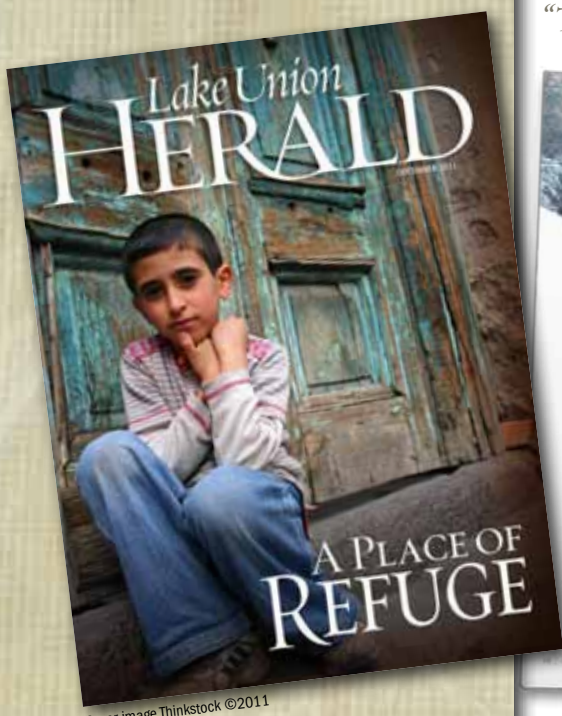


Lake Union
HERALD

DECEMBER 2011

A PLACE OF
REFUGE

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



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In every issue...

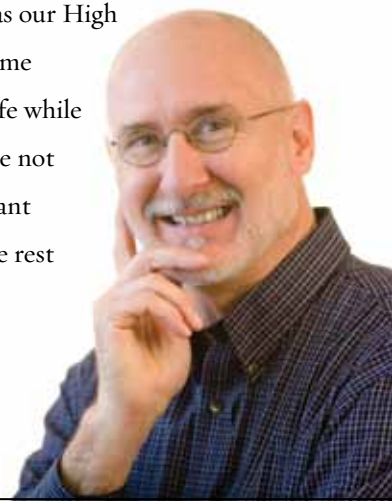
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In this issue...

In a world of greed, violence, intolerance and injustice, God — in His infinite wisdom and forethought — has provided a refuge for every person in Himself. God is our refuge, our place of safety and security against all the attacks from without and within.

In addition to the cross and His intercessory role as our High Priest, Christ provides Himself in a temple of holy time giving us a weekly refuge from the demands of this life while providing for all of our needs. The Sabbath is a refuge not only from our physical labors, but it serves as a constant reminder that God is the One who sanctifies us as we rest from our own works, allowing Him to do His special sanctifying work in us.


Gary Burns, Editor



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Are You an Intercessor?

A few months ago the spiritual leaders of the five conferences that make up the Lake Union came together with the Lake Union leadership at the Seventh-day Adventist Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Michigan, for our annual spiritual retreat. We spent two days in Bible study and prayer, beseeching God to meet our great need on behalf of the 84,000 members who comprise our territory. Our Scripture study focused on a story of intercession immediately following the crisis of faith that produced the golden calf.

“So Moses went back to the LORD and said, ‘Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. But now, please forgive their sin — but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written’” (Exodus 32:31, 32 NIV).

Moses could have left his congregation behind and moved on without them, but he loved them so much he offered himself and his eternity if only they could be spared.

Moses portrayed what Christ was to become as our heavenly intercessor: “Because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them” (Hebrews 7:24, 25 NIV).

While our Savior is our only interceding priest in Heaven, Jesus calls us to be intercessors for all those around us, bringing them to Him as Moses did. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:17, 18 NIV).

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9 NIV).

“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5 NIV).

Looking to the example of Moses, we see the secret to the success of his intercessory ministry.

“And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door. So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend” (Exodus 33:9–11 NIV).

Moses became up-close and personal with God. God became intimate with Moses. The glory of God could be seen on Moses’ face as he returned to the camp. He was a man of God meeting with the God of man — pleading, arguing, contending with God for his people.

As our two days of Bible study and prayer came to a close, we sensed God’s call on each of our lives to the ministry of reconciliation through prayer and intercession. We invite you to join us in following Moses’ example to be an intercessor for those around you by spending personal alone time in the presence of God — coming before His throne of mercy on behalf of your family, your congregation, members of your local community, your civic leaders, whomever God puts in your heart to love. It will make an eternal difference.



Churches of Refuge

BY RON WHITEHEAD

Do you want to belong to a church where no one talks to you, a church where no one remembers your name, a church that doesn't care if you're not there on Sabbath morning, that doesn't notice if you stop coming altogether? Do you want to attend a church that has no impact on the community and is known for being exclusive and does not include young people? Do you want to attend a church that talks about love, but never shows it? A church where visitors are ignored? Do you want to attend a church where your personal struggles and spiritual questions are the subject of chatter? Well, neither do our emerging adults.

Significant numbers of young people leave the Seventh-day Adventist Church every year for a variety of reasons. Roger Dudley, who has researched the church-going habits of Seventh-day Adventist young people and young adults for more than 30 years, reports that 40–50 percent of those who are baptized members in their mid-teens will drop out of the church by the time they are halfway through their 20s.¹

This is not a problem just within our denomination. A recent study found that more than two-thirds of young church-going adults in America drop out of church between the ages of 18 and 22.² Clearly, this national trend cannot be ignored.

Do you know someone who has left the church? Latoya Wolfe's experience highlights a great need.

"I grew up in a family that went to church one Sabbath, and then another Sabbath we wouldn't go; but somehow, I still decided to give my life to Christ at the age of 11.



Things began to fade when I started to live a more secular life. In my 20s, I just started doing a lot of things that I thought were more fun. Though I had this really great job and I had friends, I still felt that something was missing and I was really depressed. One day, I found myself on the kitchen floor in a fetal position, and I couldn't stop crying. I thought about some of the things that my grandmother had repeated again and again [when I was] growing up. I remembered this Bible verse: 'I am the way and the truth and the life'

(John 14:6 NIV).

"I knew that [because of] the lifestyle I was living, I was heading toward death as opposed to life. And so, I decided to go back to church — just because I had no other options. I knew what the world was offering, so I thought I would try church again.

"When I went back, there was such community there. People were accepting of me and just really understanding



that I needed support and some answers. It became a place where I began to find some of those answers I was looking for in the world. I live a very peaceful life now.”

Latoya’s story has a happy ending, but it breaks my heart how many young people are leaving our local churches; and, in their searching, are unable to find a place of refuge as Latoya did. But there’s good news! In order to reverse this trend and make the local church an essential aspect of senior youth’s and young adults’ lives, I’m happy to tell you that the Center for Youth Evangelism, located on the campus of Andrews University, within the Seminary, has launched a new ministry called “Church of Refuge” or COR. In ancient Israel, cities of refuge were secure, conveniently located, inclusive, spiritual communities for individuals seeking a safe haven. Similarly, churches of refuge are safe, friendly, accepting faith communities that welcome young people. We support local churches in providing meaningful, Christ-centered ministry that attracts and retains young adults — and older ones, too!

We have two primary goals: 1) to provide support for your local congregation that will attract and retain senior youth and young adults; 2) to market and highlight your congregation to young people all around the world through the Internet and in print material.

The nine COR values that form the foundation of Church of Refuge can be grouped into four broad areas:

Spiritual Growth — that includes a meaningful Sabbath experience and discipleship through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Worship of our Creator must be in spirit and in truth. Discipleship is a personal, collective endeavor occurring in the prayer closet, home groups, the worship service and in all areas of life.

Social Connections — that are based on accepting people as Jesus did, build a sense of community and provide support for young adults in their life challenges. We were created to share life. Everyone needs a community where

it is safe to laugh, pray, share, cry, ask questions and grow.

Community Impact — by demonstrating God’s love through acts of service. As Christ’s hands and feet, we are all called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the imprisoned and sick, care for the orphaned and defend the rights of the powerless.

Support Factors — that enable empowerment by valuing young adult leadership, investing money in young adult ministry, and committing to change that leads to improved young adult ministry. Meeting spiritual, social and service needs requires leadership, innovation, and an investment of time and money.

The Center for Youth Evangelism provides support and resources for living the nine COR values through on-site and telephone ministry consultation. Each year we host a training summit at Andrews University in conjunction with 180° Symposium (see www.adventistyouth.org/180). The Center for Youth Evangelism provides a forum and resources on its website, and tools to help guide the congregation through a process of strategically evaluating every aspect of its ministry in light of the needs and characteristics of young people in a local area.

There are several COR congregations active in the Lake Union and yours can be one of them. The first step is to become a member and begin the certification process that will prepare your church to receive young people from all around the world.

For more information, visit www.churchofrefuge.org or call 1-800-Youth2U.

Ron Whitehead is executive director of the Center for Youth Evangelism.

1. Dudley, Roger, *Why Our Teenagers Leave the Church: Personal Stories from a 10-year Study*, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Hagerstown, Md. (2000).

2. T. Rainer and S. Rainer III, *Essential Church: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts*, B & H, Nashville, Tenn. (2008).



FAMILY TIES

Time-Savoring

CHALLENGING THE CULT OF SPEED

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Slow me down, Lord. Remind me ... that the race is not always to the swift, that there is more to life than measuring speed. — W.A. Peterson

In this hurry-up and get-everything-done — and more — society, researchers found that American adults actually overestimate the number of hours they work and underestimate the amount of free time they have. While people may have more free time than they realize, most report feelings of what is called “time-famine,” too much to do and not enough time to do it.

Many live life as if it was an emergency: blackberrying while waiting in the ski lift line, paying the bill and calling for a taxi while eating dessert at a restaurant, leaving a sporting event no matter how close the score is to get ahead of the traffic. It seems so clever, so efficient, to do two things or more at once. However, multitasking often means doing two things, or more, not very well.



are not necessarily related to the actual number of free-time hours available. What do you want to do differently? You can choose to consciously appreciate the simpler delights of life as they occur. That’s time-savoring! You can enjoy the taste of good food, the warmth of the sun, the presence of good company, and the delights of fun and silliness in others as well as yourself. Time-savoring moments can be found in

In his book, *In Praise of Slowness*, Carl Honore stated: “In this media-drenched, data-rich, channel-surfing, computer-gaming age, we have lost the art of doing nothing, of shutting out the background noise and distractions, of slowing down and simply being alone with our thoughts. Boredom — the word hardly existed 150 years ago — is a modern invention. Remove all stimulation, and we fidget, panic and look for something, anything, to do to make use of the time” (pg. 11).

So what are we to do? This is our American culture; we have so much to accomplish! We can’t help but be irritated when others are so slow or situations arise that keep us from getting things done!

HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS TO CONSIDER:

Are you living as if your life is an emergency? How is this working for you? Our children are adversely impacted by our negative emotions and reactions to our own frustration of a world filled with so many demands. They are all too often pushed to do more and more themselves.

Recognize that feelings of time-famine, while genuine,

the smaller chunks of free time that perhaps are now being used by chilling out in front of the TV or catching up on the computer.

Of course, we have the Sabbath! But is it the blessing it’s intended to be for you and your family? Why or why not? Could it be a matter of your own perception?

Could the cult of speed be influencing how you approach the Sabbath? How we pace ourselves during the week is directly related to how we spend Sabbath. Is it time to realign some priorities? Could a Sabbath rest include shutting out the background noises and distractions, or simply slowing down and welcoming a time to be alone with God and your thoughts? Could a Sabbath rest also involve more time-savoring (and meal-savoring) times with friends and family? I invite you to think about it, and wish you many blessed Sabbaths!

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

Honey has useful antibacterial properties.



How Sweet It Is!

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Sweet foods always show up during the year-end holiday season; they add enjoyment to the festive occasions. Honey is one of the choices we have for a sweetening agent. It has a more pronounced flavor than sugar and a tendency to increase the browning of baked products.

Infused honey can be made by heating honey in a saucepan with an herb or spice such as ginger, mint, lime, orange, cinnamon, etc. The infused honey can be used in herb teas, on toast, carrots or cornbread.

Honey was one of the earliest sweeteners used by humans. Beekeeping dates back to the early Egyptians who used honey in embalming, in medicine and for food. In Palestine, honey was not only obtained from bees but was also commonly made from the fruit of the date palm. Honey was a staple in John the Baptist's diet.

Honeybees collect nectar from various floral sources and concentrate it in the honeycomb. To produce one pound of honey, bees may have to travel about 40,000 miles and visit more than two million flowers. There are more than 300 varieties of honey — the color, flavor and antioxidant content of honey are determined by the origin of the nectar, or the floral source; it also contains useful antibacterial properties. Darker honey, such as buckwheat and eucalyptus honey, has a stronger flavor due to the higher level of flavonoid antioxidants.

It is primarily a mixture of fructose and glucose in water, and also contains small amounts of many other sugars, vitamins and minerals. The blood glucose and insulin responses from honey are less than that for table sugar, which may benefit the person with diabetes. Due to the high fructose level in honey, we use less honey because it is sweeter than sugar. (Typically, one would use 20 percent less honey than sugar in a recipe.)



Honey is frequently used as an expectorant in the treatment of cough. Honey was also commonly used to treat wounds before the introduction of antibiotics. With an increasing number of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, honey is now receiving renewed interest. Clinical trials have shown honey to be an effective broad-spectrum antibacterial agent with the ability to sterilize infected wounds. Dressings soaked with honey have been used to effectively heal wounds and treat postoperative infections, burns, skin ulcerations, boils and diabetic foot ulcers. Due to its osmotic properties, honey creates a moist wound-healing environment that does not stick to wound tissues. Honey can reduce inflammation and enables faster healing of wounds by promoting the formation of new tissues.

Recently chrysin, a flavonoid with potent anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, was identified in honey. Research has revealed its anti-tumor properties. It was shown to promote death of cancer cells and have an anti-proliferative effect on prostate cancer cells.

Honey is a concentrated sweetening agent with 64 calories per tablespoon, and should not be used without restriction. Honey is not recommended for infants who may develop infant botulism due to their inability to handle *Clostridium botulinum* spores that may be present in honey.

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



EXTREME GRACE

The Sabbath-Breaker

BY DICK DUERKSEN

Sabbath with Jesus is usually a synagogue day that includes cold food, a short walk, many songs, readings from Isaiah, and an occasional impromptu healing. Not today.

We're staying in Bethany, more than a Sabbath Day's journey from Jerusalem. Yet, this morning Jesus asked us to join him on a walk to the city.

It was a quiet journey, befitting the honor of Sabbath, even though we were walking through a Sabbath Day rule. The Pharisees

set the Sabbath Journey maximum as 2,000 cubits — about the distance from the Mount of Olives into the city. We were traveling much further, and nervously glanced about for enforcers as we walked.

Jesus chose to enter the city through the sheep gate, a decision that meant we had to thread our way through myriads of sheep, shepherds, children and the always-braying donkeys. Once through the gate, Jesus immediately sought out an old woman and knelt to ask her a question.

She listened, thought a moment, and then pointed across Bethesda's still water to where a thin pile of filthy rags lay like a torn spider web across a wrinkled man. The man, his hand jerking slightly, was as close to the water as one could be without being in the pool.

Bethesda is a "hospital" for the dying. Rumor holds that angels sometimes pass the pool and stir it with their wings. A cruel legend claims the first person into the stirring water will be healed!

No one was being healed this morning. The stench was nauseating, the faces hopeless, the stones blotchy, the air without oxygen.

Jesus arrived at the man, glanced back toward the old woman — who smiled in success — and then knelt beside the rags.

"Would you like to be whole?"

There was a stirring as rheumy eyes turned slowly toward the voice.

"I do not have anyone to help me into the pool."

Jesus ignored the response and said, "Rise. Pick up your bed. Walk." Then the Master stood and disappeared into the desperate crowd.



The rags began to stir violently as ancient muscles responded to the command of hope. Moments later the man was standing, shouting praise to the God of miracles.

He waved, then tripped through the crowd and up the stairs — directly into a phalanx of Pharisees counting their Sabbath

steps.

"What are you doing, carrying your bed? It's Sabbath!"

He stumbled back from their shouts, pointed toward the pool, and told them the story of his Sabbath morning miracle.

"And the One who healed me, He was the one who told me to carry my bed."

Alleluias nearly drowned out their next questions. They were not interested in his healing, eager instead to discover The Sabbath-Breaker. The man looked around the crowd and said, "It was the same One who healed me, but I don't know Who that was."

Then he ran home.

Later, as Jesus read from Isaiah in the temple, the man arrived with simple offerings of thanksgiving and forgiveness.

"Friend," the Master called.

The bright-eyed supplicant turned to His healer's voice, dropped the offerings, ran across the stones, and worshiped at Jesus' feet.

"You're whole now," Jesus lifted the man to his feet. "Be careful not to let anything come between you and God again. What comes next might be worse!"

The man bowed and dashed off shouting, "It was Jesus who healed me!"

Meanwhile, over by the temple wall, Pharisees talked about how they must kill The Sabbath-Breaker.

Dick Duerksen is the "official storyteller" through words and pictures for Maranatha Volunteers, International. Readers may contact the author at dduerksen@maranatha.org.

Dick Duerksen has provided a conversational Bible study titled "Sabbath at Bethesda," which is available online at www.lakeunionherald.org.

Hearing from Heaven

BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. — John 10:27 NKJV

Prayer is a dialog between the believer and God — a dialog of love. It's two-way communication that involves both talking and listening. Prayer isn't complete if we do all the talking and expect God to do all the listening. True prayer requires both.

When Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice," He meant that people who are truly believers recognize and respond to His voice. They are constantly tuned in to Him and ready to respond to His call. That's the kind of listening that prayer requires.

A tourist noticed shepherds calling their sheep one by one out of the fold and taking them to pasture. "Would you let me call out your sheep?" asked the stranger of one of the shepherds.

"Sure," replied the shepherd, with a smile, and told him what to say.

The stranger called for the sheep to come out, using the very words the shepherd gave him. Not a sheep moved, though he called several times. Finally, the shepherd stepped forward and called to his sheep with the same words he gave to the stranger. In response to his call, the sheep came out of the fold and followed him into the fields. They knew his voice.

Prayer is all about hearing our Shepherd's voice. In fact, when we pray, it's probably more important to listen than to speak. After all, God has far more to say than you or I do. Before rushing into God's presence with your thoughts and needs, be attentive to what God is trying to tell you.

Hearing God also means a readiness to obey. God does not speak just to give people a chance to decide if they want to obey. God speaks to those who take Him seriously and stand ready to respond to whatever He says.

When listening, be sure the voice you hear is the Shepherd's voice. There are other voices clamoring for attention — the voice of the evil one, the voices of the world, and the inner voices of your own selfish desires. The better you know the Shepherd, the more sure you will be of His voice. If you are unsure, ask Jesus to open your ears to His voice and to close your ears to the misleading voices of the enemy. He will be more than happy to do that.

If this kind of listening is new to you, begin by asking the Shepherd to tune your ears to His voice. Be conscious of Him. Expect to hear His voice. Be prepared for His voice to break through at any time of the day for any purpose. And be ready to respond.

Reflect

Can you think of times when God has seemed to impress something on you even if you weren't consciously listening? What was God "saying"?

Can you honestly say to God, "I will do whatever you say"?

Pray

Praise the Shepherd who speaks so we may hear His voice and follow Him.

Thank God for telling us the truth about Himself, about ourselves and about our world.

Confess any lack of desire or personal failure in hearing God's voice.

Ask God to open your heart to His impressions and to close your ears to the whisperings of the evil one.

Intercede for those who are not listening to God's Word or Spirit and, as a result, are straying from the truth.

Act

Ask God how He wants you to treat a person with whom you have a troubled relationship. Make a commitment, in advance, to do what God says. Wait in prayerful silence for God's direction. Write down what you think He is saying. Check that against the written Word of God. When you are sure you know what God is saying, do what He says.

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.



Finding Jesus Through Friendship at Work

BY SUE DUKE

My first introduction to Christ came when my brother and I were adopted into a family that sent us to a parochial school. We attended regular services but never actually read the Bible. We appeared to be an average family; however, I suffered abuse and gave up the fight by quickly withdrawing into myself.

When I married, I desperately wanted to have a normal family. Struggling through the challenges of parenthood, I began to search.

Something drew me to Kathy Forner. I am a nurse, and Kathy was my manager. I now know I was drawn by her sincerity and compassion as well as sensing the presence of God when I was around her. During my annual review, she suggested, “Maybe you ought to read your Bible!” What a shock! Nobody had ever said that to me. I started with the New Testament, and suddenly found myself thinking about God all the time.

One morning, I woke up to hear God whispering so clearly, “Go and talk to Kathy.”

Yeah, right! Why would I want to do that?

He said it again and again. It was like a bolt of energy surging through me. Reluctantly, I went to see Kathy. I told her I had been reading the Bible. We talked a little. I was uncomfortable and probably not very clear. Puzzled, Kathy finally asked, “What do you want from me?”

Afraid, I started backing out of her office but stopped and hesitantly said, “I don’t know what I want; God told me to talk to you.”

Kathy gave me books to read, and I couldn’t devour them quickly enough. We began talking and studying. Praying made me very uncomfortable at first. I would look at



Sue Duke (left) sensed the presence of God when she was around her former manager, Kathy Forner. Kathy taught Sue how to pray, and God used her to lead Sue gently to Him.

Dorothy Deer

the clock and think, *I am going to talk to God for the next five minutes.* After the first 30 seconds, I was lost. Kathy taught me how to pray.

My attitude started to change; I began to think God had a reason and a plan for me. Kathy gave me the confidence to take that apprehensive step toward faith — the faith that leads to Jesus.

A year ago last Easter, Kathy invited me to [the Hinsdale] church, and then to the Mark Finley evangelistic meetings. During that series, I recon-

sidered certain views I held, some based on traditions and others on false teachings. Then I met Ron Schultz, Hinsdale Church pastor, who made me feel welcomed, comfortable and safe. Together we studied and learned a lot from each other. My family was amazed when I talked about our conversations, and how Ron would text back answers to my questions.

Jesus rescued me. A verse that has helped me is Matthew 6:33: “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (NIV). I am now learning to seek God first and how to follow Christ, my Light. I can’t wait to see Him face to face!

Sue Duke is a member of the Hinsdale Church in Hinsdale, Illinois.

Reprinted (adapted) with permission from the Sept./Oct. 2011 issue of *Branches*, the official newsletter of the Hinsdale Church.



Mas de Cristo

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Necesitamos muchas menos discusiones, y mucha más presentación de Cristo. Nuestro Redentor es el centro de toda nuestra fe y esperanza. Los que pueden presentar su incomparable amor, e inspirar los corazones a darle sus mejores y más santos afectos, están realizando una obra que es grande y santa.
— El colportor evangélico, págs. 62, 63

Al repasar todo lo ocurrido durante el año 2011 creo que este año será memorable por la cantidad de eventos sorprendentes que han sucedido. Recordemos que han habido grandes desastres naturales en nuestro país y en Japón, que existe un estancamiento político en nuestro gobierno, que se observa un decaimiento en la economía mundial y que proliferan las protestas en muchas partes del mundo. Al combinar estos eventos con el surgimiento de varios grupos extremistas que en los meses pasados anunciaban la inminente venida de Jesús y la destrucción del mundo, pareciera que esto ha contribuido a que se forme una atmósfera de escepticismo y pesimismo en este país.

En el primer siglo cuando dominaba el imperio romano existían condiciones difíciles que también contribuían a una atmósfera de pesimismo. Y fue justo en ese tiempo tan desesperado que Dios envió a su Hijo y se comenzó el proceso de dar las buenas nuevas de salvación. Ahora, en este tercer milenio, estoy más convencido que nunca que la Iglesia Adventista existe hoy, en esta época de pesimismo, porque el mundo necesita oír de nosotros las buenas nuevas de Jesús, las palabras de esperanza que afirman que hay un Dios que nos ama y que tiene un maravilloso plan para nosotros.



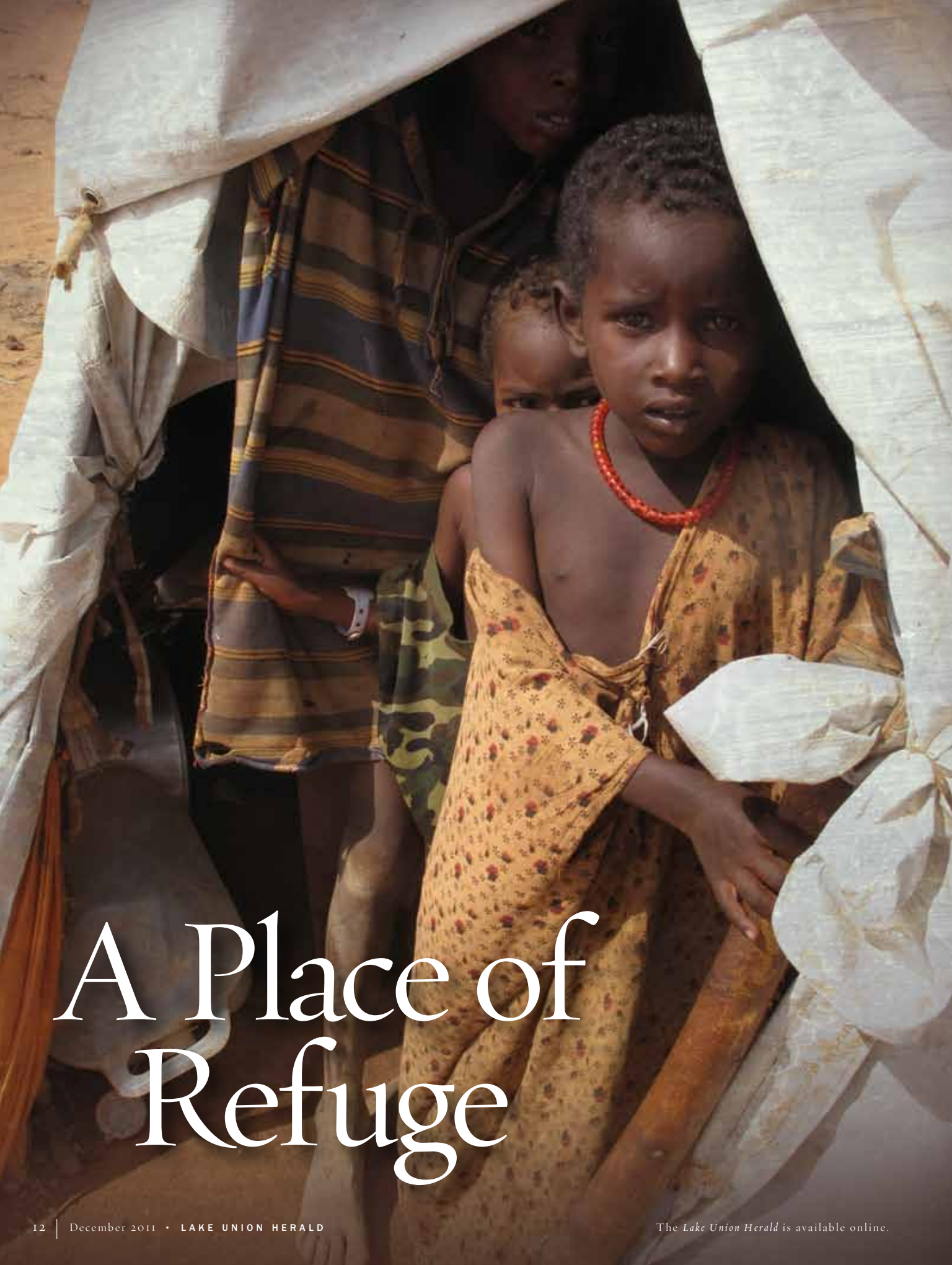
Nathan Greene

“Debemos mirar a Cristo y vivir. Al contemplar su hermosura, deseamos practicar sus virtudes y su justicia. Contemplando a Cristo somos transformados a su imagen, y renunciando a nosotros mismos al dar nuestros corazones completamente a Jesús para que su espíritu nos refine, ennoblezca y eleve, estaremos en comunión íntima con el mundo futuro, bañados por los rayos brillantes del Sol de Justicia. Nos alegramos con gozo inefable y glorioso. Entonces se nos encomienda que vayamos a otras ciudades y pueblos a llevar las buenas nuevas con los corazones encendidos del amor divino, aun a los que están lejos, a todos aquellos a quienes el Señor nuestro Dios llame” (*Alza tus ojos*, p. 249).

Aprovechemos esta época de Navidad para compartir nuestra fe y expresar el optimismo que sentimos porque el Sol de Justicia vive y reina en nuestros corazones.

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

En el último concilio anual de la Asociación General que se llevó a cabo en el mes de octubre se decidió crear un plan para hacer evangelismo en las grandes ciudades donde vive más de la mitad de la población del mundo. Aunque se está trabajando mucho en la planificación de este proyecto no debemos olvidar que el mejor plan que Dios tiene es el que se usó en el primer siglo: el plan del testigo individual que tiene a Jesús en su corazón. Nótese la siguiente cita de la sierva del Señor:



A Place of Refuge

At the 2011 North American Division annual year-end meetings, Dan Jackson, president, presented an inspiring message giving focus and direction for the mission of the church in North America. The following article is an adaptation of his sermon. — Editors

I could not believe my eyes when it came across the screen. The picture of 60 to 70 little children, huddling together for warmth, living below the streets in the sewers of Bogota, Colombia. The reporters had to use hip waders to walk to them: children — abandoned, alone, unwanted; fugitives in the eyes of society. Several times “the law” had firebombed the sewers, trying to get them out.

I could not think of a more pathetic circumstance than finding refuge in a sewer, and thanked God that evening for the work of Jaime Jaramillo who had compassion and helped.

Refuge! Oh, how we all need refuge! A safe place where we can go with all of the joys, sorrows, struggles, victories and defeats of life! And what is true of our physical needs is also true of our spiritual needs!

“My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us” (Psalm 62:5–8 NKJV).

And that is exactly as God intended from the very beginning, that Adam and Eve would find in Him, refuge. In His presence, they and we would be able to discover His direction, His strength and His eternal will — perspectives with which to live our lives.

This concept of refuge runs like a thread of gold through the Scriptures. When you begin to delve into it, you discover that a great portion of the Scripture begins to reflect on this idea of being “in God.”

As the Children of Israel were settling into Canaan, God instructed them to set certain cities apart for the Levites. Of these cities, six were to serve as “Cities of Refuge” (see Numbers 35:9–34; Deuteronomy 19; Joshua 20). They were to be located conveniently on both sides of the Jordan River so those in need would be able to reach them from any place in Canaan within half a day. This provision was made in order to help the people deal with one of the prevailing customs of the day. When a man was killed, his nearest relative held the responsibility of avenging the blood of the deceased.

Although God did not excuse murder, any man guilty of manslaughter could flee to the closest City of Refuge. If the guilty man could enter the gates of the city before the avenger of blood could catch him, he would be secure. As long as he remained within the city gates, his safety was assured. If he should leave the city — for any reason — during the life of the high priest who supported his presence in the City of Refuge, he was fair game to the avenger. Once the high priest died, he was free to return to

his original home and material possessions. Until the moment of that high priest’s death, the fugitive knew where his safety was — only within the walls of the City of Refuge!

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

I was on my way back to the seminary following participation in a field school of evangelism, which had been conducted in Shrewsbury, Wales, by evangelist Don Jacobsen. I arrived by ferry on the coast, hitchhiked a ride to the train station in Brussels, and then set about trying to find a place to stay for the night. The next day I was to fly out of Le Bourget Airport in Paris. I walked around the streets of Brussels all alone that night, looking for a motel. I couldn’t find one, so decided to go back to the train station. Walking down the street, I looked over my right shoulder to see someone else walking on the other side of the street. I didn’t know if he was following me, so I turned around and walked up the street. Sure enough, as I looked over my left shoulder, there was someone following me on the other side of the street. I turned around and started to walk down the street again, thinking if we could just do this all night, I would be okay. But, as I got about a third of the way down the street, I broke into a run and he broke into a run. I ran for my life! As I raced around a corner, I saw a taxicab and ran right out into the road, waving my arms. When he stopped, I said, “Take me to the train station,” and I praised the Lord for safety.

When I got back to the train station, it had closed. I saw two big pillars in front of the station wide enough for a man to wedge his body in between. That’s where I stayed that night. I knew nobody could get me from the back, and I was watching the front the whole time. I stayed all night — wedged between those two pillars until the station door opened in the morning.

God was very particular about how this whole process of “refuge” was to be handled. He gave specific commands about how the cities were to be protected and prepared for easy access by those who were in genuine need.

Once or more each year, the magistrates of each district throughout the nation surveyed the major roads leading to the city in their jurisdiction. They were required to gather up all of the boulders or large stones or anything that might be on the road to prevent easy access to the city, and they were to erect signposts

with the word “REFUGE” written on them. When the fugitive came to a crossroad, he would not need to question, even for a single moment, which was the correct way of escape.

You see, the one “who fled to the city of refuge could make no delay. Family and employment were left behind. There was no time to say farewell to loved ones. His life was at stake, and every other interest must be sacrificed to the one purpose — to reach the place of safety. Weariness was forgotten, difficulties were unheeded. The fugitive dared not for one moment slacken his pace until he was within the wall of the city” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 517). One interest alone occupied the mind and the actions — refuge.

Have you ever had to run for your life? A few years ago my wife and I were asked to go to Nakuru, Kenya. There we spent 14 days inside an IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camp. After the violence in Kenya, people had to flee from their homes for their very lives.

His name was Jeffery. I saw him when he came into the camp — hollowed eyes, shattered look on his face, exhausted and hungry. After he had eaten, he told me his story of how he had grown up in one place his whole life. He had married there; he had a family there; and he had wonderful relations with the people next door who also had lived their whole lives there.

All of us were once lost, but now are found; we were blind, but now we can see. And if you can't discern that, then the truth of the matter is you are still lost!

One night, he heard a knock on the door; they told him they were giving him ten minutes to get out of town. “Run for your life!”

My heart was broken for him. He had lost everything, including his roots.

Now, it was God's intention in establishing the Cities of Refuge that His people would come to know several significant things about His character: 1) They were to learn that God's provisions were always available to them; 2) They were to learn that all who were needy, regardless of their circumstances, were welcome to seek God for refuge; 3) They were to discover the grace and mercy of God within the context of His justice.

The whole story is a beautiful, historical snapshot of the grace of God — always coming into clearest focus when we are in the greatest extremity. What marvelous provision for inevitable human need!

When we come to understand God through His Book, we discover God doesn't act on the basis of reaction but rather upon the

basis of planning and predictability. He is fully aware of human nature, and He has provided for human need!

But what does this all have to do with you and me? How do we view God's historical provision for refuge within the context of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, within the context of our daily lives?

TRAPPED AND BOUND BY CONSEQUENCES

Several years ago, I watched a rather amusing nature film. Part of the film showed a monkey flying from branch to branch right in front of a rather large constrictor, a snake, which kept gesturing in a rather menacing manner each time the monkey approached it. From time to time, the film would go on to another topic, but it periodically returned to the episode in the tree. The final shots were rather painful as the monkey finally came too close. And in the spirit of true nature films, we were treated to a rather lengthy examination of the snake digesting the monkey.

All of us, if we are honest, should be able to relate to that story. Why? Because it is our story! Not that we are devoured, but that we are caught. Human nature, ungoverned by God's influence, allows us to flirt with danger of whatever kind. Consequently, we wound and confuse ourselves by our ill-conceived recklessness. We find ourselves apparently trapped and bound by consequences.

All of us were once lost, but now are found; we were blind, but now we can see. And if you can't discern that, then the truth of the matter is you are still lost! And without the recognition that we are constantly in need of God in our lives, we run to find a refuge of our own devising; but, generally, we find only a temporary or illusory escape. This is not just true of non-religious people, it is also true of Seventh-day Adventists who have not found Jesus. We seek shelter and find escape in anything but God. It may be materialistic trappings, another workshop, a new car, a cottage or a never-ending fresh supply of entertainment.

How hard are we on that trail to find some release and relief? Cisco reports that, “By 2015, 1 million video minutes — the equivalent of 674 days — will traverse the Internet every second.”¹

How far are we down that road to amuse ourselves? Some turn to pornography and some to housework or careers; others to sports, soaps or talk shows. Still others lose all hope and turn to suicide.

In a recent interview with CBS News, Ruth Madoff told the interviewer that she and her husband, Bernie Madoff, decided to take their own lives rather than face reality of being convicted after his multi-billion-dollar Ponzi scheme was made public. They attempted suicide together the Christmas Eve after Bernie was exposed. They both overdosed on Ambien, but woke up the next morning. Their son succeeded in his attempt when he commit-

ted suicide two years later on December 11, 2010, the second anniversary of his father's arrest.

It is not ours to judge; however, we humans are a rather strange and confused lot at times. The Madoffs' tragedy is echoed and re-echoed in greater and smaller ways in our world every day. Edward Fitzgerald once wrote, in *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*, "They change and perish all — but He remains."

A PLACE OF REFUGE

What is it that God has to offer us in these times? When I am depressed, distressed and desperate — alone inside the world of my own mind, what does He offer?

"Remember that ... you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household" (Ephesians 2:11, 12, 19 NIV-UK). Praise His holy name!

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings...." (Hebrews 10:19–22 NIV). Praise His holy name!

"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Colossians 2:13–15 NIV-UK). Praise His holy name!

What have we discovered? Paul informs us of the human predicament. We are born into this world on the run. God, who created us, wants us to run to Him. However, through nature and heredity, we are bound to another. As a result, we are without citizenship, without connections, without hope and without God. We are, in other words, at the mercy of the adversary who wants to maintain control over us. He chases us down the road with a vengeance. It is he who pursues you and me throughout our days and throughout our nights — whether we can see, feel, touch, hear or taste his reality or not.

And listen, friends, you and I know — especially in these final days of human history — by our own power, on our own steam, we can run, but we cannot hide — except in God. And the grace of God does not leave us.

As the curtain is opened by Paul's spiritual insight, we see God entering into the realm of the human predicament. Our attention is drawn to His historical and eternal actions of intervention in the human circumstance.

What happens? What does He do? What is the assurance that you and I can have every day? What is it that God has done for you and for me? Paul informs us that He embraces us and brings us to Himself through the blood of Jesus every day. He brings peace and removes hostility by removing the justifiable condemnation that is attached to our sinful mistakes and the guilt which is rightfully ours. Through Jesus, He gives us personal access to Himself. He brings us the potential for never-ending life.

We human beings are — always have been, always will be — unable to get out on the road and clean our own path to genu-



George Johnson

ine refuge. So, God Himself stooped down and did it for us. He walked the only road that He could walk — that road to refuge known as the "Via Dolorosa."

By hanging and dying on the Cross at the end of that road — and at the entrance to eternity, He obliterated every boulder of human circumstance, every apparent blockade created by our own foolish mistakes, every impediment to eternal success.

"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them triumphing over them by the cross" (Colossians 2:15 NIV-UK).

AMBASSADORS OF RECONCILIATION

Because of His activity and intervention, there is always a refuge, a home, a place to be, a spiritual table under which to put your feet. But God does not stop there. He then calls us into a rich and special relationship.

Paul spoke of this relationship when he wrote to the Corinthian believers: "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again" (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15 NIV).

Interesting words: “For Christ’s love compels us...” It does not invite us. It does not say, “It would be a really good thing...” When we recognize, when we acknowledge that we have found refuge, then the love of Christ compels us to serve other people.

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18, 19 NIV-UK).

We tend to think of that corporately — that somehow we can corporately provide reconciliation to the world by inviting them to become Seventh-day Adventists.

But there is a very personal dimension here, and sometimes in the church we have forgotten all about it. God did not call us to a ministry of alienation. God did not call you and me to push away one another. We are not called to alienate, to develop a class or gender, division or racial segregation, or tofu separation, or vegan distinction, or theological diversity. [Too often we’re quick to say,] “Because you do not believe as I do, brother; because you are not a part of my part of the communion, then certainly, you are on the road to perdition.”

Do not accept God’s grace if you do not intend to be gracious! Do not accept the mercy of God if you cannot be merciful! Read and listen to the Word of God. This is as much a part of the vital theme that God has given the church in these last days to proclaim as the Sabbath or any other portion of the Scriptures. You and I are called to a ministry of reconciliation — not just with the world, but with one another!

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf; be reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 2:20 NIV-UK).

If you’ve got a problem with a brother or a sister or a leader, do you go on a blog and say what a scumbag that person is? Tell me if you are still loyal to the gospel of Jesus Christ. It’s time that we start to reintroduce some features into the experience of the church — civility and reconciliation.

We are ambassadors of Jesus Christ. You and I have been invited to lead those in need to the refuge that God wants to provide for them in His church, “from every nation, kindred, tongue and people,” no matter who they are or where they have been or what they have done!

A brother came to me one day and said, “Pastor, I want my name taken off the books.”

“Why would that be?” I asked.

“Because I smoke,” he said. “And every time I come to church, they can smell my cigarettes.”

I replied, “Please, brother, don’t leave the church. There’s only one difference between you and the person that sits beside you

in the pew — you cannot smell their sin.” If God would attach an odor to every sin, humility would not be a problem in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In His parable of the “Unmerciful Servant,” Jesus helps us understand our true position as ambassadors. He basically lets us know that we are all indebted to others as a result of God’s gift of grace.

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

“The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison (He labeled him as a liberal or as a conservative ... or he told others in a chat what he had done in the past) until he could pay the debt. (That is, until he could conform.)

“When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart” (Matthew 18:21–35 NIV-UK *with comments added*).

In our natural state, every single one of us is a debtor to law. Isn’t that true? The law demands obedience. We have not obeyed, so the law demands our lives. And those who wander around espousing their perfection have probably sinned more than the rest of us, because they have already taken the prerogative of God and usurped His authority by pronouncing His statement on them.

We have all failed. We are not in a position to pay the debt! So Jesus paid it! “Jesus paid it all! All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow.”²

However, we need to understand that when Jesus paid that debt, He left us indebted in another way — not to law but, rather, to grace. We all have accrued, through the death of Jesus Christ, a debt to grace.

To the Christians in Rome, Paul said: "I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Romans 1:14–16 NKJV).

I want you all to know clearly that I, for one, am in that parable. I am in that parable because Jesus has forgiven my sins. I am a debtor to God's grace, and so are you!

So, here is the point: If I have found a refuge within the blessed arms of Jesus, my Lord and Savior — within the safe confines of God's grace, how could I possibly conclude, in any sense, that I could use that advantage — the vantage point of grace — as a springboard to exclude, condemn or castigate others?

There are no substitutes or excuses here, folks. God does not call upon us to purge His church of those within who are spiritual fugitives. That includes all of us! You are a spiritual fugitive, but God also has made you an ambassador. There are no reasons that somehow we think we can purge the church from those who have failed and who have lost hope. God is inviting us personally, in every congregation, in every conference, in every union, in every division, to clear the way so that we may find refuge in an edifice of grace.

I am not saying that the church does not need to use godly discernment as it deals with individuals and with circumstances, and that there may not be times when the church needs to draw lines in the sand. I'm not talking about that. If we ever fail to exercise that godly discernment, then we have moved beyond the realm of reason into a superficial world of what I would call "soppy grace" or "meaningless grace."

So, living within the context of God's good grace, what is God's expectation of us? Our response to God's grace does not earn us some kind of eternal favor or merit, because it is a response. After all, Paul tells us in the earlier passage that the "love of Christ compels us..." It moves us to react. And if we can't react and we don't know how to react, then perhaps we've never been moved by grace in the first place.

WHERE SHOULD WE BE?

There is a simple answer to the questions, "What does it mean?"; "Where should we be?"; and "Where would Jesus be?" The defining focus of Jesus' whereabouts is summed up in His own words: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40 NIV).

Friends, this is a last-day message for Seventh-day Adventists. This is our last-day message: Learn to love one another! Learn to live with one another. Learn that unity is not uniformity. Learn

that people can disagree with you and still be your brother, your sister in Christ. We create crises of unity in the church; but, really, they are crises of uniformity that we're worried about.

And who are the "least of these brothers and sisters of mine" within the church and outside of the church? They are the hungry — not only for food, but for the Word of God. They are the thirsty — not only for water, but also for knowledge, peace, truth, justice and love. They are the unloved, the ignorant and naked — not only for lack of clothes, but also for human dignity. They are the lonely, the unwanted, the unborn child, the racially discriminated against, the undervalued and underutilized, the abandoned



Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a town garbage dump where people curse and the fugitives of society gamble.

and homeless — not only do they lack a shelter made of bricks, but a heart that understands, that covers, that loves. They are the sick, the dying, the destitute and the captives — not only in body, but also in mind and spirit; all of those who have lost hope and faith in life — the alcoholics and dying addicts, and all those who have lost hope in the power of the Spirit.

Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral. He wasn't crucified at the General Conference headquarters or the finest churches we know. He wasn't crucified between two thieves at a place where people curse and the fugitives of society gamble and do all kinds of things not suitable for church people. But the reality is, that is where Jesus was; and that is where His people need to be!

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1. Shetty, Suraj. "Global Internet Traffic Projected to Quadruple by 2015." Cisco: the network. Retrieved Nov. 13, 2011 from <<http://newsroom.cisco.com/press-release-content?type=webcontent&articleid=324003>>.
 2. "Jesus Paid it All," Elvina M. Hall, 1865. Public Domain.



Sabbath

GOD'S REFUGE IN TIME

A HOUSE OF REFUGE

This is what the LORD says:

"Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.

"Blessed is the one who does this—the person who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, and keeps their hands from doing any evil."

Let no foreigner who is bound to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely exclude me from his people." And let no eunuch complain, "I am only a dry tree."

For this is what the LORD says:

"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever.

"And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.

"Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

The Sovereign LORD declares—he who gathers the exiles of Israel:

"I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered" (Isaiah 56:1–8 NIV).

FIND YOUR JOY

Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?"

"Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

"Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard."

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: "Here am I."

If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.



Diak DeBruisen

You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD’s holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.”

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken (Isaiah 58:5–14 NIV).

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done (Genesis 2:1–3 NIV).

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it (Exodus 20:8–11 NKJV).

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you....’” (Exodus 31:12–14 NKJV).

TEMPLE MADE OF TIME

by Mark Bond

God took six days and created
Earth and Moon, the stars and sun
On the seventh day He rested
From the work that He had done.
Then He blessed it, made it holy
As a gift for every man
To remind us where we came from
And just how this world began.

*Holy day, purified
Set apart, sanctified
Enter in to joy divine
In a temple made of time.*

See Him worship on the Sabbath
As His weekly custom was
Feel the fury of the rabbis
For He would not heed their laws.
So they killed Him on a hillside
As the sun began to fade
But He even kept the Sabbath
As they laid Him in the grave.

*Holy day, purified
Set apart, sanctified
Enter in to joy divine
In a temple made of time.*

Oft forsaken and forgotten
Desecrated and profaned
But the sacred fourth commandment
Is still valid and unchanged.
Hear the Father gently calling
“If you love Me, keep each one
Not for merit or salvation
But because you love My Son.”

*Holy day, purified
Set apart, sanctified
Enter in to joy divine
In the temple made of time.*

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A Resurrection Surprise

BY JOY HYDE

Bruce Thomas is part of a large family of Adventists. Many of Bruce's uncles and cousins are pastors, teachers, administrators and colporteurs throughout the Michigan and other Adventist conferences and organizations.

Bruce grew up in Midland, Michigan, and graduated from Tri-City Junior Academy. He then went to Cedar Lake Academy (now Great Lakes Adventist Academy), and received his high school diploma before attending Andrews University. Along the way, Bruce formed strong bonds and friendships in the larger Adventist family of believers. Though Bruce wandered away, his Adventist family never let go of him. Bruce attended the annual Thomas family reunions, and his aunts, uncles, cousins and parents were reminded of the need to pray for him. When his father, Bud, and mother, Ulah, saw Bruce's academy friends at Michigan Camp Meeting, they asked them to "pray for Bruce," and pray they did.

Bruce and April Witt dated earlier in their lives, but had parted ways. They became reacquainted again, and married in 2002. April was raised in a good Christian home, and she was a positive influence on Bruce. He began listening to that still, small Voice, and confided in April that he would like to have Bible studies.

Bruce's cousin, Jay Thomas, is a Bible worker and colporteur near Grand Rapids where they live, and attends the Bauer Church. Jay visited Bruce and April on several occasions. One Monday night, Jay brought his pastor, Dan Rachor. As they were leaving the Thomases' home, Dan felt compelled to ask April if she would like to study the Bible. She gladly accepted the offer for both of them. Jay began studies. As he opened the Holy Word with April and Bruce, their eyes saw things they never knew or understood.

In January 2011, April expressed to Jay her desire to study more about prophecy. Jay approached Dan, who also pas-



Bruce Thomas regrets his mother couldn't be present when he was rebaptized, but looks forward to surprising her on that great and wonderful resurrection morning. From left: Jay Thomas, Bible worker; April Thomas; Bruce Thomas; Dan Rachor, pastor, Wyoming and Bauer Churches

tors the Wyoming Church, and shared April's request. Dan immediately convened a Wyoming Church board meeting where he told the board members that he needed approval that night to conduct a prophecy evangelistic series because he had a couple who desired to learn more about prophecy. Among the Wyoming Church membership are several Cedar Lake Academy graduates who went to school with Bruce. The church family did not waiver, and Dan got the ball rolling.

Along with the cooperation of the Michigan Conference, the Wyoming Church soon began a six-week series of meetings on biblical prophecy. April and Bruce attended every meeting. After each one, Dan asked them if there were any questions, and he discovered there were many.

During the series, Dan and Jay met the couple at their home on Monday nights, reviewing the topics covered to make sure they were on firm footing. On occasion, Bruce shocked Dan by stating, "I don't believe anything you say! I'm going to read and study it myself to make sure it is true." And he did.

On May 15, a prodigal came home. Dan, with Jay assisting, baptized Bruce and April. The Thomas, academy and Wyoming Church families, through prayer and the efforts of the Holy Spirit, reclaimed one of their own — Bruce, with an added bonus, April. Bruce's only regret is his mother "didn't see me rebaptized." Won't she be surprised on that great and wonderful resurrection morning?

Joy Hyde is the communications secretary of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan.

Truth Seekers

BY RAMON ULANGCA

“God, please heal me or else take me out of here!” Elinor Mast cried in discouragement from the sick bed in which she had lain for the past four weeks. Battling pneumonia for the third time in six months, her tough demeanor was all but gone, and her husband, Eli, could only watch in helplessness.

Born and raised as Old Order Amish, Eli and Elinor married each other at the tender ages of 19. Ironically, they came from very different families. Eli was an only child, born to a 68-year-old father and a mother 32 years his junior. On the other hand, Elinor was born into a family of ten children, 78 uncles and aunts, and more than 200 first cousins! During the next several decades in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the Masts raised a family of 12 children — six by birth and another half-dozen by adoption — who, in turn, gave them 33 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Eli and Elinor left the Amish community in their late 20s on a spiritual quest, fueled by an insatiable thirst for truth. Eli followed the more traditional profession of his heritage as a carpenter. By contrast, Elinor broke the mold — working in a butcher shop, running a home for women in crisis, dabbling in midwifery, and driving an 18-wheeler truck as well as a taxi and limousine. To top it off, she served 32 months in prison for a crime she did not commit. One would think a person as tough as Elinor could weather any storm!

But now all Elinor could do was lie in bed, flipping through the television channels in a desperate search for truth upon which to hang her faith. She found one Christian channel; but, after listening for awhile, she was so disillusioned by its message and portrayal of Jesus that she turned off the television, and simply tried to pray. Then, one day as she flipped through the television choices once again, she discovered 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network). During the next few weeks, Elinor watched the 3ABN programs day and night, drinking in the Gospel message like a thirsty soul chancing upon an oasis in the desert.

“You need to listen to what these people are saying,” she told Eli. It made so much sense to her. As she regained her strength, Elinor began checking out what she was hearing against her Bible. Everything matched! Intrigued, she looked for a local church that taught this truth. Her search brought her to the Fort Wayne Seventh-day Adventist Church website. As she read a testimony by the church’s pastor, she felt impressed by the Holy Spirit that this was where she needed to be. At first, she attended alone be-



Eli and Elinor Mast continue to grow in truth as members of the Fort Wayne Church, lovingly leading others to the foot of the cross.

cause no one would join her, but it was not long before Eli and other family members began coming with her.

As Elinor grew in her prayer life, God sometimes awakened her at night to teach her new truth, and she was impressed to pray about certain issues in her life. One night she awoke with the words to a song ringing in her head: “I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore.”¹ Remembering how hard she was trying to live a

righteous life, she asked, “Lord, how am I sinning?”

In reply, she believes He responded, “Have you ever accepted My forgiveness?” Elinor realized that, while she had often asked God for forgiveness, she never really accepted this gift in her life; so, in that moment, she accepted His forgiveness. Suddenly, a tremendous burden was lifted from her heart. Slowly, God was transforming her from the inside out into His image.

Not only was God healing Elinor’s spirit, but He also healed her body as He taught her to be obedient to His health principles expounded in His Word. With history of a heart attack, atrial fibrillation and congestive heart failure, Elinor was on many medications. Incredibly, she came off every one as she followed God’s laws of health! Eli had his own congenital heart problem, which eventually needed an operation to repair. But when the doctor checked his blood vessels, he found them to be as “clean as a whistle.”

Today, Eli and Elinor continue to grow in truth as members of the Fort Wayne Church. They are also growing in grace as they lovingly lead others to the foot of the Cross. Not one to take their spiritual journeys for granted, Elinor says, “I wish I could help you see what a wonderful blessing you have in this [Adventist] heritage. Eli and I have had to struggle a lot of years to get to this place; though that is the path God chose for us, please do not neglect the path He chose for you. ... Let us all put our shoulders to the plow and, without looking back, really work the soil for Jesus while we can.”

Ramon Ulangca is the pastor of the Fort Wayne Seventh-day Adventist Church in Indiana. Elinor Mast, a member, shared her story with him.

1. “Love Lifted Me,” James Rowe, 1912. Public Domain.



Bruce Powell

Heather Kochen, Adventist St. Thomas Hospice youth coordinator, plays a game with Dave Foley and Ryan Bronecke. Both boys attended Tommy's Kids Camp this year and are currently enrolled in a bereavement group program.

AMH Hospice youth coordinator helps children deal with death

Maybe it's the raw eggs.

Or maybe it's just the feeling that comes with throwing those eggs at a huge tarp full of words that helps the kids resolve their anger at Tommy's Kids Camp.

"Whatever it is, it works," said

Heather Kochen, founder of the five-day bereavement camp for about 30 children, ages five through 12. Every summer, the "bulls-eye" activity is one of the favorites.

Adventist St. Thomas Hospice, which serves hospitals of Adventist Midwest Health, cares for Chicago-area residents with a limited life expectancy. Kochen has been the Hospice youth coordinator for six years, and recently helped coordinate the Hospice's sixth annual Tommy's Kids Camp.

"Some might think this job has its down side, but I find it fulfilling to help accompany people through their grief journey," said Kochen, who lives in the area with her husband and three-year-old son, Owen.

Part of Kochen's job involves recruiting and training young volunteers who

will work with hospice patients and family members dealing with the death of loved ones and post-death bereavement. In some cases, her staff travels to nursing homes to conduct events like ice cream socials, bingo and crafts.

"I encourage families to spend time talking about the person they lost," she said. "When there is a loss, kids feel the effects and it stays with them. It's important to be open and honest with kids, and let them know it's okay to be sad."

Rebecca Sampson is just one of the many parents Kochen has helped. Sampson's husband, Jeff, died from a massive heart attack in 2008. Her son, Julian, was four years old at the time and with his father when it happened. Julian attended camp in 2011 when he was eight years old.

"Death is such a hard thing for children to grasp," said Sampson. "It took Julian a long time to realize that Jeff was never coming back. Tommy's Camp really helped him get through the grief, and that program wouldn't be the same without Heather. Her touch is what makes it so special. She took the time to get know us and listened to us." Every Tommy's Kids camper gets a home visit before camp starts.

Kochen received an undergraduate

degree in psychology, specializing in child-related studies, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She also has a graduate degree in counseling from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in Chicago. In 2006, Kochen went on a mission trip to Ghana where she helped run programs for school-aged children.

She found out about her current position while completing her counseling internship with Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.

"My most memorable moments are when I get to witness an individual making healthy progress on their journey through grief," Kochen said. "I see this happen every year at our camp. The difference in campers from Monday to Wednesday is astounding. As they become more comfortable with one another and as they are given permission to grieve their losses in healthy ways, you can see the difference it makes in their lives."

John B. Rapp, regional vice president of Adventist Midwest Health Ministries and Mission, has known Kochen since the day she joined the organization.

"When I watch Heather work, I am always reminded of Jesus' words about welcoming children, ministering to children, affirming children," Rapp said. "Every day Heather fulfills Jesus' mandate regarding children as she ministers to the youngest who often are hurting the deepest. Heather 'extends the healing ministry of Christ' clearly through her work with the children of our community and her role at [Adventist] St. Thomas Hospice."

"I can't say enough good things about the camp and about Heather," Sampson said. "It was one of the best experiences my son will ever have in his life. In many ways, it counteracted one of the worst experiences he'll ever have."

Sheila Galloro, public relations specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health

Slikkers named new manager of Howard Performing Arts Center

A familiar face is taking over leadership at the Howard Performing Arts Center. Erica Slikkers, who has served as assistant manager at the Howard Center since January 2008, is the new manager. She assumes the role following the departure of Debbie Weithers, who is now serving as a senior development officer in the Andrews University Office of Development.

“Erica is highly qualified to be the new manager for the Howard Center, and we are thrilled that she has accepted this challenge,” says Dave Faehner, vice president for University Advancement at Andrews University.

While a student at Andrews University, Slikkers worked at the Howard Center, first as a marketing and com-



Erica Slikkers assumes the position of manager, following the departure of Debbie Weithers who now is a senior development officer at Andrews University.

munication assistant from August 2003 to May 2006, and later as a contract writer during the 2006–2007 season.

She graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts in public relations and a minor in music from Andrews University. When the assistant manager position at the Howard Center opened up in late 2007, Slikkers applied and was hired in January 2008.

“I’m very excited about this next step in my career,” says Slikkers. “It’s such a privilege to bring high profile artists and great music to Andrews University and Berrien Springs.”

Her passion for music extends beyond her role at the Howard Center. Slikkers is a classically-trained violinist of 17 years who loves to teach. She teaches at a private violin studio based in Berrien Springs.

Originally from Holland, Mich., Slikkers currently resides in Baroda, Mich. A true southwest Michigander, she counts Lake Michigan as one of her favorite things.

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

Andrews brings home awards from Society of Adventist Communicators convention

Andrews University took home several awards from the annual Society of Adventist Communicators convention held in Lombard, Ill., Oct. 19–22. At the closing banquet, an awards ceremony honored individuals for their contributions to the field of communication and recognized marketing- and communication-related projects and products that exhibit a standard of excellence.

Kristina Penny, a senior Andrews University journalism major, received the “Student Award.” This award is designed to recognize students who demonstrate excellence not only in the classroom, but on-the-job as well.



Steve Vistauet (left), out-going president of the Society of Adventist Communicators, presents the “Reger Smith Jr. Cutting Edge Award” to the team behind *Envision Magazine*. Delyse Steyn (center), chair of the Department of Communication, and Glenn Roper II, an Andrews student and managing editor of *Envision*, accept the award on behalf of the team.

At the award ceremony, many of Penny’s accomplishments were noted: editor of the *Student Movement*; lead editor of *Scriptural Pursuit* and *Sabbath School U.*; and completed internships with WDIV, an NBC affiliate, and WDET, an NPR station, both in Detroit, Mich. Penny is currently working on production of a documentary on the country of Jordan.

Envision, a student-produced magazine, received the “Reger Smith Jr. Cutting Edge Award.” This award is named in honor of the late Reger Smith Jr., who served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 27 years in public relations, graphic design, photography, and other areas of communication.

“To receive an award in honor of Reger Smith is very special to us,” said Delyse Steyn, chair of the Andrews University Department of Communication. “His influence and interest in our department was profound and meaningful.”

Andrews University also received a number of “Best in Class” awards and “Honorable Mention” certificates for a variety of marketing- and communication-related projects and products. The full list is available at www.andrews.edu/news.

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

Adventist education enrollment increases in Indiana

Indiana—In a time when most companies struggled with economic downturn and budget cuts, Adventist Christian education in the Indiana Conference experienced more than a ten percent increase in enrollment, the highest enrollment in ten years. A new government initiative specifically has proven to be a blessing to three Adventist Christian schools in Indiana.

A new system implemented by the State of Indiana provides up to \$4,500 to low-income families each year for each of their children who attended public school in the 2010–2011 school year. The voucher system allows the families to send their children to a qualifying private school of their choice.

“Last year we had 47 students, but this year we have been turning students down. With 82 students, we are packed,” said Elizabeth Merion, treasurer and secretary at Indianapolis Junior Academy. “Another program that has assisted our parents is Choice Trust.” Based on a sliding scale, Choice Trust helps with \$1,200 per year to parents who qualify. “God is in control. Thanks to His blessings, we have hired two new teachers and three additional classroom aides,” Merion said.

“I think a lot of our church families would like to have had their kids in



The students and staff of Indianapolis Junior Academy are a family united in growing closer to Jesus through learning.

school but, due to economics, it wasn't possible until now,” stated Jill Dodge, principal at South Bend Adventist School. Since last year, South Bend's enrollment has grown from 29 to 43.

“Unfortunately, the program knocks some students out of qualification,” remarked Karen Shinn, teacher at Terre Haute Adventist School, referring to the voucher program's prerequisite that a child must attend a public school the year prior to qualify. “However, once on the voucher program, students continue to qualify unless there are changes in the family's income.”

The new funding has made it especially possible for ESL (English as a Second Language) students in Terre Haute to receive one-on-one assistance. “One of our church members interprets at the [Hispanic] church,” Shinn said. “Some parents were frustrated with the progress they saw in their students. Not that they weren't seeing any growth, but

the larger classroom in a public school wasn't working for them. I suggested they try our school, since it is a smaller setting and I am nearly bilingual. Our enrollment has doubled,” Shinn remarked.

In grades K–10, the Indiana Conference currently has 384 students enrolled compared to last school year's 312. Grades K–12 show 472 students, including Indiana Academy, compared to 401 students at the lowest enrollment point in the last ten-year period.

“As we go about fulfilling the mission in our schools, God has blessed, and we have seen an increase in enrollment,” stated Marvin Whitney, Indiana Conference education superintendent. “Parents are seeing a value in education which provides holistic classrooms with God-fearing teachers. That makes a difference.”

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference

Downers Grove School grows in a whole new way

Illinois—“Teacher, may I please have a tomato?” This particular request has been heard at recess nearly every day since school began in August at Downers Grove Adventist School. Actually, not only are tomatoes requested, but cucumbers, zucchini, corn, strawberries

and sunflowers as well. It is a teacher's joy to be able to tell the students “Yes,” they can help themselves to the treats in the garden, especially since it's their garden!

The Downers Grove Adventist School garden project began last April when the church board agreed the students could use a portion of the playground for a garden. Soon students looked up planting and growing requirements for an improbable variety of

different plants. Graph paper was used to make scaled plans of the garden plots that conformed to the prescribed row and plant spacing requirements for the particular plants each child selected. In the end, each student in grades five to eight had a garden plot to cultivate, plant and tend. Several students joined plots for even bigger gardening sections. When danger from frost passed, the fun really began in earnest.

A huge array of seeds were selected, including beets, carrots, corn, cucumber, watermelon, zucchini, lettuce, summer squash, three varieties of tomatoes, two types of peppers, spinach, potatoes, strawberries, pumpkins, sunflowers, broccoli, chives, and lima, wax and green beans. The yield from the garden has been remarkable with enough corn to give every student a small ear of corn for hot lunch one day, enough cucumbers to enhance several hot lunch salads, enough zucchini to make dozens of loaves of bread, and enough tomatoes to keep up with the plentiful number of recess



Students from grades five to eight show some of their harvested vegetables from the Downers Grove Adventist School garden.

Patricia Williams

requests. Soon the potatoes will be harvested, and the students are hoping for a bumper crop — having already made plans to enjoy mashed potatoes, baked potatoes and even french fries.

Ellen White, in the book, *Education*, repeatedly calls attention to the benefits that children receive from cultivating the soil. Once again, her advice proved to be sound, and students at Downers Grove Adventist School are going to reap those benefits for years to come.

Patricia Williams, principal, Downers Grove Adventist School



Patricia Williams

The happy participants of Let's Move Day got lots of exercise. They also received well-earned rewards that included medallions and special backpack tokens to commemorate their efforts.

Downer's Grove School gets moving

Illinois—Gray skies and intermittent raindrops did not dampen the excitement and enthusiasm at Downers Grove Adventist School on Sunday, Sept. 25. The event, Let's Move Day, was part of the larger North American Division Health Ministries initiative, ADVENTISTS InStep for Life. This initiative was created to address the problem of childhood obesity and the resultant negative effects facing our children which may include asthma, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, sleep problems, depression and bullying.

Let's Move Day officially began at 10:00 a.m. with a special worship as-

sembly. Then each participant received an identification number, and the fun began. Participants ran, walked or jogged around the 1/8-mile course laid out in the school parking lot. Others rode tricycles, bicycles with and without training wheels, scooters, skateboards, a ripstick and a soleskate.

Participation was not limited to Downers Grove Adventist School students; teachers, parents, grandparents and even a baby sister completed laps around the course. Members of the school family were joined by some members of the Maywood Adventist Church Adventurers club. Due to mutual encouragement and a bit of healthy competition, everyone got lots of exercise!

After two hours, the final circuits

of the course were completed, and then everyone went into the Downers Grove Adventist Church fellowship hall for the presentation of well-earned rewards. With 55 circuits around the course, Shawn Sutton, an eighth grader, won an ADVENTISTS InStep for Life tee shirt for completing the most laps. Other participants received medallions and special backpack tokens commemorating their efforts.

When the organizers of this event saw the overcast skies on the morning of the 25th, they considered cancelling or postponing Let's Move Day, but the laughter and giggles of the children as they ran past their parents and teachers, the determination on the faces of several runners who were determined to run at least five miles, the cheers and congratulations that accompanied the completion of laps, and the overall joy and satisfaction of the participants proved the day was a huge success. This event is going to be a regular part of the annual school calendar as part of an intentional effort to promote healthy lifestyle choices at Downers Grove Adventist School.

Patricia Williams, principal, Downers Grove Adventist School

For more information about ADVENTISTS InStep for Life, see <http://www.adventistsinstepforlife.org/>.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

International Missionary Fellowship planted by South Bend First Church

Indiana—Two years ago, two church plants were conceived and started in South Bend. Michiana Missionary was commissioned to work primarily with Malawians in the greater South Bend area, and South Bend All Nations was commissioned to reach Kenyan nationals. As time moved on, each group became more and more inclusive of all people, and it seemed right to bring them together.

On the first Sabbath of October, about 50 Seventh-day Adventists came together in South Bend to recognize the formation of a church plant. Communion was celebrated, and it was wonderful to experience the unity and personal care displayed as the Michiana Missionary and South Bend All Nations groups came together to unite in God's work.

The new merged group wanted to ensure that a new name would reflect both of its roots. After considerable discussion, the name International Missionary Fellowship (IMF) was chosen. "The name illustrates the international flavor and diversity we want to experience, as well as the missionary spirit that permeates the group," said Throthur Thordarson, senior pastor, South Bend First Church.

Indiana Conference has developed a policy for planting churches that takes into account some of the realities and challenges new churches face. IMF is organized as a Branch Sabbath School under South Bend First Church, and depends on its mother church for guidance and structure.

"As we look to the future, IMF participants are eager to plan an evan-



Kennedy Njuguna (left) and Gladson Thumbalamoto will serve as volunteer pastors of the newly formed International Missionary Fellowship. With God's help, they plan to lead the new Branch Sabbath School congregation to company status and then eventually to a new church on the northwest side of South Bend.

gelistic meeting, and go door to door to invite friends to hear the great Gospel story," shared Thordarson.

Thordarson believes God brought the group to the current location. "One day as I was working at my desk in the church office, a stranger walked in, introduced himself as a trustee of a local community church, and asked if we had use for a church building on Saturdays. When I heard that it was located on Cleveland Road, right next to the main intersection with SR933, I knew God was leading," he recalls. Since then, a wonderful relationship has developed between the Community Congregational Church and a small Seventh-day Adventist church plant. The International Missionary Fellowship now meets in the Community Congregational Church at 19672 Cleveland Road in South Bend. "The Community Congregational Church has been very generous to us in leasing

the building to us for Sabbaths. We also have an office there and full use of facilities as needed," said Thordarson.

While the original church plants were started primarily with lay member involvement, two ordained pastors now have been asked to lead out in the merged church plant. Gladson Thumbalamoto and Kennedy Njuguna both have agreed to serve as volunteer pastors, leading the new congregation as they work toward becoming a company and eventually a new church on the northwest side of South Bend. "I look to the future with great anticipation, waiting to see what God will do as He continues His work of growing churches," stated Thordarson.

Throthur Thordarson, senior pastor, South Bend First Seventh-day Adventist Church, as shared with Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference



Kortnye V. Hurst

The fourth annual Heartland Health and Wellness Conference was held in Anderson, Ind., Sept. 15 and 16. An attendee samples Chef AJ's cuisine during a cooking session, "Whole Food Eating."

Heartland Health and Wellness Conference attended by community

Indiana—For the fourth year in a row, more than 200 attended the annual Heartland Health and Wellness Conference. This year, the conference was held Sept. 15 and 16 in Anderson. Ninety-five percent of attendees were estimated to be members of faith groups other than the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Indiana Healthy Choices, an Indiana Conference's health ministry led by founder

Susan Landess, often is able to draw an audience extending beyond Adventist members.

"We applied for funding from the Adventist Health System six years ago," Landess said. "The job description given me was, 'Go promote health.' We began by starting CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) Express programs across Indiana. With the upcoming addition of a program in New Albany, Indiana Healthy Choices will have started nine CHIP Express programs since receiving the AHS funding."

The CHIP program is celebrated for reversing the effects of heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, obesity and acid reflux.

"I came to the Wellness Conference last year," Loretta Sawaski said. "In just four weeks, my cholesterol went from 178 to 115. I lost 15 pounds. This year, I brought a girlfriend. I'm ready to get back into it."

Ronin St. James, a 34-year-old pediatric intensive care unit nurse at Riley Hospital, said, "It's hard to find

good research, or any research at all, on health. Nutritional education is missing from the medical field. As a nurse, my primary role is to educate my patients and their parents. Being here makes a difference in the care I can give them."

More than 600 people have participated in a CHIP Express program, and probably another 800 have attended the one- or two-day conferences.

One of Indiana's strongest CHIP programs is in Anderson where Landess and many of the Wellness Conference volunteers attend the Anderson Church. "The CHIP program has inevitably helped us build relationships with the community," said Terry Nennich, Anderson Church pastor. "Community outreach has been easier with churches of other denominations knowing us, and that we are a community-driven church. Many of them even have asked us to offer CHIP programs at their churches."

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference

Let's Move Day offers exercise opportunity in Indianapolis

Indiana—On the rainy morning of Sept. 25, under the theme, "Los Adventistas Dicen ¡SI!" (The Adventists Say YES!), the Indianapolis Metro Hispanic Adventist churches gathered at the North Westway Park in Indianapolis to participate in Let's Move Day, part of InStep for Life, an initiative of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists Health Ministries Department. Ninety-five members were present to support the incentive; together, they completed 290 miles of walking and running around the park.

Margarita Baez, the oldest participant at 69 years of age, walked three miles. "It was wonderful to be part of



Antonio Rosario

Members from the Indianapolis Metro churches gathered at North Westway Park in Indianapolis to participate in Let's Move Day. Together they walked or ran 290 miles around the park.

this group. We walk together through life even as Jesus walks with us through eternity!" Baez said.

"It was a beautiful experience," said Antonio Rosario, Indiana Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator. "The

people were excited, praising God, and motivated to do it over again."

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference, as told by Antonio Rosario, Hispanic ministries coordinator, Indiana Conference



Kortnye V. Hurst

Each carload paused with Chapel West members for prayer and a blessing as they departed for their afternoon adventure.

Operation Downpour blankets three zip codes with Good News

Indiana—On Sabbath, Sept. 24, more than 400 missionaries participated in Operation Downpour as they hit the streets in Indianapolis to blanket three zip codes with the Good News. Operation Downpour was an event parented by the Indianapolis Outreach Coalition.

“The IOC is an organization that creates a way ‘in’ to a big project. ... The committee is comprised of administrators, pastors from each church in the area, and laypersons who feel a burden to reach people in large cities. For us, that city is Indianapolis,” said Ron Kelly, Cicero Church pastor and a member of the Coalition. “The unified focus encouraged by this group allows us to be systematic as we steward the area in our backyard. It enables anybody who wants to participate to be involved in a way that is a fit for them,” Kelly said.

Members of the Chapel West Church, led by Steven Manoukian, pastor, gathered each week for nearly two months to define the event’s details which, on the big day, transformed the church parking lot into a drive-through headquarters. Drivers approaching Chapel West’s parking entrance were greeted by a volunteer wearing an orange crossing guard vest who directed them to proceed through three stations.

Volunteers at Station One, placed at the mouth of the parking lot, greeted new arrivals and asked for their registration. Station Two volunteers recorded each participating vehicle’s license tag and vehicle information. Here automobiles with open seats were filled with additional participants to make full carloads. Station Three volunteers charted each group’s territory on marked maps, handed out water, and provided material to give at each home. With a prayer and a blessing, the occupants of each car headed out on their afternoon mission.

According to Peula Polzer, project manager at Chapel West’s Mission Control, “We pre-packaged boxes, each with 50 bags. The bags held information about the following week’s prophesy seminar, a Steps to Christ and a flier about local events, such as ‘Financial Peace University,’ the ‘Five-Day Plan to Quit Smoking’ and a marriage seminar, ‘Love and Respect,’ each held at Chapel West.” Chapel West members occasionally teared up as their hearts thrilled to watch the Lord bless their efforts.

Randy Griffin, a volunteer from the Cicero Church, offered a book to one woman.

“No, I don’t want your book. I’m very happy with my Jesus,” she said. “Who are you with anyway?”

Griffin initially cringed at her strong response, but answered, “I’m helping the Chapel West Seventh-day Adventist Church today.”

“Oh, you’re an Adventist!” she exclaimed. “I love your health stuff.

I’ll take your book,” was her surprising answer.

The same afternoon a second group, organized by Antonio Rosario, Indiana Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, undertook a Spanish-speaking section of town. Afterward, the group returned to the Indianapolis Hispanic Church. “Members shared testimonies of the day’s events, sang songs and praised the Lord for His blessings,” Rosario said.

Following the “testimony party,” 300 people packed the sanctuary to hear Eddie Allen, Lake Region Conference vice president and Hispanic ministries coordinator, speak. “Many members brought people whom they had met on the street that day,” Rosario said. “Ten people came forward for the call, and three decided to be baptized.”

During their debriefing, members were so excited after seeing what the Holy Spirit accomplished that they suggested, “We want to schedule this event every month.”

The IOC is an intentional effort to fulfill the guidance of the Holy Spirit to reach the big cities for Christ. Leading the charge are Adventist laity,” said Van G. Hurst, Indiana Conference president. “Such a big, hairy, audacious goal as systematically covering the zip codes in the Indianapolis Metro has not been accomplished in recorded conference annuals. Failure is not an option. With God, success is expected.”

The IOC met Sunday, Nov. 6, to lay future plans and to debrief after their first two actions, the first of which was the two-thirds scale model of the Sanctuary presented at the Indiana State Fair. (See following story.)

Referring to the Coalition’s goal to cover all of Indianapolis, Kelly said, “It’s a huge task. Previously, there was no way to go at it. ... This is doable.” He continued, “My hope for the Coalition is that it will be a catalyst to bring joyful unity of working together for Jesus to all the churches in the Adventist Church.”

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference



Toni Minikus

The two-thirds scale model of the Sanctuary presented at the Indiana State Fair was both educational and spiritual.

The Sanctuary still speaks

Indiana—“Mommy, look! I see God!” one small girl exclaimed as she pointed to golden angel wings poised over the Ark of the Covenant. From Aug. 5–23, adults and children alike turned their attention to the beautiful display of God’s plan for their salvation at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis. A two-thirds scale model of the Holy Place and Most Holy Place was meticulously crafted by members of the Cicero Church.

During the fair, members from many Indiana Conference churches took turns tending the booth and answering questions from curious onlookers.

“What is this? A palm reading booth?” one onlooker asked.

“No, this is a model of the Sanctuary God told Moses to build some 3,000 years ago. Have you ever studied about it or why God told them to make it like this?”

“Look here! Too bad we didn’t have this for vacation Bible school last summer. How neat is that? They even have the pomegranates and bells on the priest’s robe,” an onlooker pointed out,

surprised by the minute intricacies and historically accurate details.

“Would you like a flier with some verses that show how all these things pointed forward to Jesus and the plan of salvation?” asked a booth attendant.

“Sure. Is this display available for rent?”

Onlookers were handed a sheet of paper with the diagram of the Sanctuary. The flier included verses which described how Jesus was foreshadowed by the articles of furniture, and a website where anyone could go to find a series of Sanctuary-specific Bible studies (see www.secretsofthesanctuary.com).

Another attendee said, “I know all about the sanctuary. I am a Jew!”

“Really? You could probably tell me all about it then!” said one booth spokesperson. “Here, this paper has a website on it that has some studies showing how the Sanctuary points forward to the Messiah.”

“Oh, thank you!” he exclaimed, “I will have to look this up when I get home.”

According to Toni Minikus, Cicero Church Bible worker, “There was a lot of interest from teachers and pastors of other churches to use the model for their own teaching purposes. The recent focus on rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem has rekindled an interest in studying the Sanctuary.”

“I am interested in the lessons on the Sanctuary. I homeschool my four children, and would like some materials to use in teaching my children the meaning of the Sanctuary like your people are presenting here.”

One older man pointed to the exhibit and said, “Hey! Look at that! It’s the Sanctuary from the Bible!”

“You recognized it! You must be a Bible student,” Minikus responded.

“Well, I don’t know the Bible as well as I should, but I recognized the Ark of the Covenant. That’s where they put the Ten Commandments.”

“Right! And all of the services in the Sanctuary showed the plan of salvation. But you probably know about this already.”

“I should. When I was a boy, I went with my grandmother to Sunday school every week. But that was a long time ago...,” and his voice faded off.

“Would you like to get back to studying the Bible?”

“Do they have classes for old people like me?” He started crying.

“You are never too old for God. He is eternal. I’m sure it would thrill Him to be close to you again. You could sign up to study with someone.”

“You have no idea what this means to me. God bless you guys.”

By the end of the fair, 28 people requested studies about the Sanctuary, 29 asked for studies on prophecy, 21 for small group Bible studies, 19 for depression recovery, 24 for cooking classes and 12 for stop-smoking information. And 41 people won a book or DVD about the Sanctuary from the drawing. Certainly, God designed this object lesson in gold and embroidery to appeal to people from Moses’ day through the end of time. The Sanctuary still speaks.

Kortnye V. Hurst, correspondent, Indiana Conference, as told by Toni Minikus, Bible worker, Cicero Church



Toni Minikus

Minute details of the Sanctuary drew Bible scholars and history buffs alike.

[NAD NEWS]

North American Division Year-End Meeting delegates sense the Holy Spirit's leading

The Executive Committee of the North American Division (NAD), the governing body of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America and Bermuda, met for its annual year-end meetings at the church headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, to cast vision and vote policy to advance the gospel.

Dan Jackson, president, set the stage for the meetings by identifying prayer as the most important work the committee had to do. He designated two young people, Krystal Wiliams and Faith Calaminos, to monitor the proceedings and call the assembly to prayer at any time it seemed prudent and appropriate. The morning had already begun with a 7:15 call to prayer, led by a NAD Prayer Ministries team, and prayer continued to be the focus when the meeting officially began at 8:00. Jackson prayed, "that the presence of the Holy Spirit will be so evident in these meetings that we will leave this place revived, praising God for His goodness, and more committed than ever to His mission within our territory and on planet Earth."

The theme of the president's report was "Collaboration," promoting the idea that God is the Great Collaborator: "Those who are called to responsible positions in the work of God often feel that they are carrying heavy burdens, when they may have the satisfaction of knowing that Jesus carries them all. We permit ourselves to feel altogether too much care, trouble and perplexity in the Lord's work. We need to trust Him, believe in Him, and go forward. ... The tireless vigilance of the heavenly messengers, their unceasing employment in their ministry in connection with the beings of earth, show us how God's hand is guiding the



Roger Dudley joins others in giving a thumbs-up to improved Adventist lifestyles.

wheel within a wheel" (*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Volume 7A, p. 1161).

Jackson offered that, "the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America is to reach our territory and the world with the distinctive, Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness," and stated five values that guide the work of the NAD: 1) revival and transformation; 2) education for discipleship; 3) alignment within the church; 4) community outreach and evangelism; and 5) healthy leadership management.

The president's team, in the first year since his election in 2010 at the General Conference Session in Atlanta, produced a strategic plan, a new media strategy and developed a ministerial department. In addition, Jackson participated in nine union constituency meetings and conducted a series of evangelistic meetings in Houston, Texas.

Jackson's collaborative team has identified the great need of our Division to intensify our outreach, and noted significant challenges to the future of NAD higher education, and considerable challenges to NAD K-12 education. They also recognized other needs: stabilize NAD finances; mobilize more of our lay

members; involve our young people more; and develop "champions" of social media and the effective use of media throughout the Division while strengthening our "legacy" media.

Agenda Items

The agenda for the year-end meetings included plans to: update the strategic planning focus; roll out a preliminary media strategy; respond to the General Conference request to adopt Guam-Micronesia into the NAD territory; address the E-60 policy on qualifications for conference presidents; launch the New York City evangelism initiative; determine a strategy for "The Great Hope" project of distributing copies and portions of the book, *The Great Controversy*; support the Alaska evangelism project — 2012 and the 2012 Hispanic "Youth Net"; and consider new prayer initiatives.

Before addressing some of the key agenda items, Jackson set the tone by saying, "If you feel convicted to say something, say it. If you have a burden for something, then you need to say so. Don't feel that because you are a layperson that you don't have a voice. When we are doing the business of the Church — all of us have a voice; all of us have a vote. We are using the Spirit of God, and need that



George Johnson

Krystal Williams and Faith Calaminos were chosen to call the assembly to prayer at anytime.

voice to speak. We need to operate with a certain culture of Christ-likeness.”

A climate of collaboration and Christian courtesy prevailed throughout the meetings, with Williams and Calaminos leading the assembly in various seasons of prayer at appropriate times to give thanks and praise, or to seek guidance and a spirit of humility and openness.

A number of delegates were surprised to learn of the request from the General Conference that Guam-Micronesia be included in the North American Division territory. After a report on the work there and the rationale for including a U.S. territory in the NAD, an action was taken to welcome the church in that area of the world into the NAD.

One of the items addressed in the agenda was the E-60 policy on qualifications for conference presidents. The current policy, voted at last year’s meeting, provides for the inclusion of ordained and commissioned ministers to serve as conference president, thus allowing for a number of workers holding credentials as a commissioned minister, such as treasurers, educators and healthcare administrators. Since a number of women in various roles are also commissioned ministers, the policy provides for their inclusion as well.

Included in last year’s actions was a request to the General Conference for a variance to its model. That request was denied by the Church’s Executive Committee at its recent Fall Council.

Jackson introduced the discussion by suggesting three possible responses: The action of the General Conference Executive Committee could simply be noted and move on to the next item on the agenda; or after discussion, the NAD’s current policy could be rescinded or reaffirmed.

In keeping with the tone and direction of the meetings, Jackson made an appeal: “The church is the apple of God’s eye. People around the world are interested in what happens here. But, at moments of change, there is some pain. No reformation occurs without pain. If there is some difference at the end of the day, how do we demonstrate that we are part of the Body of Christ?”

Jackson suggested that 30 minutes be allowed for discussion before receiving a motion. That time was extended to allow for more than two dozen speeches, most of which were in support of reaffirming the E-60 policy as previously voted. A number of delegates also spoke to the question of ordination and our under-

standing of its theology and tradition, with some speaking in favor of women’s ordination although that was not on the agenda. The discussion continued for nearly two hours and included a call to prayer by the two designated prayer leaders. After sufficient discussion, a motion was made to reaffirm the E-60 policy as voted the previous year, and vote was taken by secret ballot. The motion passed 161 to 62.

In response to the discussion regarding confusion on ordination, the delegates voted unanimously to participate in the process of studying the topic by establishing an NAD Biblical Research Committee as requested of each of the world’s Divisions by the World Church’s Executive Committee. That study is to be integrated into a comprehensive report to the 2014 Annual Council meeting to ascertain if any recommendations should be presented at the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas.

One item that introduced a major shift in thinking was the report of the Media Summit held in Ontario, Calif., in May of this year, and steps taken toward developing a comprehensive media strategy. There was much support to proceed with this collaborative effort, under the direction of Alvin Kibble, general vice president.

The meetings continued in a good spirit for the next few days, with many commenting on a sense that

God was leading His church. Van Hurst, president of the Indiana Conference, captured the sentiment of many: “There is a spiritual fervor in the air as God’s people arouse from their slumber. ... God is doing something spectacular, and we are rising to meet Him!”

For more information regarding departmental reports and to view the media video presentation, visit <http://herald.lakeunion.org>.



Gary Burns, communication director, Lake Union Conference

Announcements

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

Andrews University

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

Jan. 28, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Carla Trynchuk & Chi Yong Yun: Andrews University Department of Music professors Carla Trynchuk and Chi Yong Yun perform together in an evening of violin and piano pieces. A graduate of the Juilliard School, Trynchuk is the director of the string program at Andrews University. Yun is the director of piano studies, and also is pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Mar. 10, 2012, 8:00 p.m., Ernie Haase & Signature Sound: Gospel music's Grammy-nominated, Dove Award-winning quartet brings 21st-century ideas combined with the timeless quality of great quartets from the 1950s to take an unconventional approach to joyfully communicating God's Word. You can count on a concert experience of rich music that is both meaningful and thoroughly entertaining. Founder Ernie Haase has a history with the Cathedral Quartet. In 2003, he formed a group of like-minded men who share his love for God and great harmonies. Ernie, Devin McGlamery, Doug Anderson and Ian Owens are Ernie Haase & Signature Sound.

Apr. 15, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Canadian Brass: Boasting an international reputation as one of the most popular brass ensembles, Canadian Brass has four decades under their belt. With a discography of more than 90 albums and an extensive worldwide touring schedule, Canadian Brass is an important pioneer in bringing brass music to mass audiences everywhere. Current members include: founding member Chuck Daellenbach, tuba; Christopher Colletti and Brandon Ridenour, trumpets; Keith Dyrda, trombone; and Eric Reed, horn. With their fun-loving charisma,

Canadian Brass brings genres of all types together — Big Band, Broadway, Renaissance and Jazz to name just a few. Friends Chuck Daellenbach and Gene Watts formed a brass quintet in 1970, which developed with new repertoire, creativity and energy. Since then, Canadian Brass continues to thrill audiences around the world, and they don't look like they are letting up anytime soon!

Indiana

All-night Prayer Meeting will be held at the Indiana Conference office in Carmel on **Dec. 10**. For more information, please visit www.indysda.org/events/12761 or RSVP at 317-844-6201.

Winter Ski Fest & Polar Bear Camp-out: The weekend of **Feb. 10-12, 2012**, at Timber Ridge Camp, in Spencer, will be filled with friends, snow and ministry! If camping on Pathfinder Hill in Feb. sends shivers up your spine, then warm cabins are available for you to stay in. In addition to a spectacular, spiritual program through the weekend, you can ski and snowboard all day Fri. and Sun. Contact Trish Thompson for more information at youth@indysda.org or 317-844-6201.

Indiana Youth Rally will be held **Feb. 17-18, 2012**. The rally will be at Indiana Academy on Fri. night and Indianapolis Junior Academy all day Sabbath. This annual event will feature guest speaker Willy Ramos, known as the "ghetto

preacher," Sabbath afternoon breakout sessions, singing, a Sat. night gymnastic program, and lots of time to meet old and new friends. In previous years the rally consistently had 500 in attendance, so make your plans to attend!

Indiana Academy Day will be held **Mar. 25, 2012**, at the academy in Cicero. Please contact Allan Smith, IA recruiter, for more details at 317-517-0543 or alsmith317@gmail.com.

Indiana Academy Music Festival in Cicero will be **Mar. 29-31, 2012**. For more information, contact Philip Byrd, IA music teacher, at 317-984-3575, ext. 236, or byrd@srcq.org.

Lake Union

Offerings

Dec. 3 Local Church Budget

Dec. 10 Inner City

Dec. 17 Local Church Budget

Dec. 24 Local Conference Advance

Dec. 31 NAD Outreach Project

Special Days

Dec. 3 Bible Sabbath

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

Dec. 24 North American Division

Michigan

Father-Son/Big Brother-Buddy Retreat at Camp Au Sable in Grayling, Mich., will be held **Jan. 27-29, 2012**. Fee includes cabin lodging, meals and on-site recreation. Register online at www.campausable.org or call 517-316-1570 for more information. Registration deadline is Jan. 23.

North American Division

Breath of Life Ministries Christmas Special: This **December**, Breath of Life Ministries will air a Christmas special on most

NBC affiliates titled, "The Present: Unwrapping the Gift of Christmas." Special guest artists include Grammy-award winning *a cappella* group, TAKE 6; Jennifer La Mountain, vocalist; and Jaime Jorge, violinist. Carlton P. Byrd, speaker/director of the Breath of Life telecast, will be featured. The special holiday program was filmed live at the Atlanta Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church. For a list of stations and air dates, go to www.breathoflife.tv or call 805-955-7681.

Recharge Your Prayer Life to experience time in God's presence, **Event 1:** Plan now for a special, life-changing day of prayer for your church on NAD Day of Prayer, **Jan. 7, 2012**. For the last 16 years, Seventh-day Adventist churches across North America joined hearts on the first Sabbath of each new year — praying for our countries, our communities, our churches and our own needy hearts. Join with your family across the Division at this crucial time in our history. Let's lay plans for a weekend of united and powerful prayer. For more information and resources, go to www.nadprayerministries.org.

Recharge Your Prayer Life to experience time in God's presence, **Event 2:** NAD Prayer Summit, **Jan. 12-15, 2012**, in beautiful Innisbrook, Fla. You'll be challenged and equipped to go deeper in His will. Speakers include: Dan Jackson, José Rojas, Jonathon Henderson, Pavel Goia and Jim Moon. Prayer and worship leaders are: Gary Burns, Karen Martell, Kelly Veilleux and Marion Parson. Go to www.plusline.org/events.php to register or call 1-800-SDAPLUS (732-7587). Ask if you qualify for a partial or full scholarship.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Dec 2	Dec 9	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30	Jan 6
Berrien Springs, Mich.	5:16	5:14	5:16	5:19	5:23	5:29
Chicago, Ill.	4:20	4:20	4:20	4:23	4:28	4:34
Detroit, Mich.	5:01	5:00	5:01	5:04	5:08	5:14
Indianapolis, Ind.	5:21	5:20	5:21	5:24	5:28	5:34
La Crosse, Wis.	4:29	4:28	4:28	4:31	4:36	4:42
Lansing, Mich.	5:05	5:04	5:05	5:08	5:13	5:19
Madison, Wis.	4:24	4:23	4:23	4:26	4:31	4:37
Springfield, Ill.	4:35	4:34	4:35	4:38	4:42	4:48

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

Weddings

Karen Bessey and Kyle Lavelle were married July 17, 2011, in Flint, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Jeff Akenberger.

Karen is the daughter of Darell and Darlene Bessey of Flushing, Mich., and Kyle is the son of Michael Lavelle of Mt. Horeb, Wis., and Kathleen West of Eaton Rapids, Mich.

The Lavelles are making their home in Grand Blanc, Mich.

Obituaries

ALDRICH, Jack B., age 88; born Jan. 2, 1923, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died Mar. 22, 2011, in Union City, Mich. He was a member of the Burlington (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce; son, Harold; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Joel Nephew, and interment was in Burlington Cemetery.

DEBOLT, Wanda M. (Nicholson), age 84; born July 9, 1927, in Bedford, Ind.; died Aug. 12, 2011, in Bedford. She was a member of the Bedford Church.

Survivors include her sister, Betty J. Bowden.

Memorial services were conducted by local elder Brad Conner, with private inurnment.

GOWELL, Merlin R., age 82; born Oct. 24, 1928, in Muskegon, Mich.; died July 22, 2011, in Muskegon. He was a member of the Muskegon Church.

Survivors include his son, Kenneth; daughter, Cynthia Burkall; brothers, Clinton and Harold; sister, Wilda Beckley; and five grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Ryan Counsell and Chaplain Jan Johnson, and interment was in Mona View Cemetery, Muskegon.

GRUNDY, Charlotte R. (Mueller) Salzieder, age 81; born Mar. 13, 1930, in Oshkosh, Wis.; died Apr. 2, 2011, in Oshkosh. She was a member of the Fox Valley Church, Neenah, Wis.

Survivors include her husband, G. Philip; son, Gary M. Salzieder; stepson, Philip Grundy; daughter, Vicki L. (Salzieder) Foster; stepdaughters, Mary Grundy and Joan (Grundy) Tyson; sister, Gertrude Waters; four grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Paul Cinquemani, and inurnment was in Lake View Cemetery, Oshkosh.

JOHNSON, Marilyn F. (Middaugh), age 71; born May 25, 1940, in Detroit, Mich.; died Apr. 16, 2011, in Marshall, Mich. She was a member of the Burlington (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Frank; daughters, Tammy Hamlin, Teresa Moore, and Tina Aldrich; sister, Denise Miller; 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Joel Nephew, and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Girard, Mich.

JOHNSON, Mildred E. (Magray), age 99; born Aug. 18, 1911, in Middle Inlet, Wis.; died May 17, 2011, in St. Joseph, Mich. She was a member of the St. Joseph Church.

Survivors include her son, Wayne E.; sisters, Rachel Keiser and Thelma Shepard; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bruce Hayward, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs, Mich.

KNOTT, Nancy C. (Rosenboom), age 68; born June 10, 1943, in Keokuk, Iowa; died Aug. 23, 2011, in South Bend, Ind. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Tom; son, Stephen; daughters, Sonja Whittredge and Tammy Smart; brother, Tim Rosenboom; sister-in-law, Rebecca Rosenboom; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Arne Swanson, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

LEAVITT, Esther I. (Witty), age 90; born Oct. 28, 1920, in Rhodes, Mich.; died Sept. 13, 2011, in Davison, Mich. She was a member of the First Flint (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Curtis; sons, Arthur and Matthew; daughters, Patsy Nichols, Suzanne Leveque and June Vaught; brother, Lewis Ehlers; many grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Arthur Leavitt, with private inurnment.

LOURASH, James V., age 75; born Oct. 21, 1935, in Decatur, Ill.; died Aug. 8, 2011, in Decatur. He was a member of the Decatur Sunnyside Church.

Survivors include his wife, Marcella K. (Dodd); son, Randall J.; stepsons, Scott and Jim Wilkins; daughters, Crystal Lourash, LaDonna Henderson and Becky Williams; sister, Marjorie Vawter; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Larry Clonch, and interment was in Macon Cty. Memorial Park Cemetery, Harristown, Ill.

MOLL, Grethel M. (Dunlap), age 95; born May 29, 1915, in Fulton Cty., Ind.; died Apr. 14, 2011, in Midland, Mich. She was a member of the Midland Church.

Survivors include her sons, Norman and David; daughter, Nancy Gillette; sister, Freda Swensen; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Darryl Bentley, and interment was in Homer Twp. (Mich.) Cemetery.

PIERCE, Evelyn L. (Kassen), age 93; born Sept. 20, 1917, in Milwaukee, Wis.; died Feb. 13, 2011, in Omro, Wis. She was a member of the Fox Valley Church, Neenah, Wis.

Survivors include her son, Edward; daughters, Lila Dettlaff, Karen Sotala and Susan Simons; sister, Marjorie Mikalowski; 11 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Samuel Garbi, and interment was in Westfield (Wis.) East Cemetery.

PIERCE, Lucille (Lanaville), age 99; born Oct. 3, 1911, in Wilson, Mich.; died Apr. 17, 2011, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Wilson Church.

Survivors include her son, Jim; daughters, Linda Pellandini and Lucille Crowe; eight grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors George Dronen and Paul Pellandini, and interment was in Wilson Church Cemetery.

VINEYARD, Francis (Moake), age 85; born Aug. 11, 1926, in West Frankfort, Ill.; died Aug. 26, 2011, in Belleville, Ill. She was a member of the Oakhill Church, Caseyville, Ill.

Survivors include her husband, Houston; sons, George, Bill, Harold and Alan; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dale J. Barnhurst, with private inurnment.

WHITE, Dorothy (Sheddan) Beardsley Culbert, age 97; born Feb. 17, 1914, in Jacksonville, Fla.; died Aug. 17, 2011, in Reed City, Mich. She was a member of the Reed City Church.

Survivors include her husband, H. Hampton; son, Eldred "Larry" Beardsley; stepsons, W. Howard, Philip H. and Stephen H. White; daughters, Laura B. Long, Donna B. Stilson and Ellen B. Murdick; stepdaughter, Beverly Culbert; brother, John "Jack" Sheddan; five grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Ronald Mills, and inurnment was in Oak Hill Cemetery, Holly, Mich.

WRAY, Betty Jo (Morton), age 71; born Sept. 27, 1939, in Huntington, W.Va.; died Sept. 15, 2011, in Grand Blanc, Mich. She was a member of the South Flint Church, Burton, Mich.

Survivors include her son, Ronald; daughter, Connie Shoemaker; brother, Gene Watts; sister, Linda Person; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Cecil Christo, with private inurnment in Flint, Mich.

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$32 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$43 per insertion for all others. A form is available at www.LakeUnionHerald.org for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at www.LakeUnionHerald.org.

Miscellaneous

REBUILD, REFRESH, AND REVIVE at Home for Health Lifestyle Center. Hands-on health experience, great for anyone desiring a lasting improvement in health and deeper Christian walk. Also work with cancer, diabetes, HBP. Sessions last 1-3 weeks, are quality, affordable and family-friendly. For more information, visit www.HomeforHealth.net or call 606-663-6671.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS MASTER'S DEGREES in business, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through online and on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies.

DONATE YOUR CAR AND YOUR MONEY GOES FAR! Support Adventist Christian education at Great Lakes Adventist Academy by donating your 2000 or newer running automobile. Once vehicle is sold, you will receive a tax donation. For more information, contact Kassie Norcross at 989-427-2462.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY OFFERS MBA ONLINE. Quality and convenient program offered at reduced tuition. Accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education. For more information, contact mba-info@andrews.edu.

SPONSOR A CHILD! \$30 a month can send a child in India to an Adventist school. It pays for tuition, housing,

food, clothes and medical. Adventist Child India is an official project of Southern Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists. For more information, call 303-530-6655; email childcare@sud-adventist.org; or visit www.acichild.com.

CAREGIVER NEEDED for two senior ladies in their own home. Will need you to take us to doctor appointments in our own vehicle. Country living; church and city close. For more information, call 269-580-0801 or 269-945-4867.

WANTED TO BUY 1-10,000 AND FOR SALE: Used Adventist books, cookbooks, songbooks, school books, old catalogs of Adventist books, Uncle Dan and Aunt Sue tapes, Sabbath games. For more information, call John at 269-781-6379.

MINIVAN NEEDED: Do you have a wheelchair-accessible minivan you no longer need? Would you be willing to donate it to a family in need? We have a seven-year-old girl in our church who has cerebral palsy. She is being raised by her grandparents, and they are in need of a van to transport her. If you can help, please contact Tony at 989-255-9126 or anthonytkroll@yahoo.com.

MIDWEST CENTER OF EVANGELISM now offers Bible worker/medical missionary certification training online! Learn how to become an effective soul winner like Jesus. This online training program allows you to stay where you are and, at the same time, be

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Recharge Your Prayer Life

Two Events to Experience Time in God's Presence

Tune My Heart

NAD Day of Prayer • January 7, 2012

Plan now for a special, life-changing day of prayer for your church

Options:

- Ⓞ Begin on Friday evening, January 6
- Ⓞ Add the valuable discipline of some form of fasting

For the last 16 years Seventh-day Adventist churches across North America have joined hearts on the first Sabbath of each new year—praying for our countries, our communities, our churches, and our own needy hearts. Join with your family across the Division at this crucial time in our history. Let's lay plans for a weekend of united and powerful prayer.

For more information and resources go to www.nadprayerministries.org.

Revolution on Our Knees

NAD Prayer Summit • January 12-15, 2012 • Beautiful Innisbrook, Florida

- Ⓞ Ask God to take away any mediocrity and to take you to a deeper level of faith and blessing.
- Ⓞ You'll be challenged and equipped to go deeper in His will.

Go to www.plusline.org/events.php to register or call 1-800-SDAPLUS (732-7587). Ask if you qualify for a partial or full scholarship.

Speakers:



Dan Jackson



Jose Rojas



Jonathon
Henderson



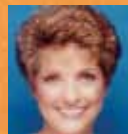
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Employment

IT IS WRITTEN TELEVISION (Simi Valley, Calif.) seeks an associate producer for the production of English and Spanish broadcast programs. Requirements: Broadcast level production experience, extensive video camera experience, ability to shoot and record on location as a single-person crew. Frequent travel. Bilingual preferred. For a complete job description and application, email production@iiv.org.

UNION COLLEGE in Lincoln, Neb., is receiving applications for filling the office of president. Qualifications required include an earned doctoral degree in a recognized academic discipline. Significant leadership experience in academic circles is greatly desired, and a demonstrated collaborative leadership style also will be expected. Applicants should submit a detailed résumé to Thomas Lemon, President, Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, P.O. Box 6128, Lincoln, NE 68506.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for full-time faculty positions in Business, English and History; and contract faculty in many areas. For more information and application process, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. All positions will remain open until filled.

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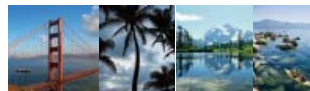
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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Keeping Out the Riffraff

BY GARY BURNS



When we crossed the border into North Dakota, the first bumper sticker we saw declared: "40 below keeps out the riffraff." I love my Dakota family and the land of my roots. In fact, I prefer a crisp, sunny, blue sky winter day to the bone-chillin' gray of our lake-affected fruit belt. But any culture that does not welcome and care for the riffraff, a.k.a. "the least of these," does not reflect the culture of Heaven; and Seventh-day Adventists, of all people, should be known for caring for those who cannot care for themselves. According to Jesus, that's what sets His people apart.

"Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was

thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me" (Matthew 25:34-36 NKJV).

The people of the Sabbath are those who "loose the bonds of wickedness ... undo the heavy burdens ... let the oppressed go free, and ... break every yoke." They, "share [their] bread with the hungry ... and bring to [their] house the poor who are cast out; when [they] see the naked, [they] cover him" (Isaiah 58:6, 7 NKJV).

People who live in partnership with God do much by giving of their resources, and even more by giving of themselves.

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

Fired Up! Ready to Go!

BY KAYLA HUGHES

Leadership — what does that mean? According to a Merriam-Webster dictionary, leadership is the office of a leader, the capacity to lead. The Bible says, “If it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully” (Romans 12:8 NIV). Leadership requires hard work. To me, leadership is being capable of leading people in the right direction, with a positive spirit. A leader should be just, respectful, sincerely spiritual and intelligent.

Lake Union’s Secondary Leadership Camp was a very spiritual experience for me. I didn’t just learn new aspects of leadership, but also learned new things about myself. I’ve always seen myself as an anti-social person. I don’t understand how things changed while being at leadership camp, but I found myself talking and laughing with people — people I didn’t even know from different schools, states and backgrounds. It was beneficial to interact with people from different cultures.

There were many different leadership sessions. The one I attended was for junior and senior class officers, which required socializing and meeting new people. There were many exciting activities about working together and explaining what leadership means to us. We had activities where we had to use the Bible, which was great because it demonstrated that there is no better answer than that which comes from God. The activities showed the most important qualities in leadership, such as working together and communicating with others.

Friday night was a very emotional and spiritual time.



We had an agape feast and prayed together. During this bonding experience, I felt as though it was only God and me. For the first time, I felt as though I had a closer relationship with God. I have had moments when I felt like God had given up on me and I was alone, but I realized that other people have had the same moments. No matter how much we may feel that way, God will never give up on us. After all, He is the One who sent His only begotten Son to die for our sins.

The most important part of Leadership Camp to me was being in a spiritual atmosphere, being able to connect,

and experiencing a moment when I felt closer with God. I learned that being a leader is not just about having special traits, skills or knowledge, but having a positive Christian spirit and a closer walk with God. Leadership Camp inspired me to be a better leader. Now I’m fired up, ready to go, and ready to lead!

Antoinette Michaela “Kayla” Hughes, 16, is a junior at Peterson-Warren Academy in Inkster, Michigan. She is a member of the Ecorse Seventh-day Adventist Church.

God Sends His Angels

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

“God works in a lot of different ways!” says Aljandro “Alex” Gaytan, a college freshman. Alex participated in his first mission trip in 2010 when he was a senior at Andrews Academy. Forty students and staff built a church in Tuxtla, Mexico. Alex prayed for an incredible experience, and God answered, “Yes.”



Alex Gaytan

The group flew from Chicago to Mexico City the morning of their trip. While waiting for their flight to Tuxtla, one student realized the bag with both her passport and visa was lost. Alex and his mother were quickly put in charge of the situation because of their fluency in Spanish. With no time to spare, the three searched the airport for help.

“We searched all over the place. It was a big mess,” says Alex. “Fifteen minutes after our flight was supposed to leave, my mom told me to run to the gate and stop the plane. I didn’t want to leave her, but she kept pushing me to go. I finally went.”

Alex ran as fast as he could, praying out loud for a miracle. When he reached the gate, however, the official took his ticket and hurried him through. Wondering why God wasn’t helping, he slowly walked towards the plane and prayed the others would make it on time.

“Where have you been?” someone asked. Alex looked up, realizing he’d bumped into a man on the ramp.

“Alejandro, just calm down. It’s okay,” he said.

Confused and upset, Alex replied, “No, it’s not okay! My mom...”

The man smiled, seeming to understand. “Alejandro, I am the pilot of this plane. I promise I won’t leave until they get on. Go.”

Confused, Alex walked to his seat. He wondered what had just happened and how the man knew his name and situation. To his relief, his mom and friend got on the plane minutes later. Alex thanked God for the man’s understanding and help.

When they landed in Tuxtla, Alex searched for the pilot to thank him. He asked some attendants if they knew where he was. Confused, they claimed to know no one of his description, and said the man simply didn’t exist.

Alex believes God sent an angel that day. The experience strengthened his faith and ignited his passion for mission work. He currently serves on his church’s Social Events Committee, and is excited to go wherever God leads him next.

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

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