karina Sheldon and G. Earl Knight, president, Atlantic Union. The convention will be held in Stamford, Conn. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.adventsource.org/as30/event.registration.details.aspx?event=437&page=1>.

### Society of Adventist Communicators

This year's convention will be held **Oct. 19-21** in Portland, Ore. Attendees include media/communication professionals who are employed in any corporate setting, nonprofit, freelance, higher education or communication employees of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (primarily in North America). University students who hope to become communication professionals also attend and see the convention as an avenue to gain professional mentoring and future contacts for employment. Those who serve as communication leaders at the local church or school level also are invited to attend. You will hear from experts in the fields of corporate communication, public relations, graphic design, photography, video production and journalism. Find

convention details online and register at <http://www.adventistcommunication.org>.

**GYC 2017 – Arise:** Join thousands of young people from around the world at GYC Phoenix from **Dec. 27-31** as we spend four days looking at God's glorious vision for his people at the end of time from Isaiah 60. Engage in Bible study, prayer, witnessing, fellowship, seminars and sermons. For details and registration, visit <http://www.gycweb.org>.

## World Division

**ASI International Convention:** Each year, ASI members, supporters and friends gather at the ASI International Convention to encourage one another and exchange ideas vital to their lay-driven ministry goals. The annual convention is an energetic, inspiring affair where networks are formed and plans are made that one individual or institution could never accomplish alone. Those who attend the convention return to their local churches inspired and equipped to start lay outreach efforts in their own workplaces and communities. Best of all, eternal friendships are formed. This year's convention will be held **Aug. 2-5** at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.asiministries.org/convention>.

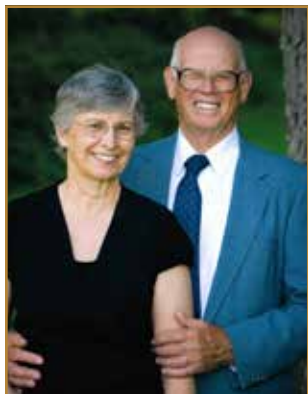
# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Jun 2	Jun 9	Jun 16	Jun 23	Jun 30	Jul 7	Jul 14	Jul 21	Jul 28	Aug 4	Aug 11
Berrien Springs, Mich.	9:15	9:19	9:23	9:25	9:25	9:23	9:20	9:15	9:09	9:01	8:52
Chicago, Ill.	8:19	8:24	8:28	8:29	8:30	8:28	8:25	8:20	8:14	8:06	7:57
Detroit, Mich.	9:03	9:08	9:11	9:13	9:13	9:12	9:09	9:04	8:57	8:49	8:40
Indianapolis, Ind.	9:07	9:11	9:15	9:16	9:17	9:16	9:13	9:08	9:02	8:55	8:47
La Crosse, Wis.	8:40	8:45	8:49	8:51	8:51	8:49	8:46	8:41	8:34	8:25	8:16
Lansing, Mich.	9:10	9:15	9:18	9:20	9:20	9:19	9:15	9:10	9:04	8:56	8:47
Madison, Wis.	8:30	8:35	8:39	8:41	8:41	8:39	8:36	8:31	8:24	8:16	8:07
Springfield, Ill.	8:21	8:25	8:29	8:30	8:31	8:30	8:27	8:22	8:16	8:09	8:01



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



**Frank and Ruth DeWind** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on March 17, 2017, by an open house at their home in Berrien Springs, Mich., hosted by their children. The open house was attended by friends, relatives and some of their original wedding guests, and a film of the actual occasion was shared with them. They were members of the Bauer (Mich.) Church for 59 years and are presently members of the Stevensville (Mich.) Church.

Franklin DeWind and Ruth Ann Hopper were married March 17, 1957, in Gobles, Mich., by Stanley Hyde. Frank has been employed by Hamstra Construction and Bil-Mar Foods, retiring in 1994. Ruth has been a wife and mother, raising eight children.

The DeWind family includes Annette DeWind of Berrien Springs; Natalie and Joe Morocco of Allendale, Mich.; Tom and Sally DeWind of St. Joseph, Mich.; Amy and Randy Hubble of Cooks, Mich.; Lynell DeWind of Berrien Springs; Jennifer and LeRoy Ward of Bangor, Mich.; Rebecca and Sean Mattingly of Erie, Colo.; and Leah and Trent Bowen of Berrien Springs; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

## Obituaries

**BERGER, Leone M. (Robinson)**, age 92; born May 1, 1924, in Dickenson, N.D.; died Dec. 2, 2016, in Carney, Mich. She was a member of the Wilson (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Gary and Tom; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Tony Ludwig, with private inurnment in Wilson SDA Church Cemetery.

**FREITEL, Debra Kay (French)**, age 57; born Aug. 8, 1959, in Kalamazoo, Mich.; died Jan. 6, 2017, in Orlando, Fla. She was a member of the Urbandale Church, Battle Creek, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Erhard; daughter, Billi Nelson; stepbrothers, Mike Barns and Rodney French; sister, Dawn Pifer; stepsisters, Vicki Benham and Connie French; and one grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Terry Nelson, with private inurnment, Orlando.

**GREGORY, Norma (Evens) Hemphill**, age 68; born Sept. 14, 1948, in Urbana, Iowa; died April 20, 2017, in Chattanooga, Tenn. She was a member of the La Grange Brookfield Church, La Grange, Ill. Norma worked 35 years for the Illinois Adventist Book Center and Illinois Conference, and did volunteer work for Camp Akita.

Survivors include her son, Kelly Hemphill; daughter, Shari Hemphill; brothers, Dennis, Dean and Warren Evens; sister, Phyllis McMillen; 13 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Samuel Andreiu, with inurnment in Maryville, Tenn.

**ILES, Frances O. (Fessenden)**, age 98; born Jan. 29, 1919, in Marion, Mich.; died April

13, 2017, in Richland, Mich. She was a member of the Battle Creek (Mich.) Tabernacle.

Survivors include her son, Bill; daughters, Chris Vetne and Cheryl Iles; four grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at the Battle Creek Tabernacle, with interment in Battle Creek Memorial Park Cemetery.

**JONES, Beverly J. (Brown) Kibby**, age 66; born Oct. 19, 1950; died March 4, 2017, in Frankfort, Mich. She was a member of the Mesick (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Clinton, Ronald Jr. and Paul Kibby; daughters, Renee Lalharsh, Dawn Ford and Tonya McWain; brothers, Virgil and Michael Brown; sister, Brenda Joyce Northrup; and 12 grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Robert Benson, with private inurnment, Mesick.

**KRAUSE, Melvin G.**, age 80; born March 4, 1937, in Newberg, Ore.; died March 25, 2017, in Seattle, Wash. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his son, Tony; daughter, Tammie Krause; and brother, Marvin.

Memorial services were conducted by Tracy Tison, and inurnment was in Washington National Cemetery Mausoleum, Kent, Wash.

**LEESEBERG, Charlotte C. (Shaw) Mansfield**, age 88; born Nov. 9, 1928, in Unionville, Mich.; died Dec. 4, 2016, in Tavares, Fla. She was a member of the Wilson (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Steve Mansfield; daughters, Barbara Mansfield and Sharon Thoune; brother, James Shaw; sisters, Shirley Seres and Jean Dupart; and seven grandchildren.

No services were conducted, with private inurnment.

**SKYM, Gary**, age 71; born April 3, 1945, in Midland, Mich.; died Nov. 6, 2016, in Midland. He was a member of the Midland Church.

Survivors include his wife, Sherry (Sheets); son, Gary Jr.; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Cory Herthel, and interment was in Homer Township (Mich.) Cemetery.

**STEGEMAN, Harvey A.**, age 88; born May 4, 1928, in Kaukauna, Wis.; died April 8, 2017, in Wyoming, Mich. He was a member of the Wyoming Church.

Survivors include his wife, Anna Mae (Wheeler); son, Steven; daughters, Colleen Lund, Lenore Meyers and Barbara Christian; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Lyle Davis, and interment was in Boynton Cemetery, Byron Center, Mich.

**WHITTINGHAM, James H.**, age 79; born July 17, 1937, in Marion, Ind.; died Dec. 9, 2016, in Merrill, Wis. He was a member of the Tomahawk (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mary (Thompson); son, David Selenski; daughters, Laura Ann Kaul, Diane Williams and Nicole Gorski; stepdaughter, Christina Korenkiewicz; 14 grandchildren; and a number of great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Kevin Moreno, and interment was in Riverside Cemetery, Gas City, Ind.

**WILSON, L.J. "Slim,"** age 79; born April 17, 1937, in Etowah, Ark.; died Jan. 14, 2017, in Saginaw, Mich. He was a member of the Vassar (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Judith M. (Edwards); sons, Vincent E. and Douglas H.; sisters, Linda Hightower, Wanda Swanson and Sandra Wilson; stepsisters, Ida Grace Keller and Carolyn Hacker; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Richard Bullock, and inurnment was in Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, Mich.

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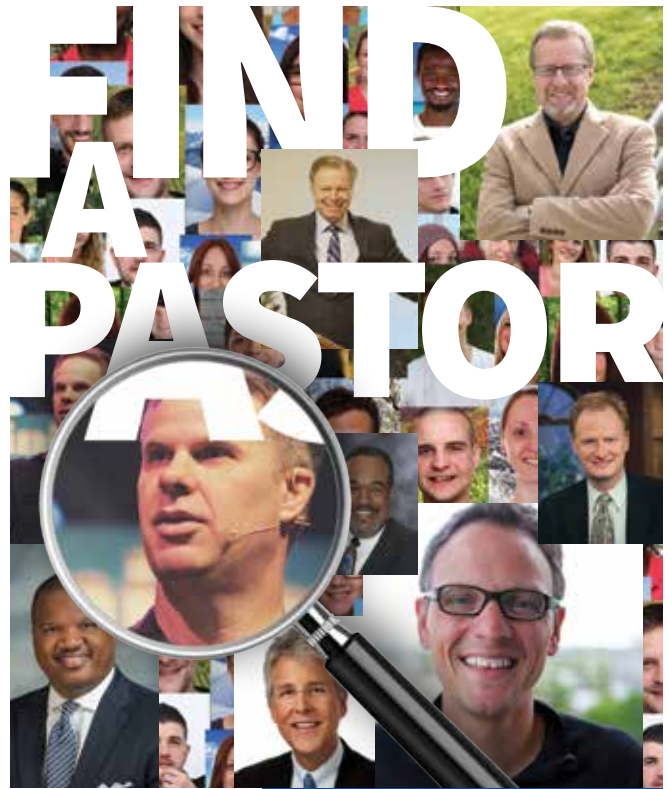
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## WE ARE CALLED TO HEAL

I grew up in an age where, as an Adventist young person, teacher/doctor/minister were the more pronounced avenues of service. I did not have close family members who were in medicine other than an aunt who was a public health nurse. She modeled a spirit of outreach of service to her community that was unique. If anyone in medical circles had some influence on me, it would be my Aunt Dan. I knew I had a proclivity for math and science, and I enjoyed people. I put that all together and thought maybe medicine was a place I could serve with the talents that God had given me.

I have always seen my role in the Great Commission as a seed planter. I have opportunities in the practice of medicine every day, whether with staff or patients, to witness via faith nuggets – to cast a new vision which is perhaps beyond the secular focus of most people's stressful lives.

I think of the birth of a new child. When you are witness to new life, to mention the fact that this is God's miracle for each and every one, and that he's our friend – that God is a friend of parents.

If I've prepared my life at the beginning of the day, and I can't say that occurs successfully every day, then the view for every encounter is an opportunity to serve. You do the needful things that safe medicine seems to require, and then once the circumstance is stable and the crisis is abated, then the opportunity may present itself for some seed planting – to share some thoughts of the Great Physician who looks out for us all.

I think, in day-to-day practice, one of the things I enjoy doing is preparing a patient for a planned surgical treatment. It's my custom to ask the patient's permission, as a Christian physician, to pray preceding the surgery. It's the rare patient that will decline my offer.

I have one particular medical assistant who is very much part and parcel, a product of the community culture.

She knows the patients well but also, having personally experienced some of their struggles, loves them well. Somewhere along the line, I invited her to start our day in the clinic with prayer. We rarely miss that. If I am too focused and am inclined to forget, she reminds me. She's grown to appreciate that experience.

There is a quality assurance process that we do before every case in the operating theater. It's called the "Time Out." The lead circulating nurse takes the time out to identify the patient, identify the procedure that's been consented and planned for, and reviews any aspects of pre-treatment, allergies, etc. It's a quality double-check. If you've ever been a pilot, it's like the walk-around-the-plane before you take off.

It occurred to me we could combine with the "Time Out" an additional sphere of walk-around. We call it the Prayer Pause. My staff in the operating room are wonderful. They're certainly not all of the same faith as myself or each other, but most are people of faith. So I sought their comfortability and permission before we started implementing this new dimension to our "Time Out," and it was welcomed with uniqueness. If they think I'm about to apply the scalpel without prayer, they will say, "Dr. Lewis, are we going to pray?"

I think that medicine has a wonderful opportunity to lay hands on and to build relationships with people that can occur in no other venue. I think we all are called to the ministry of healing in some way or another. The ministry of healing is physical, mental or emotional healing that offers something greater. It offers friendship with the Great Physician.

---

Dan Lewis, M.D., Ob/Gyn, a longtime resident of Berrien Springs, Michigan, now serves the community of Lake County, California, at St. Helena Hospital, Clear Lake, and Lake County Tribal Health, Lakeport.

## Be Encouraged

BY JENNIFER LANDIS

**F**or the past three summers, I've had the privilege of going door to door, sharing books on a donation basis for my education.

One morning, God led me to read: *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of a good courage. Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go* (Joshua 1:9 NKJV).

I thought to myself, What a perfect verse! Some days can be hard and discouraging when you're canvassing. Sometimes you don't know if you can keep going. But I know God was telling me in that verse that, no matter what, he would be with me and the victory was already there. So I went to breakfast encouraged.

Later, in worship, the speaker shared the same verse! Wow, I thought, God must be telling me something important! Something really cool is probably going to happen today . . . So I started the day with hopeful anticipation.

But, as the afternoon wore on, I became more and more discouraged. No one was interested in what I was doing, or would listen to me. Eventually my leader, Chris Da'Costa, came to work with me. Usually your leader comes and works with you when they think something is wrong, or you're having a bad day. Oh no, I thought, even Chris is noticing things aren't going well.

Together we walked into a business and saw a man on his cell phone. He told the person on the line he had to go and invited us into his office. When we sat down we noticed an open Bible on his desk, so we asked what he had been reading. He picked up his Bible and said, "I read a verse this morning that was really encouraging to me. It's in Joshua 1:9."

He continued on to read the verse as I sat there, shocked. He then started sharing with us different things in his life he was going through. His wife was leaving him, he was having problems with his kids, and he loved God but felt cut off from him at this difficult time.

Still in shock, I told him that God had brought that same verse to my attention two times that very morning. I impressed upon him that God must be leading him to this text to sustain him through the conflicts he was going through. He was just amazed, and so was I. God gave that verse to both of us, knowing we could be an encouragement to each other!

"I've shared about my life," he said. "I know you guys are good people and I want to know what you are doing and why you showed up at my business."

I showed him the books we had, especially emphasizing the spiritual books and what an encouragement they would be to him. He said, "I know God sent you here. When you walked in I was on the phone with my pastor, telling him all my struggles and admitting I needed help. Then you walked through the door! This is a divine appointment!"

He ended up getting nine books, some of which were *Steps to Christ*, *Christ's Object Lessons*, *The Great Controversy*, and other books that will strengthen him to lean on God.

Very encouraged, I went on working with a song in my heart, knowing God was leading and would continue to lead souls to him!

---

Jennifer Landis just graduated from Great Lakes Adventist Academy. She received a \$100 scholarship for this essay. If you're a young adult interested in submitting an article for consideration, please contact: [herald@lakeunion.org](mailto:herald@lakeunion.org).

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

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

# A Search for Meaning

BY DEBBIE MICHEL

**A**s Halee Boughton read the text message, she felt at a loss. The message bore the devastating news that her spiritual advisor, Marleen, was diagnosed with stage four bone cancer and had just a few weeks to live.

Halee was working at a nail salon when she met Marleen, one of the customers. The two would develop a close friendship where the older woman invited Halee to small group meetings and prayed with her. "She helped me grow a loving interest in God," said Halee of their two-year friendship.



Halee Boughton

As the unsettling news of Marleen's cancer sank in, Halee couldn't help but wonder about the timing. "My faith was still so little, and I had so many unanswered questions," said the 22-year-old who grew up in a household where the topic of God never really came up. "It didn't make sense that the person who was so instrumental in my faith journey would soon be gone."

After Marleen passed away, Halee said she felt "lost and confused" but, at the same time, "I had never been so eager to find answers to my unanswered questions." She spent the next year wholeheartedly seeking out God's truth, and the verse that got her through all of that was, *You shall seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart* (Jeremiah 29:13 NIV).

"It was during that excruciating time when the One who is the real spiritual Guide started to reveal himself to me in a way that I had never been able to see before," she said. "His love was there to comfort and guide me through every step."

"The Lord helped me come to a very humbling spot in my heart and in my life where all I wanted was to find what was *truth* in this chaotic and artificial world; to find the answers to questions that the majority of people cannot answer, and it has led me to the true love of a Savior who has saved my life."

In February, Halee was baptized at the Boyne City (Mich.) Church and currently works with at-risk children. It is a job "I absolutely love." She believes God has put her in a special place to pour out her love on those who are in greatest need.

"God has done so much in my life, and I want to live for him."

Debbie Michel is the associate communication director of the Lake Union Conference.

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*The More Things Change,  
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