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in this issue...

Seventh-day Adventists have a very rich heritage in Christian education.

Those of us who had the privilege of going to Adventist schools have a unique perspective on our world and our place in it, shaped by a curriculum based in scripture.

This issue celebrates Adventist education and those who are committed to ensure that it is available to all who desire to learn of God.

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A few months ago I spoke with a hospital administrator who had enrolled his son at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. He told how he was totally unprepared to leave his son so far away. He said he even shed a few tears on the trip back home. While speaking with him, a flood of memories came to mind. I pictured Lisa, my little girl, waiting for the school bus the first day of school. As the bus pulled up behind her, she gave a wave and a faint little smile that revealed two gaps in the front where teeth had recently resided. Then she whirled, ran up the steps, and disappeared into the bus.

At that moment, it seemed to me that she had just whirled out of my life. Certainly, I would be sharing control with someone else for the first time. Actually, I was being a bit dramatic because Lisa was to remain with us through grade school, academy, and college, with much of the latter two possible by commuting.

When the time came, we drove around to different academies to observe them. We settled on a school just 40 miles from our home. Lisa seemed to thrive in the Christian environment that was not a lot different from the home environment she was accustomed to. She was active in academy and became a resident assistant (R.A.).

During a “careers day” at that academy, Lisa was fortunate to associate with a representative from the physical therapy department of the local hospital. Lisa was hooked forever as a “PT” and wanted to specialize in geriatric treatment. That may have been due to the fact that she hung out with my mom, who was nearly 80 when Lisa was born. She was such “a little old lady” that we sometimes called her a “39-year-old midget.”

Later, while observing a college, my wife Jackie and I were taken aback as Lisa suddenly spoke up with, “I’m going to need more structure than they have here.” Well, if my teenage daughter wanted more structure, I certainly wanted more structure, and we brought her to Andrews University. Lisa did very well in school, rose to be an R.A., and then head R.A. of Lamson Hall under the dean, Francis Faehner.

The amazing thing to me is this: you have to remain focused and committed even in a Christian institution. At each level of Lisa’s education, there was always at least one teacher who told her she couldn’t make it or that the course she had chosen was too difficult for her, being African-American. Well, they had the wrong person. Lisa doesn’t discourage easily, and she will work especially hard to dispel some negative notion being attached to her. And you know what else? For every discouragement, there were many more godly teachers who lifted her and spent extra time with her to ensure her success.

After receiving her Masters in Physical Therapy from Andrews, Lisa is now Director of Operations for a string of nursing homes in the states of Ohio and West Virginia. As such, she supervises all rehabilitation therapies. She is on the road a lot, but operates from a well-equipped office in her home. This enables her to spend extra time with her three sons. She is married to Stan, a fine Christian man, who is taking training in ministry. Two of their children are currently discovering the benefit of Adventist education at Spring Valley Academy.

So, was this just an opportunity for a proud and grateful father to share his joy about his only daughter? Maybe so, but I really want you to know that at each level, each station along the education highway, there is a dedicated, committed institution in the Adventist system with a staff that is ready to partner with you and your child to prepare them for a life of service.
When Mallory (Hile) Nerwuca was nine years old, she was baptized and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Although she lived with her mother, Mallory’s primary spiritual input had come from her dad and stepmother, Jim and Charlene Hile, who were members of the Jackson (Michigan) Adventist Church. As Mallory grew older she continued to hold to her beliefs, but her personal relationship with God was lacking.

Eventually, Mallory met Kamil Nerwuca and fell in love. Her spiritual convictions were awakened. She realized she must follow her spiritual convictions if she was to commit her life to Kamil. Although Kamil loved Mallory and wanted to marry her, he held strongly to his beliefs. They always ended up in an argument whenever they discussed religion.

One day Mallory’s dad spent six hours with Kamil discussing what the Bible had to say concerning the issues of life. At the end of their time together, Kamil agreed to examine what the Bible had to say about many different topics. They decided to study with Tom Ferguson, a pastor in Joliet where they were living. After the conclusion of the studies, Kamil and Mallory were both baptized.

The occasion provided an opportunity for the newlyweds to give their testimonies. Mallory stated the reason she wanted to be re-baptized was because she felt she had “divorced God,” and she wanted to recommit her life to Jesus Christ. Kamil shared his vision for evangelism in the local church, and how he was already talking about his newfound faith with co-workers.

Kamil and Mallory have decided to make the Joliet Church their home, and the congregation has welcomed them with rejoicing.

Luke Kluesner was born into a Christian home, as were his parents. In time, however, his parents learned things from the Bible that countered the myths about God and religion they had believed all their lives. As they made their decision to be baptized and join the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Luke was opposed and let his feelings be known. He rejected their invitations and expressed no desire to either set foot inside their church or have anything to do with it.

After his parents were baptized and joined the Huntingburg Church, they continued to study the Bible with the head elder, Brian Wilson. One day Luke saw Brian coming to his parents’ house and quickly made his escape down the street before Brian had a chance to talk to him. He did not want to talk to anyone about religion.

At other times Luke was present during their studies and occasionally asked questions while maintaining a distance and acting as if he was uninterested. He certainly made it clear that he did not want to join their church. Although he knew that what he was learning was better, he was not living what he believed and did not want to be associated with Adventists.

Indiana

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Tom Ferguson, Joliet pastor, with Bruce Babience, Lake Union Herald volunteer correspondent
One day when Brian Wilson and Justin Childers, Huntingburg Church pastor, were visiting his parents, Luke surprised everyone by expressing an interest in Bible studies. His statement shocked everyone. The pastor responded, and soon he and Luke were studying the Prophecy of Hope Bible series. As Luke discovered the true God of Scripture and the power available to the believer through Jesus Christ, he was able to overcome a number of challenges in his life. His personal victories gave evidence to the working of God’s Spirit in His life, and he eventually made his decision to be baptized. He became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sabbath, March 3.

“As his pastor,” Justin stated with a sense of joy, “I have personally witnessed God working miracles in Luke’s life, and it was a joy to baptize him. Today I continue to watch his faith grow in Jesus Christ.”

Indiana

John Leis III grew up in a committed Christian family. Early in life, John began his search to know God. His parents home-schooled their boys, a decision John says helped his spiritual growth. He later enrolled in a small Christian college in Texas. Far from home, John found himself drifting and not seeking God. In time, he wanted to quit school. John telephoned his father for help. His father advised him to read from the book of James every day. He accepted his father’s advice, and believes this practice helped him get back on a Christian path.

When John returned home to Indiana, he attended church again and found friendships with some young people there. However, his smoking habit put a wedge in their friendship. Feeling rejected, he stopped attending church.

John lived in Tennessee for a while before he moved back to Indiana. Working in a local pharmacy, he met Sarah, his future wife, when she applied for a job. Six months later, they were engaged. Although Sarah was a Seventh-day Adventist, she didn’t attend church. Sarah’s mother expressed her desire for the couple to be “equally yoked” as spiritual partners when they married. John and Sarah discussed Sarah’s beliefs before they were married, and John agreed their children could be raised within the Adventist church.

The next fall John and Sarah were married. Sarah began to regularly attend the Bloomington Adventist church. Some Sabbaths John worshiped with her.

Sarah and John’s nephew was in church school, so they helped clean the church to assist with his tuition. Sometimes, John talked to God as he cleaned. After a while, he began to attend church with Sarah and their children.

One Sabbath, Fernando Ortiz (Bloomington Church pastor) spoke from Revelation 3. As John listened, a longing desire was born in his heart. He was convicted his commitment to the Lord was neither hot nor cold, and he thought about not spending eternity with his family. He sensed how much God loved him, even though he didn’t deserve it. When the sermon concluded, John silently gave his heart to Christ.

When John took the children to potluck after church, he encountered the pastor and wanted to talk to him—but became speechless. The pastor initiated a conversation, and John was finally able to ask, “Pastor, what would I need to do to become a part of this church?”

The pastor’s reply was a joyful “Fantastic!” and he explained the process. John believes the Holy Spirit led the pastor to speak to him, and praises God it happened.

Sarah and John studied with the pastor. John also completed online Bible lessons from Amazing Facts and The Voice of Prophecy. He also studied with Mike Riley, a church elder. John reflected on his childhood baptism when he did not understand its significance. He asked to be baptized again, but this time believed it would be a deeply spiritual experience.

John and Sarah are attending seminars to learn how to be used by God. John is also taking college classes to prepare for mission service. Their desire is to always be humble and to allow Christ to shine through them. Both desire to be “doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving (their) own selves” (James 1:22).

John Leis III, Bloomington Church member, with Bruce Babienco, Lake Union Herald volunteer correspondent
Last July, Joe Reeves came from Washington State to begin ministry as a full-time Bible instructor for the Stevens Point and Almond churches in Wisconsin. On the very day Joe arrived, his car was thrown off the interstate, through a fence, and into a tree in a high-speed collision that totaled his car. “I knew from that first day in Wisconsin that Satan hated me being here, and he would do anything to thwart my ministry,” says Joe.

Since then, Joe can be found helping people with alcohol recovery at Salvation Army, visiting the homes of church members, knocking on doors, giving Bible studies to people at their workplace during lunch break, telling Bible stories to young children in the homes of unbelieving parents, contacting Adventist media interests, making hospital visits, and visiting jail inmates.

Joe’s ministry extends beyond being a Bible instructor, to being assistant pastor, youth leader, church musician, and evangelist. On Sabbath mornings, Joe is usually at one of the churches preaching and often helps with music and teaches a Bible class. Sunday mornings he shares his exceptional piano talent in community churches.

Joe and I work closely together as a ministry team. Together, we lead mid-week prayer meetings in both Almond and Stevens Point where church members and visitors study the Bible together. Joe also co-teaches a discipling Sabbath school class where we help members dive deep into the scriptures. Joe and I often meet together to pray for the churches and the community as well as for training sessions. We develop ways to help the churches make a greater impact in the community. One Sabbath afternoon per month Joe and I train church members how to successfully witness for Jesus and share their faith. Most other Sabbath afternoons are spent with a church visitation team, visiting friends of the church who are not attending.

At age 20, Joe has a passion to see youth dedicate their lives to God. He recently helped form a youth group in each church where he now spends two evenings per week. Both youth groups have individuals attending from the church and community. On Friday nights, Joe leads a young adult discipling class. The youth and young adult attendance at both churches has increased substantially. Many attending are not Adventists!

Joe had no plans to preach a series of evangelistic meetings in his first year of ministry. God must have planned otherwise. Through a turn of circumstances, the Stevens Point church held an evangelistic event that began April 27. Joe preached ten multi-media presentations of the most amazing prophecies in the Bible. As I write this article, there have been an average of 25 non-Adventist visitors, and one baptism was held after the fourth night.

“The churches have felt the power of the Holy Spirit during Joe’s Sabbath morning sermons. Many people throughout the community come to church to hear his messages,” said David Guerrero. From left: Joe Reeves, Bible worker, and David Guerrero, pastor of the Almond and Stevens Point Seventh-day Adventist churches.

The churches have felt the power of the Holy Spirit during Joe’s Sabbath morning sermons. Many people throughout the community come to church to hear his messages. The church is already experiencing a growing sense of zeal and excitement. Everybody expects God will perform a great work in this community.

David Guerrero is the pastor of the Almond and Stevens Point churches in Wisconsin.
team of eight from Indiana left Indianapolis on Monday afternoon, January 15, and arrived at Valley View University on the outskirts of Accra, Ghana, after 10:00 p.m. on the 16th. After a brief rest, orientation began at the Oyinka Hotel in Koforidua. There was no time for relaxation! Friday evening, January 19, each team member was taken to their respective ShareHIM sites where they met their translators and then began to preach. The first week passed very quickly.

The second Sunday, I began to lose my voice. By late afternoon there was nothing left. What am I to do? I thought. I went to my site anyhow. The worst scenario would be for my translator to read my English notes and translate them into Twi to speak. I recalled the biblical story of the priests placing their feet into the water before the River Jordan parted. I decided I must at least make an attempt to speak before passing things over to my translator. As I opened my mouth to speak, words came out! I preached the entire sermon. Afterward, not a word would come out of my mouth. I remained in that condition all of the following day.

The second evening, I had a similar experience. But from that point on, my voice improved daily. By the weekend, I could speak with no impediment. ShareHIM team members had prayed that my voice would be restored. It was very humbling to think the devil was attacking me personally and that my God touched my voice each night, so I could continue the meetings without interruption! Precious individuals were reached, and God used my voice to do it.

Pansy Beckford, a Cedar Ridge Church member, did not want to preach on the Ghana trip, but was willing to be a preacher’s assistant. However, upon arrival, she learned another speaker was needed. Approached again to preach, Pansy asked herself, How could I refuse when I already asked God to lead me on this trip? She prayed, “God, You must know what You are doing, because in my own strength I can neither speak nor stand in front of an audience to do anything.”

Pansy preached 21 sermons, standing before 700 people as she preached. One time before she spoke she did not even get a glimpse of the sermon she had to preach. To her surprise, some ladies indicated their desire to preach like her. She encouraged them and praised God for what He did through her. In the end, 59 were baptized from Pansy’s meetings. Pansy said, “Every moment of the trip was all about God’s leading throughout my life, and I just want to thank Him that He could see someone like me (an empty vessel) and use me.”

Approximately 1,200 were baptized in Ghana as a result of the ShareHIM meetings presented by the eight missionaries from Indiana. Visit www.sharehim.org to learn how you can be a ShareHIM missionary.

Janet Schlunt is a member of the Terre Haute (Indiana) Church. Contributions were also made by Pansy Beckford, a Cedar Ridge Church member, and Diane Thurber, Lake Union Herald managing editor.
Good Job!

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Children need encouragement, and most parents understand that. Maybe that’s why we hear the words, “Good job!” so often. While intended to raise the self-confidence of the child, have you thought that maybe instead it encourages external locus of control and can slow the learning of developmental tasks?

Yes, “Good job!” has a nice ring to it. It’s expedient and said with good intentions. On the other hand, it says we approve of what they did instead of telling them what they did well. We make the judgment, and they don’t get any real information to use in their future choices.

For toddlers it means we are depriving them of part of the “bath of language” from which they learn their vocabulary and how to speak. “Good job!” is a paltry offering for language development when we could have said, “You made circles with the bright green crayon!”

I invite you to hold on to your good intentions, but consider the following pairs of responses. Say each statement out loud to yourself with pride and pleasure in your voice and think about how they might strike a child:

Infant
“Good job!” or “Thanks for calling me.”

One-Year-Old
“Good job!” or “You got out from under the table all by yourself.”

Two-Year-Old
“Good job!” or “You brought three books to me. Which one shall we read first?”

Four-Year-Old
“Good job!” or “I like the way you colored the tree in your picture. What do you like?”

School-Age
“Good job!” or “Hey, you got an A on that paper. Tell me how you did that.”

Teenager
“Good job!” or “You must be learning how to set priorities in order to get that long term paper done so well.”

“Good job!” is appropriate if we are teaching specific standards for a specific skill. Even then, we need to point out which parts were well done. Children who are constantly judged with “good job” messages figure out that there is a counter “bad job” message. They may choose to stay safe and get the “good job” rewards, rather than continue exploring and using their God-given creativity.

What if, in the child’s mind, he did a sloppy job, wasn’t all that interested, and is somewhat disappointed with the outcome? When the adult says, “Good job!” what is he supposed to do? Unfortunately, it becomes a message that says he doesn’t know what he knows. This can be just one more step in developing a coping system of discounting his own awareness of himself, his work, and his potential.

God tells us all that we are fearfully and wonderfully made and that we are created for His purpose. The only time in Scripture where He says the equivalent of “Good job!” was during the creation week process (Genesis 1:31). That was not about what we had done, but about what He had done for us.

Susan Murray is an associate professor of family studies who teaches behavioral science and Social Work at Andrews University. She is a certified family life educator and licensed marriage and family therapist.
Healthy Choices

Four olives contain only 15 calories.

Golden Oil of the Mediterranean

By Winston J. Craig

In biblical times, almost every village had an olive grove and olive press. In Deuteronomy, Palestine is described as a land of olive trees, fig trees, and pomegranates. Olives and olive oil are commonly used in Mediterranean cuisines. Olive oil tends to be more expensive than other vegetable oils because of the labor intensive method of harvesting the crop.

Olives and olive oil vary greatly in flavor, depending upon the variety, time of harvesting, and processing techniques. Green olives are unripe and are usually preserved in brine, while ripe olives are black, soft, and oily. The oil is used for cooking as well as in salad dressings, mayonnaise, sauces, and dips.

Extra virgin olive oil is made from slicing the olives and soaking them in water near room temperature. Alternatively, olives can be crushed by a revolving stone. The olive oil extract has a pleasant flavor due to its very low acidity. Extra virgin oil has its own characteristic flavor, dependent upon its origin. Spanish oils are fruity; the Italian are peppery, while French olive oils are sweet and the Greek oils have a leafy aroma.

Southern Europeans, living in the Mediterranean region, have much lower rates of cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes than Northern Europeans and Americans. One reason given for this advantage is the predominant use of olive oil in the Mediterranean diet rather than fats of animal origin. Olive oil is largely monounsaturated fat and has a composition similar to that of avocado oil. In addition, virgin olive oil has a high level of phenolic antioxidants that enables the consumer to enjoy lower blood cholesterol levels, lower risk of blood clots, and a lower risk of breast and bowel cancer.

In addition, the use of olive oil enables one to better control their blood glucose levels and HDL cholesterol (the “good cholesterol”) levels are not decreased as occurs with many plant oils. French patients who survived a heart attack had a reduced risk of a second heart attack when fed an olive oil–rich diet.

Olive oil may be refined to remove excess acidity, color, or flavor. The refined oil is then blended with virgin oil to give a neutral–tasting oil. This is marketed as pure olive oil. Unfortunately, a large percentage of the health-promoting phytochemicals are removed in the processing of the oil.

California is the major producer of olives in the United States. The olives are used principally for canning. While most of the calories in an olive come from fat, four ripe olives contain only 15 calories. Green olives, which are picked in the fall before they reach maturation, have less than half the calories of the mature black olives.

The increased life expectancy and low rates of chronic diseases among the Southern Europeans may be due in part to their simple, physically active lifestyle, and the unique Mediterranean diet that includes a regular use of olive oil, along with bread, vegetables, and fruit.

Winston Craig, R.D., Ph.D., is a professor of nutrition at Andrews University.

Olive oil protects you against heart disease and cancer.
I was a boarding academy principal, painfully aware of the financial needs many parents and students were facing. Jim, our business manager, regularly brought me accounts showing families who could not pay, but who were trying hard to keep their kids in school.

One single mother worked three jobs to pay tuition, room, and board for her sophomore son. Another family sold their van and bought a used bicycle and an ancient VW. “We can walk or ride bikes to most of our appointments,” they said, “and when we have to we’ll use the VW on short trips.”

Not all the parents were that sacrificial, but many demonstrated that the widow’s oil was still flowing.

That story, “The Widow’s Oil,” from 2 Kings 4:1–7, still makes me smile. It sounds so much like the tales many parents told in the principal’s office. When they sat on the other side of the low coffee table, and nervously twirled their hats and found eye contact difficult, I immediately thought of the widow showing up under Elisha’s tree to ask for financial help, so she could keep her kids out of slavery.

“But now the creditors are coming to take my two boys as slaves!”

The embarrassment and panic we saw so often mirrored the mother’s words.

“We’re about to be evicted unless we pay three months’ rent. I can’t do that and tuition too!”

“Can you give us a little time? It ought to be better when our little girl gets out of the cancer unit.”

That’s when I would look at Jim and ask, “What is the balance due?” His answer was always right to the penny, as a good business manager’s answers must be. Then he would wink and ask, “Do you have anything in your drawer?”

Ah, yes. God’s envelope!

I have no idea how much money has gone through that envelope through the years, but the first $5,000 was like seed money for a money tree. When we cared for needs till there were only a couple bills left, God had someone send a check, drop off ten $100 bills, give us a $500 credit at Safeway, or provide whatever else someone needed. The most it ever had was $157,000. The least? A $2 bill.

Whatever the need, “The Envelope” always has just a little more than necessary.

Dick Duerksen is the “storyteller” for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may contact Dick at dduerksen@maranatha.org.
If you recently joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church, you may have noticed you have joined a global family. We say family because there is an unusual connection between your new friends that sit in the pew next to you and the people they seem to know in countries you have never even heard of.

Before becoming a pastor, I used to be in television and advertising. Roger, my video engineer, was from a small town in southwest Ohio and was just learning about Seventh-day Adventists. One of our producers, Don Duncan, was a very friendly and gifted man who was also a noted musician. The three of us often traveled together on productions, and Roger was amazed at how many people Don knew. One time we were sitting in a restaurant hundreds of miles from any place familiar. The waiter came up to Don and said, “Are you Don Duncan?” Come to find out, Don had taught him trombone at Loma Linda University some years before. Experiences like that were repeated hundreds of times, convincing Roger that every Adventist knew every other Adventist in the world.

John Guare popularized the phrase “six degrees of separation” in his 1990 play by the same title. The concept was first introduced in 1929 by Frigyes Karinthy and suggested that technological advances in travel and communication would create social networks that would just influence “shrink” our world. Stanley Milgram of Harvard University began a series of social experiments that validated the notion that people in America were all connected by an average of six friendships. In other words, you are only six steps away from any person in America.

Now, if you’re a Seventh-day Adventist, you’re probably fewer steps away. No studies have been done on the social networks of Seventh-day Adventists, but it stands to reason that the Adventist educational network has made the Adventist world much smaller.

My work in youth and prayer ministry has taken me to dozens of countries on nearly every continent. I have yet to go to a place where I didn’t meet someone who knew a close friend of mine. Most had a common link—an Adventist campus.

The Seventh-day Adventist church operates the second largest parochial educational system in the world with 1.1 million students in 5,600 schools, representing nearly 145 countries. From its very beginnings in the mid 1800s, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has placed an importance on Bible-based primary education. In the 1870s, a denominationally-based education system was formed. It was founded on the principal of balanced development that includes mental, physical, social, and spiritual health. Adventist education has always been characterized as redemptive in nature with the purpose of restoring human beings to the image of God, their Creator. Service to God and humanity has been the goal for training in the various disciplines. It is no wonder that people who prepare for life service in Adventist schools have shared goals and often work together and support one another wherever they are in the world.

So, if you are new to the Adventist Church, make the connection through Adventist Education.

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director.
A Bible Study at 2:30 a.m.

BY JUSTIN NAMM

The Lord has many ways to present witnessing opportunities. Some are hidden and must be sought out, while others flash like bright neon signs in a dark alley. Witnessing is a concept foreign to most, including myself, and is believed to involve going door-to-door hassling homeowners until they invite us in. It is even sometimes more convenient to think of it in this manner in order to dismiss the witnessing opportunities that are right before our very eyes.

Not long ago I realized how blind I had been to the world. I had been receiving Bible studies from Steve Conway, director of pastoral resources for CAMPUS (Center for Adventist Ministry to Public Students) and Campus Hope Church pastor on the campus of the University of Michigan. Every Wednesday, at my request, we studied the importance of God’s law. Upon completion of the study, I was fascinated by what I had learned! For the first time in my 19 years as an Adventist, I was encouraged and excited about the Word! The thoughts and concepts I learned from the study continued to press on my heart and mind, and I had a burden to share it with another.

My University of Michigan roommate and I rarely get a chance to speak to one another due to our busy schedules. We both knew that the other attended church, and that was about the extent of what we cared to know. It was 2:30 a.m., and we both happened to be awake at that irrational hour. We had turned out the lights to go to bed, but I had a desire to share what I had learned just a few nights before. Without thinking, I asked him why he went to church on Sunday. He didn’t have an answer. I thought to myself, The Lord hath provided! I then proceeded to tell him about the Sabbath, and the reason I attended church on Saturday. About ten minutes in, I asked him if he wanted a Bible study on it. He said, “Yes.” I jumped out of bed, turned on my desk light, and read him scripture about the Sabbath for about an hour while he sat in his bed listening intently.

My roommate did not give his life to the Lord that night, nor did he change his day of worship to the Sabbath. Instead, the Lord’s divine hand brought my roommate and me together that night to study His Word. It allowed me to instill a small curiosity, however minute it may have been, that generated a desire to learn more about what the Bible has to say. It brought my roommate that much closer to God, and gave me a greater understanding of the opportunities the Lord provides us with each and every day.

Justin Namm attends the University of Michigan. He is involved with CAMPUS, an outreach ministry which operates on several Michigan college campuses.
Una luz hispana en Stevens Point, Wisconsin

POR CARMELO MERCADO

“Se deben construir nuevas iglesias y organizar nuevas congregaciones. Permitid que la luz resplandezca en todos los países y en todos los pueblos” (General Conference Daily Bulletin, 28 de enero de 1893).

David Guerrero, el nuevo pastor de la Iglesia Adventista en Almond, Wisconsin, llegó a la iglesia para predicar su primer sermón y familiarizarse con los hermanos. Estando allí descubrió algo que le interesó mucho: además de los hermanos de habla inglesa, había también un pequeño grupo de cinco hermanos hispanos que se reunían cada sábado en el sótano de la iglesia para adorar a Dios en su idioma. Siendo que el pastor mismo hablaba español, inmediatamente vio la posibilidad de trabajar para traer a otras personas hispanas a la iglesia.

Desafió al pequeño grupo para que invitara a sus amigos y conocidos. Al siguiente sábado el pastor se asombró al encontrar a quince personas reunidas en la iglesia en vez de cinco. Los hermanos de habla inglesa vieron también el potencial de abrir obra hispana, por lo que ambos grupos trabajaron juntos para poder traer a más personas hispanas a los pies de Cristo.

Con el tiempo el sótano de la iglesia empezó a llenarse hasta el punto que los hermanos se dieron cuenta que era necesario conseguir un lugar donde hubiera más espacio para adorar a Dios y donde pudieran hacer realidad el sueño de establecer su propia congregación.

Sin embargo, había dos desafíos. Primero, necesitaban encontrar una iglesia que estuviera dispuesta a alquilarles su templo a un costo mínimo porque sus ingresos eran limitados. En poco tiempo el primer obstáculo fue resuelto cuando la Primera Iglesia Bautista de Stevens Point les ofreció su templo sin costo alguno para celebrar los cultos. Otro desafío era conseguir líderes laicos que pudieran ayudar al pastor a dirigir el grupo hispano. El Señor proveyó también en este terreno, con la llegada a esa ciudad del hermano José Lizama, quien buscaba una iglesia adventista hispana, y más tarde llegaron los hermanos José y Frank González para ayudar en el liderazgo.

El 31 de diciembre del año pasado se llevó a cabo el primer bautismo de cinco almas en este nuevo grupo hispano. En la actualidad se reúnen más de treinta personas cada sábado en el templo, situado en 1948 Church St., para adorar a Dios. No cabe duda que Dios ha realizado el milagro de encender una luz hispana en esta ciudad para alumbrar el camino hacia el reino de los cielos, a la multitud de hispanos que viven en esa ciudad.

Invito a los hermanos hispanos de nuestra Unión a que se unan conmigo para orar por este grupo de manera que muchas almas en Stevens Point, que ahora viven en las tinieblas, puedan unirse al pueblo de Dios.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente general de la Unión del Lago.
Tribute to Gary Randolph

MY BROTHER AND MY BOSS

BY GARRY SUDDS

For the past 11 years, I have quietly watched and learned from a very special person who lives “in Christ.” During our time together, Gary Randolph (recently retired Lake Union Conference director of education) has exemplified such things as:

**Integrity.** Whoever came up with the expression “Straight as an arrow” must have known Gary. I have seen him be open and forthright even to his own detriment. One of his best-lived mantras is, “I have nothing to hide.”

**Leadership.** He has led the education team through relationship rather than position or power. He has followed in the footsteps of Christ, who never forced Himself or His will on others, but simply bid them, “Follow me.”

**Compassion.** I am amazed at Christ’s ability to place the special needs of people ahead of policies. When faced with a choice of doing what was expected by tradition or policy, or doing what was best for the person, Christ always chose what was best. I have seen Gary apply that principle of compassion in the spirit of Christ.

**Support.** As I began working with Gary, he took the time to answer my questions—sometimes even before I thought of them. He helped me develop friendships with the superintendents, principals, and conference leaders very quickly. From the very beginning, he made me feel like a valued part of the team.

**Faithfulness.** He has been true to the task from start to finish. No one will ever be able to say that Gary coasted to the finish line.

**Beloved of God and Man.** I have always known that Gary was greatly loved by our team, but their high level of respect was never more obvious than it was a few months ago when he led the superintendents through a process where their opinion on an issue was very different than his.

**Elder Brother.** I have never felt that I have been judged, scorned, distrusted, ridiculed, or even gossiped about by Gary. Even during times when I felt that I had failed or performed poorly, I could always count on renewed strength from his sympathizing look and words.

As Gary enters retirement, I know that I, along with many others, will miss his leadership and his friendship. He has truly been a model of the Master Teacher.

“Follow my example as I continue to follow the example of Christ.” Gary has never said those words, but he has quietly lived them.

Garry Sudds is the Lake Union Conference interim director of education.
Certified Nursing Aide Program

- Increased Earning Power ($10-$12/hour)
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INDIANA ACADEMY

CICERO, INDIANA

Pointing Students in the Right Direction

www.iasda.org
A Family School

BY ERIN PRICE

Our fast-paced world didn’t slow down when our five-year-old daughter, Nadia, and our seven-year-old son, Micah, started school. It added stress for all of us. Micah’s second year in Kindergarten wasn’t any better for him than the first. Even though we worked with him at home, he fell farther and farther behind. He lost recesses to finish work that he didn’t get done in class. Micah complained that he didn’t want to go to school, and my husband Jared and I saw signs of his low self-esteem. It really hurt us to see Micah so sad, and we decided to do something.

Jared was the second generation in his family to attend Niles Adventist School. He suggested our kids would do better with a Christian education. Though I was not a Seventh-day Adventist, I was open to anything that would help our children.

We met the principal and Kindergarten teacher, Denise Kidder, and Jared explained Micah’s situation, and his own desire for our kids to be in a Christian atmosphere because he knew they weren’t getting that at home. Although Jared was raised in the Adventist church, he lived far from a Christian lifestyle.

Denise’s response hit Jared hard. She told him that she couldn’t give our children a Christian lifestyle; she could teach and guide them, but we were their parents and we would have to raise them in a Christian atmosphere if that’s what Jared wanted.

We began attending church. We started to read the Bible together and took a hard look at our lives and the way we were raising our children. The Edwardsburg (Michigan) Church has been such a help. We’ve met so many nice people who took us in just the way we were, and we are now studying to be baptized.

Micah and Nadia love going to Niles Adventist School, and Micah is at the same level as his class. They have good friends and so have we. The school taught us to slow down and enjoy spending time with the ones we love. We learned education doesn’t have to be a race for our children to grow up.

I feel good knowing that Denise loves and cares for Micah and Nadia—as she does for all her students. There are lots of smiles and hugs when the students walk in the doors in the morning. There are special things like the little note that Micah brought home from an older student wishing him a happy weekend and telling Micah that Jesus loves him. It’s a balloon an older student bought and gave to Nadia just because she loves her. Niles Adventist School is more than a school—it’s a family, and we can’t wait to see each other everyday.

Erin Price has two children who attend Niles Adventist School in Michigan.
Want More?

Wisconsin Academy

Explore the Possibilities

www.wisacad.org
“I wouldn’t trade being here for the world!” exclaimed Floyd Collins, a very outgoing freshman at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA).

Floyd’s parents divorced when he was too young to remember. He first lived with his mom, but when he began to get into serious trouble in third grade, he moved in with his father. As he grew older, some of his friends’ favorite activity was to smoke marijuana, and some were even drug dealers. Occasionally, Floyd’s friends tried to involve him, but he didn’t join them. He was required to come straight home after school to do his homework. Because of this and other lifestyle challenges confronting Floyd in the inner city public school system, his parents wanted a better environment for him.

Floyd’s family applied to a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school where several of his cousins attended, but his application was denied. Floyd resigned himself to attending public school again. He didn’t know what God had in store for him.

One week before school started at GLAA, Floyd was at his grandma’s house when the phone rang. At the end of the phone call, his grandma put the receiver down and looked at him with a big smile. She announced, “You’re accepted!” Floyd was shocked. “To where?” he asked incredulously. Then his grandma explained that they had applied to GLAA, and he had been accepted.

Floyd was glad to come to GLAA, although he knew he would miss his friends. Upon arriving, he sensed caring students and staff, and began to appreciate the spiritual atmosphere on campus. The one spiritual influence Floyd

Floyd Collins shared his spiritual journey with friends at the Cedar Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church prior to his baptism. He said, “If I hadn’t come here, I would have had way less of a chance of coming to know Christ. I’m so happy!”
Floyd Collins gave his life to Jesus this year while attending Great Lakes Adventist Academy. Floyd is the only Seventh-day Adventist in his immediate family. Though they do not understand his new beliefs, he just smiles and says he keeps praying for them.

previously had in his life was his grandma. Whenever he went to her house, she took him to church on Sunday and tried to tell him about God, but he wasn’t really listening.

Surrounded by spiritual influences at GLAA, Floyd began to have a change of heart. The first Friday vespers program was held at the Chapel in the Pines, a beautiful setting outdoors. After music and inspirational talks, Floyd jumped up from where he sat and came forward quickly when a commitment call was extended. He, along with others who responded, was invited to give his life to Jesus.

Floyd’s relationship with God was developing even though it appeared to be on and off again. Although he had a rocky start at GLAA and got into trouble frequently, he felt encouraged by peers. “I became tired of getting into trouble and disappointing my mom,” he said. “I wanted to change. A lot of people prayed with me.”

Fall Week of Prayer came, and speaker Mark Ferrell, pastor of the San Francisco Central Adventist Church, presented a series of powerful messages. The Holy Spirit was working and touched Floyd’s heart. Mark took a special interest in him, praying and talking with Floyd. At the end of the week, Floyd was sure he wanted to give his heart to God and be baptized.

Floyd and 18 other students joined a baptismal class led by Jeremy Hall, GLAA’s chaplain. Week after week, Floyd learned more about the God who loves and cares for him.

Satan did not abandon his efforts against Floyd once he decided to make a stand. But through the challenges, Floyd still continued to attend and ultimately finished the class just before first semester ended. On January 6, Floyd publicly gave his heart to God through baptism, and his new church family was there to support him. It was a day filled with joy and love.

Keeping his faith alive has had its challenges for Floyd. One of his great aunts is a Seventh-day Adventist, but he only sees her about once a year. Some family members argue with him about the day he worships on. Floyd says he just smiles and keeps praying for them.

The boys’ deans at GLAA played a major role in Floyd’s change and in his spiritual journey. “I could always talk to Dean Hill, any time, day or night, and he would listen and pray with me. Dean Peterson helped me so much when I was angry. He would listen and encourage me.”

During a time of trial and questioning, God specially sent Floyd a fellow student who helped him on the path God had laid out for him. David Fernandez, a junior, is enthusiastic for the Lord and actively involved in spiritual activities on campus. One evening after dorm worship, David and Floyd talked. They have been close friends ever since. Floyd attributes a great deal of his spiritual resolve to the strength and encouragement he received, and still receives, from David.

“Working with Floyd and being his friend has blessed me because I’ve been able to watch both of us grow spiritually from this experience. I’ve been able to see Floyd accept Christ fully into his life, and that’s brought me a lot of joy.”

Arlene Leavitt is assistant alumni/development director for Michigan Boarding Academies Alumni Association, Great Lakes Adventist Academy.
Andrews University joins with other Adventist colleges to collaborate and reach out to Adventist high school students outside of the Adventist educational system.

Although Andrea Moskalova grew up as a Seventh-day Adventist, she attended public schools through her second year of college.

“I didn’t really like attending those schools,” says Andrea, “but I didn’t really know what I was missing until I came to Andrews University.”

Making the choice to attend an Adventist college, she discovered, was one that truly made all the difference in her life and in God’s plans for her.

“Being at Andrews has brought me closer to God, and it’s really helped me understand where He was leading me,” says Andrea. “Once I started here, I realized how lonely my life was at high school and community college. I had only a few friends because I didn’t participate in the party life, and I feel like my God-given talents and gifts were very underdeveloped because I didn’t have an outlet at public school. I love the Christian environment at Andrews, where I’ve discovered understanding and supportive teachers, friends who have the same beliefs and goals, and a place to get truly active and involved in ministry.”

One of the ministries Andrea is involved in is The Basement, a weekly ministry started by Andrews University for students in public schools. Andrea is currently the associate leader for this ministry, which helps create community for these young men and women, and gives them a safe place to understand and explore God’s plans for their future.

This summer, Andrea will build on that ministry and outreach as she begins work as an enrollment coordinator on the Enrollment Management team at Andrews University.

Her new assignment at Andrews University reflects her personal journey. She’ll begin working directly with other Adventist young people in public schools who face the sorts of choices she once did. Andrea will encourage them to make a choice for Andrews University—or perhaps another Adventist college within the North American system of schools and colleges.

Her responsibilities in this new job also reflect a new point of collaboration for Andrews University as it joins with 13 other accredited Adventist colleges in North America on a new project. The new initiative is designed to create a broader awareness of Adventist college programs and majors among Seventh-day Adventist students who, like Andrea, have not attended Adventist high schools.

“The Seventh-day Adventist church has always looked to our colleges to supply a steady stream of leaders, pastors, educators, health professionals, as well as well-rounded and ethical professionals in a variety of fields,” says Niels-Erik Andreasen, Andrews University president. “But we need to make sure all Adventist young people—many of whom no longer attend an Adventist high school—are aware of what we offer as a system of Adventist colleges.”

To better reach out to these students, the colleges spoke with focus groups on both sides of the country and also interviewed a
number of students by phone. In those conversations, they discovered there was a general lack of awareness of the Adventist college options among students and parents, especially for those who aren’t currently enrolled in Adventist high schools.

“We found that when our Adventist students attend an Adventist academy, they know a lot more about their Adventist college options because of our annual College Fair tour and frequent visits to those schools. But often those who are in public high schools have not visited our colleges and have historically had little formal contact with any of our Adventist colleges,” says Randy Graves, director of recruiting services at Andrews University. “We want to help these students understand all of the options that are available at our Adventist colleges.”

To achieve this goal, the colleges have jointly sent more than 40,000 letters and brochures to talk directly with these Adventist young people who are attending public high schools, home schools, or other private high schools. The letters invite young people to visit a website (adventistcolleges.org), where they could receive an eBrochure outlining Adventist college options. In addition to these letters, the colleges also sent e-mails to students and, in some cases, made personal phone calls. Nearly 2,000 students responded to these contacts and asked for more information.

This same effort is being repeated this year with updated materials going out to new names of sophomores, juniors, and seniors provided by church pastors and clerks throughout the country.

“Our Adventist colleges and universities have options for most of our Adventist young people,” says Nadine Nelson, director of strategic marketing for enrollment management at Andrews University. “What’s exciting is that this new approach will give us some improved and expanded ways to introduce these options to our Adventist students in high schools everywhere.”

“Together, we have new opportunities to talk with young people that we haven’t reached before who often don’t know much, if anything, about us,” says Stephen Payne, vice president of enrollment management at Andrews University and a member of the Adventist Enrollment Association joint marketing committee that pioneered this effort.

“We’re working together as a team of Adventist colleges to change that,” Stephen said.

DISCOVERING THE REASONS BEHIND STUDENT CHOICE

This new approach to talking more directly with students who are not in Adventist high schools grew out of a number of focus groups and phone surveys with students both within and outside of Adventist high schools and who did or did not choose an Adventist school for their college education.

Other research projects conducted among Adventist young people, including Valuegenesis and Avance (a study of Hispanic Adventist youth), showed that as many as three out of four college-bound Seventh-day Adventist students do not attend Adventist colleges. It also showed the same ratios at the high school level, with up to 75 percent of Adventist young people attending public high schools, home
schools, or other private high schools.

While this research showed that there was a lack of awareness of Adventist colleges, the findings also identified some commonly perceived strengths to choosing an Adventist college, including the faith factor—the ability to find friends, student peers, mentors, and teachers who share and reinforce a common faith. Additionally, the research showed that students, whether they attended an Adventist high school or not, felt that Adventist colleges offered students personal attention from and meaningful interactions with professors in ways that couldn’t be found at a public college or university. Further, all groups—whether or not they chose to attend an Adventist college to further their education—perceived that Adventist colleges offered an excellent education.

“With our overall North American Adventist college system offering nearly 500 majors, and with nearly 180 different study options at Andrews University alone, I believe most Adventist students can find an academic option at Andrews or another Adventist college with a strong and transforming context of faith and learning, in a way that will consistently and effectively help students achieve their career goals and aspirations,” says Heather Knight, Andrews University provost.

The joint project has been funded by the Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities (AACU), a consortium of the North American Division colleges and universities. Direct coordination and leadership for this project has come from the AACU’s Adventist Enrollment Association, made up of the enrollment professionals at these colleges, and AACU’s Joint Marketing Committee.

It’s an ambitious project that reflects the hope of every Adventist college and university involved to help students connect with Adventist higher education and help these students achieve their personal dreams and God’s will for their lives.

To find out more about this project and the options offered by Seventh-day Adventist college and universities in North America, visit www.adventistcolleges.org or write to Andrews University at enroll@andrews.edu.

Stephen Payne is “gum guy” and vice president of Enrollment Management at Andrews University.

PARTICIPATING COLLEGES

The following Adventist colleges and universities are working together to consistently and effectively reach out to Adventist high school students outside of the Adventist educational system:

Andrews University, Michigan
Atlantic Union College, Massachusetts
Canadian University College, Alberta, Canada
Columbia Union College, Maryland
Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, Florida
Kettering College of Medical Arts, Ohio
La Sierra University, California
Loma Linda University, California
Oakwood College, Alabama
Pacific Union College, California
Southern Adventist University, Tennessee
Southwestern Adventist University, Texas
Union College, Nebraska
Walla Walla College, Washington

“We found that often Adventist students who are in public high schools have often not visited our colleges and have historically had little formal contact with any of our Adventist colleges,” says Randy Graves, director of recruiting services at Andrews University. “We want to help these students understand all of the options that are available at our Adventist colleges.”

“Our Adventist colleges and universities have options for most of our Adventist young people,” says Nadine Nelson, director of strategic marketing for enrollment management at Andrews University. “What’s exciting is that this new collaborative marketing approach between our Adventist colleges will give us some improved and expanded ways to introduce these options to our Adventist students in high schools everywhere.”
ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
James Martz: 630-734-0920
www.illinoisadventist.org
Alpine Christian School
Beverly Hills Elementary School
Broadview Academy
Crest Hill Christian Junior Academy
Downers Grove Elementary School
Gurnee Christian School
Hinsdale Adventist Academy
Marion Elementary School
North Aurora Elementary School
North Shore Junior Academy
Peoria Elementary School
Richland Bridge Christian School
Sheridan Elementary School
Springfield Elementary School
Thompsonville Christian School

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE
Duane Roush: 517-316-1550
www.misda.org
Adelphian Junior Academy
Alpena Elementary School
Andrews Academy
Ann Arbor Elementary School
Battle Creek Academy
Battle Creek Elementary School
Berrien Springs Village Elementary
Bluff Creek Christian School
Cedar Lake Elementary School
Charlotte Elementary School
Eau Claire Elementary School
Edenville Elementary School
Escanaba Elementary School
First Flint Elementary School
Gobles SDA Junior Academy
Grand Rapids Adventist Academy
Grayling SDA Elementary
Great Lakes Adventist Academy
Greater Lansing Adventist School
Hastings SDA Elementary
Holland SDA Elementary
Ionia SDA Elementary
Ithaca SDA Elementary
Jackson SDA Elementary
Kalamazoo SDA Junior Academy
Lenawee SDA Elementary School
Metropolitan Junior Academy
Mount Pleasant SDA Elementary
Muskegon SDA Elementary
Niles SDA Elementary
Northview Junior Academy
Oak Hollow Christian School
Oakwood Junior Academy
Onaway SDA Elementary
Owosso SDA Elementary
Petoskey SDA Elementary
Pine Mountain Christian School
Prattville SDA Elementary
Ruth Murdoch SDA Elementary School
Traverse City Elementary
Tri-City SDA Junior Academy
Troy Adventist Academy
Warren SDA Elementary
Waterford Elementary
Wilson SDA Junior Academy
Woodland SDA School

INDIANA CONFERENCE
Mark Haynal: 317-844-6201
www.indysda.org
Aboite Christian School
Adventist Christian Academy
Cicero Adventist Elementary
Cross Street Christian School
Door Prairie Adventist School
Elkhart Adventist Christian School
Evansville Adventist School
Indiana Academy
Indianapolis Junior Academy
Lucille Lutz Elementary School
Northwest Adventist Christian School
Pleasantview Christian School
South Bend Junior Academy
Spencer Adventist Christian School
Terre Haute Adventist School

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE SCHOOLS
Peterson-Warren Academy
Peterson-Warren Elementary
Sharon Junior Academy
South Suburban School

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Ruth Murdoch SDA Elementary School
Traverse City Elementary
Tri-City SDA Junior Academy
Troy Adventist Academy
Warren SDA Elementary
Waterford Elementary
Wilson SDA Junior Academy
Woodland SDA School

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY
Contact: 800-253-2874
www.andrews.edu

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE
The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church-operated schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools; and makes no discrimination on the basis of race in administration of educational policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.
An Oasis of Comfort Provided at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital Emergency Department

More than 32,000 people are seen annually at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital’s Emergency Department (ED). Adding the loved ones who accompany the patient, a trip to the ED easily affects at least 50,000 people in a single year. Every one of them would rather be somewhere else.

“ED nurses work hard to provide the human touch; the small gestures they hope will convey caring and understanding to the patient,” said trauma coordinator Laurie Marin, R.N., B.S., TNS, ASQ- CMQOE. “But when the ED gets hectic, the little extra touches are usually the first casualties of a nurse’s busy day.”

From left: Adventist Hinsdale Hospital Emergency Department nurses Noreen Connelly, Diane Karamagianis, Michelle Lucak, and trauma coordinator Laurie Marin stand proudly in the new Patient and Family Comfort Station.

Last fall Marin, along with nurse manager Keith Matushek, R.N., attended the Institute of Healthcare Improvement’s (IHI) IMPACT meeting, and they came away with a nugget of a good idea. Nurses Diane Karamagianis, R.N., BSN; Michelle Lucak, R.N., BSN; and Noreen Connelly, R.N., BSN; helped expand on the idea. The result is the ED’s Patient and Family Comfort Station.

The Comfort Station is located in an alcove behind the nurse’s desk, where it is easily accessible to ambulatory patients and family members. Within the station are extra pillows, a blanket warmer, crackers, magazines, a refrigerator with juice and Popsicles, a water cooler, and hot drinks. (Signage reminds patients and visitors to check with the nurse before giving food or drink to patients.)

The most significant new expenditure is the hot drink machine. “We are so grateful to the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation for agreeing to pick up the cost of this service,” said Marin. “Now, no matter how busy the ED becomes, the nurses can provide an atmosphere of hospitality.”

Mark Moy, M.D., a senior ED physician, lent his considerable talent and painted a mural for the area.

Mark Moy, M.D., a senior Emergency Department physician, lent his considerable talent and spent several days painting a wall mural for the area. The mural adds a beautiful and colorful backdrop to the new Patient and Family Comfort Station.

Mark Moy, M.D., a senior ED physician, lent his considerable talent and painted a mural for the area. The mural adds a beautiful and colorful backdrop to the new Patient and Family Comfort Station.

“Burner. A year ago, he picked up a brush again and found that his skills were intact.”

“I was so grateful for the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation for agreeing to pick up the cost of this service,” said Marin. “Now, no matter how busy the ED becomes, the nurses can provide an atmosphere of hospitality.”

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The feedback from patients, family members, nurses, and physicians has been overwhelmingly positive. Nurses and techs are finding that they actually have a little more time to spend with the patients, which is gratifying to everyone.

“Ideas like this one will help us not only meet a patient’s expectations, but exceed them,” said Todd Werner, CEO, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.

“The Comfort Station is a true reflection of our SHARE customer satisfaction principles to sense people’s needs before they ask and use compassion to create a positive experience.”

Julie L. Busch, public relations specialist, Adventist Midwest Health
Schalk appointed New Vice President for Financial Administration

The Andrews University Board of Trustees has appointed Lawrence Schalk the new vice president for financial administration. Schalk is replacing Edward Wines. Schalk is not new to the role of serving as a chief financial officer, coming to Andrews with years of experience at several institutions, including Adventist Health Resources, Hinsdale, Ill.; Harding Hospital, Worthington, Ohio; and most recently, Florida Hospital Fish Memorial, part of the Adventist Health System.

Schalk holds both a B.S. in accounting and an M.B.A. from Andrews University and is a Certified Public Accountant. He serves as treasurer for Florida Memorial Health Network in Orange City, Fla., and is a fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association. He has also published two articles in Healthcare Financial Management.

Why work at Andrews? “I am a double graduate, have children and family who attended, have been an adjunct professor and a former Board member, a member of the President’s Council and PACID (President’s Advisory Council for Institutional Development), and have a deep interest and commitment to [Andrews University].”

Schalk responded, listing his many connections to the school.

As for goals, Schalk hopes to “become acquainted and friends with all constituents and meet the goals of the Board [of Trustees] and staff.”

Beverly Stout, media relations coordinator, University Relations

School of Business Administration Dean Named

Andrews University recently named Allen Stembridge the new dean of the School of Business Administration (SBA). Stembridge will be taking the position over from interim dean Charles Tidwell, who took on the role when former dean Annetta Gibson made the decision to return to teaching full time last year.

Stembridge, however, is not new to Andrews or to the SBA. He served as a faculty member from 1988–1999, including nine years as the Management and Marketing Department chair, and five years as the school’s assistant dean. Stembridge then went overseas where he served as a professor of management and Business Department chair at Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines. In 2002, he returned to the States where he began in his current position as Business Department chair and professor of business administration at Northwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas. Stembridge has also taught at Helderberg College in South Africa and Solusi College in Zimbabwe.

Stembridge is a double graduate of Andrews, having received his MBA in management in 1982 and his Ed.D. in Administration in Leadership.

Stembridge has been named dean of the School of Business Administration at Andrews University.

Allen Stembridge has been named dean of the School of Business Administration at Andrews University.

in 1984. He also holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of South Africa, and a business diploma from Helderberg College.

“I am honored to accept the position of Dean of the SBA at Andrews University,” states Stembridge. “My vision is for the SBA to be recognized as the world-wide leader in quality Adventist business education, to be recognized by the Adventist Church and the business community as a supplier of competent, ethical, creative, and productive full-time employees, supportive alumni, as well as volunteer contributors of their expertise and means in serving the Church and their community,” Stembridge states. “Recognizing the investment that parents and students make in their education, the SBA will provide the best opportunity for students to develop their strengths and God-given talents as they prepare for their careers and witness in the Church, the community, and the business world.”

Stembridge will officially begin his role as dean on August 1, but will teach an MBA course in Strategic Management in July.

Beverly Stout, media relations coordinator, University Relations

Lawrence Schalk is Andrews’ new vice president for financial administration.
[EDUCATION NEWS]

Song Contest Highlights Importance of Scripture

Indiana—The culmination of Indiana Conference’s first annual Scripture Song Contest was Sabbath afternoon, March 10, when six students and one classroom group were awarded nearly $300 in prize money at the annual Musical Festival held on the campus of Indiana Academy in Cicero. “I believe one of the hallmarks of a good Adventist Christian education must be students who can defend their core beliefs with scripture they have memorized,” says Mark Haynal, Indiana Conference education superintendent. This annual contest was established to highlight the importance of scripture in Adventist education, while at the same time provide students with an enjoyable and rewarding creative experience.

Mark Haynal, Indiana Conference education superintendent, congratulated Keiko Ito, first-place winner in the upper grade division.

More than 30 students submitted songs for this year’s contest. Taking first place in the upper grades division was Keiko Ito, a seventh grader at Terre Haute Adventist School. Keiko sang her setting of Psalm 71:1–3 for the afternoon concert. Elizabeth Brandenburg, a sixth grader from Evansville Adventist School, took second place; and Deanna Bullard, a tenth grader from Terre Haute Adventist School, took third place.

In the lower grades division, Aniston Newman, a second grader at Terre Haute Adventist School, took first place for his setting of Psalm 106:1–2. Second place was awarded to Genesis Evia from Evansville Adventist School. Bethany Morrow and Kenta Ito, both students at Terre Haute Adventist School, tied for third place.

This year’s winners in the group category for scripture songs written by a family or a classroom were the second, third, and fourth graders at Door Prairie Adventist School in LaPorte, Ind., and their teacher Bonny Smith. The Music Festival audience enjoyed a video presentation of Smith and her students performing their song based on Ruth 1:16.

Inaugurating a new Music Festival tradition, the festival choir sang a choral arrangement of the scripture song that won grand prize, which was a stirring setting of Joshua 1:16, written by Trevor Memmer and Treston Short, students at Evansville Adventist School.

Indiana Conference’s second annual Scripture Song Contest begins with the start of the new school year, August 13. Family and classroom groups, as well as Adventist students in public schools, home schools, or church schools, are encouraged to submit entries by December 31. For more information about the contest, please visit: www.multiagelearninglabs.com.

Mark Haynal, Ed.D., Indiana Conference education superintendent

Guest clinician, Sharon Strange, from Washington, D.C., directed the musical festival choir in a choral arrangement of this year’s grand-prize song written by Trevor Memmer and Treston Short, students from Evansville Adventist School.

Aniston Newman sang his lower-division, first-place scripture song.
Indiana Academy Installs Thin-Client Computers in Dormitory Rooms

Indiana—Computers in academy dorms have always been a struggle. On one hand, we want every student to be as current as possible with the use of technology, and on the other hand we want to monitor the influences that flow into the dorms through these devices. And then there is the digital divide, the line between the “haves” and the “have-nots.” Those who can afford a computer may excel in areas where those who cannot afford a computer are limited. In an effort to alleviate some of these issues, Indiana Academy is in the process of installing two thin-client computers in each dorm room.

“What is a thin-client?” you ask. A thin-client is a computer that cannot run apart from the server. All of the software and storage hardware is found on the terminal server. This means that if you were to open a thin-client you would not find a hard drive. This is nice in three ways: First, it allows the IT (information technology) professional ease in maintenance and upkeep; second, it gives the school control over the types of media that are played on the devices; and third, they cost considerably less than personal computers.

The installed thin-clients will run on Linux Fedora Kt2LTSP, which is free, easy to use, and comes with a free office package called Open Office. Open Office is a user-friendly office package that can be downloaded from the Internet, free of charge, and has the ability to open and save Microsoft Office files.

As technology becomes more and more a part of our daily lives, we must supply tools for our students that will help them to stay on top of a world full of technology. We hope this will allow teachers to regularly demand the use of computers for homework assignments, allowing all the “haves” and “have-nots” to learn on an equal basis, and use the power of technology in useful and practical avenues.

Peter Cousins, Indiana Academy principal

Students Volunteer at Community Mission Store

Indiana—Many years ago in the little town of Spencer, Ind., while some of its citizens worked together to set up for a rummage sale as a fund raiser for a youth group, a few people were struck by a big dream. They envisioned how the residents of the community could benefit by having access to good, clean clothes and household items while paying a very reasonable price for them. Not only could their neighbors benefit by purchasing these items, but the proceeds would go to a worthy cause.

Spencer Adventist Christian School students recently spent an entire school day sorting, cleaning, and pricing toys for the store. According to Lutricia Whitlow, principal and teacher of the eight grade Adventist school, the students probably processed several thousand toys that day. Linda Clark, a Spencer Adventist Church member, regularly volunteers at the store, and she organized the project for the school students. The outreach project effectively touched the hearts of the students and inspired them to the ministry of greater service.

Judith Yeoman, Indiana Conference correspondent
Broadview Academy Alumni and Students Uplift Christian Education

Illinois—With heavy hearts and a deep appreciation for the current principal and staff, Broadview Academy (BVA) alumni from throughout North America met the weekend of May 5 for their last reunion on the campus where the academy had been located since the late 1950s. Many had received word that at the February 11 constituency meeting it was voted “to begin the process of selling the La Fox campus property immediately following Constituency approval, without going to immediate listing, and to mandate that 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the La Fox campus, less a small portion to be set aside for the transition of BVAnet (an initiative to provide distance learning curriculum), to be administered jointly by the K–12 board and the Executive Committee, be placed in an endowment, the earnings of which will be used for K–12 education in the Illinois Conference.”

Immediately preceding the church service, current academy principal, Randall J. Siebold, and Illinois Conference treasurer, Duane Rollins, discussed the culmination of a lengthy and in-depth process of exploring options to carry forward BVAnet. The process was thorough and at times intense because of the large stakes involved. It was also swift to provide time for faculty and students to make plans for the next school year.

Rollins also announced the possibility of retaining approximately six acres of the Broadview Academy campus on Keslinger Road with the farm mansion and other buildings. “The site could be used as a small conference center and a place to display and store Broadview Academy memorabilia.” Rollins cautioned that issues such as zoning, renovation costs, etc., will determine the feasibility of this idea.

Unable to attend the reunion, Kenneth A. Denslow, Illinois Conference president, communicated with members and alumni in a letter. “We must take seriously the role of Seventh-day Adventist schools in preparing our young people to be valuable citizens here and now and, most importantly, to be eternal citizens in the New Earth. The mission statement of the Illinois Conference is ‘Sharing God’s grace with our world through preaching, teaching, and healing.’ We still believe that our educational system must play a vital role in our plans to Touch Every 1 for Jesus. May God bless us as we move forward.”

In moving forward, Denslow further stated, “We must take care of our current BVA students and strengthen our elementary schools. The BVA Board, Board of Education, and the Illinois Conference Executive Committee have taken the following actions which are meant to help us bridge from the close of this current school year to the completed sale of the La Fox property. At that time we can revise our strategy based upon what will then be known amounts of available funds being generated by the educational endowment.

1. To subsidize current BVA students from Illinois Conference families 30% of room, board, and tuition to the Seventh-day Adventist academy of their choice (30% of tuition if they choose to attend a day school).
2. To provide 5% teacher billing relief to our elementary schools beginning with the 2007–2008 school year.
3. To facilitate our schools (whose accounts are current, and who have a minimum of six distance learning students) to purchase distance learning from existing Adventist sources. The Conference will pay up to $30,000 annually per site for tech fees, hardware, and facilitator costs.
4. To hire an associate superintendent of education not to maintain what we have but to promote and market Adventist education.”

Symbolizing the uplift of Christian education in their lives, Broadview Academy alumni and current students carried class banners up the center aisle to the front of the auditorium, and then gathered outside for the release of live doves.

Rachel Terwillegar, Illinois Conference assistant to the president for communication
Bible Achievement Showcases Pathfinders’ Knowledge

Michigan—Twenty-three Pathfinder teams arrived at Andrews University on April 20 for the Invitational/Division Level Pathfinder Bible Achievement (PBA) weekend. Invitees had already received first place recognition in the Area, Conference, and Union levels of Pathfinder Bible Achievement.

The Pathfinders were blessed throughout the weekend with special programs just for them. Some teams arrived early, so they could tour the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Mich.

Participating teams represented the Atlantic, Canadian, Columbia, Lake, North Pacific, Pacific, Southern, and Southwestern unions, which required translation in French and Spanish. Approximately 450 Pathfinders assembled at Pioneer Memorial Church on Sabbath afternoon to answer questions from Deuteronomy Chapter 30 to Joshua Chapter 24, and from the Introduction to Joshua in the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary.

Lana Miller from the Pullman Reflectors Pathfinder club in Michigan said, “Pathfinder Bible Achievement has really blessed me this year. I know more about the book of Joshua and the last five chapters of Deuteronomy than most pastors do, which is really cool. I won’t forget it either. It’s forever ingrained into my brain.”

Larissa Gensolin, a member of the Chehalis Mountaineers Pathfinder club in Washington, reflected on her experience. “PBA has been an encouragement for me to memorize and understand Scripture. This knowledge is, in turn, leading me to know God and making me realize my great need for Him. Learning to be a team player, flying across the country to Michigan, and feeling happy that other teams from the North Pacific Union were going too, made the effort in participating in the PBA events all worthwhile.”

Nonye Imo, from the Houston Royal Knights Pathfinder club in Texas, said, “Pathfinder Bible Achievement is not just about representing your hometown or club, but it’s about learning and applying what you read.”

The teams answered 90 questions. Each question was read twice and projected on a screen. The Pathfinders had ten seconds to decide the correct answer, unless multiple answers were required. When team members reached a consensus, a scribe wrote their answer on a piece of paper. At the signal, each team showed their answer to their first level judge. If the team wished to challenge the scoring of any question, it was reviewed by the panel of judges for a final decision.

At the end of the day, team scores were tallied. Placement was determined by the percentage of correctly answered questions. A seal was applied to team certificates to indicate placement and then presented to team captains. Every team member receives an engraved bar for each level of achievement to attach to their Pathfinder Bible Achievement pin.

Terry Dodge, Pathfinder Bible Achievement founder and director, said, “One of the joys of the PBA is that every team determines the place they will finish by the amount of time they put into the Bible study.”

There were no Lake Union third place teams. For a complete list of winning teams, visit the June issue online at www.lakeunionherald.org.

Dodge expressed, “They all did a great job and deserve much credit for their accomplishments.”

Jonatan Tejel, Pathfinder director for the World Church, said, “May the Lord continue to help Terry Dodge and his team give our Pathfinders the [opportunity] to learn more about the Bible. I will be praying for them because they are working for our kids and for the Lord.”

The Pathfinder Bible Achievement program was developed in 1987. It encourages Pathfinders to study the Bible, while they also learn teamwork and excellent study skills. For additional information about Pathfinder Bible Achievement, visit www.pathfinderbibleachievement.org.

Diane Thurber, Lake Union Herald managing editor, with Terry Dodge, Michigan Conference Pathfinder director and Pathfinder Bible Achievement director.
Pathfinders Step Up to the Challenge

Michigan—When Madlyn Hamblin first learned her church would host evangelistic meetings in February, she looked at her already overcrowded calendar and thought, Well, maybe I can help one evening a week. She thought she was being extremely generous with her time.

An appeal was made for a children’s program leader. Hamblin couldn’t get that appeal out of her mind. She told the Lord, “You know how busy I am.” She reminded Him that she works full-time and, at her age, she did not have the energy to care for a roomful of children like she used to do.

Surely someone will come forward to direct the children, she kept thinking to herself.

Weeks rolled by, and opening night loomed closer. Hamblin says the Lord spoke to her heart, and she was impressed to lead the children, though she was overburdened with the care of her husband’s mother. Also, since her husband planned to participate in an evangelistic series in Cuba at that time, Hamblin would be more involved in their business in his absence. It just seemed like way too much to handle.

One morning Hamblin prayed, “Oh Lord, if you want me to take this job, please provide the desire to do it and the help that I will need.”

“I can do that,” God said, audibly.

The next Sabbath Hamblin learned the Pathfinders could help with the children’s programs if someone would lead out. So, she decided to volunteer. She looked over the children’s materials provided. Everything seemed to be planned out. Hamblin thought it would be quite simple—a music time, story time, craft time, and video time. However, she was a bit skeptical about using Pathfinders. She thought, Are they dependable? Can I trust them to present material and do what needs to be done?

Hamblin asked the Pathfinders to tell a story each evening and supervise the children. Rosario Tanguay, a relatively new church member, offered to coordinate the crafts.

So how did it all turn out? Hamblin says the Pathfinders and their leaders were amazing. They rose to the challenge. She says all she had to do was supervise. “It was evident from the very beginning that the Pathfinders were budding leaders!” said Hamblin.

When Hamblin’s mother-in-law died during the meetings, Hamblin had to miss more than a week of sessions. The Pathfinders took right over, and with the help of some mothers things ran smoothly.

Hamblin said, “We had between six and 15 children attend each evening. One child’s parents are being baptized, and she has made friends with the other children. I was told that a couple of the children said, ‘We are going to be so sad when these meetings end!’

“I learned that the youth of the church, with proper direction, can do much, much more than we often give them credit for. Their abilities are often underutilized and rich with talent. I also experienced that God is definitely up to the challenge of assisting us with any work we commit to do for Him. He will not fail when we ask for strength and help in His name.

“Perhaps one day in Heaven children will come up and tell us that indeed we made an impact in their lives, in helping them to love and serve Jesus and His Church. And that is our goal, isn’t it? To experience the joy and delight in knowing that we played some small part in affecting someone else’s eternal salvation.”

Diane Thutber, Lake Union Herald managing editor, as told by Madlyn Hamblin, Jackson Church member
Bible Kits Support Students and Military Personnel

Imagine yourself a young adult, 18 or 19 years old, away from home for the first time at a large public university. Your dorm-mate is not a Christian and has a lifestyle that makes it hard for you to have a consistent devotional life. Some professors espouse views that undermine Christian beliefs and values. Some labs or tests are scheduled for Saturday. Of course, prime athletic and social events occur during Sabbath hours. Sooner or later, a year or more of such persistent attack in this kind of spiritual warfare is bound to find a weak point in the defense lines of even the strongest Christian student. Adventist youth need our support during their student years.

For a variety of valid reasons, Adventist youth attend public colleges and universities. Sometimes the courses they need are not offered at Adventist schools. Estimates vary from 60,000 to 75,000 students. They represent the leadership and stewardship base of the denomination 15 to 20 years from now. Out of sight, these young people are often out of mind of church members, and soon they are out of touch and out of church. Not because that is their intent, but often distance and absence makes the heart grow fonder of other interests. The spiritual life imperceptibly slips into casual, then careless neglect.

Concern for the spiritual well-being of Adventist youth serving in the military prompted several measures of support. Service centers, retreats, nearly 50 years, the NSO Bible Kit has proved to be a positive factor in creating a caring link and/or communicating a sustaining link between the Church and its members in uniform. Pastors and chaplains present the Bible Kit to young adults who enter the military and have a special dedicatory service and prayer for him or her. The kit contains a New King James version of the Bible.

The NSO Bible Kit has worked so well that it has been adapted for a pilot project for students in public schools, and similar results are anticipated.

The Student Bible Kit contains a bonded leather New Living Translation version of the Bible in a matching nylon carrying case, a modern version of Steps to Christ, a small book on the Sabbath and creation, and Dialogue magazine. Dialogue is an international journal of faith, thought, and action published by the Committee on Adventist Ministry to College and University Students in cooperation with the 13 world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (see http://dialogue.adventist.org/). Also, the Student Bible Kit would provide instructions on how to locate Adventist Activities Associations on campuses that are part of Adventist Christian Fellowship.

Imagine the impact on a young adult in your family or church, if the pastor arranges for a brief but special dedication service before he or she departs for a public college or university. The pastor would commend the student, challenge them to be a faithful witness, offer a prayer for them, and present them with a Student Bible Kit.

The Student Bible Kit is available from AdventSource in Lincoln, Neb., in limited quantities. A small charge to cover handling and shipping fees will be assessed per kit. Call AdventSource at 800-328-0525 or visit website www.adventsource.org. For further information about the Student Bible Kit or NSO Bible Kit contact Gary Councell. You may e-mail him at gary.councell@nad.adventist.org or call 301-680-6782.

Gary R. Councell, Associate Director/Military Endorser, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries
Indiana Conference Recruits Missionaries

During the 2007–2008 school year, Indiana Conference hopes to welcome 12 missionaries to Indiana! When some think of missionary service, they generally think about going overseas somewhere. However, the truth is there is an amazing mission field right here in the Lake Union. Through an initiative called “Mission: IN Possible,” Indiana Conference leaders will assemble teams of two to juncture with various churches where

Interested individuals may contact Peter Neri, Indiana Conference ministerial director, for additional information by calling 317-844-6201.

I invite you to pray for our missionaries not only overseas but those right here in Indiana as well.

-Gary Thurber, Indiana Conference president

Adventist Pastor Offers Invocation for Michigan Senate

Lake Region—On Tues., April 17, at 10:00 a.m., Seventh-day Adventist pastor, Winston Bourne, of the Lake Region Conference and spiritual leader of the Highland Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, delivered the invocation at the opening of another session of the Michigan Senate.

Bourne prayed that God would endow the senators, the governor of Michigan, and the president of the United States of America with insight and courage, fortitude and wisdom, and endurance and bravery to lead the state as well as the nation in the right direction.

During the prayer, Bourne invited the senators to pause for a moment of silence to remember the brave and distinguished service men and women who died in combat in Iraq, and the students of Virginia Tech who recently lost their lives at the hands of a fellow student. In his prayer, Bourne called upon the distinguished, devoted, and dedicated senators to band together like the state bird of Michigan to drive away the predators of crime, violence, and illegal drugs that prey upon the social and economic fabric of the great state of Michigan. He also implored them to uphold the high and noble principles of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Bourne was invited by Martha G. Scott to deliver the invocation. Scott is senator of the second district in Michigan and also a friend of the Highland Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The invocation is recorded in the Journal of the Senate of the State of Michigan.

-Winston Bourne, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, delivered the invocation at the opening of another session of the Michigan Senate. He was invited to pray by Martha G. Scott (left), senator of the second district in Michigan.

Renee Sneed, Highland Park Seventh-day Adventist Church clerk

pastors and members have responded to this concept. The team will spend a year helping church members reach their communities for Christ.

Recruiting is ongoing at several Seventh-day Adventist college campuses, and several talented prospects have indicated their interest in the program.

Indiana missionaries will receive room and board, a monthly stipend for living expenses, and an opportunity to earn college credit and receive a scholarship for school.
First Annual Prayer Retreat Held in Indiana

Indiana—On Friday evening and Sabbath, January 12 and 13, 45 adults and teens gathered at Timber Ridge Camp seeking a deeper, richer prayer life. They wanted to be inspired and encouraged, and they wanted to become fervent and effective prayer warriors.

Peter Neri, Indiana Conference ministerial director, prepared a magnificent weekend with the Holy Spirit as the main speaker. The Friday evening meeting opened with nature scenes on a screen. The series of pictures depicted a caterpillar feeding on leaves, going into his chrysalis, and coming out as a butterfly. This communicated how going into the secret place of prayer with Jesus completely changes individuals. Each scene had a prayer suggestion until the next scene appeared. Attendees began the weekend by praying instead of listening to sermons on how to pray.

All during the Sabbath, attendees experienced several wonderful aspects of prayer. Neri led those present to seek the Holy Spirit, and encouraged them to search their hearts and minds to reveal things they needed to confess that they were not aware of, or had been avoiding. Attendees were prompted to surround, pray for, and support people who felt a need for and desired power and healing from God. The Holy Spirit plainly changed lives.

Attendees plan to organize ongoing prayer for speakers and meetings while they are actually in process and while decisions for Christ and His work are being made throughout Indiana. This organization is currently being developed as we seek to do God’s work here in Indiana.

Gail Macomber, Cicero Church member

Operation Global Rain Initiative Embraced by Thousands

We just returned from the 52nd National Day of Prayer services in Washington D.C. During the past four years, we’ve learned of a number of churches, ministries, and denominations that have begun major initiatives in prayer. The recurring theme is a call to repentance to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Most recently, we discovered a grass-roots movement within the Seventh-day Adventist Church called “Operation Global Rain.” It began with a few churches in California. They committed to a ten-day call to prayer patterned after the upper room experience described in the second chapter of Acts. There were no keynote speakers, just seasons of prayer prompted and directed by scripture. The people who came were united in purpose: to pray that they would be filled with God’s Spirit in preparation for Christ’s soon return as promised in James 5:7–8. The results in the various churches were the same: a spirit of unity, forgiveness, and revival.

Operation Global Rain is a movement. Though not an initiative established by the denomination, it is supported and endorsed by its leadership, including Jerry Page, president of the Central California Conference, and Ruthie Jacobsen, director of prayer ministries for the North American Division.

The dream is big—to have 16 million Seventh-day Adventists around the world praying for the Latter Rain during the same ten-day period. Although there is no prophetic significance, it seemed appropriate to choose Sabbath, July 7, 2007 (07/07/07) to be the tenth day of the initiative beginning June 27.

Thousands around the world are now joining in the call to prayer through the website: http://operationglobalrain.org. The website has created a virtual community of people who have registered and shared their testimonies and pictures. The site also includes a community forum blog and chat room. A navigational map allows you to view various areas around the world where people have registered Operation Global Rain sites. To register a church, the church must have officially appointed you to do so. Individuals are free to register personal sites. At the time this publication went to press, there were 45 countries represented.

There are a number of resources on the website, including downloadable posters, a video, theme sheets, questions and answers, articles, links, and contact information.

Gail Macomber, Cicero Church member

Gary Burns, Lake Union Conference communication director
New Leader Appointed for Adventist Single Adult Ministries

On April 1, Andrea D. Hicks was appointed the new Adventist Single Adult Ministries coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America (NAD ASAM). A native of New Jersey, Hicks is a member of the Northeastern Conference where she was recently appointed associate director of Single Adult Ministries. Hicks is passionate about ministry and especially Single Adult Ministries. Hicks says her passion for singles ministry was brought about by circumstance. Through divorce, she began to see the need for this life-changing ministry. She is the founder of F.O.C.U.S. Ministries (Fellowship of Christians Unique and Single), through which Hicks and a team of dedicated singles have planned exciting functions for single adults during the past five years in the United States and other countries. These functions have included retreats, cruises, picnics, lunches, etc. (see www.focusnyc.org).

Hicks is multifaceted and serves as the secretary/program coordinator for Atlantic Union Adventist Media/3ABN, manager of the acapella singing group, Men of Israel, and is very active in her home church, Mount Sinai Seventh-day Adventist Church in Queens, New York. She considers her relationship with God her greatest accomplishment in life. She demonstrates commitment in all that she does. A quality assurance software engineer and beta tester for a digital radiography company in New York, Hicks loves to travel the world and meet people.

Hicks has been a driving force in NAD ASAM since Barbara Babcock introduced her to the committee in 2006. I look forward to working with Hicks and hope single adults will make the time to meet her at the upcoming convention in Orlando, Fla., from July 5 to 7.

If you have not yet registered for the convention, please do so today at www.pursueyourpassion2007.com. See also www.adventistsingleadultministries.org.

Please join me in prayer for God’s hand to be on Adventist Single Adult Ministries, and grow this ministry from strength to strength.

Nicole Batten, director of publicity for Pacific Press Publishing Association

New Website Launched for Primary Treasure Magazine

Primary Treasure magazine has redesigned its Web site to make it more interactive for children and more of a resource for parents and teachers.

The Web site, www.primarytreasure.com, is full of kid-friendly stories, games, puzzles, coloring pages, and contests, as well as a place for kids to submit prayer requests and praise reports, listen to their Sabbath school lesson, and learn more about Jesus. There is a special section on the Web site just for parents and Sabbath school teachers as well. You can also access the site through www.ourlitliefriend.com.

Aileen Sox, editor of Primary Treasure, says, “I am excited about our brand new Web site. It is easy to navigate and kid-friendly. The best part is that for the first time ever children will be able to listen to their weekly Sabbath school lesson story online, whether they’re in Beginners, Kindergarten, or Primary. Each week on the Web site I will be reading the lesson and kids can follow along in their lesson quarterly. We will also be adding new stories and games each week, and we will have a monthly contest on the site for kids to win Adventist books and CDs.”

Primary Treasure, published since 1957, is a weekly four-color, 16-page magazine for Seventh-day Adventist kids. It gives special emphasis to developing a child’s relationship with Jesus through Bible and character-building stories.

Churches and individuals can subscribe to Primary Treasure magazine through any local Adventist Book Center or online at www.adventistbookcenter.com. You can also order by calling toll-free 800-765-6955.
Anniversaries

Ray and LeAnn Herbel celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 2, 2007. To help them celebrate, they would like to hear from former students telling them of their lives since leaving the Herbels’ classrooms (e-mail: theherbies@qtm.net, or write: 2484 Almaugus Dr, Niles, MI 49120). Some of the students would have known Mrs. Herbel as Miss Rodie. They have been members of the Saginaw, Gobles, and Niles (Mich.) Churches for 30 years. (Miss Rodie was a member of the Saginaw, Gobles, and Niles (Mich.) Churches for 30 years. (Miss Rodie was a member of the Saginaw, Gobles, and Niles [Kan.] churches.)

Ray Herbel and LeAnn Rodie were married June 2, 1957, in Abilene, Kan., by Pastor Harold Hampton. Ray has been a principal and teacher, retiring in 1995. LeAnn has been a teacher, retiring in 1997. The Herbel family includes Kathy Herbel of Niles, Mich.; Brent and Connie Herbel of Huntsville, Mo.; and two grandchildren.

Glenn and Geraldine St. Clair celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 12, 2006, in Cabo, Mexico, with family members. They have been members of Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich., for 20 years.

Glen St. Clair and Geraldine Bicknell were married Feb. 12, 1956, in Richmond, Ind., by Elder R.R. Patzer. Glenn has been an administrative assistant in Sierra Nevada Church offices. Shirley has been a teacher; administrator; and has held numerous positions including employee of J.I. Case Company; chaplain within the Adventist Health System for 30 years; and presently pastoring the Madison (Ind.) Church for three years.

David W. and Shirley M. Wright celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Apr. 22, 2007, by a reception with family and friends at the Scottsburg (Ind.) Seventh-day Adventist Church fellowship hall. They have been members of the Madison (Ind.) Church for three years.

David W. Wright and Shirley M. Wilms were married Feb. 24, 1957, in Baraboo, Wis., by Pastor Merlin Folt. David has been an employee of J.J. Case Company; chaplain within the Adventist Health System for 30 years; and is presently pastoring the Madison Church. Shirley has been a teacher; administrative secretary; activities director, social worker, and admissions coordinator in nursing homes; mother; and has held numerous church offices.

The Wright family includes Roger and Nannette Wright of Dayton, Ohio; Randy and Miriam Wright of Concord, Calif.; Dixie Jones of Scottsburg; Loren and Caroline Wright of San Bernardino, Calif.; and four grandchildren.

Obituaries

AILERS, Harold L., age 91; born Jan. 26, 1916, in Appleton, Wis.; died Feb. 20, 2007, in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include his sons, Lloyd and Floyd; stepson, Larry Crawford; daughter, Illa McDaniel; stepdaughters, Joyce Shepherd and Bonnie McGowan; and numerous grand- and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Kevin McDaniel, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

BAKER, Philo S., age 104; born Nov. 3, 1902, in Arpin, Wis.; died Feb. 22, 2007, in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. He was a member of the Moon (Wis.) and Wisconsin Rapids Churches.

Survivors include his son, Philo J.; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor David Guerrero, and interment was in Moon Cemetery.

DENNISON, Matilde (Parato), age 86; born Dec. 2, 1920, in Naples, Italy; died Jan. 27, 2007, in Fort Worth, Texas. She was a member of the Detroit (Mich.) Metropolitan Church.

Survivors include her former husband, Allen, of Keene, Texas; daughter, Irene Herr; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bob Stauffer, and interment was in Keene Cemetery.

ELMENDORF, Lawrence P., age 93; born Nov. 16, 1913, in Rock Falls, Ill.; died Mar. 2, 2007, in Como, Ill. He was a member of the Rock Falls Church.

Survivors include his wife, Edith (Elmendorf); son, Larry Jr.; daughters, Judith Wadsworth, Alea Melashinko, Nina Elmendorf Steele, and Laurel Henry; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Anthony Hunter and Don Lewis, and interment was in Riverside Cemetery, Sterling, Ill.

ERICKSEN, Mildred (Peters), age 90; born Nov. 15, 1915, in Chicago, Ill.; died Oct. 15, 2006, in Chicago. She was a member of the North Shore Church, Chicago.

Survivors include her sons, Donald and Keith; daughter, Evelyn Camazzo; 22 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Reuel Bacchus, and interment was in Irving Park Cemetery, Chicago.


Survivors include his wife, Ardela J. (Meese); son, Jeffrey C.; daughter, Jole D. Hilton; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Jeff Dowell, and interment was in Greenwood Cemetery, Aurelius Twp., Mich.

KENNEY, Susan B. (Breyer), age 85; born Dec. 2, 1921, in Leota, Mich.; died Jan. 22, 2007, in Prudenville, Mich. She was a member of the Houghton Lake Church, Prudenville.

Survivors include her sons, Charles O. and Arthur L.; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial and/or funeral service is to be performed in the spring of 2007.

KROHN, Erma Belle (Cornwell), age 86; born July 15, 1920, in Pine Grove Twp., Wis.; died Sept. 3, 2006, in Stevens Point, Wis. She was a member of the Almond (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Kenneth; daughter, Nancy Colon; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor David Guerrero, and interment was in Pine Grove Cemetery, Pine Grove Twp.


Survivors include his wife, Judy (Kimberlin); son, Rodney; daughter, Wendy Taylor; brother, Kenneth; half-brothers, David, Rex, Lonny, and Douglas Allen, and Randy Fyffe; half sisters, Betty Palmer, Linda Anderson, and Danna Rutan-Gezon; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Don Williams and Delmer Austin, and interment was in Robinson Cemetery, Bloominglead, Mich.
All ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: $27 per insertion for Lake Union church members; $37 per insertion for all others. A form is available at www.lakeunionherald.org for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The Lake Union Herald cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The Lake Union Herald does not accept responsibility for typographical errors.

Vacation Opportunities

PILOTS AND AIRCRAFT OWNERS—ALASKAN ADVENTURE! NAD-wide Alaskan Fly-In Camp Meeting, July 2007. Convoj with others as you follow the historic Alaska Highway to our camp at Palmer, Alaska. Then join mission flights to remote villages after camp meeting. For further information, visit www.alaskaconference.org.

VOICE OF PROPHECY ALASKAN ADVENTURE: Join Lonnie and Jeannie Malashenko on Sept. 23, 2007, for seven days cruising through God’s great outdoors. Enjoy Glacier Bay, Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, and Victoria, B.C. Limited space available. For information, call 209-847-1701, or e-mail oakdaletravel@yahoo.com.

OGDEN ADVENTIST TOURS 2007: Participate in Momijigari, the Japanese art of autumn-viewing, Oct. 17–Nov. 2. Accommodations in Tokyo, Takayama, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Explore National Parks, signature gardens, rural villages, World Heritage sites, and more. $4,895 tour package from San Francisco. For more information, call 269-471-3781, or e-mail ogden@andrews.edu.

Miscellaneous

FREE VOCAL MUSIC CONCERTS WITH PERSONAL LIFE EXPERIENCES: A voice instructor from Andrews University with his wife and sister will give free Sat. evening vocal music concerts with testimonies. Two music CDs and a DVD music video are available. For more information, contact Vladimir Slavujevic at 269-473-2826, e-mail slavujev@andrews.edu, or visit website www.andrews.edu/MUSIC/slavujevic.html.

WANTED TO BUY: Used Adventist books, songbooks, cookbooks, schoolbooks. Used Adventist books for sale. If interested, contact John at 269-781-6379.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES WANTED: Sunnydale Industries is looking for manufacturing, assembly, rework, and other labor intensive business opportunities. We are located at Sunnydale Adventist Academy in Centralia, Mo. The students pay their tuition from the money they earn while working in the Christian work environment we provide for them. Support this generation of Adventist youth. Business owners, managers, entrepreneurs, inventors, call Larry at 800-346-3515, or e-mail overtonle@yahoo.com. We have the labor force and the space to work for you!

FREE MISSION AVIATION STORIES!! Contact Adventist World Aviation for a free quarterly newsletter. Write Adventist World Aviation, Box 251, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; e-mail info@flyawa.org; or register online at www.flyawa.org.

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HORSEBACK TRAIL RIDERS join about 20 other riders and enjoy part of Michigan’s shore to shore trail on horseback. Rugged camping, fireside fellowship, and meals provided. All ages welcome. Horse and rider required to ride 20 miles daily. Dates: July 29–Aug. 5. Cost: $150.00. For more information, call 269-463-5156, or visit http://happytrails01.blogspot.com.

Human Resources

PARKVIEW ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER, located in the heart of beautiful Mid-coast Maine, allows you the opportunity to get back to hands-on, community-based nursing care. At this time PMC has openings for RNs. Requirements include Maine RN license or eligibility and BCLS; some positions may require ACLS. Prior experience required for all positions. We offer competitive wages, sign-on bonuses, and relocation-EOE. For information, contact HR Department, 329 Maine St., Brunswick, ME 04011; fax 207-373-2188; e-mail hr@parkviewamc.org; or visit www.parkviewamc.org.

CAMP AU SABLE has an opening for a taskforce worker. For more information or to apply, contact Lyn at 517-316-1570, or e-mail lwhite@misda.org.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE seeks a full-time director for the Dining Commons. Duties include providing food service to the students, staff, faculty, and guests; hiring and supervising personnel; planning special events, etc. Send application available at www.puc.edu/PUCdirectory/forms/PUCEmployment.pdf, letter of introduction, curriculum vitae, and three current references for 2006–2007 academic year to Human Resources, Pacific Union College, One Angwin Ave., Angwin, CA 94508; e-mail hr@puc.edu; or fax 707-965-6400.

SEEKING PART-TIME TRUST REPRESENTATIVE OR SEEKING A MIDWEST MISSIONARY: Dakota Conference is seeking a part-time trust representative to assist in our trust on a part-time or seasonal basis. We have a large program (relative to our conference size) and need some short-term assistance. If you are interested, contact Charles Reel, Vice-President of Finance, by e-mail at charlesreel@pie.midco.net or phone 605-224-8868 ext. 213; visit website dakotaadventist.org; or fax your résumé to 605-224-7886.

COLUMBIA UNION COLLEGE seeks an assistant director for the Center for Learning Resources. A master’s degree in Education/Reading, Psychology, or other related field is required. Send cover letter and CV to the Office of Human Resources, Columbia Union College, 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912; or e-mail to hr@cuc.edu.

Sunset Calendar

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...the Tradition Continues!
Ask for Your Saving Coupon Today!
COLUMBIA UNION COLLEGE seeks a faculty member to teach in the Department of Communication and Journalism. Minimal qualifications include collegiate level teaching experience and a master's degree. Send cover letter and CV to Human Resources, Columbia Union College, 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912; or e-mail to hr@cuc.edu.

COLUMBIA UNION COLLEGE seeks applicants for a full-time teaching position in Psychology beginning July 1, 2007. Candidates must have an earned doctorate in Psychology and an ability to teach forensic psychology courses. Submit vitae and letters of reference to Dr. Grant Leitma, Chair, Department of Psychology, Columbia Union College, 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912; phone 301-891-4140; or e-mail gleitma@cuc.edu.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT needed to assist director of nonprofit group for a TV health ministry in Southern Calif. Experience preferred. Full or part time. Website development and strong computer skills a plus. Send résumé to AMEN, Box 1549, Loma Linda, CA 92354; or e-mail info@AMEN-TV.org. Salary related to experience.

MANAGING DIRECTOR/PRODUCER needed for TV health network seeking to combine the health message with three angels' messages. Located in Southern Calif. Full time. Oversight of daily operation, hiring staff, producing health-related video for television and Internet. Experience preferred. Salary related to experience. Send résumé to AMEN, Box 1549, Loma Linda, CA 92354; or e-mail info@AMEN-TV.org.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING seeks two full-time nursing professors beginning June 1, 2007. Job description includes classroom teaching, with flexibility for undergraduate or graduate teaching assignments, advising, professional and departmental committee responsibilities. Preference given to candidates with earned doctorate and those with maternal-child, pediatric, or theory and research teaching experience. M.S.N. is the minimum degree considered. Send curriculum vitae to Dr. Desiree Batson, Search Committee Chair, at dbatson@southern.edu, or to School of Nursing, Southern Adventist University, PO. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.


LAKE REGION CONFERENCE is seeking these teacher/principal vacancies. One teacher vacancy in Preschool-Kindergarten; one in 1–4 grades; and two in 5–8 grades. One principal vacancy in K–8 Chicago elementary school (Inner City); and one K–8 South Suburban Christian school (Suburbs). Seventh-day Adventist certification required; strong moral character. Interested parties must send their résumé to Edward Woods Jr., Director of Education, Lake Region Conference, 8517 South State St., Chicago, IL 60619.

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BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY HOME FOR SALE in southern Kentucky. Located on three acres among rolling hills, this lovely three-bedroom, two-bathroom, ranch lists for $108,000. Conservative Adventist church and community. Lovely place to raise a family or retire. For more information, call 606-787-6778, or visit us at http://KentuckyLandDevelopment.com.

ADVENTIST-REALTOR.COM is a nationwide real estate referral service. We assist church members and employees in buying or selling their homes. A network of 230 Adventist realtors is ready to serve you. For information, contact Linda Dayen at 888-582-2888, or e-mail Adventist-Realtor.com. Agents and brokers, ask about being included in our network.

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**BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY HOME FOR SALE** in southern Kentucky. Located on three acres among rolling hills, this lovely three-bedroom, two-bathroom, ranch lists for $108,000. Conservative Adventist church and community. Lovely place to raise a family or retire. For more information, call 606-787-6778, or visit us at http://KentuckyLandDevelopment.com.

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New luxury town home located in Unbridled Village Estates. This 1,312 sq. ft., two-bedroom, two-bathroom unit is $162,500. Perfect for retirees or empty nesters desiring maintenance-free living. Located only six tenths of a mile from the A.U. campus. For information, call Daniel Bacchiocchi at 269-471-7226, or e-mail dbacchi@sbcglobal.net.

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ADRA International is looking for a dynamic individual to join its development team in the capacity of Director with a focus on major gifts. The ideal candidate will possess and demonstrate sound judgment, impeccable integrity, and demonstrated initiative working in a non-profit organization. The position offers an attractive remuneration package, some travel, and an exciting strategic leadership opportunity in a fast-paced multi-cultural environment. Domestic and some overseas travel are required to make this cause-driven position a success!

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ADRA International is seeking a passionate, talented, and reliable individual to join a fast-paced, multi-cultural environment as finance director. The ideal candidate will have the opportunity to lead a team of capable finance professionals and supervise ADRA International's accounting operations—developing, coordinating and overseeing the programs and procedures for maintaining financial records. If you want to make a difference and use your financial skills to give hope to a world of hurt and suffering, then this exciting opportunity is for you.

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ADRA International is looking for an energetic, self-motivated individual to join our Planning Team. The best candidate will work to find new funding opportunities through prospecting, planning, proposal development, and networking in order for ADRA to continue to change the world one life at a time.

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The full position description and application details can be found at www.adra.org, or by calling Sisi Cruz, Human Resource Coordinator, on 1.800.931.2372. Only those applicants who meet the specific basic requirements and whose applications pass initial screening will receive a reply.

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MOVE WITH AN AWARD-WINNING AGENCY. Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves for you. Call us for all your relocation needs. Contact Marcy Danté at 800-766-1902, or visit our website: www.apexmoving.com/adventist/.


SINGLE AND OVER 40? The only inter racial group exclusively for all singles over 40. STAY HOME AND MEET NEW FRIENDS in the U.S.A. with a pen pal monthly newsletter of members and album. For information, send large self-addressed, stamped envelope to ASO-40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479.

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“Classifieds”

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Listener in the Middle East

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USA contact: 1-886-KOREALS
Cell: 1-240-535-1623
E-mail: wowsda@hotmail.com
Marked by the disease destroying their skin, **victims** of leprosy were cast out by family and friends. One sufferer knelt before the **Great Physician**, knowing **He** could heal him. And with the **touch** of a hand, the man was made whole and sent on his way.

*Mark 8:2-3*

When Jesus was on Earth, the blind, the deaf, the paralyzed found comfort and renewal in His outstretched hand, regardless of means or status. He established a ministry centered on the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of people who were desperate for a healing touch.

With Christ as our example, Adventist Health System employees and physicians reach out to touch the hearts and heal the lives of more than 4 million patients each year. We pray that the compassion of His hand will be felt in the touch of ours.
Indiana

B.I.K.E. (Bike Indiana Kilometer Excursion): Join this long weekend (June 7–10) of biking between 50–70 miles a day in northeast Indiana. Sabbath is a layover day of rest and fellowship. Camping will be in state parks; bring your own tents, etc. All meals and a sag wagon (mobile snack shop) will be provided. Go to www.tcamp.org/ to download registration forms, or call the Indiana Conference youth department at 317-844-6201.

Women’s Ministries Fall Weekend Retreat will be held Sept. 21-23 at the Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park. Guest speaker will be Carla Baker, women’s ministries director for the North American Division. For registration information, contact Julie Loucks at the Indiana Conference office, 317-844-6201; or Shari Blackburn, Indiana Conference women’s ministries director, at 260-450-2534.

Lake Union

Offerings:
- Jun 2 Local Church Budget
- Jun 9 Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries
- Jun 16 Local Church Budget
- Jun 23 Local Conference Advance
- Jun 30 World Mission Budget Offering

Thirteenth Sabbath:
- Jun 30 Trans-European Division

Special Days:
- Jun 9 Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day

Addictions Conference: Want to learn how to better build your ministry skills as you deal with those struggling with addictions in your church, school, or community? Attend the Addictions Conference at Andrews University July 12-15. This conference is sponsored by the North American Division Ministerial Association, Office of Education, and Health Ministry Department. It is for pastors and church leaders, church members and community friends, health professionals and counselors, teachers, educators, and students. Register now online at www.plusline.org/events.php.

A Stewardship Seminar for Pastors, by G. Edward Reid (North American Division stewardship director), will be held Dec. 2-4 in Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich. Persons interested in attending should contact their local conference stewardship director.

Michigan

Tri-City Seventh-day Adventist School’s 50th Anniversary: Saginaw, Midland, St. Charles, and Bay City Churches are planning an Aug. 3-5 celebration. Former teachers, students, or supporters of Tri-City School, Intermediate, or Junior Academy should contact Esther (Kroulik) Trombley at 989-790-2508, e-mail tricity@misda.org, or write Tri-City Seventh-day Adventist School, 3955 Kochville Rd., Saginaw, MI 48604.

UP Michigan Camp Meeting Date Correction: The Upper Peninsula campmeeting dates listed on page 21 and the back cover of the May issue of the Lake Union Herald are incorrect. The actual dates for the Camp Sagola campmeeting are Aug. 3-5. The address and contact information is correct.

North American Division

Covington/Taylor Mill (Kentucky) Seventh-day Adventist Church’s 40th Anniversary will be on July 14 at Taylor Mill. All former members are invited to attend. For more information, call Sandra Silbersack Bowman at 859-525-7676, or e-mail taylormillsdachurch@yahoo.com.
remember when I couldn’t wait to get out of school. I thought education was a temporary obstacle to life. That was before I learned that God designed us to be learners, explorers, and discoverers; and that education was an adventure of a lifetime—an eternal lifetime.

I was inspired this past weekend by one who embraced that concept here and now. She’s known on the campus of Andrews University as “Auntie Irma,” a 66-year-old grandma who just completed her doctorate in education administration and received her diploma with her grandchildren-aged classmates.

Irma LaBorde began her lifelong learning on the island of St. Vincent. Inspired by her father, she has kept his dream alive of one day establishing a school. With his encouragement, she began teaching at the age of 16. Three children and ten grandchildren later, she has completed her doctoral degree and plans to return to her island home to establish a teacher’s college.

The process of realizing a God-given dream does not come without considerable sacrifice. Yet, somehow the sacrifices made to establish this partnership/relationship with the Master Teacher appear small compared to the large gains in purpose-driven service that it produces.

Whether you are on a quest to realize your God-given dream, providing the resources to help others realize their dreams; or like “Auntie Irma” you have a vision to teach the teachers, God wants to partner with you in that process of learning. I look forward to an eternal lifetime of realizing my God-given dreams.

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director.
I could see the questions in the eyes of my class sponsor as I stated, “I’m sorry, but I can’t work at the auction on Saturday.” I waited for an answer. I attended a non-denominational Christian school my freshman and sophomore years of high school and I was facing another test.

My parents valued a Christian education highly, and raised me in a God-fearing, Adventist home. I enjoyed being home-schooled until eighth grade when I attended a small Adventist school.

At the non-denominational high school, there were always hurdles to overcome. Sabbath was always an issue. Sports teams always had games on Friday night or Sabbath. Some music organization concerts were on Sabbath. However, the biggest issue was the annual school auction. All students and parents were required to help out. My freshman class was assigned to work in the refreshment booth on Sabbath morning.

During my two years at this school I enjoyed my classes, and the close friendships with the students and faculty were a blessing, but one thing always bothered me: the differences in our doctrines. Even though we were all Christian, there were still many differences. I knew God will bless my efforts to witness to them, and I certainly hope to be reunited with them someday in Heaven.

The school sponsored a mission trip to the Dominican Republic the two years I attended. It was a life-changing experience to go and serve others. However, I was always disturbed because they presented false doctrines to the people. After my second mission trip, I came home distraught. I cried about my friends spreading falsehoods. My parents realized it was time for a change. We decided it was time to switch to an Adventist school.

My parents’ commitment to this decision took me on a journey from Florida to Michigan, where I enrolled at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA). What a change! I truly felt revitalized in an environment where everyone was Adventist. During the first weeks at GLAA, I remember thinking it was incredible that I was learning doctrinal truths in Bible class. I was amazed that everyone believed the same doctrines I did. It was truly a blessing to be receiving an Adventist education.

At the other school, the school auction dilemma was solved by me working another time, but what a blessing to not face these decisions at GLAA. I know I was strengthened by the choices I had to make, but the influences around me now are much better.

The thing I appreciate most about an Adventist school is being taught biblical truths, and having opportunities to share them with others. We go out and witness to other people, and this time we aren’t sharing partial-truths! I am now in an environment where my spiritual life has been refreshed. Adventist education has given me the opportunity to prepare for life when I am on my own. When the day comes, and I am tested about my faith, I will be able to share with others about Him who I love the most.

Nadine Betat just completed her senior year at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. She lives in Wimauma, Florida. Nadine will attend Southern Adventist University next year and plans to major in nursing. She will receive a $100 scholarship since her article was selected for publication.
Elisha (Ee-Leeˇ´s) Beam is from Rolling Prairie, Indiana. A senior at New Prairie High School in New Carlisle, Indiana, Elisha looks forward to an exciting future at Andrews University next school year. After her first visit to the LaPorte Seventh-day Adventist Church, Elisha knew she wanted to be part of the family of God. Her friendship with a church family gave her a picture of Jesus Christ that birthed a desire to serve Him. Working at Timber Ridge Camp last summer, Elisha made her decision for Christ and was baptized August 26, 2006.

This year at school, Elisha has enjoyed soccer and diving. The pressure to return to her previous life was great, yet she has learned to depend on Jesus. Elisha has not been recognized at high school for her greatest achievement this year—to survive spiritually. She believes it is a privilege to witness by standing true to her faith. Her desire is show others the true feeling of family that comes from being part of God’s Kingdom.

Elisha’s plans are to work another summer at Timber Ridge Camp. She then plans to pursue art education and religion degrees at Andrews University, allowing God to use her however He chooses.

Jeremy Christopher Wong is a junior at the New Albany Christian Academy of Indiana, a school with more than 700 students. Elected school chaplain, he plans and helps with weekly chapel. He organized the first Week of Prayer, which led to renewed interest in spiritual matters for many students. Jeremy is not hesitant to witness for his beliefs. He and another Adventist student will graduate next year, so school administration has scheduled commencement to take place before the Sabbath begins.

A junior elder of his church in New Albany, Jeremy says, “I love my church! They are not afraid to train me and other young people.” Jeremy feels blessed to be a member of an active church youth group. Last fall, he and seven other youth held a series of evangelistic meetings at the church. “Lives were changed,” said Jeremy.

Prior to the 2007 Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries convention in Louisville, Kentucky, evangelistic meetings will be held, and Jeremy will be a speaker. He said, “I feel honored to be used by God to spread the Three Angels’ Messages.”

Besides his passion for evangelism, Jeremy also loves to hang out with his friends, play basketball, soccer, and saxophone, and he loves the thrill of downhill skiing. Jeremy is the son of Alan and Lian Wong of Sellersburg, Indiana.
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