“Telling the stories of what God is doing in the lives of His people”

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An experiment in Christian education and a shared vision of E.A. Sutherland, Percy Magan and Ellen White, Emmanuel Missionary College took its name from the idea that where people and resources unite to train young people to embrace God’s vision, a sense of Emmanuel (God with us) would produce outcomes unprecedented in educational institutions. Now Andrews University continues that legacy for a new generation.

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The discussion about creation and other varying ideas of origins has been taking place for a long time in society and, yes, within our church. The topic of creation goes to the core of the validity of Scripture and our identity and purpose individually and collectively for our church’s apocalyptic place in history.

While attending the recent Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) convention, I visited the Andrews University booth. A faith-affirming statement caught my eye on one panel of the booth: “At Andrews University we seek to advance the rigorous study of the sciences in relationship to our Creator within the context of a distinctly Seventh-day Adventist Christian worldview. "We seek to perceive and understand our Creator through the study of what He has made in order to better serve humanity and care for the creation. This involves scholarship and research, growing the analytical and creative abilities, and achieving a depth of understanding of modern scientific disciplines. The ultimate goal of this Spirit-centered study and service is to find greater personal integrity and a strengthened faith commitment.”

The whole statement is meaningful within the relationship of faith and science. I hope you caught the last phrase—“a strengthened faith commitment.” This speaks to the core of why we have Seventh-day Adventist schools—to strengthen each individual student in his or her faith and to build a life-long engagement within our students in the message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

As my new relationship with Andrews University deepens, I am becoming acquainted with, and am very thankful for, our dedicated professors. I have seen and heard of those who carefully and prayerfully guide students through the gauntlet of issues facing young minds in today’s world. It is an extremely delicate but vitally important skill to teach truth, to acknowledge the questions a sinful world poses, to guide the discussion and then at appropriate times to stand before students and proclaim a personal understanding and conviction that endorses the scriptures. When this takes place successfully, faith is built in the hearts of students.

As our students graduate and leave the confines of our campuses, they will be challenged with difficult dilemmas in areas of science, ethics and philosophy. What better place than a Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher education to prepare our youth to stand on the Holy Scriptures with faith and intellectual confidence?

In the front of the Bible, Genesis 1:1 speaks of our origins: “In the beginning God created...” The back of the book summarizes the message of the whole book—God’s plan for eternity. Revelation 22:20 says, “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (NKJV).
I, Alexander O’Connor, was raised in an Adventist home. My mother married a Seventh-day Adventist gentleman who shared the Bible’s messages with her. Then she chose to begin worshiping Jesus with my dad on the Sabbath. Soon she wanted to be baptized and become an Adventist, too. Now they have helped me to also want to become an Adventist.

I attended summer camp at Timber Ridge Camp. During one of the spiritual programs, I filled out a request card for baptism. I also filled out a request card for

When Barbara “Barb” Zoltowski overcame her fear of reading religious materials from outside of the denomination in which she was raised, her eyes were opened to a picture of God she had never known. Her trek in discovery began soon after she started praying that her son would find a Christian friend who would be a good influence. Within two weeks, her son began attending a new church. He shared several books and other literature with Barb, and she was encouraged to attend a revival meeting at his church. This began a 17-year affiliation.

But then something happened that led Barb into a new dimension of her relationship with God. While commuting to work as a midnight-shift psychiatric nurse, she began listening to WMUZ, 103.5 FM–The Light, a Detroit Christian radio station. At 10:00 p.m., on a Sunday night, she heard Doug Batchelor speak on the Amazing Facts broadcast. She loved the way he explained the Bible. Barb ordered all Batchelor’s materials, books, videos, CDs and DVDs. She got it all.

The broadcast that really made a difference for Barb was “The World’s Greatest Hoax.” In this presentation, Batchelor explains how the Bible points to the seventh day of the week as the true Sabbath. Convinced, Barb went to the phone directory to look for a Seventh-day Adventist Church, and she called the Metropolitan Church. That day Jane Hess, the church secretary/treasurer, answered the phone. Barb says, “Jane was so nice and made me feel so comfortable.” Barb was impressed. She knew that “this was the church.”

In November 2007, Barb began attending the Metropolitan Church regularly. Supplementing her reading of Batchelor’s materials, Barb soon began to study with Sandi Stewart, Metropolitan’s Bible worker. Barb’s Bible-based education culminated in baptism on June 14, 2008.

While standing in the water just before her baptism, Barb gave her testimony. She stated her desire to share the gospel with others. She wants others to discover the wonderful things she learned about Jesus in the Bible. True to her word, on June 19—the Thursday after her baptism—Barb accompanied Sandi as they responded to Bible study interests. Then, within a week, Barb was on her own, sharing the good news about Jesus with others.
baptism at my Irvington Church. Soon the pastor, Fred Troxell, came to my home and talked to me about my baptism. He suggested I take the computer online Bible study course, "My Place With Jesus." John Sheats, an elder at my church, helped me with the studies.

After I completed the "My Place with Jesus" Bible studies, the pastor set a date for me to be baptized. It took place on Sabbath, March 21, in the Irvington Church.

I encourage you to take Bible studies and become a baptized member of the church. It will show others you have chosen to follow Jesus Christ as your Savior. I desire to go to Heaven with Jesus, and I hope to see you there, too.

Alexander O’Connor, member, Irvington Church, as shared with Bruce Babienco, volunteer correspondent, Lake Union Herald
YOUTH in Action

A Daily Reminder

BY DEANNA DORAN

As a recent Bachelor of Social Work graduate from Andrews University, I ventured out looking for “that social work job.” As a field assistant in the department, I interacted with different agencies in southwestern Michigan. When Judith Stanton called, looking for a social worker for Camp Rosenthal, I immediately reconsidered my options for the summer.

Camp Rosenthal is operated by Chicago Youth Centers and geared toward helping the under-served youth of inner-city Chicago. The children and most of the staff are transported from Chicago to Dowagiac, Michigan, where the camp is located. About 600 kids and families attend each year, so I knew it would be a packed summer. I anticipated it would also be full of lessons.

When I interviewed for the job in February 2009, the summer seemed so far away. When I actually sat through staff training week in June, I realized this summer was going to be different from any I had experienced in the past. There I was—a fresh college graduate from central Illinois—and I was supposed to be able to listen and advocate for the staff and the campers? The enormous responsibility started to weigh heavily on me, and I began to ask myself, “How will I make it through the summer?”

But I did make it through and I can say, without a doubt, that today I am a different person. I love Camp Rosenthal. That’s all there is to it. I love the kids, the staff and occasionally the food. I wouldn’t trade this experience for the most sought-after internship or the highest-paying summer job. As young kids sat across from me pouring out their dreams and goals for their future while playing with Play-Doh and markers, I realized this wasn’t just any camp. This camp changes lives. I saw emotionally scarred children reinvent their dreams and chart a new course for their lives.

Though portraying Christ wasn’t the main agenda at Camp Rosenthal, it was a frequent topic of conversation. Fellow staff members knew I was a Seventh-day Adventist because I didn’t work on Saturday. A humbling sense of responsibility washed over me each time a fellow staff member searched me out looking for answers about God and religion.

This summer wasn’t just a job; it was God’s personalized plan for me. I wouldn’t trade the experience for anything, even though at first my comfort zone was undoubtedly compromised. I cried for those kids, laughed with those kids and loved those kids. Summer 2009 was a milestone for many reasons. God taught me what being a God-fearing fisherman is all about.

As I glance at my car’s rearview mirror, I see a butterfly craft made by a child who attended Camp Rosenthal. It serves as a daily reminder to Deanna Doran (second from left) that her God will meet all her needs and more. As young kids sat across from me pouring out their dreams and goals for their future while playing with Play-Doh and markers, I realized this wasn’t just any camp.

Deanna Doran is pursuing a Masters of Social Work at Andrews University. Her hometown is Decatur, Illinois.
I never really wanted to teach, and I’m not one to pursue adventure. But after spending a year as a student missionary in Thailand, I can easily see how the power of God was working in my life. He worked through me to give me the strength to do things I’ve never done or that I thought I wasn’t capable of.

I arrived in Bangkok unsure of what to expect. To my surprise, I found 14-story shopping malls, western buffet-style restaurants, 7-Elevens and movie theaters at every corner. At first I was disappointed. This experience was supposed to free me from materialistic pleasures and take me away from the kind of world I was already familiar with. I wanted an experience isolated from the secular world, so I could have more time for spiritual matters. But God had a plan.

At the Seventh-day Adventist Language School, I primarily taught English to students ranging in age from five to 50, from the beginner to the advanced. At first, I thought I would really enjoy teaching kids and dreaded the pressure of teaching adults intent and dedicated to learn English. When that first day of teaching adults arrived, I was nervous. Four students walked through the door. They had smiles on their faces, but I knew I was under a microscope as they tried to figure out this foreigner standing before them.

After introductions, I was pleasantly surprised to find myself thinking, *This is actually going pretty well!* All too soon my confidence crumbled. A student raised her hand and said, “Teacher, can you slow down, please?” I was so accustomed to speaking in English, trying to slow it down to a teaching pace was a foreign concept. I felt the stares. I feared they each had hopes of seeing me fail. Luckily, I had to go make copies and was able to escape the stares for a few brief moments. A few moments was all I needed to ask for God’s help for the class to go smoothly. I walked back into the classroom with a whole new outlook on those four sets of staring eyes: *These are people with a genuine interest in learning.* Before I knew it, God erased my fears. Looking back, that was my favorite class.

I didn’t spend my time as a student missionary going door to door or preaching or building churches. Instead, God gave me unique witnessing experiences while teaching. Through my actions, I showed my students God’s love, and that often led to one-on-one conversations about Jesus Christ, His sacrifice and Christianity. Yet, not only was I able to affect others’ lives, but I experienced a radical transformation as well. It was during my time as a student missionary when fears caused me to rely solely on God for strength and guidance. It was then—amid the noise of a modern city and fast-paced lifestyle—when I heard more answers to prayer than I ever had in my entire life.

Michael Castelbuono is a senior at Andrews University. He is studying computer science and math.

Michael Castelbuono (center) recalls, “They looked harmless, but the eyes staring back at me in the classroom were [some] of the scariest things I’ve ever had to face.”
An important gift we can give our teens is to teach them about the concept of balcony people. Balcony people are those who, living and dead, show us we can live above the petty and discordant levels of life and who give us hope, suggests Ross Campbell, author of *How to Really Love Your Teen*. Balcony people are those who we can trust wholeheartedly and admire. They are the ones we know will love us no matter what.

Of course, we want to be balcony people for our children, and we can be. However, teens are very sensitive to pessimism, especially from their parents. Sometimes we are pessimistic about our children in one way or another, in addition to being preoccupied with our own personal challenges. As parents, we are sometimes puzzled about what our teens really need from us.

Our young people need balcony people to counter the cellar voices that come from the “basement” of their lives: rash temper, boiling anger, vindictive feelings. Cellar voices also come from the effects of those around them who, because of their own guilt, frustration, pent up hostility and low self-esteem, cut others down and tell them how bad the world really is.

An important aspect of parenting is to prepare children for life outside the home, to introduce people and experiences that broaden children’s horizons and introduce them to their own abilities, those who can assist them in developing skills to get along in the world. One way to do this is to be sure they have others, outside the family, to whom they can look to for inspiration and instruction, and whom they can trust. These could be called balcony people.

And where are the best places to find balcony people for our children? They may be relatives, neighbors, those in our church congregations, teachers, school administrators, coaches or family friends. God has placed so many among us who can be balcony people for our children.

First, we need to build confidence and trust in our children’s lives so they can be open to the influence of other positive people. We need to be sure that our children are in environments where they can come to really know other adults and develop relationships with them. They also need to understand, from a Biblical perspective, that there have always been people who are loyal to God’s Word and who have served Him. During family worship, exploring verses such as Romans 8:28, Isaiah 41:10 and Psalms 34:19 can be a powerful part of this journey. Hebrews 11 is a roll call of people who proved that faith is workable in spite of circumstances and that life can have meaning any time in history.

Most of us learn from our own experiences, but it takes a wise person to learn from the experiences of others. Our teens face an uncertain world. They need hope, confidence, courage, moral strength and a sense of responsibility. Balcony people can provide these things. They are the dispensers of hope in an uncertain world.

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 a licensed marriage and family therapist.
In the last chapter of his book, *The Blue Zone*, Dan Buettner describes a number of common features that characterize people living in the Blue Zones. The inhabitants of these areas engage in low-intensity physical activity as part of their usual work routine. This includes a combination of aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities to ensure good body balance. All centenarians were noted to walk every day.

Longevity all-stars also did not overeat. They ate to satisfy hunger rather than eating until they felt full. They typically ate nutrient-dense foods rather than calorie-dense foods. It was noted that the Okinawan stir-fried tofu and greens has the same volume as a hamburger and fries, but the Okinawan meal has only one-fifth the calories. In the Blue Zones, the biggest meal of the day is typically eaten during the first half of the day and typically plant-based foods are eaten. They often eat food from their own gardens rather than processed foods, soda pop or salty snacks. Whole grains, beans (or tofu) and garden vegetables are the cornerstone of all Blue Zone diets.

Of all the centenarians interviewed, Dan says there was not a single grump in the whole bunch. Inhabitants of the Blue Zones were happy people, possessing a strong sense of purpose and a clear goal in life, giving them fulfillment and meaning. People who make it to 100 were seen to exude a sense of serenity. They have time periods where they slow down, unwind and de-stress. Meditation allowed the mind to get rid of incessant chatter in the head. The most successful centenarians also put families first. They make family time a real priority.

Healthy centenarians everywhere possess faith and participate in a spiritual community that fosters social networks and connectedness. Religion typically encourages positive expectations that improve health. People normally relinquish the stress of everyday life to a higher power.

Dan encourages the reader to surround themselves with people who share the same Blue Zone values. It is easier, he says, to adopt good health habits when you hang out with people who practice those things. By adopting the lifestyle habits of Blue Zone inhabitants we also can live longer and improve the quality of our lives.

Winston J. Craig, Ph.D., RD, is a professor of nutrition at Andrews University.
The Matabeles were waiting, eager to learn the words in the teacher’s books. But the teacher was late and having a rough time arriving. The rains came too early. A wagon wheel broke. The oxen laid down on the job. His young assistant ran in terror when a kudu ram attacked the wagon. Nothing went well and the Matabeles had to wait longer.

The teacher was a Christian, but the rains, oxen, kudu (a woodland antelope), wheel and fear so overwhelmed him that he wallowed in determination and forgot to pray. His Battle Creek, Michigan, teachers taught him to pray when things go bad, to pray when wheels break, when oxen lay down, when kudus attack and when the rains come early.

He learned the lessons well, but now rushed ahead on his own, leaving God in the muddy savannas behind.

Now, with the Zambezi River just beyond the next hill and the sun about to follow the flamingos into the West, he lashed the oxen toward the ferry. His favorite campsite called, and he was ready to sleep beneath the baobabs on the far bank of the Zambezi. Only the river and the crotchety, old, British ferry captain stood in the way of rest, so the teacher pressed on with vigor.

The captain saw them coming, chuckled and closed the padlock on the ferry chains. He knew the teacher, knew the traveler’s love for the campsite and was ready to go home for supper.

That’s when the teacher began shouting for the captain to “Wait!”

The next moments were a very bad illustration of Christian relationships. The teacher shouted. The captain shouted back. The teacher plead, bribed and cajoled. The captain laughed, cursed and walked home.

“I’m not going to move the ferry again tonight, not even for a teacher. Sleep somewhere over here, and I’ll take you in the morning.”

The teacher—angry, frustrated and not humble—pitched his tent, fried his cornmeal and muttered about the captain’s bad attitude. It was not a good night.

The teacher rose with the sun, boiled his breakfast, packed his tent, loaded his wagon, hitched his oxen, collected his young assistant and drove down the bank to the smiling captain of the waiting ferry.

No apologies. No friendly banter between old friends. No plowing of the past. Just a ferry trip across the Zambezi.

On the other side the teacher mustered his oxen and assistant and drove up the bank toward the baobabs. An unheard voice called him toward the campsite “for a quick look at where I had dreamed of sleeping,” he later told friends.

A badly shredded tent lay beneath the trees. Beside it were a wagon, some wooden boxes and many tracks of marauding lions. Beside the tent was the sole of a well-worn, leather boot—all that was left of the European trader who camped beneath the baobabs last night.

The teacher saw the boot, imagined the lions and fell to his knees—his hands clasped in a desperate prayer of repentance and thanksgiving.

“I knew right and chose wrong,” he told his Matabele students later that week. “I forgot to trust God, but He didn’t forget to protect me. I was cruel to a friend, but God used that friend to teach me to trust. I wanted what I wanted, but God wanted something different for me. God wanted me to survive so I could come here and teach you the value of trusting Him.”

Dick Duerksen is the “official storyteller” of Marantha Volunteers International. This story was written after Dick heard it from Life Mwanza, a grandson of one of teacher W. H. Anderson’s Matabele students. Readers may contact the author at dickduerksen@maranatha.org.
Dear God,

Autumn is a beautiful time at Andrews. When my family and I moved there in 1962, so I could join the faculty, we thought we had discovered The Promised Land. The leaves were on the verge of catching fire, the days were comfortable and the evenings were gentle.

But then came winter, and I had to repent of my hasty evaluations. It was not paradise at all. The snow fell horizontally creating drifts that swept up the back of the house, connecting the eaves to the ground. We had already served a term in Fairbanks, Alaska, but now I was learning the definition of winter.

With a brief interlude in the middle we stayed 11 years, and then left only because we were called overseas. Why so long? Because I was so blessed with the privilege of teaching at a Christian college (as it was then). I wasn’t just a professor or a lecturer; I got to pastor those kids. The prayer times to begin our classes were not just perfunctory niceties, they were times of worship and awe at what we were discovering about who You are. We prayed for understanding, but there were frequent personalized pleas for the needs there in the room or the dorm or the families of students—a gal who had just split up with her boyfriend, a guy whose younger brother was struggling with his faith back home.

I’ve met those kids over the intervening years … all around the world. They remind me about those classes, about things we learned that blessed them and helped them on their journey. I still get e-mails from some of them nearly half a century later. You can put up with a lot of snow when you get that kind of paycheck. Some tell me they are retiring now, and I know I’m blessed to have had even a small part in who they became.

Lord, I think one of the nicest things that has ever happened to me happened on this beautiful campus when a student, whose name I don’t even recall, came to me and said, “At the close of the class today I didn’t know whether you were going to give an exam or an altar call.”

I’m sure I learned more from my students than I taught them. I learned about repentance when a student showed up one day and told me that the previous semester he had turned in a book report for a book he hadn’t actually read. We worked out an appropriate make-up assignment, and I assured him of my forgiveness. And God’s. I learned about grace when I responded unkindly to a student’s constant questioning, and then he came to me after class and said he had forgiven me.

They gathered around the lectern and prayed for us when my wife went in for a breast biopsy. They rejoiced with us when our oldest son was baptized.

Dear God, it’s a great privilege to be a teacher. But it’s an indescribable honor to be a teacher on the campus of a Christian school. Like Andrews. Just think of all the reminiscing and praising that will go on there at that alumni reunion beside the Sea of Glass. And no snow! Hallelujah! Amen.

Your friend.

Don Jacobsen is the former president of Adventist World Radio. He writes from Hiawassee, Georgia.
A Living Example of Christ

BY ERICA SLIKKERS

On May 5, 44 Andrews University Symphony Orchestra students, faculty and staff departed for the Philippines and Hong Kong on a nearly three-week tour. Planned as simply an educational music tour culminating in the very first International Adventist Youth Music Festival, it didn’t take long to find opportunities to work in the mission field.

Perhaps I was being ignorant, but as we prepared for travel to the Philippines the thought never entered my mind that it was a Third World country. I was shocked by the poverty. Shanty homes lined streets and many citizens don’t have access to such simple luxuries as indoor plumbing or running water. Our busload of faces very different from their own was a magnet for attention. People waved as if we were celebrities in a tour bus.

Arriving at the Adventist University of the Philippines of Puting Kahoy, Silang Cavite, Philippines, we were exhausted from traveling, but perked up with our hosts’ warm welcome. On our first Sabbath, students visited several community churches and participated in the worship services. Some groups, including mine, found ourselves coordinating the entire service. The church leaders mistakenly thought we would provide the worship program.

Reflecting on that first Sabbath, I later realized a significant life lesson. While leading song service, I noticed several children standing on their tiptoes in the back of the church. These children couldn’t take their eyes or ears off us. They absorbed our every word and action. It hit me: I now fully understood what it meant to be a living example for Christ. I live every day intending to be polite and kind to every person I meet, but never before fully considered how I represent Christ in the way I talk or dress, my manner of prayer and in every move I make. We were out of our element, but in the center of attention. This instilled a deeper sense of responsibility to let Christ shine through me.

A new church plant, Pioneer Memorial Church in Hong Kong, was dedicated and our group was responsible for most of the service. The dynamic was different there. As a new church, many new members to the faith filled its pews. If I had thought the importance of being a living example of Christ was significant before, this opportunity took it to a new level. This group observed us not just as foreigners, but as new Christian brothers and sisters in the Seventh-day Adventist faith. This was more mission. Every action I made was a witness.

During the course of the trip, the temperature was nearly unbearable—even to a heat-lover like myself. The humidity was unheard of, the bugs were big, the rehearsals were long and patience was a hot commodity. Though faced with daily challenges, the trip was undoubtedly an experience of a lifetime. It was also my first opportunity to lead the rest of my life as a living, breathing example of Christ-like character.

Erica Slikkers, a violinist in the Andrews University Symphony Orchestra, is the assistant manager at the Howard Performing Arts Center at Andrews University.

While traveling in the Philippines and Hong Kong, Erica Slikkers (left) learned that “every action I made was a witness.” Also pictured is Gladden O. Flores, president of Adventist University of the Philippines.
Lo que más me impactó de estas reuniones fueron las personas adultas que acompañaban a los jóvenes. Era muy evidente la dedicación de los adultos al acompañar a los jóvenes en las diversas actividades y al estar con ellos en las carpas. No había duda alguna que ellos sentían una preocupación especial por el crecimiento espiritual de estos jóvenes. Esto fue muy evidente en las noches cuando el predicador hacía llamados a los jóvenes para el bautismo. Cuando respondían al llamado muchos de ellos pasaban acompañados por sus directores.

Recuerdo de manera muy especial la noche que yo había sido asignado para recibir a los jóvenes que respondían al llamado. Vi a una directora acompañar a una joven. Hablé con la joven y oré con ella. Inmediatamente llamé a su pastor en el estado de California con mi teléfono celular para obtener su consentimiento y apoyo. Luego, el pastor conversó con la joven y la felicitó por su decisión. Al ver el apoyo que tanto la directora como el pastor daban a esa joven me di cuenta cuán comprometidos están en ayudar a los jóvenes para que sean fieles discípulos de Jesús. No cabe duda que el apoyo que ellos dieron a los Conquistadores fue la clave que animó a más de 500 jóvenes a tomar el paso del bautismo el último día del camporí.

Al terminar el camporí me sentí muy animado al ver cómo nuestra iglesia se preocupa por los jóvenes y hace todo lo posible para mantenerlos fieles a Cristo. Me animó mucho también ver cuánto aprecian los jóvenes los esfuerzos que la iglesia hace para su bien espiritual. La mayor lección que aprendí de este evento es que no debemos dejar de darle prioridad a la salvación de los jóvenes. Ellos necesitan ver que nuestras iglesias se preocupan por ellos. Una pregunta que quisiera dejar con usted como lector es: ¿Qué estoy haciendo yo para apoyar y ayudar a los jóvenes en mi iglesia?

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente general de la Unión del Lago.

“Dios ha designado a la iglesia como atalaya, para que ejerza un cuidado celoso sobre los jóvenes y niños, y que como centinela vea cómo se acerca el enemigo y advierta del peligro” (Consejos para los maestros, Pág. 126).
When the General Conference Autumn Council convened in October 1958, perhaps no one fully knew how the discussions that ensued and the decisions the delegates made would affect people, institutions and the Church itself. The attendees were about to witness the birth of a new comprehensive university to serve the World Church. It would be a long process culminating in the naming of Andrews University in April 1960. Three institutions in particular would never be the same again: Emmanuel Missionary College, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and Potomac University.
EMMANUEL MISSIONARY COLLEGE

In 1958, Emmanuel Missionary College (EMC) had been in Berrien Springs, Michigan, for 57 years. The school resided on about 400 acres, which included “rich farm land,” in what then-president Floyd O. Rittenhouse referred to as a “favored rural region.” Recent building achievements included a “modern, efficient milking parlor,” and plans were underway for a student center that would include new, updated dining services. It would be the first change in the cafeteria accommodations since the dining room was installed in the basement of the women’s dormitory in 1901. The campus was also abuzz with the near-completion of a brand new college church, rising on the southern edge of campus. The library housed a collection of 60,000 books, but was quickly outgrowing its home in what is today known as Griggs Hall. Of the dedicated faculty, 16 had doctorates and 40 held master’s degrees.

In spite of its rural setting and the apparent slow pace of EMC’s campus life, Rittenhouse noted, “Our campus far more closely resembles an anthill than a calm and quiet retreat.”

In the fall of 1958, 929 students representing 23 countries were enrolled in the college. The student body reveled in the typical round of collegiate activities: the student paper, the yearbook, campus clubs, Ingathering, MV (missionary volunteer) bands, American Temperance Society orations, singing in the Collegians or playing in the EMC concert band, the SA (student association) banquet, the lyceum-concert series on Saturday nights and so on. In addition to pursuing a rich extracurricular life and their studies, the students worked all over campus—at the bindery, laundry, farm, college press and service station, to name just a few. Rittenhouse boasted that they earned more than half a million dollars in their on-campus work.

And the world crept into the peaceful setting, as it always had. Rittenhouse reminded the Lake Union constituency that the campus was not completely isolated: “Influences of the cold war, the struggle over integration, labor difficulties, the decline of public and private morality, the portents of radically differing patterns of society under the aegis of nuclear science and the space age, the competition for students on the part of well-financed, tax-supported colleges—all these things affect us.”

THE SEMINARY

For the past 23 years, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary had been near the hub of the nation in Takoma Park, Maryland. A new Seminary building had been built on a lot behind the General Conference (World Church headquarters) and dedicated in January 1941, but by 1957 the building was already overflowing. Designed for a maximum enrollment of 140, it often accommodated around 200 students from 13 countries. Classes were held in the chapel and the Takoma Park Church. The carefully selected theological library, cared for by Mary Jane Mitchell, held an impressive 43,000 volumes. It, too, was overflowing.

In 1958 there was an influx of “fifth-year” ministerial students completing their extra year of training after college (a new church-wide requirement), but a majority of the students were mature church workers, many of them ordained,
who had already served in the field and had returned for graduate training. They were serious students hungry for more intellectual and spiritual underpinnings on which to build their ministry. The Seminary owned 83 apartments where the students lived, many married with families. Students often struggled to make ends meet, working at a wide variety of jobs throughout the urban area.

Jan Paulsen, current president of the General Conference, shared his personal experiences during an August 2009 visit to Andrews University. Paulsen holds degrees from EMC, the Theological Seminary in Takoma Park and Andrews University—uniquely positioning him to remember the times of decision and change that led to the creation and formation of Andrews University in 1959. Paulsen was just 22 years old when he began his education at the Seminary in Takoma Park. From 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., he worked as a night watchman at the General Conference, making rounds and doing a little janitorial work as well: “I had one section of the building that I had to clean every night. I’ll tell you: there is an enormous amount of education in wastebaskets. And that’s where I began my service for the General Conference.”

Paulsen remembers the two very distinct “flavors” of the seminary experience in the D.C. area versus his experience in Berrien Springs. There, many seminarians were missionaries on furlough. It was quite common for missionaries to use their furlough as a chance to complete their graduate work. “That put a very specific flavor—it’s difficult to describe—but it’s a down-to-earth type spirituality,” says Paulsen. “It’s not a classroom spirituality. They had been working in a multicultural, real-world experience and they brought that reality into the classroom with them.”

The actual location of the Seminary, adjacent to the General Conference, was of great importance to Paulsen’s experience: “We ate in the Review & Herald cafeteria if we wanted to. Many of the GC (General Conference) people were also there eating. We worshiped in the same churches. Some of the GC people would come and teach the classes. The aura of being close to the GC was impactful on me.”

**POTOMAC UNIVERSITY**

In 1955, the General Conference had undertaken the issue of expanding advanced study in the denomination by forming the Committee on Graduate Work. The Church—both in North America and worldwide—desperately needed educators with advanced degrees in its secondary schools and colleges. The result of the Committee’s research and deliberations was a decision made at the 1956 Annual Council to establish a university that would consist of “an organic union of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and a new graduate school,” as well as an “affiliation with Washington Missionary College as the undergraduate institution.” E.D. Dick, then-president of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, was asked to serve as acting president of the new entity, which would be called Potomac University. W.H. Beaven, the dean, began to develop graduate programs in religion, history and education, and made plans for degrees in English, music and biology as soon as finances permitted.

Then the wrangling over the location of the new university began. There was no extra room on the cramped campus of Washington Missionary College or at the Seminary. Would the University stay in Takoma Park with new facilities to be built on 18 acres next to Takoma Academy? Would the whole school move out of the city? There were disagreements among church leadership as to the next step.

In June 1958, the trustees decided to call a new president to Potomac University—Rittenhouse, president of EMC in Berrien Springs. With some reluctance and a good deal of
arm-twisting from the church headquarters, Rittenhouse accepted and began a double life of serving as president to both EMC and Potomac University until a replacement could be found for his duties in Berrien Springs.

Rittenhouse liked to say that during that stressful period he commuted by night and worked by day. Known for having a frank sense of humor combined with a quick wit, Rittenhouse was well-known for his quips. Greg Constantine, research professor of art and artist-in-residence emeritus (and a student at EMC/Andrews University from 1955 to 1960), recalls one of the president’s memorable pieces of advice to the students: “One of the things he liked to say was, ‘The door that let you in will also let you out.’”

Rittenhouse agreed to be president of Potomac University contingent upon the understanding that all three institutions—Washington Missionary College, the Seminary and the graduate school—would be integrated. R.R. Figuhr, General Conference president at that time, assured him that that would be the case. At that time, Rittenhouse had no other thought than that the new combined university would be located in the Washington, D.C., area.

Rittenhouse, along with the rest of the search committee, set his attention on finding a location to build this new university in the greater D.C. area. They found a parcel of property—not far from what is today the location of the General Conference headquarters—and paid down an option with intentions to build the new integrated school there.

“I worked night and day, early and late, trying to get a decision to build the new institution there,” said Rittenhouse. “But I soon discovered Columbia Union Conference was very hesitant to move Washington Missionary College.”

Money was the culprit. Church leadership felt they did not have sufficient funds to build the new institution and soon politics set in. Eventually, according to Rittenhouse, the entire proposal—the bringing together of the graduate school, the Seminary and Washington Missionary College—fell apart over the issue of .25 percent interest on a loan.

**AUTUMN COUNCIL 1958**

Things came to a head in October 1958. Rittenhouse wrote to Figuhr just days before Autumn Council began. In that letter he wrote, “Now these developments clearly indicate that the university as outlined to me does not now seem to be either in the immediate or remote prospect. Thus, the post which I thought I was to have, does not now exist nor does it appear likely to exist anytime in the near future. I do not feel that I would fit very well in the Seminary as such by itself. ... Under these circumstances I feel that I am left no choice but to bow out of the picture. ... I plan to be in Washington next week for a few days of the Autumn Council, but I cannot stay long.”

Back in Berrien Springs, most at the EMC campus were very unhappy Rittenhouse was leaving. There was apparently a movement afoot, starting almost immediately after he accepted the Potomac University position, to argue for the newly-merged institution to be located in Berrien Springs. Edwin R. Thiele, long-time religion teacher at EMC, admitted in a letter: “I was intensely interested in the location of the university at Berrien Springs right from the first, and did everything I could toward that end.”

Discussion about the university began on Thursday morning, October 23, 1958. Only about 200 in the Council had voting privileges, but the Takoma Park Church was packed with around 500 people. Figuhr made the first public announcement to the assembly that there was a proposal to move the university to Berrien Springs. So many people wanted to speak to the issue that the discussion continued all afternoon and resumed again on Friday morning.

Rittenhouse later recalled of the Autumn Council, “By that time, the Lake Union had decided maybe they should make a plea to have the graduate program moved to EMC. Not having really thought it through thoroughly, but with a hasty decision, Elder J.D. Smith, president of the Lake Union Conference, stood up and said, ‘We’d like to offer the graduate program 40 acres of free land if you’ll come to join [us with] EMC as the undergraduate part of the institution. You can bring the seminary and the graduate school here to Berrien Springs.’”

Then the arguments began. For two days the Council discussed it from every standpoint. Rittenhouse recalled one individual’s opposition to the Berrien Springs location: “’What’s the use of taking a great educational institution and putting it down in the middle of a tomato patch?’”

Advocates for remaining in the D.C. area cited the benefits of having the graduate and seminary programs situated near a mental institution where students could go to study all kinds of mental deviation. That excuse didn’t hold weight for Rittenhouse, and he quickly noted the proximity of a mental institution in Kalamazoo.

Over the course of Autumn Council, Rittenhouse made a number of speeches. At this point, he was clearly advocating for a move to Berrien Springs. Charles Weniger was emphatic about the advantages of being in a cultural center like D.C., with access to the Library of Congress, and at the center of the Seventh-day Adventist power structure. Rittenhouse couldn’t argue with the proximity to the Library of Congress, but made an astute argument against it. Elaine Giddings, long-time professor of communication at Andrews...
University, recalled, “Rittenhouse said he had been talking to six or seven seminary students and not a single one had ever seen inside the Library of Congress. Winton Beaven told me it was one of the most effective—if not the most effective—speeches he had ever heard.”

Paulsen remembers that particular debate: “Two or three times during my study in Washington, D.C., I did, in fact, go to the Library of Congress, but I never thought that was a serious argument.”

Leona Running was then a faculty member at the Seminary in Takoma Park but also a Michigan native and alumna of EMC. She said, “Several of the people that made speeches in the debate ... talked about the need for a rural location and following Mrs. White’s advice. They were very much astonished afterward to find out they had been understood as supporting the move to Berrien. They had meant to support the move to the countryside [in D.C.].”

Some of the misunderstanding that day may have been caused by events that took place before the meetings in Takoma Park. A campaign had been mounted during the summer to bring the university to Michigan. An unsigned, anonymous memorandum circulated through the summer months arguing for the university to be moved out of the D.C. area. It didn’t name Berrien Springs specifically, but it collected a number of quotations from Ellen White about how denominational schools should be established in rural areas. It also argued, with the late 1950s consciousness of the Cold War, that if there were to be atomic warfare, D.C. would be one of the first targets in the United States. It implied that a university located even within 25 to 30 miles of the capital city would not be safe enough. It began to be clear that the idea of relocating to Berrien Springs was gaining ground.

Once the Columbia Union realized a move to Berrien Springs was quite possible, they also realized the impact that losing the tithe of seminary students, faculty and staff would have on their budget, according to Rittenhouse’s account. They went to Figuhr and asked for a decision to be postponed to give them time to reconsider. Rittenhouse remembered that Figuhr’s “dander was up,” and he said, “Absolutely not. You had your chance. Before we adjourn tonight, the decision is going to be made.”

Rittenhouse had a speaking appointment at EMC back in Berrien Springs, so he had to leave Takoma Park early, before a final decision was made.

“I didn’t know what the decision would be,” said Rittenhouse. “I only knew I was in terrible mental turmoil and perplexity because I was so disappointed that we couldn’t have gone out towards Columbia on that spot. That would have answered a lot of the objections and [it] would have been a new place to begin all over again, but [that didn’t happen] because of the lack of vision on behalf of the people in the Columbia Union and because the General Conference was not willing to give more time to consider it. I came home that night by plane, and when I reached home the telephone rang. It was a message that they had voted 3-1 to come to Berrien Springs. Now, I’ll tell you: that was the beginning of tribulation as far as I was concerned.”

Running, professor emerita of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, was in the balcony of the Takoma Park Church during the Autumn Council. When the decision was finally made, she was dumbstruck: “We were just numb. What about access to the Library of Congress and the other libraries in the area? What about all the jobs our students and their families had access to in that area? Would there be anything comparable up in Michigan? What about all the churches the students went to for the Sabbath sermon practicums? The churches in Michigan would entail much more travel and expense,” says Running. “There were just all kinds of problems that we saw, not the least of which was three or four faculty members had just built lovely new homes out in the countryside in the area where they thought the school might move to.”

“The sentiments Dr. Runnings expressed was what the teachers felt, and it filtered through into statements they made to the class,” says Paulsen. “There was a general sense of dismay and anger. They felt a coup had been made. They felt this was a day of real gloom that the church had made this decision.”

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY**

Nonetheless, the decision had been made. People and places in Maryland and Michigan felt the immediate impact, but the decision would have repercussions throughout the Seventh-day Adventist World Church for years to come.

And now that this newly-combined institution was underway, a new name was needed. A Potomac University in Berrien Springs did not seem to make much sense. In April 1959, the Board voted the name Lake Michigan University, but the EMC campus rose up in protest. The name was all about location, they said, and told nothing about the nature of the school or its mission. They argued that the alumni and the constituency would not be happy.

A number of possible names were suggested and discussed: Lake Central University, Lake Arbor University, Pioneer Memorial University, Griggs University, Farnsworth University and Emmanuel University. Two strong possibilities were Maranatha University and J.N. Andrews University.

Rittenhouse preferred Maranatha University: “I liked the
sound of it and it means, ‘The Lord is coming.’” But when it came to the board, some thought it sounded too “highfalutin.”’ The name lost by three votes. And that is how Andrews University got its name, a tribute to a dedicated scholar and the first official missionary of the Seventh-day Adventists church to serve outside North America.

Choosing a name didn’t solve the angst felt in the community. Rittenhouse later reported that some of the faculty members [at EMC] said we don’t know what we’re up against. And Rittenhouse told them, “I can tell you: we’re up against a revolution. That’s what’s going to happen. This institution will never be the same again. And it will be a fine opportunity to serve. The objectives are the same and I believe it’s under God’s providence that we came here.”

Niels-Erik Andreasen, president of Andrews University, remembers the old-timers at EMC were not so happy about the newcomers living in fine brick houses on University Boulevard or that faculty in the Seminary had one full-time secretary for every two teachers. “I remember thinking, Is this ever going to be one university?”

EDUCATION AS A DEFINING FACTOR

Two years before Andrews University was born, the book, Questions on Doctrine, was published. It was a response to the question asked of the Seventh-day Adventist church: Is it a Christian church or a religious sect? “That had been asked in the 1950s, I believe, and the book was written to answer those questions. The answer was: We are a church,” says Andreasen.

“One of the things that distinguishes a church from a religious sect is education. I’ve often wondered if a historian could figure out if there is a relationship between making that decision about our church by the administration of R.R. Figuhr and then by the same administration making a decision that the university should be built with an undergraduate, a graduate and a seminary faculty. So the intriguing question is: Does a Christian church that has defined itself that way also feel compelled to start a university, a real university? Which is what Andrews was intended to be. The more I hear the dialogue, the more I think the answer is ‘Yes,’” says Andreasen.

“These people thought a real Christian church that wants to get rid of the sectarian connotations wants to embrace a university where Christian faith and Christian thinking and theology is informed by theologians, seminary teachers and missionaries returning from the field,” says Andreasen. “Our mission is to see to it that our church is a strong Christian church in the world, something we know cannot happen without a commitment to Seventh-day Adventist Christian education.”

Rittenhouse’s vision at the dawn of Andrews University placed the institution at the helm of Seventh-day Adventist education. “We have the benefit now of being able to look back on the period of several decades. We can clearly see the experience we’ve gained and look at the service that has been provided by the institution, how it has responded to the needs of the church and done so in a wonderful manner,” says Paulsen. “We have been blessed.”

Meredith Jones Gray is professor of English and Andrews University campus historian, and Keri Suarez is a media relations specialist at the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.

The background information for this article was taken from primary documents—minutes, letters and transcripts of reports—in the General Conference Archives and the Center for Adventist Research. Comments by Drs. Rittenhouse, Running and Giddings were made in a panel discussion entitled, “The Birth of Andrews University,” held on May 14, 1988. It was recorded on videotape. Since the decisions of 1958–1959, Andrews University, a General Conference institution, has served as educational servant to the World Church. Remarks by Greg Constantine, Jan Paulsen and Niels-Erik Andreasen are taken from an interview conducted by Brent Geraty on August 14, 2009, for the vespers program of Fall Fellowship at Andrews University in celebration of 50 Years as Andrews University.

Pioneer Memorial Church, shown here in 1959, celebrated its own 50th anniversary in February, 2009. The church remains the heart of campus and community worship, equipping young and old to depart for service to the church and the community.

The EMC Library in Griggs Hall
The strength of the Seventh-day Adventist Pathfinder organization was evident as cars, vans and buses loaded with eager Pathfinders streamed through the gates of the EAA AirVenture Campgrounds in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, August 11–15. Several cyclists also pedaled to the International Pathfinder Camporee, an event that occurs every five years. In all, more than 36,000 journeyed to the camporee, themed “Courage to Stand.” Included were 1,975 international guests from ten Seventh-day Adventist divisions.

A plethora of recreational choices were available at both on-site and off-site locations. These included activities such as ice skating, sailing, golfing, Frisbee golf, inflatables, archery, a petting zoo, a full-size model of the sanctuary and many others too numerous to list. The adjacent airline hangars at Wittman Regional Airport were filled to capacity daily as Pathfinders converged to complete activities from more than 120 honors offered and college honor patches for their sashes.

Highlights of the daytime activities included the Suzuki Dream Team, the Talent Tent performers, the Native American village, the obstacle course and the afternoon on-site parades featuring clubs in full-dress uniform marching down the Midway to the beat of numerous drummers.

Another camporee highlight was pin trading, which provided opportunities to interact with so many young people from different parts of the world. Don Schneider, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, offered a specially crafted prayer pin to any Pathfinder willing to pray with someone they didn’t know.

THE SERVANTS OF GOD ARE WE

At the opening night of the camporee, a search began to locate the oldest Pathfinder present at the camporee. Soon Donna Hooper, a 91-year-old Master Guide from Calhoun, Georgia, was spotted riding on her motorized scooter, offering to trade pins with the young people. She still enjoys teaching honors, too. What an inspiration she was as Pathfinders learned of her life of service!

On Sabbath, more than 400 Master Guides and TLTs (Teen Leaders in Training) were pinned during the investiture portion of the morning service. Eyes turned to admire and appreciate their dedication to Pathfinder ministry.

The camporee would not have been possible except for the more than 1,000 volunteers, paid staff and summer camp staff. These individuals worked very long hours and endeavored to meet each need and request with a smile.

Receiving special recognition for his contributions at the camporee was Terry Dodge, the camporee facilities director, who will retire as Michigan Conference Pathfinder director on November 1. He plans to focus his attention afterward...
on building a Pathfinder museum and learning center in Battle Creek, Michigan.

**FAITHFUL AS WE MARCH ALONG**

In addition to the daily on-site parades, on Sabbath more than 1,500 Pathfinders boarded buses to march in full dress uniform through the streets of Oshkosh to Menominee Park on Lake Winnebago. Townspeople gathered to see the young people who caused such a stir in their city since their arrival earlier that week. Many of these young people faithfully witnessed throughout the week as they met strangers in stores, restaurants and at outreach sites. The march concluded with a rally at Leach Amphitheater where World Church youth director, Baraka Muganda, challenged parade attendees to adopt healthy lifestyles and better living.

**IN KINDNESS, TRUTH AND PURITY**

Goals for the camporee included encouraging the Pathfinders to look outward—to contribute to those in the surrounding communities. More than 20 off-site community service projects were attended by thousands of Pathfinders. These included places like Heckrodt Wetland Preserve, the Paine Art Center and Gardens, and the Sheldon Nature Center. Many they serviced were impressed by the Pathfinders’ willing spirit and attitude while working. Also a surprise was their quickness to complete tasks.

At the camporee, Locks of Love representatives cut the hair of Pathfinders willing to donate their long tresses to disadvantaged children unable to grow hair. The girls’ selfless donations demonstrated love for others, an attribute encouraged by the Pathfinder organization.

Pathfinders also donated blood at the Blood Drive held at the camporee. Sarah Stevermer, communications and public relations specialist for the Mid-America Blood Services Division, says 20 pints were collected at the camporee. There is a careful health screening process involved for blood donation and many of the Pathfinders were under the legal age allowed or there would have been more blood collected.

Acts of kindness were witnessed throughout the camporee. Whether assisting a friend carrying a heavy load, picking up debris from the assembly field (each Pathfinder was challenged to pick up ten pieces of litter a day) or sharing food or camping supplies when needed, many young people demonstrated the familiar Pathfinder spirit of caring for others.

**A MESSAGE TO TELL TO THE WORLD**

At each evening program, Pathfinders delivered Bibles they collected since the 2004 camporee. The challenge was to collect 35,000 English and Spanish Bibles for mission sites in Ghana, Belize, Brazil and India. During the Sabbath morning offering appeal, Kevin Gutierrez urged Pathfinders to donate one dollar each to raise $35,000 for shipping costs or to purchase Bibles in native languages.*

James Black, youth director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, spoke Sabbath morning and challenged Pathfinders to have purpose, determination and focus (PDF) as they stand for the Lord in their communities. He stressed, “The devil is trying to convince you that all your efforts for God are useless. But don’t you believe it for a minute. ... I believe God is going to use many of you to do things that have never been done before ... your time is now. God has called us to the camporee for such a time as now ... so you can get your marching orders.” James emphasized, “Before you go anywhere to stand anywhere in this world, you make sure you stand at home first ... stand in your neighborhood and in your community ... God elsewhere to practice what you do here.” In conclusion, James asked the Pathfinders, “Jesus stood for you. Who will stand for Him?”
He invited the crowd to repeat in unison, “I will stand,” if it was their desire to stand for Jesus, which they did with much enthusiasm.

**A TRUTH THAT WILL SET US FREE**

Pathfinders were encouraged to contemplate the life of Esther, a young Jewish girl who was placed in King Xerxes’ palace to accomplish God’s purpose for His people at that time in history. In his opening message to Pathfinders in the “PathfinderTODAY” newsletter, Ron Whitehead, camporee executive director, challenged those at the camporee by saying: “Even if those around you compromise and fall, I challenge you to always have the ‘courage to stand’ because He stood for you on the cross! He loves you so much! And He is coming back for you soon, so stand strong!”

At each evening program, Pathfinders sang “Courage to Stand,” the theme song, written by Emily Beth Bond of the Southwestern Union. At other times, Pathfinders were heard singing or humming the song, which will no doubt inspire them to stand for Jesus, and the truth they believe, long after the camporee has past.

Nightly, the Pathfinders sat with rapt attention as “Courage to Stand: The Story of Esther” was portrayed by a 24-member cast and approximately 40 extras and guards. Esther’s story of courage in adversity and her stand for truth encouraged many Pathfinders to also stand with courage against the many temptations they face. Some were so inspired by Esther’s stand for the Lord that they decided to join the Sabbath afternoon baptism service where 516 Pathfinders publicly made a commitment to Jesus and were baptized.

**KING JESUS THE SAVIOR’S COMING BACK FOR YOU AND ME**

As the sun set before the closing night’s program, whispers and gasps were heard throughout the assembly field as many pointed to a cloud formation in the sky. An airplane intersected a vertical cloud formation, and the plane’s exhaust created the shape of a cross that was prominently displayed in the sky.

After the last Esther play concluded, the 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee, “Forever Faithful,” theme was introduced. The next camporee will focus on the life of Daniel, a courageous Hebrew boy who remained faithful to the Lord through much adversity in his life.

Ron closed the camporee by saying, “See you at the next camporee ... or in Heaven.” Though many enjoyed the camporee, they expressed their belief that a reunion in Heaven would far surpass the experience. A much-appreciated fireworks display followed and punctuated the end of a memorable camporee.

The next camporee in North America is scheduled for August 12–16, 2014, in Oshkosh. Pathfinders may learn more about the 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee or mission trip opportunities by visiting www.adventistyouth.com.

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

*Bibles may be sent to ProjectWord, 1848 Grange Rd., Buchanan, MI 49107.

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Page 22 (left): On Sabbath morning of the camporee, James Black, youth director of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, challenged the Pathfinders to stand for Jesus; (right): Lake Union Pathfinders march in full dress uniform in the on-site parade; Page 23 (top): Pathfinders marched in with flags of their country at the opening ceremony; (bottom): Thousands of Pathfinders impacted Oshkosh and surrounding communities as they participated in service projects.
Chaplain education program taught at La Grange

Just as doctors learn how to heal the body by completing their residency programs, at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, chaplains are being taught to heal the soul through their own education course. During the clinical pastoral education (CPE) program, students are taught pastoral care by a process of action and reflection that allows students to learn from real life ministry experiences.

The program is currently training seven students during this residency opportunity designed for those seeking further education and professional certification as a chaplain. The students are directed by a CPE supervisor who focuses on the students’ personal growth and allows them to develop methods of dealing with people in a crisis.

“By the end of this training, I want the students to be able to provide compassionate, committed and non-judgmental ministry to patients,” said John Bollinger, chaplain supervisor. “It is important for them to offer hope and encouragement to those patients who are suffering and alone.”

The students are able to work with patients and receive help from chaplain mentors at all four Adventist Midwest Health hospital campuses. Their days begin with classroom interaction at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, where they are able to read and reflect on their weekly journals and verbatims, written word-for-word accounts of their encounters with patients, in order to gain a better understanding of the different types of scenarios that may occur. Once a week the students are also required to be on-call overnight to care for patients in need.

“This program is teaching us that we can’t heal these patients, but we can invite them to a closer walk with God as they face difficult times,” said Jenny Tillay, chaplain at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital. “I take comfort knowing that I plant the seeds of hope and healing, but God makes these seeds grow.”

According to Tillay, the CPE program encourages students to look at themselves.

It is a forced reflection that lets them review the themes of their lives, so they may better counsel patients in need. The program also allows the students to support one another as they each create their own learning goals.

“This program is great because everyone has such different goals, yet we all work together to achieve them,” said Grace Brouwer, RN, student clinical pastor.

“CPE is also teaching me how to provide encouragement and strength to patients in the worst of times.”

The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education offers Level I CPE, Level II CPE and Supervisory CPE.

Students must complete each level in sequence before moving to the next level. The program is usually offered in single units, 10 to 12 weeks, at accredited teaching centers.

However, students may participate in a year-long residency program that would consist of three to four units.

Those seeking professional certification as chaplains are required to do four units of CPE. Since 2007, Adventist Midwest Health has conducted four units of CPE training and 27 students have gone through the program.

“We are honored to host CPE training at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital,” said John Rapp, regional vice president of ministries and mission at Adventist Midwest Health. “The program provides our students with the opportunity to experience new understanding of ministry through theological reflection.”

Ashley Lawless, public relations intern, Adventist Midwest Health

Adventist Midwest Health includes Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital and Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital. To find a physician, visit www.keepingyouwell.com.
Andrews provost accepts new post

William Richardson named interim provost

Andrews University provost Heather Knight accepted the invitation to serve as the next president of Pacific Union College (PUC) in Angwin, Calif. President Niels-Erik Andreasen announced William Richardson will serve as interim provost.

A farewell event was held for Knight on Sept. 2 in the Howard Performing Arts Center. She assumed her new responsibilities at PUC in mid-September, in time for the new academic school year.

“I know Dr. Knight not only welcomes the challenges and opportunities the presidency will offer, but also cherishes the opportunity to be closer to her and Norman’s eight children in California as well as her aging parents and a first grandchild who will be born this December,” says Andreasen of Knight’s decision.

“I very much appreciate and treasure the three years that I have been privileged to serve as provost at Andrews University. Together—as a campus community—we have worked hard and shared many important accomplishments as we aspired to move this flagship institution from ‘good to great.’ I know Andrews University will continue on this successful trajectory as members of this truly gifted learning community continue to take ownership of this vision for greatness,” says Knight. “Please know that even as I accept God’s call to a new assignment at Pacific Union College, Andrews University will continue to hold a very special place in my heart.”

Knight came to Andrews University in August 2006 from the University of the Pacific in California where she was serving as associate provost for faculty development. During her time at Andrews University, Knight was responsible for multiple significant accomplishments. Under her leadership, the budget development process improved and financial stability was restored to Andrews, resulting in operating gains since the end of fiscal year 2007; a new strategic plan was developed and implemented; the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence was developed to centralize faculty development initiatives; a discipline-sensitive compensation plan for faculty and staff was implemented; a new Program Review process was developed; and a Sabbatical Policy for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary was approved.

Richardson has 29 years of service to Andrews both in teaching and administration, having served as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences from 1998 until his retirement in 2006. He will guide the work of the Office of the Provost during the next six to nine months, while the University conducts a search for a permanent replacement for the position.

Richardson holds four degrees from Andrews—a Bachelor of Arts in theology, a Master of Arts in Greek, a Master of Divinity, and a doctorate in biblical studies. He taught in the religion departments at both Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, and Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif. By the time Richardson joined the Andrews University faculty in 1977, his reputation as one of the denomination’s top Greek professors preceded him. Ten years after joining the faculty in the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages at Andrews, he became chair of the department in 1987. In September 1998, he transitioned to dean of the College of Arts & Sciences where he remained until his retirement. During his tenure as dean, he played a key role in helping the University transition from the quarter to semester system. His dedication both in the classroom and as an administrator was acknowledged with a 1992 Daniel A. Augsburger Excellence in Teaching Award and a 2006 Andrews University Excellence in Service Award. He was honored with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion, for his lifetime commitment to education, at the May 2006 Andrews University undergraduate commencement service.
Peterson-Warren Academy: Educating for now and eternity

Lake Region—The history of Peterson-Warren Academy has its roots in three schools. The first two church schools in the area were the Berean School in Detroit, Mich., and the Sharon Junior Academy in Inkster, Mich.

The pastor of the Sharon Church, Rothacker Smith Sr., shared his dream of one day having a combined senior academy with his colleague, J.P. Winston, pastor of City Temple Church. The two ministers began to pray earnestly for the churches to come together so that the children of Metropolitan Detroit could have a senior academy to attend.

After much prayer and financial preparation, the churches purchased a physical plant on seven acres of land in Inkster, 15 miles southwest of Detroit. The school was named in honor of Frank L. Peterson, president of Oakwood College (now Oakwood University), and the first Black vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Within two years, the doors at 4000 Sylvia Street were officially opened to the eager students in September 1964.

The third school was the Davison Junior Academy, established in 1961 by dedicated members of the Burns Avenue Church. The school was located on two and one-fourth acres of land on the east side of Detroit, Mich., at 7635 East Davison Avenue. The school began as an elementary school with seven classrooms. Later, it became a junior high school and kindergarten was added. The school was renamed Clinton F. Warren Junior Academy in memory of its founder in May 1974.

In July 1978, under the guidance of the Lake Region Conference executive committee, the Frank L. Peterson School and the Clinton F. Warren School were consolidated, becoming a K–12 day school known as the Peterson-Warren Academy (PWA). The school is operated by a constituency base of ten Adventist churches and the Lake Region Conference.


PWA alums of note include: Greg Mathis (attended), of the television show “Judge Mathis”—Mathis was the youngest elected judge for the judicial court for Detroit, Mich.; Mark Brezell, ’83, received a B.S. from Oakwood College and his M.S. in Perfusion Science from Johns-Hopkins University, and his area of specialization is field expert in hemostasis (coagulation disorders) and blood management; Ivy Dacia Green, ’98, received her nursing training from Kettering College of Medical Arts and was the first African American B.S. graduate in the Kettering nursing program—she also received her master’s degree from Wayne State University; Heather (Logan) Jumper, ’96, is a graduate of Oakwood University, she received her Doctor of Medicine from The Ohio State University and is currently completing her residency training in the field of anesthesiology at the University of Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor; David Logan II, ’99, received a four-year scholarship from Tuskegee University and graduated with a B.S. degree in sales and marketing, another in finance, and is currently working for the Detroit Pistons; Brandon Dent, ’83, received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He is the director of environmental [services] at Yazaki North America, Incorporated; Dewayne Duncomb, ’99, received a...
Survivor Summer Camp kids raise money for Africa

Illinois—Elementary children from the Hinsdale Adventist Academy raised more than $300 on Friday, July 17, to help kids in Africa. By holding a garage sale at their school, the young people earned enough money to buy shares in 120 food kits through Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA), an organization which applies 100 percent of donations to specified projects. The young people were very excited to exceed their goal of 100 kits.

To raise funds, the children asked for donations, brought in their toys and “raided” their parents’ cupboards to ensure there were tons of bargains to offer at the sale. They even sold cookies and lemonade to boost their earnings. Kaylyn Bernhardt, 10, from Brookfield said, “I’m glad we did a garage sale because we raised a lot of money for the people in Africa.”

The garage sale was one of the projects undertaken at Hinsdale Adventist Academy’s Survivor Summer Camp. Victor Vargas, 11, of Melrose Park said, “The garage sale made me feel like I’m responsible for the African kids’ lives and that I could help them. They needed the money and clothes more than we do. They didn’t even do anything wrong and their lives are so tough, and we do wrong stuff all the time.”

One of the camp’s goals was to help the children realize that their age is no barrier to making a big difference in the world. The encouragement their community gave them by coming out for the sale was great, and camp leadership hopes the experience will inspire the young people for a lifetime of service to others. Christian Sidney, 11, Bolingbrook said, “It made me count my blessings and think about what I have. Earth is corrupted now and we have to help.”

The eight-week Survivor Summer Camp was divided into four components: “Survivor Life,” “Survivor Chicago,” “Survivor Ethiopia” and “Survivor Earth.” Children were inspired by the camp’s motto to “Out-Serve, Out-Pray and Out-Love” through a wide variety of activities. Every week the children made the most of summer by going swimming, visiting the local library, playing sports and enjoying themed field trips. The children have enjoyed it so much that many are already making plans to return next year.

For further information on Hinsdale Adventist Academy’s early childhood education program, contact Cherie Jackson at cjackson@illinoisadventist.org, or call 630-323-9220.

Juanita Martin (front left), principal, is surrounded by Peterson-Warren Endowment Association members.

Visit www.LakeUnionHerald.org
Honors Retreat 2009 teaches Pathfinders new skills

Lake Region—Honors Retreat 2009 was a tremendous success. More than 350 attended the retreat held again at Camp Wagner in Cassopolis, Mich., and this year included a number of new faces from the Hispanic churches.

Instructors came from the Lake Region and Michigan conferences. Some honors taught this year included “Bones, Muscle & Movement” by Heather Thomas; “Cultural Diversity Appreciation” by Sharonlynn Harrison; “Sanctuary” by Clarinda Luckett; “Glass Etching” by Teresa Rodgers; and “Archery” by Rod Dunneback, just to name a few.

Dynamic speakers this year included James Black, youth director of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America; Ron Whitehead, Lake Union youth director; and our own Lake Region Conference youth director, Ralph Shelton. Presenting Vespers on Friday night was Danny Majors, pastor, from All Nations Church, and presenting Vespers on Saturday night was William Lee, pastor, Bethel Church in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Many others worked very hard before, during and after to help make this retreat a great success.

There were a few new things in 2009, including the honor record. Each person received a record in their bag, along with a pencil or pen. It listed each honor being offered, each session along with the instructor’s name, the time of the session and where the honor was taught. Also, this year there was an early bird session for those arriving early and wanting to complete an extra honor.

During the closing program, Robert Johnson presented certificates to every instructor who taught and helped make Honor’s Retreat 2009 a success. He also presented three candle holder sets for use at induction ceremonies.

Many who attended also planned to go to the International Pathfinder Camporee, “Courage to Stand,” in Oshkosh, Wis., in August. Organizers are planning for even more participants at the honors retreat in 2010. Surveys taken at each honor class were collected and reviewed after the retreat to make improvements for the next retreat.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Richmond Church members work together in faith

Indiana—As the new church was being framed (see story of dedication in July issue), several members of the Richmond congregation met to discuss ways they could distinctively communicate their purpose and mission.

“It is always exciting to see (our) new church at the finishing stages,” said Rhonda Balkovic. “Everyone has ideas on how to make it look its very best. We, in Richmond, are no different. We believed the Lord had really blessed us with a new church, and it was important to us to reveal who God is through our decorating.”

The group decided that hand-worked banners would be the medium they would use to communicate. They discussed numerous ideas and themes, including the three angels of Revelation 14. Finally, the majority settled on the “Fruits of the Spirit” from Galatians 5.

After the meeting everyone went their separate ways, united in the message they wanted to convey, and prayed for a blessing on the project.

Barbara Fisher awoke early the next morning with a strong impression that all churches must show the Fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, gentleness, meekness, longsuffering, goodness, faith and temperance. The fruits are God’s way of showing His love through His people. But, as Seventh-day Adventists, she believed we have an even higher calling for our church—to let all know about the call to worship the One who made Heaven and Earth, and to prepare for His coming. Fisher felt the church members needed to give this more distinctive message to the Richmond area and that the banners should proclaim it.

Cookie McMahan, director, London Swordbearers Pathfinder club
“But Lord,” Fisher prayed, “we all made the decision last night.”

Looking for guidance, Fisher asked the Lord to reveal to her whether there should be a change of plans. She came to the conclusion that if others immediately agreed on the new idea and willingly embraced it, she'd know the idea was from Him.

Early phone calls are never made lightly. The first number she dialed was to Balkovic, the one who had volunteered to make the banners. When Fisher shared what was on her mind, Balkovic gave a very positive response. She had been giving the banners much thought. Balkovic kept thinking about what their church really stood for and how much more dramatic the angels would be.

After receiving the phone call from Fisher, Balkovic recalled, “I was happy and relieved! I felt it was exactly what God wanted us to do! There was such a peace in my heart.”

Before the day was over, Balkovic’s husband, Jim, designed the banners, and she purchased the fabric. In time, the banners were made and hung. As Balkovic stood back and looked at them, she said, “I knew God had been with us the entire time. And the result was more glorious than we ever envisioned.”

Church and community strengthen families

Indiana—Working with the community is one of the most rewarding and noble experiences any church member can be a part of. Some of the members of the Indianapolis Central Hispanic Church found a unique way to be involved in the community when Carlos Trincado, a police officer in the Indianapolis Metropolitan southwest district, in conjunction with a public school in Indianapolis, decided to do something for the youth of their community.

In spite of a lack of community resources, Trincado developed a crime-prevention, after-school program called “BRIDGE.” It stands for Behavior, Responsibility, Integrity, Discipline, Guidance and Education. These principles are taught during a nine-week period with much support from the community. Parents and students participate in spiritual growth and parenting classes. The students meet three times a week for boot-camp type activities, accountability and tutoring. The spiritual aspect is as important in the program as the behavior remediation strategies.

About a year ago, Trincado was invited to the Indianapolis Central Hispanic Church where he was acknowledged for his outstanding work in the Hispanic community. At that time he suggested the involvement of the church members in his program. As a result Antonio Rosario, the church’s senior pastor and Hispanic ministries coordinator for the Indiana Conference, gladly embraced the concept; and, in January 2009, Rosario began teaching the parenting classes at the church every Wednesday evening right before prayer meeting. Some of the parents asked for Bibles and stayed for the weekly prayer meeting. At the same time Dael Irizarry, the church’s youth ministries assistant, taught the spiritual growth class to the students.

The program concluded in March with a moving graduation ceremony. Students and parents alike shared many testimonials of how the nine weeks of instruction helped their families. The students stopped skipping classes and their grades improved. Parents shared how the students’ behavior had changed positively at home, and they testified of the life-changing decisions they had made. Some couples told how they dealt with marital issues they had ignored for so long. Others cut back on work hours to become more involved in their kids’ lives. Much excitement was manifested! Many family members and friends expressed sincere appreciation to Trincado, the school, the church and the community. This program is an example of church involvement in the community and the importance of working together for a greater good.

Nelson Silva, youth ministries leader, Indianapolis Central Hispanic Church
MILEPOSTS

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

Weddings

Patricia S. Siler and Wallace W. Cooper were married Mar. 20, 2008, in Denver, Ind. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Blake Hall.

Linda Melville and Melvin Smith Jr. were married July 5, 2009, in Battle Creek, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Terry Nelson.

Sondra and Paul Fruth celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 23, 2008, by an open house at the Red Bridge Community Building in Cicero, Ind., that featured a memories DVD covering their 50-year marriage, including pictures from their senior graduation from Indiana Academy where they met. They have been members of the Noblesville (Ind.) Church for 31 years.

V. Paul Fruth and Sondra G. Harter were married Nov. 23, 1958, in Marion, Ind., by Pastor William Grother. Paul has been Indiana Conference mover, builder/maintenance and also director for Indiana Academy maintenance, retiring in 2003.

Obituaries

ACHEAMPONG, Dexter, age 24; born Feb. 8, 1985, in Oklahoma City, Okla.; died May 26, 2009, in Central Islip, N.Y. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his father, Eric “Acheba”; and mother, Jennifer “Baby Mansa” (Benn).

Deckerd, Lance L., age 83; born June 20, 1925, in Bedford, Ind.; died May 26, 2009, in Berrien Center, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Conine (Anderson); son, Joseph; daughter, Marc Sears; brothers, Bill and Raymond; sister, Esther Scott; one grandchild; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Arne Swanson, and inurnment was in Fairview Cemetery, Mishawaka, Ind.


Survivors include her father, Damon; mother, Camille (Roberts); and sisters, Morgan and Kendall.

GRANDY, Marian A. (Clark), age 81; born Jan. 4, 1928, in Ithaca, Mich.; died June 5, 2009, in Ithaca. She was a member of the Twin Cities Church, Alma, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Maynard; daughters, Bonnie Field, Mickey Miller and Sue Engel; sister, Jean Shaw; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ken Micheff, and interment was in Pine Grove Cemetery, Ithaca.

MULLINS, Daniel T., age 51; born Sept. 15, 1957, in Chambly Air Base, France; died May 22, 2009, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Carol D. (Merkel); daughters, Shannon Mullins and Cherri Jackson; mother, Elise M. (Gremy) Mullins; sisters, Karen, Linda, Natalie and Jodi Mullins; and one grandchild.

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

Linda Melville and Melvin Smith Jr. were married July 5, 2009, in Battle Creek, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Terry Nelson.

Linda is the daughter of the late John and the late Mary Belle Ford of Tenn., and Melvin is the son of Melvin Sr. and Shirley Smith of Battle Creek.

The Smiths are making their home in Morenci, Mich.

The Fruth family includes Tammy Fruth of Noblesville; Teresa and Paul Taylor of Mooresville, N.C.; Paul and Denise Fruth of Arcadia, Ind.; and four grandchildren.

James and Irene Smith celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on July 12, 2009, with 56 family and friends gathered together at The Olive Garden restaurant in Naperville, Ill. The celebration was also for their son-in-law’s 70th birthday. They have been members of the Mount Vernon, La Grange and DeKalb (Ill.) churches for a total of 69 years.

Robert Trotter and Carol Lucas were married July 5, 2009, in Battle Creek, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Carol and Robert Trotter celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 9, 2009, by a potluck lunch with family and friends at the Oxford (Wis.) Church. They have been members of the Oxford Church for 10 years.

Robert Trotter and Carol Lucas were married May 5, 1959, in Nashville, Tenn., in a civil ceremony. Robert has been a construction worker and truck driver. Carol has been a sales director and nurse assistant.

The Trotter family includes Leanna Roberts of Wisconsin Dells, Wis.; Kim Trotter of Riby, Idaho; Paul and Twyla Trotter of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; the late Robert Jr. and Katrina Trotter of Wisconsin Dells; 13 grandchildren; and 20+ great-grandchildren.

Sondra has been a piano teacher and church organist.

The Smith family includes Sonja and George Grosboll of La Grange; Betty Lawrence and Larry Vergamini of Bolingbrook, Ill; Barbara and Dale Male of Malta, Ill.; the late Jimmy L.; nine grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

The ceremony was performed by Pastor Blake Hall.

Patricia is the daughter of the late Howard and the late Nellie Siler of Twelve Mile, Ind., and Wallace is the son of the late Robert and the late Jane Cooper of Gunnison, Colo.

The Coopers are making their home in Morenci, Mich.

James L. Smith and M. Irene McKiness were married July 13, 1939, in St. Louis, Mo., by the Justice of the Peace. James has been a welder for Patten Industries, retiring in 1991. Irene has been a homemaker.

The Smith family includes DeWayne; daughters, Bonnie Field, Mickey Miller and Sue Engel; sister, Jean Shaw; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

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Survivors include his father, Eric “Acheba”; and mother, Jennifer “Baby Mansa” (Benn).

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors S.K. Twumasi, Sampson A. Kubi, H.V.A. Kuma and Prince Donkor, and interment was in Saint Charles Cemetery, Farmington, N.Y.

CHAPMAN, Muriel E., age 93; born Nov. 24, 1915, in Oakland, Calif.; died May 6, 2009, in Bridgman, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Arne Swanson, and inurnment was in Cypress View Mausoleum, San Diego, Calif.

CHRISPENS, Katherine G. (Prescott), age 74; born Sept. 9, 1934, in Oklahoma City, Okla.; died June 29, 2009, in Stevensville, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, DeMone D.; sons, DeMone Jr. and DeWayne; daughters, DeAnn Kutzner and Denise Perry; half-sister, Anna Marie Taylor; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

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

DEBRoux, Linda L. (Parson), age 61; born Nov. 1, 1947, in Grand Rapids, Minn.; died June 30, 2009, in Janesville, Wis. She was a member of the Beloit (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Joanne Parson; Randy, Denny and Sammie Parson; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Pavel Goia, with private inurnment.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors S.K. Twumasi, Sampson A. Kubi, H.V.A. Kuma and Prince Donkor, and interment was in Saint Charles Cemetery, Farmington, N.Y.

GRANDY, Marian A. (Clark), age 81; born Jan. 4, 1928, in Ithaca, Mich.; died June 5, 2009, in Ithaca. She was a member of the Twin Cities Church, Alma, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Maynard; daughters, Bonnie Field, Mickey Miller and Sue Engel; sister, Jean Shaw; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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Survivors include his wife, Carol D. (Merkel); daughters, Shannon Mullins and Cherri Jackson; mother, Elise M. (Gremy) Mullins; sisters, Karen, Linda, Natalie and Jodi Mullins; and one grandchild.

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

The Smiths are making their home in Battle Creek.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Skip MacCarty, with private inurnment.
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6706 or lykeith@gmail.com. Visit our
State-of-the-Art Understanding

**We** have a “state-of-the-art” el-
mentary school two blocks from
our home. Why would we pay
more money to attend a smaller Seventh-day Adventist
Church school? Physically, the facilities could not com-
pare. At the time, the church school had a small library,
no computer lab, no fancy playground or ball fields, and
no cafeteria. They didn’t offer yearly Spanish classes or
bus service for the 25-minute commute. Besides, we
paid high taxes to support the new public school.

Our oldest daughter attended a public school
through fifth grade. However, we earnestly prayed to
God about where He wanted our children educated. He
led us directly into the physically inferior church school.
That was 11 years ago. Immediately, we experienced
the blessings and benefits of His choice. We taught the
foundation of spirituality in our home, and the teachers
added more building blocks. They guided our children
nearly eight hours a day. They consistently petitioned
God to provide the proper education He desired for our
children. Daily, they invited Christ’s presence into the
classroom, modeled Christian living, offered godly advice,
monitored our children’s language and interaction with
other students, and incorporated God into the curriculum.

Our children cherished the pastor’s weekly worships;
he taught them hymns they find comfort in today. Did they
suffer from not having the “state-of-the-art” facility? Not
at all! God knew best, and we are very thankful we fol-
lowed His plan for our children.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the
LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans
to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:10, 11 NIV).

Shari Vallieres is the former school board chair of Cicero
Adventist Elementary in Cicero, Indiana. She writes from
Fishers, Indiana.

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

**Andrews University**

Howard Performing Arts Center Events: For more information about these events, call 269-471-3560.

Sat., Oct. 3: Violin, French Horn and Piano Trio—Claudio Gonzalez, Scott Russell and Peter Cooper

Sat., Oct. 17: FFH

Sun., Oct 18: Storioni Trio

Thurs., Nov. 5: Vienna Boys Choir

Sat., Jan. 30, 2010: Jaci Velasquez

Tues., Mar. 2, 2010: Soweto Gospel Choir

Sat., Mar. 6, 2010: Chi Young Yun, piano

**Illinois**

Elmhurst Seventh-day Adventist Church is celebrating its 40th Anniversary on Nov. 21. Everybody is invited to come to look back at all of God’s blessings keeping this church standing for His honor and glory. If you would like more information, please contact us at 630-530-0600; visit our Web site, www.tagnet.org/elmhurst; or leave a message at girose@aol.com. If you know any past members of the Elmhurst Church, please let them know of this special celebration.

**Indiana**

The Indiana Academy Alumni Association welcomes all graduates/attendees to the IA campus for Alumni Homecoming, Oct. 9–10. Honor classes this year are: 1959, ’69, ’84 and ’99. In addition, the following classes will be recognized: 1939, ’49, ’79 and ’89. For detailed information regarding the alumni weekend, contact Jimmy Arnett, chairperson, IAAA Board, at 219-629-1177 or jimmy_arnett@vfc.com. For information regarding the alumni golf/auction event on Friday, contact Lawrence Johnson at 765-649-7256 or ljjohnson@mustinbuilders.com. For RV and/or hotel information, visit www.iacsa.org.

**Michigan**

The Michigan Boarding Academies Alumni Association invites all alumni from Adelphian, Cedar Lake, Grand Ledge and Great Lakes Adventist Academies to Alumni Weekend Oct. 9–10 on the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy. This year’s honor classes are 1959, ’69, ’79, ’84, ’89 and ’99. Come join us for a memorable weekend. For more information, visit www.glaa.net, or call the Alumni office at 989-427-5181.

Christian Singles Fellowship Retreat: Mark your calendar and join fellow adult singles (ages 35+) for a relaxing retreat at Michigan’s beautiful Camp Au Sable, Oct. 22-25. Gail Micheff, family ministries director, and staff have planned a Christ-centered, uplifting program with plenty of fellowship, spiritual enrichment and, of course, fun! This is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends as well as renew previous acquaintances. Registration forms are available at www.misda.org. For more information and prices, contact Alyce Blackmer at 517-316-1543 or e-mail ablackmer@misda.org.

**Sunset Calendar**

|-----------|------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|

Lake Union Herald is available online.
My friend Harry and I drove up to Andrews University for the weekend to see what was happening on campus. It was the fall of 1970. We arrived Friday evening just in time to crash a party. It was a kind of party I’d never experienced before. Students were packed wall to wall in the campus center singing songs, sharing testimonies, quoting scripture and praying. It went late into the night.

It was amazing. I’d never seen anything like it, and no one else I knew had either. And no one knew why it was happening. It just did. Nobody saw it coming.

For the next several years, God’s Spirit moved in a powerful way across Adventist college campuses. Students from several colleges initiated a rendezvous in upstate New York—but it was nothing like Woodstock. It was an appointment with God for empowerment and transformation. God’s Spirit moved young people in a way that was both exciting and unsettling. Exciting for us young people and unsettling for leadership who we naively challenged. Many of us got discouraged, while others remained committed and effective. That was nearly 40 years ago.

I have a sense that today God is eager to try it again—to give His Spirit to the young to totally transform our thinking and the way we do things. I don’t know when, and I don’t know if we will see it coming, but I believe that if we really partner with Him, we’ll be ready to receive it. As for me, I’m keeping my eyes on this campus next door.

Gary Burns is the communication director of the Lake Union Conference.
The Journey of a Lifetime

BY BRYAN FELLOWS

The time on my phone read 12 a.m. I rubbed my eyes, trying to get the tiredness out of them. My eyes glanced at the dashboard to make sure I wasn’t over the speed limit. It had been a fun day, perhaps too fun. The bus was strangely quiet. Though I was glad for silence, I almost missed the noise my passengers usually make.

It all began six weeks ago with an announcement made at Pioneer Memorial Church during youth Sabbath school. I distinctly remember the buzz that Sabbath as one teenager after another came up to me and excitedly asked, “What are we doing for ‘Sun, Fun & Faith’ this summer?” It was a corny name, but it sure fit the program. This was year two for me as director. I walked into this position a year ago without a clue as to the grandiose endeavor I was about to embark on. This year was different; I was excited and ready.

Sun, Fun & Faith is a teen program that resembles day camp. It only runs from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m., except for a few occasions like tonight. Mondays are dedicated to fun outings like going to the beach or playing mini-golf. Tuesdays are water sports days, thanks to the support of incredible church members who give time and money to provide tubing and wakeboarding. Wednesdays are dedicated to outreach, giving the teens a chance to go out into their communities and be a living example of God’s love.

Thursday resembles Monday. Our trips take us bowling or laser tagging, and we even plan clever events like our annual town-wide scavenger hunt—a huge hit with the teens. But the day I look forward to most is Friday. It’s our chance to usher in the Sabbath in our unique way. Along with music and small group time, we also dig deep into the Word of God. My staff and I try our best to make it a safe place for questions—a place where anyone can come and find the answers God has waiting for them. Church lights are dimmed and color lights enhance the walls, while food and drinks put the kids at ease. It is a place where teenagers can be themselves while they worship—a place to find a passionate love for the God of the universe who passionately loves them.

The clock reads 12:30 a.m. as I take the Berrien Springs exit. Tomorrow will hold many stories about their Cedar Point adventure. It has been a good week, a great summer and—just like our name expresses—today has been full of sunshine. It’s been fun and our faith has flourished. For some a real relationship with God is a new thing; and though this trip is ending, their journey with Him has just begun.

I put on my blinker and turn into the Andrews campus. Tomorrow is another day full of new surprises and activities. It’s a bit weird being in the driver’s seat of the bus when only a few years ago I was the kid in the back. The cool thing is my Savior is the One who is leading us home.

Bryan Fellows is a junior theology student. He looks forward to graduating and continuing his work in youth ministry.
Profiles of Youth [ANDREWS UNIVERSITY]

Maggie Billingsley, 23, is a senior at Andrews University studying elementary education with a minor in English as a second language. She is the daughter of John and Angela Billingsley and a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle. Maggie has been in the Adventist school system since beginning kindergarten at Battle Creek Academy (BCA); she will complete her education at Andrews University.

In high school Maggie was the yearbook editor, Student Association president, first concertmaster on the clarinet in the band, class president, class pastor and president of BCA’s National Honor Society. In her university years, she serves as an Andrews Ambassador and is also active in the Education Club.

“Ambassadors are the face of Andrews to future students, and Maggie represents Andrews with contagious enthusiasm,” says Mona Sarcona, guest relations assistant. “She hopes to be a teacher, and I can’t think of a better fit.”

Maggie served for a year as a student missionary in Pohnpei where she taught second grade. This past summer she taught for Action America, a short-term intensive English language program. “That opportunity allowed me to experience the world from the comfort of home,” says Maggie.

Maggie loves volleyball, cooking (and eating!), the outdoors and doing mission work with children. After college, she hopes to teach English as a second language and do a bit of traveling.

Maxwell A. Murray Jr., 20, is the son of Veronica and Maxwell Murray. He is a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church. Though he currently resides in Niles, Michigan, Maxwell was raised in Berrien Springs where he attended Ruth Murdoch Elementary School and Andrews Academy. He is now studying at Andrews University.

As a student worker in the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication (IMC), Maxwell is the “go-to” guy whenever help is needed. He is a third-year Andrews Ambassador. Maxwell is beginning his second year with SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) and he enjoys volunteering for children’s ministries. Maxwell often moonlights as the Andrews Cardinal. With a beyond-his-years sense of responsibility, Maxwell works 40-plus hour work weeks in the summer to help pay for tuition; and during the school year, when he isn’t in class or studying, he is working as well.

“Maxwell is one of the many superstars at Andrews. He is talented, engaging, reliable, thoughtful, energetic, kind and a natural leader,” says Maxwell’s supervisor, Nadine Nelson, director of IMC. “We rely on his contribution to our team, and I am so very proud that he truly represents the legacy of leadership at Andrews.”

Marketing is not only Maxwell’s passion, it’s also his area of study. Now in his third year at Andrews, Maxwell hopes to one day work in marketing for a firm focused on new energy or clean water. For now, he enjoys doing public relations for the Village Green Preservation Society, a student club focused on ecology.

Maggie Billingsley

Maxwell Murray Jr.
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