I'm amazed at the truly gifted people who work in health care. There is something divine about the healing touch that some people have. It takes a special person to dedicate one's life to serving people at their most fragile and vulnerable moments, to sacrifice pride and personal dignity in order to save a life. Adventist Midwest Health has a mission, working in cooperation with the Master Healer and His church, to bring hope and healing to a world in pain.

Gary Burns, Editor

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A friend of mine who participated in a leadership training retreat for executives observed that one of the training exercises entailed a game. The participants were assigned to specific tables, each table having variations of the rules of play for the game. These rules were clearly communicated to those at each table.

Here’s where it became interesting. As play progressed, people who lost enough rounds of play were sent to different tables. But when they took their seat at the new table, they were purposely not told the specific rules of play at that table. They had to figure the rules out on their own. The purpose of the game was to point out that in every work place, organization, even churches, there are both stated and unstated rules.

At our Lake Union Constituency Session on May 15, I wrongly assumed everyone knew what I was referring to in my report about the sale of our Lake Union office to Andrews University and our impending relocation. I mentioned that Griggs University was moving to Andrews and our current office would be their new location. It was a report very similar to the one given to our Executive Committee. At the Session, a delegate asked the question: “Why is another university moving to Berrien Springs and how does that relate to Andrews?”

Simply put, I and others engaged with Andrews know that for some time Griggs University has been a distance learning school associated with and located at the headquarters of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists near Washington, D.C. Last year, at Fall Council, the decision was made for Griggs to move to Berrien Springs this summer and become a part of Andrews. But I had not explained that important information and thus left several, if not many, of our delegates in the dark.

A variation of our communication gaps could be centered in our common Adventist jargon. If a guest from the community comes to one of our churches and hears us speaking of the “Truth,” “The Pen of Inspiration,” the “G.C.” or even “haystacks,” we are doing the same thing to those guests as took place in the game at the executive retreat, or what I inadvertently did at our constituency session.

Recently, I toured the Children’s Hospital at the Florida Hospital main campus in Orlando, near the Adventist Health System headquarters. During the tour, I learned about their orientation of new employees. They call it “on-boarding”—an extensive and intentional approach to not only inform new employees about the AHS mission and core values, but to bring them “on board.” To be “on board” means to buy in to the unique ministry of health and healing and to make a commitment to the mission of AHS. Little is left to chance. Much effort goes into making each employee feel informed and a part of the mission. As I walked around the hospital, I could sense the positive culture.

I really appreciate the intentionality of AHS in defining mission and engaging employees, and for the contribution AHS makes to ministry in our Lake Union. We must follow their example by making the culture of every Adventist church and entity one that makes newcomers feel welcome, enlightened and not guessing what is being said in our churches and conference functions.
Stewardship of Spiritual Leadership

A PERSONAL APPROACH TO ACCOUNTABILITY

BY DON LIVESAY

It is a bit intimidating to write about leadership—especially when the people you associate with all the time may read what you’ve written on the topic. After all, they know just how human the writer is. But that should not stop us from reflecting on and reminding ourselves of important spiritual principles of leadership. In an earlier issue, we shared part one of “Stewardship of Spiritual Leadership” with the promise to share a simple approach that has been helpful to me and has become a personal accountability statement. It is probably too simple to be anything close to profound, but you may find it useful. In every situation choose to:

Do the right thing,
In the right way,
At the right time,
And for the right reason.

That’s it, pretty straightforward, huh? Let’s break it down one section at a time.

DO THE RIGHT THING

Of the four parts of this accountability statement, doing the right thing can, at times, be the easiest to figure out—but not always the easiest to carry out. Several foundational qualities are characteristic of those who will do the right thing even when it may be difficult. They include: good judgment, sound character and moral integrity. In addition, being open and receptive to God’s leading through the Holy Spirit is essential.

The most powerful values that steer us to knowing what is right—a love for God’s law, the Golden Rule and a godly character—are found in Scripture. The right thing becomes clear when principles of God’s law are employed in the context of the life of Jesus and in an atmosphere of love. Doing the right thing will always be the most right when we move away from personal subjective thinking, focus on God’s perspective and act in harmony with His redemptive nature.

Some challenges that, at times, make it difficult to do the right thing include our relentless adversary, that old serpent, and those who are guided by self. Sometimes doing the right thing is standing before a group and making a profound statement like Joshua: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (see Joshua 24:15). Other times it can simply be a supportive statement for a leader who is standing for right while being assailed by a small but vocal group with inappropriate agendas. A few timely statements by quiet but solid people have turned many negative meetings to the positive outcomes God intended for the mission of the Church. So, standing for and doing right is a cornerstone to a spiritually sound community. But it is not the only thing on which we are to focus.

IN THE RIGHT WAY

The core of doing something in the right way rests in our attitude. Some operative words are: loving, unselfish, respectful and caring. In harmony with God’s nature, the focus is on the best spiritual outcome for as many of those involved as possible. When Christ was confronted with the woman found in sin, He did not condemn her but approached her in a loving way that made a difference in her life. From that day on, she was a follower. He knew she had sinned, and she was painfully aware of her sin; but she was treated with an accountable and redemptive approach. Christ applied grace, but also moved her life upward with graceful accountability. In saving her, He also made an appeal to those who opposed Him and gave them an opportunity to sweep away the sin in their own hearts.

In confronting them, Christ was mindful of two things. He was protecting the life and heart of the woman while being sensitive to her accusers by not making a public spectacle of them. The outcome of a good spiritual process is more likely to be redemptive when the approach follows Jesus’ example. Gentleness does not eliminate accountability. When confrontation is the right thing, the best confronter is one who has a relationship with that person. Love cares enough...
to help someone move away from behaviors that are destructive to self and/or others. People who are controllers can be very difficult to approach. Because of their own insecurities, they often use the following behaviors:

- Manipulation using hostility, intimidation, the martyr complex, etc.
- Not respecting others’ feelings, boundaries and opinions
- Rejecting good counsel
- Inconsistently applying standards to others versus themselves
- Overreacting at an inappropriate level in relation to the actual issue in question
- Misusing inspired authority as a power tool
- Rarely accepting responsibility by deflecting away from the real issues by transferring the guilt to another
- Denying or minimizing events, twisting facts
- Claiming incomplete processes to avoid consequences

If you find yourself doing some of these things, you may be a controller. If you use this list against someone else, you might be a controller. The value of this list is to keep yourself objectively engaged and thus avoid letting a confrontation turn away from the real issues at hand. A central issue around controlling behaviors is the misuse of power. Here’s a wonderful statement written by Eugene Peterson in his introduction to II Corinthians in The Message: “Because leadership is necessarily an exercise of authority, it easily shifts into an exercise of power. But the minute it does that, it begins to inflict damage on both the leader and the led.” It’s worth reading a second time. In a review of the vast majority of conflicts I’ve worked through as an administrator, power is nearly always at the core of each conflict. Godly leadership is not about self, it’s about God, His plan and His power for the salvation of all who will accept. People who focus on exercising power over others often attempt to control with the behaviors listed above. If you find yourself doing any of those behaviors, you are probably attempting to use power to control others. Peterson’s statement says it well, but there is often a thin line between appropriate authority and using power. When leaders carefully exercise godly authority, the outcome can be wonderfully appropriate. When the use of power enters into the equation, the leader and those led are damaged—as well as God’s cause.

AT THE RIGHT TIME

Timing can be the most difficult of the four principles to apply. When is the right time to address a conflict or problem? It is common for a leader to know what should be done and how, long before knowing when the time is right. Timing, especially, needs to be subject to the Holy Spirit’s leading. Remember, the most important goal is reaching the best spiritual outcome. When a person is engaged in hurting someone emotionally, physically or spiritually, our response should usually be very quick. But there are many cases when acting too soon will increase damage and responding too late will allow more damage than necessary. With focused and caring prayer, God will provide signals that indicate that the time for action has arrived. Often, issues of courage or fear, stubbornness and self, will inhibit our understanding God’s timing. Paul’s description of dying to self is important so we can know God’s timing. Timing is often a huge factor in good outcomes.

The core of doing something in the right way rests in our attitude.

FOR THE RIGHT REASON

Many of the reasons cited in part one of “Stewardship of Spiritual Leadership”—our personal motives in leadership—are the primary engines of good outcomes. Remember, control is not our goal; good spiritual function, personal growth and quality outcomes are the goal. If our focus turns to self, motives are compromised. If we are operating in godly love and altruistic concern for others, we are probably doing things for the right reason. The right or wrong reason for doing something often dramatically shapes the first three parts of the accountability list. It’s a good question to ask ourselves as we look in the mirror—Why am I doing this? Those who feel that doing the right thing is the only necessity in dealing with people often cause much damage. Each of the four parts of accountability is core to sanctifying God before the people (see Numbers 20).

So, there you have it. Pretty basic, huh? In any job or responsibility, those who do the basics are usually ahead of the pack. God calls us to do His basics, so He can work through us as leaders who affect lives for eternity. I hope you will join me to endeavor to do the right thing, in the right way, at the right time and for the right reason.

Don Livesay is the president of the Lake Union Conference.
Along the way, some guys met me on an Army truck—eight or ten, maybe more. They asked me where I was going and I told them. So they said, “Hop on. We’ll give you a lift.”

I got on the truck, and after we got out of town the situation took a turn. You’ve got to understand the times. This was back in 1943. Some of the guys on the truck were Southern people. They started questioning me about my association with the English people, you understand.

“You didn’t do this when you was in America. You’re from the South! You know better!”

They just started harassing. I was the only Black guy on the truck, so they decided they were going to have a lynch party. I thought they were kidding, but then I knew from the talk of the leader—he was one of those guys that could push the rest of the guys into it. He would call them a name—that name you know they used to call us Blacks in the South, if they didn’t go along. So they stopped the truck, found a rope and they were going to have a lynch party; and I was going to be the guest of honor. I was going to be the one lynched. You know what I mean? Hanging!

So they stopped the truck. Remember, now, in England during the time of the war there were no other cars on the road. You could just lay down in the middle of the road and go to sleep, and no car would come by—maybe one every three or four hours, something like that. You would have no problem—nobody out there to help me is what I’m saying.

So they took me out across a field looking for a tree. They were holding me because they were going to hang me. Some of them didn’t want to go through with it, but they didn’t want to be called that name—they were going along with it on account that they were being pushed into it. But others were real serious because they had a rope. Remember, I had my Army uniform on. We were soldiers—all soldiers—going to have a lynch party in the American Army!

As they walked me out across the field, one guy was walking on each side of me; the other four or five were walking in front, and about four or five stayed at the truck.

It was a very bright moonlit night, as bright as day. When they saw a tree way out in the distance, they said, “That one ought to hold him.”

So they started heading for that tree; but you know, I really
wasn’t frightened at the time. I never did worry about it. I fig-
ured I would get delivered somehow.

Then I heard a voice behind me tell me to run. And I
thought, Now how can you run with your arms tied behind you? I heard
the voice a second time say, “Run!”

I thought, Who is that talking to me?, because there was nobody
behind me. I think the third time I heard the voice say, “Run,”
I got the message! When I turned around, my hands just came
free and I headed back to the road. I outran them back to the
road and started heading back the way we had come from. They
ran and tried to catch me, but I ran faster that night than I ever
had in my life. I kept running and they ran to try to catch me.

I remembered we had passed a farmhouse, so I decided I
would run out to that farmhouse, and they followed me out
there.

As I got near to the farmhouse, I was met by a big dog. I had
never seen a St. Bernard before—only in the movies. It was the
biggest dog I had ever seen in my life. The dog saw me coming
toward the house, and he ran out to meet me. So I said to my-
self, I got to meet that dog—or these guys. They were still after
me. The dog came up to me in kind of a friendly way with his
tongue hanging out—not in a ferocious way. So I stopped run-
ning and started walking because I didn’t want to excite him.
He walked right up beside me, turned around and started walk-
ing with me. I was going to walk up onto the porch and knock
on the door and ask the people to help me when one of the
guys said, “There he is,” or something like that. The dog turned
around and went to meet them. He took off toward them in a
vicious way, and they turned around and started running back. I
went around the house, took a wide path though the field back
to the road and then walked back to the base. I got to the base
about six o’clock in the morning, just in time for reveille.

I almost lost my life that night. To my opinion I could have.
But I really wasn’t afraid, even at that time. I knew I hadn’t
done anything. The leader, he talked lynch talk. He was what
they call a “race baiter.” He knew how to push guys up to do
tings they didn’t want to do. They didn’t want to be called that
name—lover, so they were going to go along with him for the ride.
I really don’t know why I wasn’t afraid.

The Lord won’t make you do anything He hasn’t made pro-
vision for. For 50 years, I’ve been doing something in the Lord’s
work. That’s my commitment—a commitment to love the Lord
and my neighbor as myself. I practice that and I ask the Lord
to put that in my heart to do that because it’s not normal for
us fallen people to love. It has to come from the Lord Himself
who is love. That’s the way I see it, and I try to practice what
I preach.
But Jean admits today that actually it turned out her mom was right. Recent research shouts the message that sleep is important not only for the body and brain growth of young children, but for the body health and brain growth for all ages—especially teens. In her book, *Sleepless in America*, Mary Sheedy Kurcinka gathered research studies that combine a clear picture of the importance of enough sleep for children and the impact lack of sleep has on their behavior.

Consider these findings:

- Did you know that a high-energy child might have only a 15-minute window when the body is ready for sleep? Miss that and the body becomes wired for a burst of activity that looks as if the child is not tired, but it is actually a call for being asleep earlier.
- Did you know that teenagers' body clocks change and they really do get tired later and need to sleep longer in the morning?
- Did you know that letting teens sleep all day on the weekend exacerbates the problem, and they should be awakened by 10:00 a.m.?
- Did you know that adolescents need 9.25 hours of sleep a night? If school starts early, parents really do need to say, "Time for bed" and stick with it. The kids will be healthier and smarter when they get to school.
- Did you know that missing one hour of sleep eight nights in a row impairs cognitive function as much as going 24 hours without sleep?

So how much is enough? Sleep needs vary from one person to another, but according to Mary, here are the current recommendations:

- Infants: 14–18 hours in a 24-hour period
- Toddlers, 18–36 months: 13 hours (including naps)
- Preschoolers: 12 hours (including naps)
- School age children: 10 hours
- Adolescents, 13–18 years: 9.25 hours
- Adults: 8.5 hours

All too often our busy lives keep us from noticing that the negative behaviors of our children are often the result of poor sleep patterns and the environments we provide for them throughout the day. It's a balancing act. Sometimes we let children stay up because we haven't been with them during the day or because we are too exhausted to get them in bed! Sometimes we want them to attend a culturally enriching or educational experience, which requires a later bedtime. And sometimes we just want them to have some fun. However, I invite you to think about the price they and we may pay in not saying, "It's time for bed!"

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


Note: This book provides ideas to use and includes humorous and real life stories from parents with whom Mary has worked.

Some information for this article adapted from the newsletter, WE (29:2), 2010.
any people make an effort to stay healthy, and look for ways that are cost effective. They like it when they feel in control, when they can do something for themselves. For many people, health is often associated with a bottle of pills—supplements, that is, that come in all sizes and combinations.

About one in two Americans report using a dietary supplement at least once a month. The most popular supplements are multivitamins, vitamin C, calcium and vitamin E. A number of Americans also take omega-3 either as a supplement, fish oil capsules or flaxseed oil.

Many people are apprehensive that their food is just not potent enough. They believe the soils are inadequate to produce a high quality food crop and that modern processing removes so many nutrients. Others believe chronic diseases could be prevented if a supplement was regularly consumed.

There are established cases where nutrient supplements have enhanced the health of individuals. Iron and folic acid supplements are important to guarantee a more successful pregnancy outcome. Persons on a calorie-restricted diet to promote weight-loss and elderly persons who have poor absorption are very likely to be protected from nutrient short-fall by the regular use of a multivitamin supplement. Calcium and vitamin D supplements can be helpful in preventing bone loss. However, how much one takes and the form of the supplement may determine how effective the supplement is.

Unlike prescription drugs, a manufacturer does not have to prove the safety and effectiveness of a dietary supplement before they market their product. With so many dietary supplements available and so many claims made about their health benefits, how does one decide what is safe and effective?

A supplement, by its very name, is designed to be just that—a supplement to one’s normal diet. If your daily diet provides, say, 70 to 80 percent of your daily needs, then you don’t need a pill that provides 200 to 500 percent of your daily needs. These high potency pills may end up doing more than you think. Excessive amounts of certain vitamins can have detrimental effects on body functions.

Dietary supplements may also interact adversely with medications or other dietary supplements. Studies have shown that high levels of one nutrient can significantly block the absorption of other nutrients, and have an adverse effect upon your health. On the other hand, many tablets, gelcaps or capsules may not easily release their contents due to the way they are packaged. In some cases, unless the supplement is chewed or dissolved there will be little, if any, absorption of nutrients.

Taking a one-a-day multivitamin supplement may provide safe insurance against marginal nutrient deficiencies. However, anyone planning to take a high dose supplement should do so only under the supervision of their health care provider and preferably after a diagnostic lab test has shown that a deficiency exists.

Winston Craig, Ph.D., RD, is a professor of nutrition at Andrews University.
It was Christmas, and I was watching as stress rapidly overwhelmed three teens, a young helper and one adult on a Christmas Maranatha project in Choluteca, Honduras. We were standing in the entrance of a crumbling adobe church, its musty flavors filling the air as squadrons of dust devils wafted slowly across the doorway light.

Our job was to hand out gift bags on the last day of our Christmas Bible School. Volunteers spent much of the night before preparing 120 plastic bags, filling them with a collection of small gifts selected to widen the eyes of any Honduran child—dolls for the girls, matchbox cars and trucks for the guys, stickers, toothpaste, combs and toothbrushes for everyone. Seventy gifts for girls. Fifty for guys. Just enough for the kids who had been coming to Bible School all week.

Unfortunately, more than 150 children were lined up outside the door awaiting gifts.

“There are not enough gift bags!” one of the teenage volunteers whispered hoarsely. “Maybe we could take some things out of the ones that are left, just to stretch ‘em a bit.”

“No need,” one of the girls interrupted. “God knows how to stretch stuff. Let’s just pray.”

The adult (a pastor who was helping coordinate our outreach to kids) smiled, gave me a thumbs-up, and recounted the gifts in the last box.

The teenage girl had a different response. She simply bowed her head and prayed aloud.

“God, you multiplied the loaves of bread and the dried fish on the mountainside. Right now we need you to multiply toothbrushes, toy cars, mirrors and dollies. Thanks!”

Then she laughed—and handed a gift bag to the next little boy who was eagerly waving his open hands.

I stood back, out of the doorway’s joy-filled light and watched to see how God would handle the lack—and the faith.

A bright shaft of light slipped through the doorway, illuminating the teens and pastor as they sorted the gift bags in the last two boxes. The young Honduran helper stood calmly on a patch of well-swept dirt in the shadow. He smiled, and we watched together.

Boy, girl, girl, boy, boy, girl came to the door. Each one received a gift bag and dashed away squealing with delight, eager to share the excitement with friends.

Finally, when only two gift bags remained, I snuck a look out the door. The lines of eager girls and boys still stretched beyond the mango tree. More than 50 children awaited the high point of the week. But, the boxes were empty.

“Well, God,” the teenage girl said clearly, “this is Your time.”

That’s when the young Honduran helper reached down and lifted two large black plastic bags from the shadowy floor and handed them to the volunteer.

“Will these help?” he smiled.

“Thanks,” she answered, as she opened the first black plastic bag and began distributing gift packets to the children. Gift bags we knew had not been there five minutes before. Gift bags we knew we had not packed. Gift bags that looked just like the 120 we had already given away. Gift bags—just enough—for all the kids lined up outside the dusty church. Gift bags prepared by the angels from Supply.

Dick Duerksen is the “official storyteller” through words and pictures for Maranatha Volunteers International. Readers may write the author at dduerksen@maranatha.org.
The Cure for Anxiety

BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.—Philippians 4:6–7

It happens regularly nowadays. A beeper goes off in a room full of people. In response to the beeper, someone gets up, leaves the room and makes a phone call. Something needed immediate attention, and the phone call took care of it.

Life is full of things that need immediate attention. Problems, frustrations and distresses can produce anxiety and rob us of peace. God doesn’t want this to happen, so He has provided a way that we can get in touch with Him immediately when anxiety attacks.

Anxiety is God’s beeper system alerting us that it’s time to talk to God about a situation that worries us. God invites us to come to Him in prayer when anxiety threatens, and He promises that He will restore peace in our lives.

We are welcome to come to God with any request, large or small. Nothing is too great for God’s power; nothing is too small for Him to care about. If it is a concern to you, it is a concern to God.

We’re encouraged to come “with thanksgiving.” Thanksgiving arises from remembering who God is and what He does for us. Remember that God is love and that nothing can separate us from His love (1 John 4:16; Romans 8:38–39). Remember that God is mighty and that His strong right arm is our defense (Psalm 60:5). Remember that God’s goodness and mercy will follow you all the days of your life (Psalm 23:6), and you will always be thankful (Colossians 2:7).

The result of prayer is peace—“the peace of God, which transcends all understanding”—a peace that is beyond the ability of humans to contrive or produce.

God not only works out for good the situations we place in His hands (Romans 8:28); He also works in us to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

Is God beeping you through some concern in your heart or life? Get in touch with Him immediately. Don’t delay! He’ll be glad to have you come. He’s invited you. He has a wonderful peace to give you.

Reflect

Think about how you have handled worries and anxiety in the past. Is there some way you can improve your way of handling these things, based on this Scripture passage?

What signs would you look for to confirm that you have handled anxiety in a God-pleasing way?

Pray

Praise God—the hearer of prayer, the peace giver, the One who guards your heart and mind in Jesus Christ.

Ask God to forgive you for any times you may have handled anxiety improperly.

Thank God for the peace He gives in the midst of troubling situations.

Ask God to give you peace and to guard your heart and mind.

Act

Identify the one thing that you are most prone to be anxious about. Add it to your petitionary prayer list. Be sure to give thanks for everything God has already done to bless you and to help you deal with that anxiety.

Alvin J. VanderGriend is co-founder of the Denominational Prayer Leaders Network and currently serves as evangelism associate for Harvest Prayer Ministries in Terre Haute, Indiana. This article is an excerpt from his book, Love to Pray. Reprinted with permission.
More than a year ago, during the 2010 Indiana Camp Meeting, Van G. Hurst, president of the Indiana Conference, explained the need, opportunity and plan to minister to the Muslim communities in Indiana. Training and support meetings were started by the Indiana Conference for Adventists who have a genuine burden to reach out to their Muslim brothers and sisters in concert with Christ’s command for His followers to teach every nation, kindred, tongue and people.

After conducting several Muslim Outreach meetings, two prominent Muslims from the Indianapolis area were invited as guests to the April 10 meeting at the Glendale Church in Indianapolis: Salah Elsaharty originally from Egypt and Shaker Rashid from Palestine. Their initial presentation was “Islam 101.” They shared the basic tenets of their beliefs and some of the myths that are circulating in the western world regarding Islam. The last part of the two-hour presentation was open to questions and answers.

Salah stated, “We are open to answer all questions, whether they are simple, complicated or inflammatory. We realize what the media has done; and at the same time, we do realize the damage some of the Muslims have done as well. We are happy to break bread with you and your leadership, and I do hope that you reciprocate and come and visit our Masjid (mosque) and continue a long-lasting friendship.”

Following the presentation, the guests were treated to a vegetarian Middle Eastern luncheon. “It was a great pleasure and honor to be with you and to join together in a wonderful meal,” wrote Shaker in a letter following the meeting. “I have learned so much! That is an amazing church you have! I look forward to the opportunity to come back to your church for further discussions. Please extend my thanks to every member of your church who welcomed us and joined us for the meal. God’s blessing to you.”

In reflection, Steven Manoukian, pastor of the Brownsburg and Chapel West churches, shared: “As I spent time with Dr. Rashid and Dr. Elsaharty at the April 10 meeting, a couple of things stood out for me. Over the years, Islam has had to deal with a lot of misinformation through the mass media outlets; but in spite of this, these two men were willing to open up to us. They could have been defensive, yet their attitude was positive.

“Dr. Rashid repeated over and over how he was impressed with our health message,” says Steven. “He was awed that Adventists not only abstain from pork and alcohol, but also smoking, caffeine and other unclean animals. When the holistic health message of the Adventist Church was presented at the meeting, it opened up the opportunity to go further with who we are. I believe we built bridges at that meeting.”

“After meeting with these local Muslim leaders,” added Van, “I feel we have found common ground on which we can discuss the God of Abraham. They mentioned that we are the first Christians who have been willing to talk about doctrine and our similarities and differences without becoming agitated. We will continue to use the methods of Christ to reach out in love and respect to these descendants of Abraham.”

“After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation to our God, which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb’” (Revelation 7:9, 10).

Judith Yeoman is the correspondent for the Indiana Conference.
Avanzando la obra con firmeza

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Debemos avanzar con firmeza, poniendo nuestra confianza en Dios, haciendo su obra con abnegación, dependiendo humildemente de él, entregándonos nosotros mismos a su sabia providencia, ahora y para el futuro, reteniendo hasta el fin nuestra seguridad de los primeros días, y recordando que las bendiciones celestiales no son la recompensa de nuestros méritos, sino la recompensa de los méritos de Cristo y de nuestra aceptación, por fe en él, de la abundante gracia de Dios.—Testimonios para la Iglesia, Tomo 9, p. 24

Dios nos llama para llevar adelante su obra con firmeza y fe. Oremos para que el Señor guíe a su pueblo a unirse a trabajar para así apresurar la venida de nuestro Señor Jesús.

Carmelo Mercado es el vice presidente general de la Unión del Lago.

En la asamblea quinquenal de la Unión del Lago que se llevó a cabo el 15 de mayo, el presidente de nuestra Unión, el pastor Don Livesay, presentó a los delegados el rumbo que tomará la Unión en los próximos cinco años, poniendo como prioridad cinco áreas especiales. Estas áreas son las siguientes:

1. Reavivamiento
2. Cumplir con la gran comisión
3. Educación
4. Seguridad
5. Ministerio para los jóvenes

El Departamento Hispano de la Unión apoya estas áreas, y tiene planeadas las siguientes iniciativas para este próximo quinquenio:

1. El 8 y 9 de julio la Unión auspiciará la última de tres convenciones en que se enfatizará el reavivamiento. La convención será en el Hotel Hilton, en la ciudad de Oak Lawn, estado de Illinois. Se espera que cientos de nuestros hermanos hispanos del área de Chicago participen en este encuentro especial para buscar un reavivamiento en sus vidas. También, en ese mes se ofrecerá por primera vez un nuevo libro titulado *El amor por la oración* que esperamos sea de mucho provecho para los hermanos.

2. En el mes de septiembre la Asociación de Michigan, la Asociación Regional del Lago y la Unión del Lago combinarán sus esfuerzos para planear y auspiciar una campaña evangélica en la ciudad de Grand Rapids, estado de Michigan. El orador especial de esta campaña será el pastor Esteban Bohr. Además, el año que viene la Asociación de Indiana tendrá una campaña evangélica en varias ciudades vía caravana, teniendo como orador al pastor Alejandro Bullón.

3. La Asociación de Illinois, la Asociación Regional del Lago y la Unión del Lago están estudiando la manera de hacer frente al desafío de cómo proveer educación adventista a nuestros niños hispanos, y se espera que pronto se presente una estrategia que resulte en un nuevo plan que haga más accesible la educación adventista.

4. El Departamento Hispano de la Unión ha tenido siempre un interés especial en apoyar el ministerio para los jóvenes hispanos en nuestra Unión. En el mes de octubre el Centro de Evangelismo para Jóvenes de la Universidad Andrews auspiciará un simposio donde se invitará a líderes de jóvenes de varios grupos étnicos para dialogar sobre cómo mantener a nuestros jóvenes de segunda y tercera generación en nuestras iglesias. Y, en junio del año que viene la Unión del Lago auspiciará Conéctate 2012, el segundo congreso de jóvenes bilingües.

Dios nos llama para llevar adelante su obra con firmeza y fe. Oremos para que el Señor guíe a su pueblo a unirse a trabajar para así apresurar la venida de nuestro Señor Jesús.
These days as I walk through Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, the sounds of progress are in the air. I hear nurses and physicians taking care of our patients, and I hear families comforting their loved ones. I watch and listen as our talented team extends the healing ministry of Christ to everyone who walks through our doors. I also hear the faint sounds of construction as we work to put the finishing touches to the exterior of our new patient care pavilion, which is on schedule to be completed by early next year. I know the minor disruptions we’re facing today will soon bring modern advancements our patients deserve. Private patient rooms, updated nursing units and a beautiful new chapel are on our horizon, and I personally can’t wait for opening day.

In the midst of such a massive undertaking, it’s clear how buildings can serve as symbols of comfort, trust and opportunity. Whether it’s your childhood home, your alma mater or your place of worship, a feeling of purpose and closeness comes from these structures. Beyond the bricks and mortar, it’s the feeling from inside those buildings that can transform lives.

Inside the walls of all of our hospitals—Adventist Bolingbrook, Chippewa Valley, Adventist GlenOaks, Adventist Hinsdale and Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospitals—there are teams of people who are dedicating their lives to this worthwhile and sacred work. And each day I hear stories of how our caregivers are providing care and comfort as they faithfully obey God’s call.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is 2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV): “We are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” We are His hands, feet and voice to God’s world. The work we do inside the walls of our hospitals are just an excuse to do our real mission—to reconcile people with God.

No matter how many accolades we earn—and we have many—Adventist Midwest Health offers our community much more than sophisticated, high-tech medical services. We offer a spiritual refuge—a Seventh-day Adventist Christian organization with its arms open to all without regard to their personal religious preference.

That philosophy is part of the legacy set forth by visionary doctors, David and Mary Paulson, when they formed the Hinsdale Sanitarium and Benevolent Association in 1904. They embraced compassionate health care and healing, and their mission and vision still inspire us today.

Earlier this year, at Adventist Health System’s annual Conference on Mission in Florida, I was honored to receive the Crystal Angel Award, which is presented annually to a leader who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of mission in Adventist healthcare. I felt very humbled to receive such an honor, and somewhat undeserving of this recognition.

I believe this award belongs to our entire team, from inside the walls of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital and extending outside to all the other hospitals in our region. The light shines daily on our team, and we are so thankful for the work God gives us to do. Like David and Mary before us, we know it’s a team effort to foster healing and health with compassion and understanding.

David L. Crane is president and CEO of Adventist Midwest Health.
The accreditation means AMH is now recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a national CPE training site. It builds upon the family practice residencies at Adventist Hinsdale and Adventist La Grange Memorial hospitals, adding another teaching component to AMH, according to John Rapp, AMH’s regional vice president, ministries and mission.

“CPE accreditation is the gold standard for clinical pastoral education training programs in health care. And while it’s typical for one hospital to earn this status, it is unusual for a region of four hospitals to become accredited CPE training sites,” John said. “We could not have accomplished this without the dedication of our pastoral care staff and the support of our administration.”

An interfaith professional education for ministry in a health care setting, the program brings theological students and ministers of all faith traditions together for education courses that include supervised encounters of bedside visits with patients in the hospital setting. With intense involvement and insight from peers and teachers, students develop a deeper understanding of those who are in need and how best to offer spiritual care in a healthcare environment.

For Colleen Narbone, a chaplain at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital who has completed two CPE units, the program gave her the opportunity to learn more about herself. “Learning from my peers and mentors allowed me to reflect upon my ministry in a way I wouldn’t have otherwise,” Colleen said. “It made me a better chaplain.”

A total of 33 students have been part of AMH’s CPE program since it started in 2007. The program is housed at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital and coordinated by a CPE-certified supervisor.

“Very few hospitals and health systems reach this pinnacle of competence, which once again validates the excellence of our spiritual support team,” said David L. Crane, president and chief executive officer of Adventist Midwest Health. “Congratulations to John Rapp and his dedicated team for this milestone achievement.”

AMH’s CPE center offers programs for Level I and Level II students and offers a variety of clinical placements, including an emphasis in crisis ministry, intensive and neurological care, oncology, cardiology, women and children’s services, and surgical services. Applications are accepted anytime, but students must complete each level in sequence before moving to the next level. Persons of all faith groups are welcome to apply.

“Adventist Midwest Health’s CPE center has a bright future,” said Tricia Treft, manager of pastoral care at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital and chairwoman of the AMH CPE center’s representative professional advisory group. “We are blessed to have dedicated students, supportive staff and a strong mission.”

Lisa Parro is a senior public relations specialist at Adventist Midwest Health.

Adventist Midwest Health President and CEO Dave Crane, left, accepts a certificate from John Rapp, regional vice president of ministries and mission, acknowledging the hospital system’s accreditation from the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE).
Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ

MISSION TEAM TREATS THOUSANDS IN COSTA RICA

BY JULIE BUSCH

After treating nearly 450 patients in the 90-degree Costa Rica heat, there were just two patients left waiting to see the ob/gyn specialist. First up was a very pregnant mother who brought along her five-year-old son—an adorable, smart little boy. The doctor did an ultrasound, and the family was so happy to see everything was okay. The team posed for pictures with the happy patient and her son.

Still laughing and smiling, the last patient was ushered into the room to see Lanny Wilson, an ob/gyn and veteran participant with Adventist Midwest Health mission trips. The woman began to tell her story, saying she had four children, including a 12-year-old daughter.

As the conversation continued, the team learned that her young daughter had been raped and was now suicidal, so the woman was unable to work because she needed to keep her daughter safe. Her husband left her three years ago, and she was spiraling down in depression and financial trouble.

“God is here with you,” Lanny told the woman.

“I don’t feel God is listening,” the woman said.

“But you got out of bed today and came to this place,” Lanny said, “and there’s a reason for that.” The team stood around her and cried and prayed, and during those prayers their tears dried up and a Power came over them. They promised the woman the entire team would say a special prayer for her later that night, and that’s exactly what they did.

During the week-long trip in January, 42 team members from across Adventist Midwest Health treated more than 2,000 patients in five locations. “Each day, there were tremendous highs and lows,” said Tricia Treft, manager of pastoral care at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, who led the team. “But everyone felt truly blessed to have this experience—to see how you can make a difference by extending the healing ministry of Christ.”

Each morning, the team traveled to a local village and
set up a medical clinic at a local church, using classrooms and large open areas to triage patients and conduct exams. Here, it is very rare to see specialists like ob/gyn, physical therapy, orthopedics or a dietician. These types of appointments would normally take months to happen, sometimes years.

Seven physicians, including four family medicine residency physicians, came on the trip. When the team arrived at the site each day, a crowd of people was already waiting in line. After they saw a physician, they received prescriptions for needed medications and also received antacids and vitamins from the makeshift pharmacy. Outside the pharmacy, the patients came alive with joy—smiling, hugging staff and thanking them for coming to their community.

Meanwhile, children enjoyed the love shared by the children’s ministry team. The hosts brought a large inflatable bouncy castle to the site each day, and team members also helped the children color in Bible-inspired coloring books. They said prayers and sang songs together.

Several times, at the end of the day, the children presented the team with little gifts, like candy. “We don’t want you to forget us,” they insisted, as the team tried to decline the gifts.

During the week, a construction team completed five construction projects—from painting walls to applying stucco. On that day, the team worked in a classroom under construction that had large windows without glass, allowing a wonderful breeze to blow through. “A banana plantation was next door, and you could almost reach outside and touch the bananas,” said Jim Today, the construction team leader. “The views were absolutely stunning and many members of the medical team came upstairs for a much needed break and to be re-energized.”

The stucco was tinted a beautiful terra cotta color, and the team smeared stucco up the wall and smoothed it out until they ran out of material and had to stop. The pastor was very grateful even though the project wasn’t finished, and he gave team members permission to place their fingerprints in the stucco.

Afterward, the pastor came upstairs to pray with them. They bowed their heads, held hands and listened as the pastor prayed in Spanish. “I had no idea what he was saying,” said team member Cindy Aguinaga, “but it was just so beautiful. I could not control my tears. The Lord came down and was filling my heart with His love.”

The pastor said the medical team and clinic will leave Costa Rica, but the stucco wall will remain forever. “He called us his brothers and sisters from America,” Jim said. After they were finished, the team climbed out of the window onto a small ledge and sat down, letting their feet dangle over the edge and taking in the breathtaking view.

Julie Busch is regional director of Public Relations at Adventist Midwest Health.
Rosalyn Johnson is a fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist.

“My great-grandfather Isaac Palmer joined the church in Charleston, South Carolina, when my grandmother was five years old,” Rosalyn said. “He began a tradition of service with many of our family members serving as ministers and leaders.”

Rosalyn has joyfully followed in that tradition. In 1977, she moved to the Chicago area to work at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. Because of her love for singing, she joined the Stranford Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church in Chicago, where she expressed her faith through song with the church choir. After nearly 30 years of singing throughout the Lake Region Conference, her voice was affected by surgery in 2004. Rosalyn welcomed the opportunity to serve in other roles and is currently an assistant superintendent of the Sabbath school and counselor of the Pathfinder club for youth.

“The vision for our church is to be a thriving family life center with an open door for ministry, biblical counsel and fellowship,” said Rosalyn, a resident of Naperville, Illinois. “The majority of our members come from all over the Chicago area, and our mission is to be a beacon of light reflecting God’s love to our West Pullman community.”

For Rosalyn, maintaining a strong Christian heritage included attending Adventist schools. Raised in Denver, Colorado, she attended Oakwood University, in Huntsville, Alabama. She graduated from Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, California, with a concentration in medical records administration. The tradition will continue when Rosalyn’s daughter enters Oakwood University in the fall. Her son, who also attended Oakwood, is serving in the Air Force, stationed in South Korea.

Rosalyn worked at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital for ten years, serving eight years as director of medical records. She then worked for the University of Chicago for 16 years before returning to Adventist Midwest Health in 2007 to join the team that opened Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital. She has served as director of health information management ever since.

“It was like coming back home,” Rosalyn said. “How exciting to see the free-standing emergency room transform into a full service hospital with an electronic medical record system.”

Rosalyn’s work in establishing the new department helped prepare her for leading out in a huge project to implement the computerized physician order entry system, or CPOE, designed to improve patient safety. This process enables physicians and other health care providers to enter orders directly into the hospital’s electronic medical records system, eliminating the paper trail and reducing errors. Finishing the project wasn’t easy.

“As our team prepared for CPOE, my church was involved in 40 days of prayer,” Rosalyn said. “I had to pull back from my church duties to focus on the success of this project. My church family kept in touch, assuring me they were praying for me and for the hospital. It was the power of God that helped me remain strong and focused through a successful implementation.”

Lisa Parro is a senior public relations specialist at Adventist Midwest Health.
In His Hands

Although nursing is her passion, Sue Ford considers her relationship with God to be her top priority both at work and at home.

Sue’s faith in God gives her the zeal to care for patients in a selfless manner. In addition to using critical thinking skills when confronted with a seemingly insoluble problem, Sue will often pray for the right answer. She appreciates the quiet miracles, the ones known only between her and God.

“With so many complex patient care issues we face every day, I can’t help but turn to the Lord to help me find my way in terms of prioritizing and determining in which direction to go,” said Sue, quality and patient safety clinical nurse specialist at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital. “It can be so overwhelming. I pray that God guides me to where He wants me to focus. I put it in His hands.”

One of Sue’s current projects is working with the critical care and med/surg units to achieve quality outcomes for congestive heart failure and pneumonia patients. She attends multidisciplinary rounds in both the intensive care and med/surg units. Sue works one on one with staff to review the care plan for their patients and helps ensure the patients are getting that care within the required time frames. She also anticipates the next step for patients and brainstorms with nurses to address any issues that arise.

Sue led several quality improvement projects in the intensive care unit. She has worked with the staff in implementing hypothermia protocols for sudden arrest patients and also for the rapid response team. Because she is passionate about improving patient care, Sue always takes the lead in whatever project the critical care committee tackles.

“Sue is the epitome of what a professional nurse should be,” said MaryAnn Palermo, director of patient safety and quality management. “She’s the kind of nurse I aspire to be. She is an exemplary role model, clinician, teacher, mentor and nurse researcher. She’s the whole package. I’m proud to have her on my team.”

Carl Barsanti, pulmonologist/critical care intensivist and chairman of the critical care committee, called Sue “a perfectionist who doesn’t rest until she gets the job done.”

“When Sue gets her teeth into something, the rest of us pick up on her enthusiasm and really want to follow what she’s putting down on paper and put it into practice,” Carl said. “Because of her knowledge and leadership, she carries the ball on whatever project we’re doing, but she gives everyone else the credit for her hard work.”

Sue’s great dedication to patients inspired her to participate in community blood drives and to be a frequent blood donor. She also participates in yard cleanups with her church because she cares about the environment.

“The Earth is God’s creation and it’s full of miracles,” Sue said. “Miracles happen every day in our world and in our hospital. I’m blessed to be a part of it.”

Lisa Parro is a senior public relations specialist at Adventist Midwest Health.
Seeing Jesus in Our Most Vulnerable Patients

BY MARY MURPHY

ike she did nearly every day, Barbara, a 58-year-old housekeeper, was cleaning a home on September 22, 2009, when she suddenly couldn’t move her legs. An ambulance brought her to the emergency room at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, where it was determined she had suffered a massive intracranial bleed from an uncontrolled hypertensive event. In short, she had a stroke that left her weak and confused.

Like many patients in her condition, Barbara faces a long road to recovery. She is making progress in her physical, occupational and speech therapies, but is still not able to walk or even stand without assistance. She is able to feed herself, but she requires round-the-clock assistance with her daily living. Barbara is single and lives alone; her adult son told our social work team he is unable to care for her. Our team contacted many facilities and agencies for assistance, but because of Barbara’s status as an undocumented immigrant, we have been unable to find a place for her. So nearly two years after being admitted, Barbara remains in our hospital. She simply has nowhere else to go.

Barbara is now a fixture on our 5 East nursing unit. Early in her stay, she rolled in her wheelchair from her room to a larger, unoccupied room with a better view of the outside world; we have since moved her to the bigger room. The nurses, patient care technicians, therapists, rehab technicians and other clinicians who care for Barbara, or “Basha” as many call her, pitched in to buy and decorate a Christmas tree for her room during the holidays, and bought her a mini-fridge as a Christmas present. The refrigerator is often full of homemade Polish food brought by the staff to celebrate her heritage. They threw her a party on the first anniversary of her admission. They style her hair. They take her to the chapel for Mass, the gift shop for shopping and the Serenity Garden for fresh air.

They’ve brought plants and flowers to decorate Barbara’s windowsill. A few staff members who speak Polish visit often—many times on their days off—to converse with her in her native tongue; although Barbara understands some English, she doesn’t speak it freely. But somehow, she and her care team are able to communicate easily.

“Basha is a part of our unit,” said Candice Washilewski, director of medical/surgical services. “She’s a part of our family. And at this point, it’s hard to imagine life without her.”

The very nature of our not-for-profit, mission-based hospital is to ensure everyone in our community has access to the most advanced health care services available, regardless of their ability to pay. In 2010 alone, our hospital spent $2.4 million on charity care; Barbara’s care is estimated at $1 million so far.

We don’t know how long Barbara is going to be here. We’ve sought aid from the Polish consulate and countless agencies on her behalf, but we keep hitting deadends. Still, we’re not going to give up on Barbara. I’m constantly reminded of Jesus’ words: “Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” When our caregivers sit with Barbara, pray with her, hold her hand, take her temperature and blood pressure, lead her through exercises, bathe her, comb her hair and do all the other tasks to care for her mind, body and spirit, they are fulfilling our mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ.

Mary Murphy is the vice president/chief nursing officer at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.
Richard Ready walked into the frigid water of Lake Michigan. He had been binge drinking for days. Everything he had worked for—four years of college, four years of medical school, a year internship and six years of residency—vanished when he was fired as chief resident. That night, consumed by his sorrows, he tried to drown himself.

Today, walking through the halls of the New Day Center at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, Richard is a completely different man compared to who he was that night 25 years ago in Lake Michigan. Richard knows firsthand the severity of the battle with alcohol and drug addiction. His own personal experience and rehabilitation led Richard to commit his life to extending the grace he experienced from God to others facing similar struggles.

In his youth, Richard developed a dependency on alcohol. As he progressed through college and into medical school, his addiction worsened and was accompanied by anxiety and paranoia. When Richard was assigned to make a presentation as a fourth-year medical student, he wrote himself a prescription for medication to combat his anxiety. Praised by his peers for his calm composure during the presentation, Richard began a long relationship with drugs.

During his neurosurgery residency at an established Chicago-area hospital, Richard's drug and alcohol addiction provided him with an inflated sense of his own capabilities and abilities. “I thought that I had become bigger than life and that I answered to absolutely no one,” he said. As chief resident, Richard was taking up to 70 Tylenol with codeine every day. He continued to work in the operating room. While Richard’s judgment was clouded by his excessive use of drugs and alcohol, miraculously he did not harm any of his patients. Peers began to notice a shift in Richard’s behavior and alerted the chairman of the residency program. Immediately, Richard was fired as chief resident.

After receiving the news, Richard went back to his apartment and began to drink himself into a state of suicide. Shortly after, he tried to drown himself in Lake Michigan. “Something was holding me back,” he recounts. “At the time, I’m not sure what it was.” A few days later, Richard read an article about a man’s battle with drugs and alcohol. “That was the first time that I understood what the problem was,” Richard says. This eye-opening experience led him to rehabilitation where Richard was able to put his life back on track. After rehabilitation, Richard completed a two-year fellowship in addiction medicine. When the opening at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital became available, he applied and received the job.

It is here, at the New Day Center, that Richard began and continues his mission to help others conquer their battle with addiction. With the skill of a physician and a heart of someone who knows the harsh realities of recovery, Richard is an inspiration to his patients and peers.

Watch a video about Richard at http://www.youtube.com/adventistmidwest.

Julie Zaiback is a communications specialist at Adventist Health System.
TELLING GOD’S STORIES

Balloon Witnessing

Students and faculty at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School in Berrien Springs, Michigan, prepared for the annual Andrews Homecoming Parade. Students would carry blue and white RMES balloons as they did each year to show their school spirit. As school staff blew up these 50 balloons to use in the parade, they never suspected one would soon be on an amazing journey.

As always happens when children carry balloons, one of the balloons “escaped” and took off into the gray sky. Students cheered and waved and laughed. Eventually, the balloon disappeared out of sight—and no one gave it another thought.

Our students marched through the entire parade, letting their balloons fly high, tossing candy to spectators and having a great time. Our group even won an award at the end of the event. As far as we knew, the parade was a total success!

Weeks later, a letter came in the mail addressed to the students at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School. It said, “I thought you’d be interested to know that today when I was out walking in the woods near my home, I found a balloon that you had set aloft. ... I had never heard of your school, so I Googled it and was surprised to find that you live in Michigan and your balloon had traveled all this way!

Amherst, Massachusetts, is in the very western part of the state at the foot of the Berkshire Mountains. ... I just thought you’d like to know about where your little balloon landed. I hope your teachers show you on a map.”

The letter was signed “Eileen Wood.” The deflated blue balloon, with the string still attached, was also enclosed in the envelope.

Jesus told His disciples, “and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the earth” (Acts 1:8 NET). Isn’t God awesome? One special student acted as a witness to someone who lives more than 800 miles away without knowing, without trying, but by simply being a part of our school. Christ will use all of us in His own special way, and we are thrilled to know that our students are part of His plan.

Wendy Keough is the principal’s assistant at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

A Village of Hope

As soon as my spot on the mission trip to Tanzania, Africa, was finalized, I knew one thing: I wanted to take my students at Berrien Springs Village Adventist Elementary along for the journey. Determined they would participate and benefit from the experience as much as possible from the classroom, I began making plans for them to raise money to help pay for construction of “House of Hope,” the orphanage the mission team would help construct.

Fellow teachers soon caught the vision and jumped on board to help organize fundraisers. Students in grades pre-K to grade eight were challenged to raise $20 each at an assembly where they saw and heard about the plight of more than 400 orphans in the nearby villages, who these buildings would house.

Seventh and eighth graders gathered sponsors for what they

Audrey Walker used the example of the lost balloon to teach her students about American and world geography.

Wendy Keough is the principal’s assistant at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

The Lake Union Herald is available online.
called the “Hunger Event,” which included going 24 hours without eating in order to gain a small glimpse of what it may mean to be an orphan. Fifth and sixth graders hit the streets in a very successful effort to sell flower bulbs. Students in the younger grades held a read-a-thon with the support of generous family members and neighbors.

Seventh and eighth graders easily passed their goal by almost $1,000 and were given the option to choose which additional charitable project they’d like to get involved with. They chose to use part of the extra funds to aid a second orphanage, Havilah Village, where the missionaries would stay briefly after landing. The mission group transported the clothing and educational toys purchased. The remaining extra proceeds were used to purchase 50 Swahili Bibles to give out at the evangelistic series also sponsored by the Village Church mission team.

Seventh and eighth graders wrote personal greetings to orphans at Havilah Village. Younger students excitedly prepared colorful cards for each orphan. After we landed in Tanzania and arrived at Havilah Village, we gathered all the orphans and communicated by Skype back to Village School. In an assembly of the entire student body, students heard the orphans sing for them in Swahili, and then in English tell them about their life at the orphanage and thank them profusely for the gifts and messages. Village students erupted into applause frequently as they saw the faces of children they had thought about, worked for and learned from for almost an entire school year. It was a glimpse-of-heaven moment for each participant, with feet on two continents but hearts forever connected!

Beth Stevenson, first grade teacher, Village Adventist Elementary School, Berrien Springs, Michigan

God’s Directions

As we sat on the steps of the children’s home in Honduras, I was once again amazed how God arranges things. We were told Leah Schmitt, a lady from the States, came to Santa Barbara, Honduras, to visit in 1994. When requested to speak on Sabbath, she read Isaiah 58, asked the congregation what they were going to do about it, and then sat down. From that simple sermon, Hogar de Niños Emanuel was born. This place of refuge is home to 45 children, ages two to 18, most of whom are orphans.

When our group of 12 from Indiana Academy arrived, children beckoned us to play, give them piggy-back rides and hold them. The experience changed our lives as we saw the power of God in action and Christian love transform the most desperate cases. Ten-year-old Orlin and his brother, David, recently arrived after both their parents were murdered. Toddlers Angela and David were taken from their home because they were malnourished and neglected. A ten-month-old girl was left in the market by her mother because she was too poor to feed her.

In a nearby town, we provided Vacation Bible School-style programs at a daycare center run by the orphanage. Each day, 25–50 of the town’s poorest children came to be fed, clothed and bathed while their single parent went to work. Many children walked up to an hour from their shack-like homes to get to the center.

Months ago, God impressed the Indiana Academy staff to change next school year’s focus to one of service. Students would be provided opportunities for practical service based on Isaiah 58. Was it merely a coincidence that our mission project this year brought into greater focus the true spirit of being God’s hands?

I don’t think so.

While in Honduras, we painted the faded buildings and constructed a block wall; but it was playing and interacting with the children for ten days that changed us. Maybe it is time for all of us to re-read Isaiah 58 and see what God is directing us to do.

Allan Smith is the marketing and recruiting director at Indiana Academy.
Adventist Hinsdale Hospital patient pavilion project honors God

To the untrained ear, the buzzing, clanging and whirring of power tools and heavy-duty construction machinery have generated much noise at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital during the past 18 months. But to members of the Adventist Hinsdale Hospital family, these sounds are the music of progress—a joyful noise made unto the Lord.

The hospital’s $75 million renovation is scheduled to be complete in early 2012, with private patient rooms as the centerpiece of the newly redesigned facility. The project complements the high-quality patient care and technological advancements for which Adventist Hinsdale Hospital has long been known.

According to David L. Crane, president and chief executive officer of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, the project follows the same philosophy set more than a century ago by the hospital’s founders, physicians David and Mary Paulson, when they faced demands for expansion in the early years of the Hinsdale Sanitarium: “If God wants us to do it. He will make it possible.”

“Each time, God made it possible; and through the overwhelming support of our friends, He has made it possible once again,” Crane said. “This humbles us with a sense of awesome responsibility as it inspires us to further advance the fulfillment of our mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ.”

In addition to private patient rooms, the project also will result in new corridors that segregate patient and visitor traffic, updated nursing units, a more comfortable surgical waiting room, a new lobby and chapel, and convenient parking. Overnight guests will be able to sleep more comfortably in the room with their loved one. The upgrades will improve staffing efficiency and help Adventist Hinsdale Hospital attract and retain the best possible physicians and nurses.

“These improvements will transform the way we care for patients at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital,” said chief nursing officer Shawn Tyrrell. “Making nurses’ stations more accessible to patient rooms will allow our clinicians to respond promptly to the needs of patients and their families.”

The project will result in 290 licensed beds—less than the current bed count, but appropriate for today’s patient-centered care model of treatment. An emergency helistop will transport patients requiring a higher level of specialized care. In addition, a new, easily accessible outpatient cancer center is planned offsite.

Currently located off a corridor, the chapel will be relocated closer to the lobby, where it will be more accessible. Jim Today, administrative director of patient experience and facilities, expects the improvements to draw more patients, visitors and staff to the chapel for the daily 7 a.m. and noon devotions.

“Our daily chapel devotions are an integral part of the Adventist Hinsdale Hospital experience,” Today said. “Praying as a community strengthens our relationships with one another and with God.”

The Good Shepherd stained glass works, commissioned in 1965 by artist Arhiel Borassa, are an integral part of the hospital’s current chapel and will be incorporated in the design of the new chapel.

Additional project details and color renderings are available at www.AdventistHinsdaleModernization.com.

“These improvements will help keep Adventist Hinsdale Hospital at the cutting edge of medicine,” Crane said. “Our patients deserve this investment in their community hospital.”

Lisa Parro is a senior public relations specialist at Adventist Midwest Health.

This image is an architectural rendering of the new chapel at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.
Associate deans, principal of Griggs University appointed

On Nov.1, 2010, ownership of Griggs University & International Academy was transferred to Andrews University. Griggs is an accredited, values-based distance education and home school provider that offers individual courses and complete programs to students preschool through university. In July, the physical relocation of Griggs will take place. At that time, La Ronda Curtis Forsey, associate dean for Griggs University and principal of Griggs International Academy, and Janine Lim, associate dean for higher education for Griggs, will join the Griggs team.

“As we build Griggs University on the campus of Andrews University, we have looked for three characteristics in all candidates—first, a dedication to God and a commitment to Adventist education; second, the skills and experience necessary to build excellent distance education programs on a number of platforms; and third, the vision to see how distance education can serve the world Church by using technology to promote collaboration,” says Alayne Thorpe, interim president of Griggs.

Forsey brings 26 years of teaching and educational administration to her role at Griggs. She previously served as the principal at Atlanta Adventist Academy (AAA) in Atlanta, Ga.

“The thing that intrigues me about joining Andrews University is the opportunity to be innovative in a global setting—using my background experiences to reach out to a wide range of students,” says Forsey. “I look forward to building new programs with a team of people who are dedicated to Adventist education and God’s service.”

Forsey has worked as a teacher at the alternative Horizon Preparatory School in Chattanooga, Tenn.; Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn.; and at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, Fla. Her years of experience in administration began in 1996 when she began a six-year stint as vice principal, as well as English and ESL teacher, at Maxwell Adventist Academy in Nairobi, Kenya. In 2002, she moved back to the United States where she served for three years as vice principal of marketing and recruiting for Campion Academy in Loveland, Colo., before spending six years at AAA. During her time at AAA, enrollment doubled and it became an innovative multi-campus school. Three metro Atlanta sites and five partner schools now use interactive simultaneous videoconferencing technology.

Forsey holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Southern Adventist University and a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Scranton University.

Lim says, “I look forward to serving Adventist education worldwide through the use of a variety of innovative technologies. I hope to bring enthusiasm for Adventist education and a passion for using technology to bring learning opportunities to students wherever they may be.”

Lim has served as the Instructional Technology Consultant for the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) since 1998. As technology consultant, she coordinates distance learning for 20 school districts, teaches online graduate-level technology classes and helps train teachers for technology integration.

Lim began her career as a language arts and Bible teacher at Griswold Christian Academy in Ohio. After one year there, she was appointed in 1997 as an instructional technologist for the Berrien County Intermediate School District (now Berrien RESA). Lim has also served as adjunct faculty in distance education courses for the Berrien RESA; the Adventist Virtual Learning Network serving La Sierra University and Andrews University; and classes offered through Central Michigan University and Western Michigan University. She has taught classes on videoconferencing in the classroom, interactive curriculums, and integration of technology and the Internet into curricula. Lim received an Educator of the Year award in 2010 from the Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning, an Outstanding Leadership Award in 2008 from the United States Distance Learning Association, and a number of other professional awards.

Lim is a triple alumnus of Andrews University, holding a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (1995), a Master of Arts in Teaching (1996) and a Ph.D. in Leadership (2010).
**Cross Street Christian School models Christianity as a way of life**

Indiana—Have you ever thought about the many reasons Christian education is such a wonderful investment? It not only upholds Christ, but it offers a myriad of opportunities for students to grow spiritually, physically and academically. Cross Street Christian School (CSCS) in Anderson is a wonderful example of such a place. Enthusiastic teachers and a supportive church family are unified to make one of the finest Christian educational facilities around. CSCS engages students in various avenues of service and outreach activities, hands-on learning, cutting-edge technology, quality academics and a Christ-centered approach to everything.

Students regularly sing, pray and spend quality time with the residents of a local nursing home. They have collected and distributed thousands of canned goods, non-perishables and gifts for local charities such as Operation Love and Toys for Tots. The Pathfinders, Adventurers and Eager Beavers (three active school-related clubs) recently delivered large food baskets to 21 underprivileged homes throughout the community.

Some of the recent activities students participated in included: The annual Christmas program and Education Sabbath at the Anderson Church, serving food at a local organization that provides meals for the homeless and the annual statewide musical festival in Cicero.

CSCS students are encouraged to stay healthy and fit by enjoying the vegetarian hot lunch program at the school and by participating in daily fitness activities through physical education. They chart their progress for walking, jogging, water consumption and nutritional intake. Setting personal fitness goals keeps them focused and promotes healthy choices.

Morning worship takes place in every classroom along with regular prayer and Bible study each day. Students also enjoy a weekly school-wide worship with pastors, church leaders and Christian community members. Friday celebrations are another way they focus on their faith by preparing themselves for the Sabbath. CSCS is where Christianity is a way of life!

Mark Courtad, teacher, grades 5–8, Cross Street Christian School

**AFIA sponsors aviation ministry in the Philippines**

Michigan—The 8th annual Filipino Culture Night took place Sunday, Apr. 3, with more than food and entertainment in mind. The event was sponsored and organized by the Andrews Filipino International Association (AFIA) and offered attendees the chance to learn more about Filipino history and culture. More importantly, the event supported Adventist World Aviation (AWA), a non-profit agency that enables missionaries to reach the ends of the earth. Proceeds will directly sponsor AWA’s work in the Philippines.

Every year, the event consists of an authentic Filipino dinner and original play produced and written by an AFIA officer. This year, guests enjoyed favorite authentic dishes like pancit, adobo chicken, rice and a delicious cassava cake (a Filipino dessert). The play, written and produced by Gervea Or-
way to show others what it is like to be a Filipino (whether in the Philippines or in America) and to showcase the funny incidents that often occur in a Filipino household,” says Adrienne Asumbrado, AFIA president and Andrews student.

Programming also included a special worship thought by Don Starlin, AWA president. Starlin commended AFIA members for their support of AWA and their dedication to serving others, saying, “This is exactly what AFIA does every year. AFIA helps people.”

AFIA raised nearly $700 in ticket sales at the event and will donate $1,000 to AWA’s work in the Philippines. The funds will specifically be used to build a runway, a hangar and to provide housing. This is the sixth year the club has donated money to an aviation project. In the past, AFIA provided school supplies, farm equipment, seeds to cultivate food and trees, and material to build a village clinic, to name a few.

“It has been a great partnership to work with AWA and see the project come to life, and the difference a few Andrews students have made to the mission,” says Fares Magesa, AFIA sponsor and a staff member in the Office of Student Financial Services. “Our ultimate goal is to plan an AFIA mission trip to visit our project, or provide a mission trip opportunity to different groups on campus to go to the project.”

Next year, AFIA will celebrate 20 years as a campus club. To learn more about AFIA, visit their Facebook page by typing “AFIA AU” in the search box or by emailing afia.au@gmail.com. To learn more about Adventist World Aviation, visit www.flyawa.org.


30-Hour Famine event highlights homelessness

Illinois—Danny Frederick, pastor and religion teacher at HAA, was ecstatic with the turnout at this year’s 30-Hour Famine held Friday, Apr. 22, and Sabbath, Apr. 23. Beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, 60 Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) students stopped eating and began a journey that would bring them closer to God and each other.

Friday was filled with activities, including a middle-of-the-night prayer walk through Hinsdale where the village and its residents were lifted up in prayer.

On Sabbath, the students headed to downtown Chicago to pass out sandwiches and offer prayer to the homeless—people who the students recognized were much hungrier than they were.

Vannia Marino, sophomore, commented: “The 30-Hour Famine this year was amazing. As this was my fourth year participating, I knew what to expect; surprisingly, it turned out to be entirely different. When we went downtown to hand out sandwiches, a man was arrested right after we gave him a sandwich! That had never happened before. Throughout the 30 hours I saw God’s blessings and how He made a way for everything to work out—including getting 60 people into the city!”

After a week of rain, the weather on Sabbath afternoon was perfect. One group took the train downtown, and right outside Union Station they were able to give out several sandwiches to homeless men. They offered prayer, and one of the men accepted. As the group walked away, he called out “Bless you all!” In Grant Park, the students came across several people sleeping on benches or in the grass and chose not to wake them, but left a bottle of water for them to drink when they woke up. The group frequently ran into other students with their sponsors, and one sponsor remarked, “It touched my heart to see these young people sharing their food when they were certainly hungry themselves. They all knew that they were the fortunate ones; they knew they would be eating that night. The people on the streets didn’t know where their next meal was coming from.”

One of our students, Denzel Washington, a junior from the south side of Chicago, stated, “We should go to my neighborhood next time.”

The 30-Hour Famine is an initiative of World Vision.

Rebecca Garrett, director of marketing, Hinsdale Adventist Academy
IA seniors gain angelic perspectives

Indiana—After weeks of debating the destination, the Indiana Academy seniors finally agreed to set out to Arizona on their class trip, doing their mission work at Holbrook Indian School and spending the weekend at several national parks. As the class packed for the trip, they realized that a long drive across the country awaited them and that comfort would be very scarce during these next few days. Would they survive the ten-day trip alongside their classmates?

Excitement was rampant as the seniors loaded up on Indiana Academy’s new coach bus. Getting settled in with their iPods and snacks, the class of 2011 took off toward Arizona. Surviving the first night, the group woke up in Oklahoma and traveled on through Texas and New Mexico, arriving at Holbrook Indian School late in the evening. The next few days involved strenuous roof work as well as the continuation of a basement project on separate buildings.

As the hard labor ended, the journey picked up again and the group made its way to their first awe-inspiring destination: the Grand Canyon. Many were literally astounded at the size of this natural wonder. Pictures never prepared them for something this big. With the enormity of the Grand Canyon in their minds, the group moved on to Bryce Canyon, a different type of natural wonder. Walking among the spires of the canyon hoodoos, many felt as if they were walking within the very palace of the Creator. The few that walked the full length of the main hike were blessed with great views and a chance to look up at the many spires from their bases.

The final destination on the 2011 class trip was the much-longed-for Zion Canyon. For many students, the scenic entrance proved to be more than enough vistas for one day! Turn after turn led them to more and more beautiful hills and soaring peaks. The main event, however, was the long-anticipated Sabbath hike to the top of Angels Landing, one of Zion’s more talked about treks. As the students made their way toward the peak, many became overwhelmed by the sheer size of the hike. After the first 15–20 minutes of walking up sloped paths, many began to doubt their ability to reach the top. Feet were starting to hurt, the air was getting thinner as the elevation rose, and the top never seemed to come into view. Thinking of the namesake, many students perhaps wished they could simply fly up to the top with angels’ wings.

Although walking up the summit seemed possible from an angelic perspective, the reality of the hike pressed heavily on their bodies and their minds as did the bright afternoon sun. Many times they would stop along the path while some continued on. As some students took a break, they looked back on the path that they had already trod and witnessed many others struggling to reach the top just like them. They weren’t alone, and looking down the steep slopes they just climbed renewed their hopes for the climb that awaited them. All together, the class of 2011 pushed to the top, and as they fearlessly trekked the perilous last half-mile the seniors walked over the very last hill and stumbled upon a view that made the entire hike and the week-long trip prior to it worth everything.

From being overwhelmed by God’s enormity to being awed by His great natural palaces, the 2011 class trip brought the seniors through a spiritual journey, ultimately leading them to the summit of Angels Landing and allowing them to look back upon all the trials and events that led up to this point. The hiking path, looking like a mere snake on the ground far below their feet, taught them a great lesson: Life will seem too steep at times, and they will wonder how it is that a mere human could accomplish such a strenuous thing as the challenge of life. But as they put their faith in God and learn to trust Him alongside their friends and family, they will one day reach the infinite summit and look out with an angelic perspective, loudly declaring together that the journey definitely was more than worth it.

Jaime Vargas, 2011 graduate, Indiana Academy

From being overwhelmed by God’s enormity to being awed by His great natural palaces, the 2011 class trip brought the seniors through a spiritual journey.
Students renovate Fish Creek Church

Wisconsin—Laughter echoes down the small street, bouncing off white picket fences and oak trees, and then races off with the cool morning breeze. Up the hill, on the property of a small white church, a group of people scraps paint, hauls detritus* to quickly growing piles, and pulls up weeds and tiny volunteer trees growing in the midst of the newly green grass.

From May 8 through 13, the community of Fish Creek, Wis., had seven Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy students spend a week renovating the Fish Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Fish Creek Church was founded in 1876; the building that is now the sanctuary of the church was built in 1891. The wear and tear of 100-plus years was lovingly tended to by diligent caregivers. The community was thrilled to have the group in town for a week; the church members are excited to see the changes, and eager to see how God will use this building to reach their communities with the Good News of Jesus.

The mission of AJA is to “Educate for Eternity.” This yearly mission trip is an opportunity for each student to demonstrate their love for God in a physical manner by serving a community in need. May God use each of us to spread the Good News, and to serve Him now and always!

The Green Bay Church thanks the AJA 7–10 graders—Madeline Konshak, Joey Krueger, Mason Wilde, Jacob Krueger, Zandrelle Besaw, Moises Padron and Jacob Davis—for their hard work, their hilarious jokes, their eager service and most importantly their love for God. They also thank the adults for the gift of their time and support—Bill Ochs, pastor; Heather Davis; Keith Hendrickson; Mike and Amy Krueger; Ariel Padron, pastor; and David Smith, AJA principal.

Jennifer Ogden, youth pastor, Green Bay SDA Church

*Detritus is defined as “particulate matter produced by or remaining after the wearing away or disintegration of a substance or tissue.” In other words, we hauled off a bunch of dead stuff.

Student-run grocery store makes learning fun

Indiana—To make learning more fun at Pleasantview Christian School in Lafayette, Ind., Michele McCaw, teacher, presents learning opportunities in a variety of ways. The local Lafayette newspaper recently ran an article about the grocery store project McCaw designed to familiarize the students with economics, money handling, math and working with others.

Kindergarten through second-grade students love to be the store manager, stocking clerk and/or cash-register operator. “They really enjoy counting out the change to their customers,” shares McCaw. Shoppers (other students, teachers and parents) can purchase quite a variety of items, including fresh fruits and vegetables, cereals, cookies and bottled water. The little store is doing a thriving business, and the student-merchants are happy as they learn!

Michele McCaw assists her students as they operate their little grocery store in Lafayette, Ind.

“As John Lubbock once stated, ‘I feel the important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn,’” says Michele McCaw, creator of the little grocery store.

Judith Yeoman, correspondent, Indiana Conference
Young musicians band together

Michigan—When the students participating in the 5th annual Michigan SDA Elementary School Band Clinic took center stage at Andrews University’s Howard Performing Arts Center on Apr. 11, they made history. The 132 young musicians made up the largest group to have ever performed at the Howard.

Five years ago when the band clinic first began, only two schools were involved in the half-day event. But the clinic has now expanded to a full-day program with musicians coming from six Michigan schools: Battle Creek SDA Academy, Cedar Lake SDA Elementary, Gobles Jr. Academy, Grand Rapids Adventist Academy, Ruth Murdoch Elementary School and Village SDA Elementary School.

This year’s clinician and director was Alan Mitchell, director of the Andrews University Wind Symphony. Throughout the day he taught the students how to improve their individual musical skills and at the same time work together as a group. “I was totally amazed by and honored to work with 132 Michigan SDA elementary instrumental students,” commented Mitchell. “The quality of their musicianship, which is due to the work of their five excellent Michigan Conference music teachers, should be praised. The Michigan Conference is offering a superior music program for their students.”

The clinic culminated with an evening concert, which was opened by the Andrews University Wind Symphony. Then the elementary students filled the stage, performing six different compositions, including “The Adventist Hope” which was arranged and directed by Jose Cruz, music teacher at the Village SDA Elementary School. “I think this music festival provided a wonderful opportunity to see our young people working at their best, putting all differences aside, to make beautiful music together. It was a powerful testimony in favor of music education and Christian education for our young people,” stated Cruz.

If you are interested in hearing the band concert and seeing photos of the event, go to http://www.vaes.org/band.

Renee Coffee, associate superintendent of education, Michigan Conference

Revelation unlocked in Jeffersonville

Indiana—In Steps to Christ, Ellen White wrote, “Many are the ways in which God is seeking to make Himself known to us and bring us into communion with Him.” For the Jeffersonville Church in southern Indiana, one of those ways came in the form of a recent evangelistic series by the church’s pastor, Eric Freking.

Preparation for the series began nearly a year earlier with the arrival of Jeremiah Hilliard, a Bible worker who worked diligently to share the message with more than 100 contacts who had expressed interest in study following the “Generation of Youth for Christ” conference in nearby Louisville, Ky. “The work was long and sometimes arduous,” says Hilliard, “but to see people excited about Bible truths and making decisions to follow Jesus is an amazing process to be involved in. I have been blessed tremendously by this work.”

Many church members assisted by knocking on doors, and helping with weekly lessons and mailings. Assignments were given, reporting was tracked and updates were frequently provided. It was easy to see that spreading the Gospel to the surrounding community was a priority for this congregation, and together the members worked to prepare the way for the series.

On the opening night of the series, eager anticipation turned into excitement with 110 in attendance with many being invitees from the surrounding community. The Holy Spirit blessed, and the message was well received by those hearing it for the first time.

“It was so inspiring to see the members of the Jeffersonville Church come together for this series,” says Freking, “Many sacrificed in so many ways to prepare for this meeting. It was also inspiring to see the people come out night after night to hear God’s Word. So far, seven have been baptized. It reminds me that there are people everywhere who want to know and follow God’s Holy Word.”

So what’s next for this small but growing church? New small group studies have been implemented and planning for participation in telecommunication events are underway, as well as a new evangelistic series that Freking will conduct at Jeffersonville’s sister church in New Albany. Jeffersonville members ask that their brothers and sisters in Christ pray for their efforts here in southern Indiana.

Jennifer Hilliard, communication leader, Jeffersonville Church
Oakland Church celebrates 150 years

Wisconsin—This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Oakland Seventh-day Adventist Church in eastern Wisconsin. The celebration will be held Sept. 2 and 3 at the Oakland Church, located at W8791 Advent Road, Ft. Atkinson, Wis.

Elder Bjorgvin Snorrason, a native Norwegian is the guest speaker for the 11 o’clock Sabbath worship service. A doctoral graduate from Andrews University, Elder Snorrason’s dissertation focused on the history of the Norwegian Adventist Church from the 1840s to 1887. He is currently employed in the Iceland Conference as director of Sabbath school and personal ministries. Following the noon fellowship dinner, there will be a slide show and presentation on the history of the Oakland Church and school. The weekend begins Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. with vespers and finishes Saturday night with a 7:00 p.m. music program.

The Oakland Church holds the distinction of being the first organized foreign language Adventist church in the world. In the spring of 1855, four Norwegian immigrant families discovered the Bible teaching of the seventh-day Sabbath and began keeping it, believing they were the only Sabbath-keepers in the world. Within two years, their numbers doubled. In 1858, a visiting Adventist preacher shared the Three Angels’ Messages with them; and in Spring 1861, the Oakland Adventist Church was organized. Three years later, they erected a church building. Today the Oakland Church still meets in the original building, though it has undergone alterations and additions. Services are now held in English.

Event organizers hope many former pastors, teachers and church members will be able to share in this milestone celebration for the Oakland Seventh-day Adventist Church. For more information, please contact an event coordinator: Joan Carlson at 920-563-8503, Lois Elmer at loiselmer@yahoo.com, Michael Larson at larsonmichael60@yahoo.com, or Shelby Molina at 262-473-5705.

[UNION NEWS]

August designated as Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month

Illinois—The Hope of Survivors has designated August as Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month. To kick off this inaugural Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month, The Hope of Survivors has several events planned during August, including conducting a Hope & Healing victim’s conference in Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 28.

Speakers include co-founders Steve and Samantha Nelson, and Martin Weber, D.Min., board chair. See the calendar for additional details: www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/calendar.asp.

Clergy sexual abuse is a prevalent problem in every denomination around the globe. “It’s time to raise awareness to a greater level,” says Samantha Nelson, vice president & CEO. “The Hope of Survivors works with victims from around the world, and the story is basically the same: no one, unless they’ve been affected by it themselves or know someone who has, really understands clergy sexual abuse.”

One of The Hope of Survivors’ primary goals, beyond providing support to victims of sexual abuse by anyone in the role of spiritual authority, is raising awareness of the issue and educating clergy, church members and the public at large. Nelson continues, “Until more people understand that a sexual relationship between a pastor and a member of his congregation is not an ‘affair’—that is abuse—there will be more victims and more secondary trauma to victims via misinformed church members, media, etc. It’s time for the church, as well as the public, to closely examine these types of relationships, which are not only imbalanced in nature, but also non-consensual.

“Changing public and congregant perceptions is key. Most people will clearly recognize that a therapist or doctor should not have sex with a patient. That’s an abuse of power. A boss can’t make sexual advances to an employee. That’s sexual harassment. Why, then, is it so difficult for people to comprehend that a spiritual leader—who has been called to protect, nurture and guide—who takes advantage of his/her position to groom, seduce and, ultimately, abuse a member of the congregation is committing sexual abuse? The imbalance of power is evident, as is the added component and complication of the spiritual welfare of the victim.”

The Hope of Survivors is dedicated to helping victims of pastoral sexual abuse and misconduct, as well as providing educational and informational materials and seminars to pastors and churches worldwide. To learn more, please visit the organization’s Web site, www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com, or call 866-260-8958.

Annette Anderson, correspondent, The Hope of Survivors
Announcements

Churches, schools, conferences, institutions and organizations may submit announcements to the Lake Union Herald through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the Lake Union Herald Web site 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

Andrews University will celebrate Alumni Homecoming 2011 on Sept. 29-Oct. 2. Honor reunion classes include: 1931, ’41, ’51, ’61, ’71, ’81, ’86, ’91 and 2001. We hope to see you then. Contact the Office of Alumni Services for more information at 269-471-3591; visit alumni.andrews.edu/homecoming; or e-mail alumni@andrews.edu.

Indiana

Campestre Hispano 2011: Hispanic Camp Meeting is Sept. 2-5 at Timber Ridge Camp. Información para inscribirse—contacto Antonio Rosario at prariosa rio@aol.com or 317-856-5770.

Heartland Health & Wellness Conference is Sept. 15-16. Plan now to attend this popular annual event with five world-class speakers, nine interactive seminars and four heart-healthy meals. Register before July 15 to save up to 25 percent. To register, contact Susan Landess at 765-621-7557, or visit hhaw.eventbrite.com.

Annual Elders Training is Sept. 17. This year it will be held at the Carmel Church, 14535 Carey Road, Carmel, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Antonio Rosario, Hispanic coordinator for the Indiana Conference, will share strategy and case studies that confirm the benefit of small groups for growing churches. A meal will follow. Registration is necessary to determine material and meal supply. For further information or to register, contact the Indiana Conference ministerial department at 317-844-6201.

Lake Region

Lake Region Conference annual TLT retreat, “ Born Leaders—Raising the Bar,” is held at Camp Wagner in Cassopolis, Mich. There will be worship, training and development as TLTs start on a path towards true leadership. Deadline for submission of forms/fees is Oct. 1 (first come-first serve basis; all quad occupancy). For more information, contact Aaron Edwards at aaron_edwards94@yahoo.com; Khris Jones at khrismich310@yahoo.com; or a local Area TLT Coordinator: Weata Powell “MCA, “ Dr. Pat “Chicagoland, “ Kim Henley “Michiana,” Barbara Woods “Illiana.”

Lake Union

Offerings
Jul. 2 Local Church Budget
Jul. 9 Women’s Ministries
Jul. 16 Local Church Budget
Jul. 23 Local Conference Advance

Conference Designated IL: Camp Akita Projects;
IN: Timber Ridge Camp;
LR: Conference Development and Campground Improvement;
MI: Good News Farm/Greenhouse;
WI: Wisconsin Budget

Special Days
Jul. 9 Home Study International Promotional Day

Michigan

Fall Fellowship Retreat will be held at Camp Au Sable, Sept. 8-11, is provided for single adults ages 18 and up to come together for fun, fellowship and spiritual growth. This year we will be focusing on outreach and missions. There will be something for everyone so come to be challenged, inspired and equipped for service. Bring a friend or come and make new ones. For more detailed information or to download an application, go to www.misd.org (Family Life) 2011-2012 Brochure, or ask your Family Life leader, bulletin secretary or pastor for an application. You can also register by calling Alyce at 517-316-1543.

The annual Health Professionals’ Retreat will be held at Camp Au Sable, Sept. 15-18. Guest speaker will be Mark Ranzinger, M.D., FACS, a surgeon practicing in Goshen, Ind., and member of the Benton Harbor Fairplain Church. Michigan Conference Health Ministries is partnering with AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network), a national organization of Christian physicians and dentists whose purpose is to share Christ in their workplace through medical evangelism, to sponsor this family retreat. For registration information, please call 517-316-1527 or e-mail schristie@misda.org.

Wisconsin

150 Years of Gospel Ministry at Oakland (Wisconsin) Seventh-day Adventist Church: Friends, former members and neighbors are invited to attend this celebration, Sept. 2-3. The Oakland church was organized in December 1861 as the first Norwegian-American Adventist Church in the world. The church is located at W8791 Advent Rd., Fort Atkinson. The weekend includes Friday vespers at 7:00 p.m.; Sabbath school at 9:30 a.m.; worship service with Dr. Merlin Burt at 11:00 a.m.; fellowship dinner; an in-depth history and slide show presentation about the church and school; and an evening of music at 7:00 p.m.

We hope many former pastors, teachers and church members will be able to share in this milestone celebration. For more information, contact event coordinators Joan Carlson at 920-563-8503, Lois Elmer at loiselmer@yahoo.com, Michael Larson at larsonmichael60@yahoo.com or Shelby Molina at 262-473-5705.

Family Ministries Convention, Oct. 27-30: Certification Program for Family Ministry leaders and coordinators will be held at The Shepherd’s House Seventh-day Adventist Church, 6300 Bittersweet Rd., Wausau. For more information, call 608-843-7475 or e-mail akking@wi.adventist.org or asawamidass@charter.net.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

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Weddings

Brittany Corke and Michael Doan were married Oct. 10, 2010, in Lapeer, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Stephen Corke.

Brittany is the daughter of Stephen and Michelle Corke of Lapeer, and Michael is the son of Robert and Annette Doan of Bay City, Mich.

The Doans are making their home in Bay City.

Obituaries

BECK, Benjamin D., age 95; born July 2, 1915, in Woodworth, N.D.; died Jan. 28, 2011, in Milwaukee, Wis. He was a member of the Milwaukee Central Church.

Survivors include his son, Jim; and daughter, Judy Beck.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors McKenzie and Frank Bachus, and interment was in Wisconsin Memorial Park Cemetery, Brookfield, Wis.

BIDWELL, Ruby E. (Soelzle), age 97; born May 20, 1912, in Lincoln Valley, N.D.; died May 10, 2010, in Arpin, Wis. She was a member of the Bethel Church, Arpin.

Survivors include her son, John R.; daughter, Ruth Sackett; brother, Merle Suetle; 14 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and 26 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Armando Camacho, and interment was in Bethel Cemetery, Arpin.

BOOKER, Gall Rena, age 50; born Sept. 22, 1960, in Milwaukee, Wis.; died Mar. 28, 2011, in Milwaukee. She was a member of the Milwaukee Sharon Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Tikiya and Brittany Wilkerson; father, William Booker; mother, Rosie Lee Booker; brothers, Roy James, Horace, Troy Ward and Dale Booker; sisters, Cathleen Thomas and Linda Stewart; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Eric Bell, and interment was in Grace- land Cemetery, Milwaukee.

BROWN, Robert, age 80; born Jan. 12, 1931, in Webb, Miss.; died Mar. 12, 2011, in Milwaukee, Wis. He was a member of the Milwaukee Sharon Church.

Survivors include his sons, Robert and Tobias; daughter, Susie LaWanda Harris; brothers, Henry Lee and Willie; and sister, Louise Brown.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Eric Bell, and interment was in Grace- land Cemetery, Milwaukee.

CLARK, Daniel S., age 50; born Mar. 10, 1961, in Madison, Wis.; died Mar. 17, 2011, in Columbus, Wis. He was a member of the Middleton (Wis.) Fellowship Church.

Survivors include his wife, Lisa (Fontana); stepson, Clark Sherwin; daughters, Nicoe Timm and Megan Clark; stepdaughter, Tera Sherwin; and mother, Dolores (Swanson).

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Richard Habenicht and Pastors Lisa Isensee and Scott Erb, and interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Columbus.

COMBS, Cynthia J. (Kelley), age 53; born July 25, 1957, in Chicago, Ill.; died Mar. 7, 2011, in Bondville, Ill. She was a member of the Champaign (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, David; brother, Craig Kelley; and sister, Barbara Kelley.

Funeral services were conducted by Raymond J. Plummer, and interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Urbana, Ill.

HAWTHORNE, Robert A., age 91; born June 17, 1919, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; died Jan. 10, 2011, in Grand Rapids. He was a member of the Wright Church, Cooperville, Mich.

Survivors include his daughter-in-law, Karen Hawthorne; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Allen Lincoln, and interment was in Maple Hill Cemetery, Wright Twp., Mich.

HESS, Laura C. (Riggs), age 91; born Oct. 31, 1919, in Wells Cty., Ind.; died Jan. 8, 2011, in Wabash, Ind. She was a member of the Marion (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, David; sons, Gary, Keith and Jay; daughter, Cheryl Brown; 10 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Rick Moushon, and interment was in Gardens of Memory Cemetery, Huntington Cty., Ind.

JOUSMA, Jennie L. (Julien), age 57; born Mar. 11, 1953, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Mar. 1, 2011, in Byron Center, Mich. She was a member of the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Central Church.

Survivors include her son, Tim; daughter, Colleen Jousma; brothers, Dan and Brian Julien; sisters, Pat VanNiman, Pam Conrow and Cindy Liska; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Bob Stewart, with private inurnment.

LANE, Clavia A. (Nelson), age 96; born Feb. 2, 1914, in Clear Lake, Wis.; died Jan. 9, 2011, in Bismarck, N.D. She was a member of the Clear Lake Church.

Survivors include her husband, Alfred; son, Gerald; daughter, Amy Chapman; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial services and inurnment will take place this summer, with inurnment in Clear Lake Cemetery.

RUPRIGHT, Eleanor W. (Fisher), age 95; born Sept. 14, 1915, in Hartford, Mich.; died Jan. 29, 2011, in Park Forest, Ill. She was a member of the Lafayette (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Joan Bauer and Jeanette O’Ffill; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Inurnment was in Battle Ground (Ind.) Cemetery.

SMITH, Sussan B. (Johnsma), age 87; born Aug. 23, 1923, in West Point, Miss.; died Dec. 27, 2010, in Milwaukee, Wis. She was a member of the Milwaukee Sharon Church.

Survivors include her sons, Thomas and Fred; daughters, Judith Douglas, Susan Boon, Linda Lynch and Cherry Weatherby; sisters, Ola Watkins and Velma Chandler; 12 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Eric Bell, and interment was in Wood National Cemetery, Milwaukee.

SPARR, Irene (Ponack), age 82; born Feb. 2, 1929, in Wauwatosa, Wis.; died Nov. 21, 2010, in Milwaukee, Wis. She was a member of the Milwaukee Sharon Church.

Survivors include her brothers, John, Lavem, Alvin, Donald, Jack and Marcus Little; and sister, Yvonne Swan.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Eric Bell, and interment was in Wood National Cemetery, Milwaukee.


Survivors include her sons, Ralph and Roger; daughters, Joy Breeding and Jill Wolfe; sisters, Kay Irwin and Betty Wieschowski; many grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Lapeer on Feb. 16 by Earl J. Zager, and in Manitoue, Mich., on Feb. 18 by Pastor Mike Zynkowski, and interment was in Inwood Twp. Cemetery, Cooks.

Correction


Survivors include her son, Kelvin C.; daughters, Glenda S. Hubbell, Nila J. and Joyce E. Krantz; Janet M. Chase and Ellen G. Edwards; brother, Carlton G. Bush; sisters, Eleanor J. Howell and Clare E. Robinson; 13 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Dan Towar and David Salazar, and interment was in Oakland Cemetery, Holly.
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Are you right handed, left handed or back handed? Recently, at dinner with three of my media colleagues we were trying to figure out who should sit where so as not to crowd each other with our left-handedness only to discover that all four of us ate left-handed. Each of us shared how we had learned some right-handed tasks in our formative years, but discovered later in life we could perform those tasks much better using the other hand.

Anything having to do with hand-eye coordination—like shooting an arrow, golfing or baseball—I do left-handed, though I learned to write right-handed in school. Neither I nor my teachers have had much success deciphering my scrawlings. I am thankful for computers!

While teaching in the classroom, I discovered quite by accident that I could write on the chalkboard equally illegibly with either hand depending on which side of the board I was on. My three friends had similar ambidextrous stories.

It reminds me that in my personal relationships I can sometimes be ambidextrous. I can say things or come across one way around certain people and then quite the opposite with others. I can be a switch-hitter. And still other times I can blindside someone with a subtle back-handed remark. My ego and the desire to preserve self can get in the way of my desire to be like Nathaniel, one in whom Jesus found no guile or deceit (see John 1:47). My only hope is to maintain my partnership with Christ through His Spirit.

Gary Burns is the communication director of the Lake Union Conference.
He Knows...

BY TONI CRUMLEY

"Slowly, sister, slowly." At the words of warning, I looked down to see a rather substantive pile of manure in the middle of the road. I skirted it, careful not to go too far to the side of the road and step in the open sewer. The kids holding my hands hurried me along, and we caught up with the two Bible workers and about 15 more kids who had stopped at the next house we were going to.

Nine of us from the Cicero Church in Indiana had come to Kurnool, India, to hold 15 nights of evangelistic meetings. The large group of nine was split into three teams, and each team conducted sermons, health talks and visited in the villages that were attending the meetings. About 250–300 people came to each site every night after working all day in 110–120 degree heat, eager to hear the good news of Jesus.

As I continued on through the village, I took in the women preparing supper over smoky cooking fires, the men and cattle coming back from the fields, the children running out of their houses to see the visitors from the U.S. The Bible workers who accompanied me spoke only a few English words, but at each house I went in the request was for me to “pray.” The women covered their heads as I said an English prayer to the God who hears and understands all languages. I prayed for a blind woman, for a lady who had troubles in her throat, for an old man who was reduced to skin stretched over his bones who lay on a cot in the yard. I prayed for newly-married couples and new babies, and for mischievous kids. With every “amen” that I spoke, the people gave grateful smiles and pressed their hands together to signify their thanks.

After visiting the village, we drove a few kilometers to our meeting site. At the close of the meeting, we were, as usual, thronged with people asking for us to lay our hands on them and pray. Needless to say, it is humbling and sobering when many people are lining up for you to pray for them, even though it is in a language they do not understand. What they do understand is that prayer is powerful.

I lay in bed that night, thinking about all the people I had prayed for—the blind woman, the malnourished man, the chubby babies—concerned that nothing would come of the prayers I had prayed. In the midst of my selfish worrying, God reminded me that He is still the same God with all the power who parted the Red Sea and turned water into wine. He knows what each person needs, and He doesn’t need me to know what His Indian children’s problems are. The Indian people, with their simple yet earnest faith, reminded me that God hears and answers all prayers—no matter who prays them, no matter the language.

Toni Crumley, 20, is a junior at Andrews University studying elementary education.
Sometimes, it's one big prayer or a chain where everyone prays for the person next to tendees. It is not uncommon for classmates to seek out the iPac leaders and pray with share this belief with classmates. They created iPac to offer "more than just an- to you."

"We wanted to have everybody in the mind- set of 'no turning back' and help each other grow spiritually," says David. "We also wanted to involve students from different grades and those who don’t hang out in other situations and help them create friendships. One of our main goals was to build for them a family away from home."

iPac weekly meetings are organized by its stu- dent founders. iPac meetings focus on unique as- pects of prayer based on Ellen G. White’s writings and are presented by a new speaker each week. Meetings also include prayer requests, and attendees decide on a staff member to lift up in prayer. Following testimonies, iPacs always conclude with prayer.

“We use different ways of praying,” says David. “Sometimes, we pray in groups. Sometimes, it’s one big prayer or a chain where everyone prays for the person next to them, or a popcorn prayer.”

Since the first iPac meeting in February, worship grew to more than 30 regular at- tendees. It is not uncommon for classmates to seek out the iPac leaders and pray with them about personal requests. iPac also witnesses to students in the summer through its Facebook page, which includes inspirational videos and information about prayer. The founders claim they’ve “surpassed their goals” for iPac and have seen changes in students’ hearts and their attitudes toward church activities. They encourage others to get involved in witnessing, promising that God will bless.

“Personally, [iPac] is helping me in my spiritual life, and I feel more close to God and more involved in things,” says Gaddiel. “It feels good when you’re a part of a program and helping others to grow spiritually ... It’s like you feel Him getting closer to you.”

By Ashleigh Jardine

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan. She is a physical therapy major at Andrews University.
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