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WHO WE ARE...
Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International, Inc. is a non-profit support organization. We minister to the spiritual, emotional, social, and physical well-being of current and former Seventh-day Adventists who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals and their families and friends. Kinship facilitates and promotes the understanding and affirmation of LGBTI Adventists among themselves and within the Seventh-day Adventist community through education, advocacy, and reconciliation. Kinship is a global organization which supports the advance of human rights for all people worldwide.

Founded in 1976 the organization was incorporated in 1981 and is recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States. Kinship has a board made up of thirteen officers. There are also regional and population coordinators in specific areas. The current list of members and friends includes approximately 1,550 people in more than forty-three countries.

Seventh-day Adventist Kinship believes the Bible does not condemn or even mention homosexuality as a sexual orientation. Ellen G. White does not parallel any of the Bible texts that are used to condemn homosexuals. Most of the anguish imposed upon God’s children who grow up as LGBTI has its roots in the misunderstanding of what the Bible says.

SUPPORT KINSHIP
Seventh-day Adventist Kinship operates primarily on contributions from its members and friends. Help us reach out to more LGBTI Adventists by making a tax-deductible donation to Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International. Please send your check or money order to the address below or donate securely online at sdakinship.org. (You can also donate using your Visa or MasterCard by contacting treasurer@sdakinship.org. You will be phoned so that you can give your credit card information in a safe manner.)

PO Box 69, Tillamook, OR 97141, USA
or visit Kinship’s website at: www.sdakinship.org.
Congratulations!

From the Editor

In the United States we have this odd holiday family tradition. Well, we have several odd ones. I imagine all of you reading from other countries have your own odd holiday family traditions—which I may request for the December 2012 issue. The quirk I happen to be mulling over at the moment of this typing is our predilection to spend a part of every holiday gathering looking at pictures of each other and the things we have done since we last met (or happened to have done that day). Digital photography has made it possible to have uncountable amounts of images almost instantly available to show to dutiful family members sitting in chairs of various comfort levels for lengths of time that have allowed us to begin to measure eternity. There are the 1,234 shots of us eating—at the table, under a tree, among the ants (or aunts), next to the ocean (or lake or river or creek), in restaurants, or next to the Eiffel Tower. There are the 957 carefully posed group shots—in the portico, on the front steps, under the same tree, in the shade, blinded by sun, and stiff as rods. There are the 2,327 action shots on (or almost under) the boat, skiing down the beginners’ slope, trying to find snorkel gear, hang gliding, jumping off the barn roof (you survived?), or playing our most recent game of aging tennis. This list goes on, and you are mentally filling in all the categories I have forgotten. See, I know you. Welcome to the Kinship family. This issue will have lots of pictures: the people to whom we are introducing you and at least three events (Board Meeting, Book and the Beach, and Vermont Mini-Kamp-meeting). Oh, yes, and there are the two weddings and one new baby! We just have to show you the beautiful and very new Matteo. Thank you for putting up with our traditional holiday quirks. We also have Luca’s thoughtful talk, first shared with the people who attended European Kinship Meeting 2012 (where Matteo was still incubating). We hope you enjoy the thoughts and the photos. We hope you have gentle and enjoyable holidays. We mostly hope that you will take care of yourself for you are infinitely valuable.

Catherine
believe that rethinking our positions is a healthy process. We need to know each other as human beings, not just holders of particular theological stances. We need to experience each other’s joy and pains, faith and hopes, families and bonds. We need to become reconciled to one another and to God. This article is about the reconciliation of the “body” to the “heart.”

John Harvey Kellogg and William K. Kellogg of Battle Creek were men of keen intellect. The charisma and medical genius of Dr. John H. Kellogg lead to the organization of a health institute, the largest healthcare centre of its kind in the world. People like Amelia Earhart, George Bernard Shaw, John D. Rockefeller, and Henry Ford became great admirers of Dr. Kellogg.

William K. Kellogg had an outstanding sense of business. When he was in his forties he became the “King of Corn Flakes,” building a world-wide cereal industry and amassing one of the greatest fortunes of the 20th century. As a philanthropist, his William Kellogg Foundation appropriated $50 million for 1500 projects.

A sad misunderstanding led to a separation between the brothers. For a large part of their lives they were not on speaking terms. On June 22, 1948, more than six months after the death of John, William Kellogg received a letter that had been written by John some time before his death.

Here are a few excerpts from John’s letter.

It was the greatest possible misfortune that circumstances arose which led you and me in different channels and separated our interests. I am sure you were right, as regards the food business. Your better-balanced judgment had doubtless saved you from a vast number of mistakes of the sort I have made, and allowed you to achieve magnificent successes for which generations to come will owe you gratitude. I am making desperate efforts to get all my affairs into such shape as to preserve as much as possible what good they may represent and to mend as many as possible of the errors I have made. I earnestly desire to make amends for any wrong or injustice of any sort I have done to you and will be glad if you will give me a very definite and frank expression of anything I have said or done which you feel should be justly designated unbrotherly or otherwise open to criticism.

Had this magnanimous letter been delivered to William Kellogg at the time it was written, reconciliation could have taken place. Sadly, members of John Harvey’s household, who were supposed to deliver the letter, thought it better not to do so. John Harvey never received a reply to his letter. He died thinking that his brother was unwilling to forgive. William Kellogg lived the rest of his life regretting the fact that he had not been able to write the reply his heart would have dictated.

All of this pain because someone did not deliver a letter of reconciliation.

In 2 Corinthians 3:3 the Apostle Paul makes a beautiful statement, “You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”

Each one of us is a reconciliation letter from God. This letter has been written with no ordinary ink. The ink is actually the Spirit of the Living God.

So our question is, “Where is this ink?”

“In every period of this earth’s history, God has had His men [and women] of opportunity, to whom He has said, ‘Ye are My witnesses.’ In every age there have been devout men...who spoke to the people the words of God.... These were [and are] ministers of righteousness. They were not infallible; they were weak, erring men; but the Lord wrought through them as they gave themselves to His service.

“Since His ascension, Christ...has carried forward His work in the world by chosen ambassadors, through whom He speaks to the children of men, and
ministers to their needs.... In Christ’s stead they are
to beseech men and women to be reconciled to God.”

One of the greatest privileges we have, as Chris-
tians, is to live the opportunity to be reconciled with
God and to help people to get reconciled to them-
selves and to God. The Gospel is the good news of
reconciliation; it is the hope and possibility of
change.

The possibility of transformation and of
reconciliation is the essence of the Gospel.

I’m not talking about the transformation of sexual
orientation or sexual identity. I’m talking about a
transformed life that realizes or discovers or recovers
the feeling that our life make sense; that we belong;
that we are loved creatures of God with a goal, a
purpose, and a future.

We all need to hear this message again, this good
news. We all need to experience change and recon-
ciliation in order to be co-workers with God, in order
to minister to the needs of men and women with
whom we share our everyday life.

Here are three steps that have helped me prepare
for an encounter with God that opens me to change
and reconciliation.

1. There should be earnest searching of heart
2. There should be united, persevering prayer, and
   through faith a claiming of the promises of God.
3. There should be a deep humiliation of soul. We
   should humble ourselves under the mighty hand
   of God.

Now, there is something very interesting about
those three steps; they are the same that the
apostle Paul requires from those who approach the
Lord’s table to celebrate the Lord’s Supper, the
supper of mutual forgiveness and reconciliation.

1. 1 Cor. 11:28: “A man ought to examine
   himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of
   the cup.”
2. 1 Cor. 11:17-18: “In the following directives I
   have no praise for you, for your meetings do
   more harm than good. In the first place, I hear
   that when you come together as a church, there
   are divisions among you, and to some extent I
   believe it.”
3. 1 Cor. 11:32: “When we are judged by the
   Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not
   be condemned with the world.”

Examine yourself, not the other!

Research shows that 75% of interviewed men and
women are not satisfied with their own image ref-
lected by a large and tall mirror, a mirror able to
show the entire body. We don’t like how other people
see us. We pay a lot of attention to how we are
groomed. We try to hide our age and to look good in
the eyes of others. We usually don’t like to be con-
fronted with our own image reflected back by the
mirror of God. We prefer to think that we can apply
some makeup to our spiritual life. We want no one to
see our fears.

Examine yourself. Take time to be confronted by
that mirror, and let’s see if, maybe, it will show that
there is some idolatry, rudeness, envy, jealousy,
vioence, lack of forgiveness, or bitterness in us.

Take heart! We are not alone in our “earnest
searching of heart.” God stands beside us, not to
judge us, but to provide forgiveness and a renewed
heart.

Jesus has promised that the Holy Spirit will al-
ready start his work in us by helping us to examine
ourselves: “I will send him to you. When he comes,
he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and
righteousness and judgment” (John 16:7-8).

Every member of the body needs to overcome
hypocrisy in the earnest searching of heart, and this
work belongs to the Spirit of God.

A tourist was visiting Rome. Talking to his guide,
he said, “I now understand why you are so proud of
your city. I’m very impressed by the number and the
beauty of the churches and cathedrals. People here
must love God very much.” The guide cynically re-
plied: “They maybe love God, but for sure they hate
each other.”

Before we become united we need to kneel and
pray. Do I still have a problem with someone? Do I
still feel bitterness? How do I forgive? It is impossible
to pray and work with people I have not forgiven. In
this way, the “body” can’t be reconciled.

1. I need to accept my anger and my desire for
   revenge: Eph. 4: 26-27 (The Message version):
   “Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be
   angry—but don’t use your anger as fuel for re-
   venge. And don’t stay angry. Don’t go to bed
   angry. Don’t give the Devil that kind of foothold
   in your life.”
2. I have to decide that I will not take my revenge,
   because “God’s righteousness doesn’t grow from
   human anger.” (James 1:20, The Message
   version). Rom. 12:19, 21 (New Life version):
   “Christian brothers, never pay back someone for
   the bad he has done to you. Let the anger of
   God take care of the other person. The Holy
   Writings say, “I will pay back to them what they
   should get,’ says the Lord. Do not let sin have
   power over you. Let good have power over sin!”
3. I need to stop pretending that I’ve already
   forgiven years ago. A man was complaining with
   his wife: “Why do you always recall to me that
   specific fault? I thought you forgave and forgot
   years ago.” “Oh, I forgave and forgot many
years ago,” the wife replied, “but I want you to remember that I forgot and forgave.”

4. I need to believe that my pain can be transformed by God in an opportunity of personal growth. Rom. 5:3-5: “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us; they help us learn to endure. Endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation. This expectation will not disappoint us. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.”

Examine yourself, be reconciled and promote unity.

hat’s not all. We should humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God instead of making up God’s agenda. We need to let Him work His plans, not ours.

“All the people from the least to the greatest approached Jeremiah the prophet and said to him... ‘Pray that the Lord your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do.’” Jer. 42:1-3. What a noble intent! “Whether it is favorable or unfavorable, we will obey the Lord our God.” Jer. 42:6.

The truth is that those people already had a plan in their mind. They already had an answer to their prayer. They had already decided what God was supposed to do. As we continue our reading, we discover their true spiritual condition.

“When Jeremiah finished telling the people all the words of the LORD their God—everything the LORD had sent him to tell them—[the chiefs of the people] and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, ‘You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say [what you have said].’” Jer. 43:2.

I now ask myself, and you: Are we ready to claim God’s promises and yet be ready to accept his will? Are we humble enough to realize that our will and plans might not be God’s will and plans? Are we ready to follow Jesus and trust Him, or do we want to stay as we are, and then pray saying, “I hope that God will bless anyway”? What good is it to kneel before God if I am not ready to change my mind? How could I ask God for guidance if I am not ready to follow His will?

There is an old story about a huge ship plowing through the seas in the dark of night with its signal light blinking. The captain of the ship sees another light in the distance and he blinks out an emergency message that says, “Emergency! Collision inevitable! Change your course ten degrees to the south!” The light in the distance blinks back the answer, “Emergency! Collision inevitable! Change your course ten degrees to the north!” The captain gets a bit hot under the collar and he sends back the same message, adding, “I am a captain!” To which the light in the distance replies, “Emergency! Collision inevitable! Change your course. I am a third-class seaman!” By now the captain is furious. He sends back what he believes will be the conclusive argument, “Change your course. I am a battleship.” And the answer comes back from the blinking light in the distance, “Change your course, I am a lighthouse.”

We have the right to complain and to be puzzled. However, we should never let allow our spiritual pride to tell the Lord what to do.

Again, I want to make sure that you know I’m not talking about sexual identity or orientation. I’m talking about our role and place in the church, amidst the people of God.

“The spirit of God will be poured out upon the church just as soon as the vessels are prepared to receive it.” E. G. White, That I May Know Him, p. 330.

1. Earnest searching of heart.
2. Unity and united, persevering prayer.
3. Humbleness under the mighty hand of God.

“You show that you are a letter from Christ... written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God.” 2 Cor. 3:3.

May the Lord bless you and give us all the awareness that we all are His words of reconciliation and that His Spirit is already in us. ▼

You can safely assume you've created God in your own image when it turns out he hates all the same people you do.

—Anne Lamott
Getting to Know Luca

I was born in Italy and baptized into the Catholic Church. My parents started taking me to the Seventh-day Adventist church when I was five years old. My parents, two siblings, and I are all still Adventists. I’m married to the beautiful Irene and we have the most gracious child, four-year-old Maya. We studied and worked in Quebec and the U.S.A. before returning to Europe. My wife works as a manager in the massage department of the Seventh-day Adventist Clinique “La Ligniere” (Switzerland). I teach New Testament and Biblical Interpretation at the Adventist University of France.

I enjoy reading, researching, soccer (football in Europe), and getting involved in discussions on how to improve our understanding and application of the Gospel and its ethical implications.

I like any good music, classical to pop rock. Maybe I’ll pass on country music. My favorite movies are Lord of the Rings and Invictus. I like fantasy and people, like Mandela, who are actually able to love their enemies. Along with the Bible, there are way too many books I have loved. I usually only read them once. I like Italian food, pizza, and lasagna. I also like raw fish the way the Tahitians do!

I learned about Kinship from a fellow church member while we were in Canada. Meeting friends at a Kinship gathering has been great. The relational dimension helped me better understand the results of my reading and research on the subject of homosexuality. I have found many good friends and a new ministry in my church.

The most important thing for me on my spiritual journey is humility. Being a disciple sometimes requires me letting my Master show me I was wrong. Healing is also important to me. When Jesus heals painful memories, everything becomes simpler and I feel stronger, having more momentum to co-work with Him.

I look forward to seeing the Adventist church become totally homosexual-friendly. This was my first EKM [European Kinship Meeting]. I met beautiful brothers and sisters and had profound moments of spirituality and reflection. I also had good laughs and intensive discussions from which I learned a lot. What I realized is that I’ve been blind and passive for too long. I believe in a Seventh-day Adventist Church that can become more welcoming and friendly to everyone. So I feel I have some work to do in my local church—for starters.
Building a Relationship with the Adventist Church

Terrence Rice, Kinship's Director of Church Relations

As Kinship becomes more of an international community, there is a greater need for more than one person to engage in issues with Adventist churches and ministries around the globe. This summer you elected me to my new Kinship position, Director of Church Relations. Dave Ferguson, who had this job before me, has been helpfully coaching me as I write letters and initiate dialogue with people. This is also true of John Wallace, Kinship's church relations director in Australia. He has been a good communicator of the events happening there.

Dave started a group for Adventist pastors to help pastors connect with each other in safe dialogue. John has met with the South Pacific Division Committee, formed at the request of the Southern Pacific Division president, to formulate a church response to the same-sex marriage debate in Australia. He writes, “I have met with the chairman a couple of times separately. The committee was very respectful and had lots of questions, wanting to understand things from a LGBTI person’s perspective. I have made a list of pastors from more accepting churches in Sydney who are welcoming of LGBTI people. I am encouraging them to talk with their ministry team and ultimately to have a conversation with all the church officers about the church’s response to the issue. I believe all pastors need to have this conversation with their church. Bruce Manners from Avondale College Church has done this, as have some pastors from other denominations. My aim is to be able to state that the Seventh-day Adventist churches involved are safe for LGBTI people.”

I am working to increase the number of opportunities for open dialogue and networking with pastors and evangelists. Over the last few months I’ve initiated discussion on gay issues with church leaders in the San Francisco Bay Area. At that point some Kinship members were looking for a new church home. That home has become Church 1.0. I was honored to witness the first Sabbath service led by Marcos Apolonio.

I have used my efforts to find potential Kampmeeting presenters to engage with nationally recognized Adventist speakers on gay issues. I am compiling a list of safe churches here in the States and internationally.

Dave has coached me in writing letters and speaking about Kinship-related issues, individuals, and organizations. I recently wrote to Securing Hope Ministry [Adventist] after they hosted an internet radio broadcast featuring five gay people who claimed to have changed orientation. I wrote to the pastor of a well-known Adventist ministry whose deacon has harassed individuals in Kinship with intimidating remarks. I continue writing similar letters.

I teamed up with a Kinship ally to build Walla Walla University’s Gay/Straight Alliance. It had been a closed Facebook discussion group. We advertised via Facebook that we would be having a meeting on campus. We offered refreshments, a movie, and a list of resources. Twenty-three people attended!

We are working to build safe places for pastors who support LGBTI people. One idea is to offer a pastor appreciation meal. With the consultation of a local United Church of Christ pastor, I am working to make this an idea that can be duplicated in other areas. We are working to build a network that allows pastors to call and share with other affirming pastors ideas and support for their spiritual care of LGBTI members in their congregation.

Our goal is to strengthen the bonds between LGBTI people and their pastors and to lessen prejudice in churches.

Our Church Relations team is keeping a close eye on the new General Conference Commission on Homosexuality which has arisen, partially, out of issues involved in Africa. We get sincere letters from Africa seeking support on matters they deal with. So pray for us as we continue to support their needs and other needs around the world.

Project One is a movement within the Adventist North American and European Divisions and is supported by collegiate chaplains and other progressive church leaders. The national meeting will be held in downtown Seattle next February 1 and 14. Project One’s focus is to reclaim the supremacy of Jesus in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and thus foster more inclusion in the church. I’ve been invited to attend, and I see this venue as a way to foster better inclusion for Kinship members.

—Mark Twain

Apparently there is nothing that cannot happen today.
I am almost speechless with delight this afternoon as I write this: It has just been announced that the Queensland state parliament is debating a law to legalize same-sex relationships and enshrine that right in a scheme of civil relationships, similar to what is already in place in many other countries. It doesn’t legalize marriage for same-sex couples because marriage is governed by federal, not state, law. However, the civil relationships scheme will allow for a parallel form of legal ceremony and certainly will provide full state recognition, within Queensland. Homosexuality was only de-criminalized in 1990, almost the last state to do so (Tasmania was the last).

What is unbelievable about this whole thing is that Queensland is considered one of the most conservative states in Australia, and historically has always been behind the other five states and two territories on issues of social reform. What is all the more amazing is that this bill (it isn’t a law yet) has just popped up out of nowhere, without fanfare, and so quickly that no one much has had time to muster any opposition to it. Certainly the churches have been silent on the issue so far today, but that may change. And, more amazing still, it is considered extremely likely that the bill will pass into law before the end of this year! Just like that!

The state premier and the deputy premier are on the public record of supporting the measure, and most of the Labor Party (the party currently in power in Queensland) supports the concept also. Passage of the bill is almost certain, although a “conscience vote” is being allowed. It may not be the full marriage equality, but it is pretty close. For the moment half a loaf of bread is better than none at all. It is as far as the state government is allowed to go, a fact acknowledged by the deputy premier who introduced the bill. It will certainly put pressure on other states to follow suit, and eventually on the federal government in Canberra. The national Labor Party is set to debate the issue at its national conference in December this year [2011].

Wow, I feel like celebrating already. The vote will come too late to affect our commitment ceremony in two and a half weeks; but, hey, who cares?

Latest development: On 30 November 2011, the Civil Partnerships Bill brought on by Deputy Premier Andrew Fraser passed through the Legislative Assembly, with 47 MPs voting yes and 40 no. The Civil Partnerships Act will allow same-sex and heterosexual couples to formally register their relationships with the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. The legislation aligns Queensland with Tasmania, Victoria, the ACT and NSW, which have already made similar reforms.

We would like to introduce you to...

**Stefan Pietruska**

I was born and raised in Bremen, Germany. I still live there. I work as an administrator for IBM mainframes. I like computers, music, meteorology, geology, and astronomy. I also like the color black, *Lord of the Rings*, Asian food, and the book *Disc World* (a series of forty books). I heard about Kinship from friends. This community has given me a better understanding of myself and my faith. I have been with my partner for twelve and a half years. I have one brother and one sister and friends all over the world. My Adventist congregation in Bremen is the most important part of my spiritual journey.

**Stan Harris**

I was born into a Seventh-day Adventist family in Columbus, Ohio, graduated from Columbus Eastwood Junior Academy, and was valedictorian at Mt. Vernon Academy in 1970. I attended Andrews University on a music scholarship and graduated with honors in 1974. I completed my medical education on an Army scholarship in 1978 and finished training in military psychiatry at San Francisco’s Letterman Army Medical Center in 1982. Today I work as a university psychiatrist and clinical professor at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

I like classical music, pipe organ, mountain hiking, health and fitness, and swimming. I like the color red for energy and the pipe organ for inspiration. My favorite foods are vegetarian ones. I have been with Kinship since the 1980s. I live with my Siberian husky, Bodhi, and enjoy my friends. I would like to have a spouse someday. The most important thing for me about my spiritual journey is love and happiness.

**James Johnson (Keon)**

I am originally from Louisville, Kentucky, but currently live in Atlanta, Georgia. I attended the Magazine Street Seventh-day Adventist Temple Church, the oldest continuous African-American congregation in our denomination. I also attended E. L. Minnis, one of the oldest schools in the denomination. It has been around for more than ninety years! My family was originally Baptist. They converted two or three years before I was born. I’m the first child in my family born in the Adventist church. The family faith is a mixture of Baptist and Adventist. Most of us are not vegetarian. Sabbath observance for the younger members of our clan is not strict; it’s more the way Baptists keep Sunday.

I enjoy stimulating conversation, great food, working out, going to the movies, watching TV, surfing the net, and biking. My favorite color varies with my mood. I’ve revived my childhood love of green. My mother and sister thought I was weird because of that. When I explained that green is the color of the grass and trees I laid under as a child, my mother was okay. Now I understand it to be the color of life, peace, and prosperity. My favorite styles of music are gospel and rhythm-and-blues. They are the music of my heritage, secular and spiritual. I like other music, too.

When I go to the movies I tend to like comedy, sci-fi/fantasy, drama, and historical films. My favorite books are history and sociology. My favorite foods include Mexican, Italian, Thai, Chinese, soul, and Caribbean. I love food and am very adventurous if my wallet allows. I just refrain from unclean meats.

I found Kinship when I was learning to accept my sexuality and seeking to make it compatible, or learn if it was compatible, with my Adventism. It has helped me to see that there are many other gay Adventists and that homosexuality is not necessarily exclusive from or non-compatible with Adventism. At first the only information I could find was from other Christians who were not Adventists.

I am a lone wolf and have no partner. However, I wouldn’t mind a good, strong, very attractive, masculine, intelligent, kind, gainfully employed, black Adventist man (just in case one is reading). <smile>

The most important part of my spiritual journey is to live and behave in truth and spirit. My views are so unorthodox I sometimes question why I still consider myself an Adventist. But, while I don’t know
everything, I do know what I know; and my Adventist faith helps to keep me grounded and not rootless.

**Elias Rowlandson**

I was born in New South Wales, Australia, a regional centre of about 40,000 people. I have just started working in a fast food establishment as a kitchen hand. I like movies, books, music, travel, and friends. My favorite color is red. I like INXS music. My favorite movie is *Elmer Gantry*. My favorite book is *The Story of Danny Dunn* by Bryce Courtenay. My favorite food is cheesecake.

I heard about Kinship from a friend of mine at college. I had also read articles in *Adventist Today*, *Spectrum* magazine, and *GLOW* [God’s Love – Our Witness]. All these sources were helpful and insightful for me. I might not have agreed with *GLOW*’s ideology for LGBTIs, but I was young and knew nothing about myself. Kinship has helped me formulate a spiritual existence not reliant on the Adventist church or other authority.

I don’t have any romantic interests at the moment. Most of my family is in Australia, but my mum and brother are overseas.

The most important thing for me about my spiritual journey is coming to an experience that isn’t reliant on a church group for affirmation or acceptance (although it normally means having minimal or no involvement with them).

I have had a great time in Kinship. I have developed a capacity for self-preservation, and I hope other people that participate here will have as good an experience.

**Erik Macville**

I was born in the former Dutch colony now named Indonesia. My father’s family emigrated from Scotland to the Dutch East Indies when Napoleon conquered the Netherlands. They became Dutch in the first half of the 19th century but did not mix with locals.

My mother is Dutch, French, Austrian, and Javanese. A German Adventist evangelist baptized her and my grandmother in 1929. I consider myself a third-generation Adventist.

In 1955 after the Indonesian independence, Dutch citizens were kicked out of the country, unless they wanted to become Indonesians. My parents decided to repatriate to Holland. At 16 years of age I entered pedagogic college to become a teacher. I graduated in 1961, married, and had two sons. My wife left us in 1973. I worked full-time for 38 years as a junior high school teacher. I taught Dutch language and biology. I raised my sons partly with the help of my partner. I retired in 2003, but am still active as a masseur/reflexologist with a small practice at home.

My favorite colors are brown and beige, colors of soil; they match my skin. I like various kinds of music, from opera to rhythm-and-blues. My favorite movie is *Gone With the Wind*. My favorite book is *Zafron: Shadow of the Mind*. I enjoy eating Italian, French, Greek, and Indonesian foods, particularly fruit and vegetables.

I met Kinship because a member of my church promotes Kinship in Holland and asked for my support. Each of my two sons has a daughter and a son. One of my sons is a widower. My other son has been married for 15 years. Both are baptized Adventists. I met my partner on a holiday to the U.S. We have lived together for 33 years now. I am active in church as a deacon, I clean the church once a month, and I teach Sabbath school classes. Because of my age, I minimize my activities at church.

The most important thing about my spirituality is having good contact with neighbors, giving them as much support as I can.

**Jeremiah Kegara**

I have been part of Kinship since 2002. I was baptized as a Seventh-day Adventist in 1976. My wife and I have four children. I am a veterinary researcher that specializes in herbs. I enjoy taking care of my five cows who help me support my family financially. I live in the Kisii County of Kenya.

You wake up in the morning, and your purse is magically filled with twenty-four hours of unmanufactured tissue of the universe of your life! It is yours. It is the most precious of possessions. No one can take it from you. And no one receives either more or less than you receive.

- Dr. Thomas Arnold Bennett
Creamy dill potato salad

A recipe by Nancy Bartling recept

¾ cup Hellman’s mayonnaise
(Please do not use Miracle Whip or I will haunt your every dream.)
¾ cup dill pickle relish
2 tablespoons yellow mustard
1 tablespoon dry dill weed
1 teaspoon onion powder
1 teaspoon garlic powder
6 medium to large potatoes, cooked and cut into small ¼” chunks (7-8 cups)

- Boil potatoes, with skins on, for 20 minutes. Cool under cold running water until cool enough to handle. The potatoes need to be warm when mixed with the dressing. This helps infuse the flavors into the potatoes. Peel and dice the potatoes into ¼” pieces. Set potatoes aside.
- Combine first six ingredients before adding warm potatoes. Then add warm potatoes and stir gently. Add more mayonnaise if salad is too dry for your liking. Cover and chill.
- No added salt is necessary. Eggs are omitted because of my allergies. Nobody seems to miss them. Sometimes I add black or Spanish olives to the salad and reduce the amount of pickle relish. A sprinkle of sweet paprika dresses up the top of the dish.
Impressions from Vermont Mini-Kampmeeting

◊ From left to right: Vern Davis, David Thaxton, Sandy Regal, Betty O’Leary, William Mitchell, Steve Marlow, Catherine Taylor, Jan Casteel, Larry Geraty, Marsha Brummel, Keith Ropka, Ron Gainy, Jana Marlow, Ken Brummel