Lake Union Herald

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Reaching His Kids
Summer Camp and Camp Meeting
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In this issue...

The children of Israel were directed to gather in Jerusalem three times a year for the appointed services at the temple. Since the cross and the tearing of the veil in the earthly temple, our worship is directed to the heavenly where Christ now intercedes on our behalf. But it’s still a good idea for God’s people to gather together, reflect on His goodness and mercy, take personal spiritual inventory, and make things right with God and one another. We call that camp meeting and summer camp.

Gary Burns, Editor

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Why Church?

Have you considered the purpose of your local church? Why does it exist? If your church ceased to exist, would it make a difference in God’s eternal plan? Would it make a difference to your community?

The benefits of a local church are numerous. It can provide an opportunity for corporate worship and prayer, build spiritual community and preserve meaningful traditions. All these are important, and many members are content to stop right there. But what if the Lord Jesus was physically present to lead a strategic planning session at your next church business meeting? What directions would He give for what the church should be doing in the immediate future? I believe He might take us directly to His focus: our mission.

Christ’s primary mission was to secure our salvation. He left Heaven, emptied Himself to become human, took the risks, bore the pain, endured separation from His Father to atone for our sin and conclusively settle the Great Controversy. Throughout His life, Christ revealed the character of our Father as He constantly reached out to those around Him. He was externally focused on meeting the needs of people. And it didn’t stop at the healing of physical ailments; it included forgiveness, hope and an invitation for a more abundant life with the Father.

I have no doubt that if our Lord led any local church in a strategic planning session, He would point, focus, lead and direct us into an all-encompassing culture of serving those around us. That service might include words like redeeming, reclaiming and retaining — bringing people to Christ, engaging those who had slipped away from a relationship with God, and discipling everyone in service.

Our evangelism and community service activities would follow Christ’s example — serving people at the root of their needs and touching their hearts in individual ways that would reach them. Christ’s strategic plan was not an attempt to impose an established ministry or program onto people’s lives, but to carefully determine personal needs, understand the avenues into the soul, and lovingly serve them. Ironically, both the religious and those not so religious were among those attracted to Him, and gratefully accepted His invitation.

Christ has promised to be with us, to lead our church business meetings through the extraordinary Helper of the Holy Spirit. And we can be assured that His will for His church always will be primarily about mission. Here are some simple suggestions:

• Before conducting church business, begin each meeting with an hour of prayer to seek God’s guidance for mission in His Word.
• Always make mission the primary agenda item.
• Bring personal testimonies about mission into the worship hour.
• Keep an up-to-date interest list that includes those outside the church family, those who formerly were active in the church, and youth who are growing in Christ.
• Pray consistently for those on the interest list.
• Follow the example of a growing number of churches where Sabbath school classes give significant focus on outreach.
• Assess the needs of your local community, and bring those needs before God in prayer.
• Be ready to respond when God opens doors for outreach.
• Bring boatloads of love into the climate of your church, and illuminate the cringe factors that keep some churches from reaching and keeping those who are seeking God.

As my wife, Barbara, and I visit various churches, those that are alive with mission typically have several leaders who love God, have His love for people, and are not reluctant to allow the Holy Spirit to lead.
Poor Teacher Jean

Wisdom that comes from above is first of all pure. Then it is peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good deeds, impartial, and sincere.
—James 3:17 GW

BY CINDY R. CHAMBERLIN

She wasn’t the slickest, most accomplished or even the best. She didn’t stand out in a crowd, and she had no sense of fashion. She was Teacher Jean, my Sabbath school teacher.

Every Sabbath morning, my best friend, Jimmy, and I sat in a tiny classroom, on little white chairs, in front of a faded felt board with star-stickered, memory-verse charts staring down upon us. Teacher Jean sat in front of us on a large folding chair with a brown bag or sandbox for illustration. She had no idea she should be entertaining us with fancy puppeteering or animated videos, or that she should have glossy kits, four-color posters, glittery stickers, helium balloons, party themes and a band. So there we were, week after week, in a media-impoverished classroom with absolutely nothing to do but listen.

As she told us about Jesus, Teacher Jean pulled out, from the brown bag, a large picture-book with sketches of witchdoctors from Africa, snakes crawling through India, and brave missionaries abandoning home and hearth to enter heathen lands. And as she did, Teacher Jean sang, “One little missionary standing all alone, one went away and then there were none. Missionary, missionary, good-bye...” As we sang, Jimmy and I felt sorry for the little missionary and vowed someday to get married, travel by boat and join the little missionary faraway. It seems Teacher Jean knew very little about corporate ladders, securing prime real estate, or putting down roots in a community while carving out social stability. Poor Teacher Jean...

Every Sabbath, Teacher Jean passed around a great wicker basket. Jimmy and I saved all week to be able to pile as many of our earthly dimes from our piggybanks, birthday monies and allowances into the great basket. As we did so, we sang, “I’m glad I brought my offering. I’m glad I brought my offering...” Teacher Jean praised us happily. Later, Jimmy and I realized we shouldn’t be piling as many dimes into the great wicker basket. Over time, we learned to be much more sophisticated and, instead, placed our dimes into 401Ks, life insurance accounts, hedge funds and savings for our children’s college expenses. I really don’t believe Teacher Jean had ever heard the words “profit margin” or the term “get ahead.” Poor Teacher Jean...

When Teacher Jean tried to put on a vacation Bible school, by today’s standards it was a public disaster. Non-apologetic for her beliefs and not having read how to appease and preach to modern listeners, she held no focus groups, assigned no subcommittees, ascertained no demand, and conducted no post surveys to gauge her effectiveness. Teacher Jean didn’t even know who her target audience was but, simply, went out begging everyone within a 50-mile radius to come. Poor Teacher Jean...

We sang off-pitch, loud and without a piano. We baked bread for craft time (a non-age-appropriate activity). We ate non-organic, non-genetically modified fruit. We made...
She didn’t stand out in a crowd, and she had no sense of fashion. She was Teacher Jean, my Sabbath school teacher.

cardboard harps with tacky glitter. We put up felts on a green board (the original green screen). For recess, we collected leaves. At the end of vacation Bible school, we only had stickered charts (no DVDs) to give our parents. We didn’t understand the entire event lacked class. Poor Teacher Jean...

Both hermeneutic symbolism and exegetical skill escaping her, Teacher Jean couldn’t separate New Testament from Old Testament, Greek from Hebrew studies. Teacher Jean took the whole Bible as it read: text by text, line by line. Jimmy and I followed: “The B-I-B-L-E! Yes, that’s the book for me. I’ll stand alone on the Word of God...” If Teacher Jean had told us we might not walk streets of gold but possibly evolve and transcend to reach a higher level of consciousness, Jimmy and I would have cried and ripped the cardboard, glitter-be-decked crowns right off our heads. If Teacher Jean had said perhaps Heaven was a personal nirvana or just a better state of consciousness, our little hearts, set on glittering mansions and living above with the lion and the lamb while picnicking forever, would have quit beating.

Teacher Jean didn’t understand about self-expression, the need for us to learn at our own pace or to learn the “truths” within us as they became self-relevant or that others had their own light and to share ours might be seen as superiority. Not knowing we should be apologetics, we honestly believed we could and should “be a sunbeam for Jesus” (words to another song she taught us). Teacher Jean didn’t know we needed to be authentically working through our inner fears, angers, self-truths and labyrinths of energy before helping others. So, we generally thought we could be small rays of hope in a darkened world, holding non-hypoallergenic candles while singing. “This little light of mine...” and “Brighten the corner, where you are...” Poor Teacher Jean...

Teacher Jean completely misunderstood heathenism or “multiple paths to light” or the “spirituality within.” The values of pluralism, multitheism and serving any other deities besides the living God were far removed from our little Sabbath school. And, in this “unenlightened age,” being what it was, even the term “heathen” didn’t strike Teacher Jean as potentially offensive. She repeated the term often and with much passion. Poor Teacher Jean...

Well, Jimmy and I grew up, and have since read many books and learned many sophisticated theories. We’ve learned theories about those theories, and each theory is more exhausting than the next. Jimmy became a CEO of a large company. We had 1.5 children and held more than three mortgages between us (but not at the same time). And Teacher Jean? Well, the older we get the more we’ve come to see Teacher Jean as, well... We see poor Teacher Jean as the wealthiest woman alive! Wealthy, wealthy Teacher Jean...

Cindy R. Chamberlin is the communication director of the Illinois Conference.
A young woman, in her first year of marriage, recently told me of a dilemma she faces at lunchtime at her place of employment. During breaks and while eating lunch, her coworkers discuss their spouses in less-than-respectful ways. They joke and share negative things about their husbands and even their children. Becoming more and more uncomfortable with this kind of conversation, she admits it has actually shaken her faith in her own husband and their marriage. I suggest that these women are venting their frustrations in a “safe place” and are breaking what Ellen identified as a sacred circle.

Interestingly, Ellen wrote of the sacred circle many years earlier. In a compilation of counsels given to Adventist families throughout Ellen’s years of ministry, titled The Adventist Home, the chapter “A Sacred Circle” contains excerpts from 11 manuscripts and letters, dating back to the mid-1880s. In a letter written in June 1863, from Otsego, Michigan, Ellen shared her concern for Brother Day who was overly involved with a woman, Sister Johnson, who eventually divorced her husband. Ellen’s counsel is clear: “You moved unwisely in interesting yourself so much. ... You were stepping over that sacred circle which should debar you from the family of Sister Johnson, and preserve you exclusively to your own family.” Her counsel is clear about the woman as well, stating that she “had no right to enlist your sympathy as she has. She is more at fault than yourself in going to you with her family troubles” (Manuscript #1263).

I invite you to examine both sides of this sacred circle. One is guiding your own family, saving your heart for your spouse, not involving yourself in harmless joking or complaining at the expense of your spouse or other family members. The other side is not getting involved in the troubles of others when you are not part of the problem or the solution. It’s really a simple equation. You are either part of the problem or solution, or you are not. It’s not complicated! Sadly, some use the concept of the sacred circle to build their case, believing that all marital problems should stay within the bounds of the marriage, and that seeking any type of assistance is wrong. This is unfortunate, since there are many appropriate ways to seek counsel.

I invite you to set some time aside to read Ellen’s counsel from the two sources mentioned. I was reminded, once again, how powerfully she captured important family issues and how her counsel is as relevant to us today as it was more than 100 years ago.

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

Plant-based milks should be fortified with calcium, vitamins D and B12.

Popular Alternatives

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

While cow milk sales have gently fallen during the past two decades, there has been a growing interest in choosing tasty, alternative beverages to cow milk. Various reasons guide such choices. These include concerns about lactose intolerance (35–50 million Americans are thought to be lactose intolerant, including 9 out of every 10 Asian Americans), allergies to dairy, the antibiotics and growth hormones given to cows, and a desire to seek foods that are lower in saturated fat. For some people, it is a matter of making a plant-based choice.

The environmental impact of beverages is also a consumer concern. Plant-based beverages have a smaller carbon footprint than dairy milk. The production and packaging of cow milk is associated with 2.5 times the greenhouse gas emissions than that of soy milk production and packaging. In addition, a gallon of cow milk requires four times more water to produce than a gallon of soy, almond or rice milk. Furthermore, many of the plant beverages are organic and are listed as “GM free” (genetically modified free).

Total retail sales of soy, almond, rice and other plant milks reached $1.22 billion in 2011. Last year, soy milk accounted for 69 percent of the dairy alternative market, almond milk 21 percent, rice milk 7 percent, and coconut milk 3 percent. The sale of dairy alternatives is expected to continue significant growth during the next five years. Each one of these beverages has its own distinctive flavor, and the nutritional profile varies.

The dairy alternatives can be used on cereal or in your favorite recipe, or for making popular smoothies. Because some consumers have been influenced by the unwarranted negative press about soy, they have switched to almond milk as a tasty, healthy and nutritious alternative. The market for almond milk is presently growing at an impressive 50 percent.

The fortified beverages are often touted for their nutritional advantages, having less saturated fat (except coconut milk), lower calories (some almond milks have 25 percent fewer calories than dairy skim milk), zero cholesterol, no high fructose corn syrup, and higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids. One variety of Silk actually has 32 mg of the omega-3 fatty acid (DHA) required for brain function. Soy is also recommended as a heart-healthy choice due to its content of health-promoting isoflavones. In selecting a plant beverage, choose one that contains 7 or less grams of sugar per serving. While soy beverages contain a good 7 grams of protein per cup, the almond, rice and coconut beverages contain a mere 1 gram of protein per cup.

A plant-based beverage should not be used for infant feeding. The beverage should provide at least 25–30 percent of the recommended daily value (%DV) of vitamin B12, vitamin D and calcium, nutrients which may be hard to get in a vegetarian diet without using dairy. Those that are not fortified as such should not be used for growing children. Home-made soy milk also lacks the fortification necessary for it to be considered a nutritious beverage.

Winston J. Craig, Ph.D., RD, is chair of the Department of Nutrition at Andrews University.
"Not only is the growth of Christ’s kingdom illustrated by the parable of the mustard seed, but in every stage of its growth the experience represented in the parable is repeated. For His church in every generation God has a special truth and a special work. The truth that is hid from the worldly-wise and prudent is revealed to the child-like and humble. It calls for self-sacrifice. It has battles to fight and victories to win.

“In this last generation the parable of the mustard seed is to reach a signal and triumphant fulfillment. The little seed will become a tree. The last message of warning and mercy is to go to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” [see Revelation 14:6–14 NKJV] (Christ's Object Lessons, p. 79, adapted).

I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen....” And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues” (Revelation 18:1, 4, 5 NKJV).

“The Lord calls for every talent and ability to be put to use. When the reproach of indolence and slothfulness shall have been wiped away from the church, the Spirit of the Lord will be graciously manifested; divine power will combine with human effort, the church will see the providential interpositions of the Lord God of hosts, the light of truth will be diffused, the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He hath sent. As in the apostles’ time, many souls will turn unto the Lord. The earth will be lightened with the glory of the angel from heaven.

“The church needs now to shake off her death-like slumber; for the Lord is waiting to bless his people who will recognize the blessing when it comes, and diffuse it in clear, strong rays of light. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean... And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes [Ezekiel 36:25, 27 KJV]. If the wilderness of the church is to become as a fruitful field, and the fruitful field to be as a forest, it is through the Holy Spirit of God poured out upon his people. The heavenly agencies have long been waiting for the human agents, the members of the church, to cooperate with them in the great work to be done. They are waiting for you. So vast is the field, so comprehensive the design, that every sanctified heart will be pressed into service as an agent of divine power” (General Conference Daily Bulletin, February 28, 1893, adapted).

This column is designed to promote searching the Scriptures on current topics — in community, through prayer. Invite others to join you in a prayerful response to these thoughts:

• Are you experiencing mustard-seed growth in your local church?
• Why do you suppose the “worldly-wise and prudent” are not able to discern truth while truth is apparent to the childlike and humble?
• What does an illuminated Earth look like?
• What are the implications for “every talent and ability to be put to use?” Personally? Corporately?

The Lake Union Herald editors
The Prayer of Jabez

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.” And God granted his request. —1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV

Jabez’ prayer is a daring model of a prayer that we can pray for ourselves as well as for others.

When we sincerely ask for ourselves the very things God wants for us, He is ready to answer. The fact that God granted his request confirms that Jabez’s prayer was sincere and in line with God’s will.

Jabez was a man who believed in prayer. His life was changed through prayer. He asked for four things. His first request was, Oh, that you would bless me. God really does want to bless us, but He wants to do it in response to our asking. That’s the way God chooses to work. So when Jabez prayed, Oh, that you would bless me, God was pleased with that prayer and sent His blessing.

Second, Jabez prayed, Enlarge my territory. At first, this may sound like a greedy desire for material prosperity. People who pray wrongly-motivated prayers do not get “yes” answers (see James 4:3). In Jabez’ case, this was a prayer for the restoration of his lost inheritance, which God had promised for all His people. For us to pray for enlarged territory probably means praying to live entirely within God’s promises for us. That’s always a good prayer.

Third, Jabez prayed, Let your hand be with me. God’s hand represents His ability to strengthen and His readiness to act on behalf of His loved ones. Jabez was saying, “Lord, I can’t do this in my own strength, so please help me.” This is the prayer of a humble person who knows that his strength is in the Lord.

Fourth, Jabez prayed, and keep me from harm. The greatest source of harm in this world is Satan. This part of Jabez’ prayer is similar to the last petition of The Lord’s Prayer: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one (Matthew 6:13 NIV).

And God granted his request. God was pleased with Jabez’ prayer. He also will be pleased if you pray such a prayer for yourself — not just once, but again and again each day. God wants to bless you. God wants to enlarge your opportunities for service. God wants to strengthen you. God wants to protect you from evil. But He wants to do all these things in response to your asking.

Reflect

• Are the four things Jabez prayed for things you want in your life so much that you are ready to ask for them again and again?
• What difference would it make if you were to ask for and receive a greater measure of these blessings from God?
• Is there a selfish way to pray this prayer? What would keep this from being a selfish prayer?

Pray

• Praise God, who hears and answers prayers that are in line with His will.
• Thank God for the blessings, opportunities for service, strength and protection He has given you in the past.
• Confess any spiritual lethargy or laziness that has kept you from realizing your full potential in God’s kingdom.
• Ask God for every spiritual blessing, for ministry opportunities as large as you can handle, for empowerment in service and for protection from the evil one.

Act

Tell God you are available to serve Him anytime, any place, doing anything He chooses for you to do, so long as it’s clear that the assignment is from Him.

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.
Carol’s Kids

BY CINDY R. CHAMBERLIN

Carol Barnhurst pulls back a wisp of brown hair from her forehead, asks the youth director about his ski wipe-out, and tosses her van keys to a parent. Beside her are four coolers brimming with breads, granola bars and fruit. Carol could have stayed home this weekend; instead, she’s been up since 5:00 a.m., making pancakes for a crowd, braved outdoor windchill factors diving well below zero, and slept on a camp bed.

Carol, a teacher and pastor’s wife from Collinsville, Illinois, has led young skiers to Michigan since 1990. But it’s not the powder or vertical terrain which draws her. She no longer even has children of her own in the event. And it’s not for the skiing. Carol says if it were for skiing, the event would have died long ago. “It’s about leading youth to Jesus,” she says of the ministry which features one-third raw fun, two-thirds relationships and 100 percent Jesus. “It’s a recipe for youth to see Jesus through the Word,” Carol continues. “It’s a safe place; it’s okay to have fun here.”

The annual Illinois Conference event began in 1990, when Carol was a young mother leading a youth Sabbath school class. One day, a fellow leader complained there was so little snow in the area. Having grown up in Michigan, Carol agreed that the youth in their church needed to see real snow. So the two minds soon contrived a plan to go to Michigan. Later, the event became a district invite. Today, it has progressed to a Conference-sponsored event: the Youth Winter Retreat.

What sealed Carol’s commitment was nearly three years ago when a brother and sister attended the retreat. The two had been on the far edge of a congregation. But, while on the retreat, the girl rededicated her life to Jesus Christ, so much so that she planned to go on a mission trip. Her brother became a Bible worker. But less than a month after the ski weekend, the girl hit black ice on an overpass and was killed. “God used the event to anchor them to Him,” says Carol. What was disquieting about that event was that Carol had wanted desperately to cancel the retreat that year. She had just moved, wasn’t unpacked, and felt very unsettled. Yet she kept hearing God say, “No, you have to do this.” Every year she asks God, “Are we done now?” So far, His answer continues to be “No.”

Ski weekends begin on Friday with an intentional emphasis on bonding. The entire weekend is bathed in prayer. Carol Driver, Illinois Conference Youth Department administrative assistant, provides promotion and support. Manny Ojeda, youth director, provides contemplative, fun worships. Youth lead rousing songfests. Parents drive and chaperone. There is plenty of healthy, good food. Each retreat offers unique times — this year’s featured outdoor skating and a scavenger hunt, collecting food for the needy.

“Youth need most for people in the church to know they exist,” says Carol. And it seems, for now, “Carol’s kids” know just that and much more.

Needs for the ministry include love scholarships so more teens may attend, ski volunteers and chaperones, and much prayer. If you think God is calling you to the “ski hill” (this ministry), contact the Illinois Conference Youth Department.

Cindy R. Chamberlin is the communication director of the Illinois Conference.
La historia del comienzo de la obra hispana en Richmond es interesante. En el año 1999 cuatro hermanos de Oaxaca, México visitaron la iglesia de habla inglesa. Encontraron allí a una hermana, Martha Farlow, que hablaba español. Estas cinco personas, junto con algunos miembros de habla inglesa, comenzaron a tener cultos en español en el sótano de la iglesia. El grupo empezó a crecer y el departamento hispano de la conferencia le dio apoyo a la iniciativa asignándole a diferentes pastores.

El año pasado el grupo vio la necesidad de buscar su propio lugar para adorar porque la escuela adventista donde se reunían se encontraba muy lejos de donde vivían los hispanos. Comenzaron a orar y a buscar un lugar donde pudieran tener sus cultos. Gracias a Dios encontraron un salón en el mismo centro de la ciudad donde ahora pueden adorar como también realizar campañas de evangelismo.

Es inspirador ver cómo el grupo hispano dio un paso de fe y se trasladó a este lugar. Hubiera sido tan fácil continuar celebrando los cultos en la escuela adventista. Pero gracias a la visión del Pastor Ricardo Scarfullery y los hermanos, ellos sintieron y aceptaron el llamado de Dios de ir a rescatar a los perdidos.

La Iglesia Adventista mundial ha aceptado el desafío de evangelizar las ciudades y los pueblos del mundo. Creo que una manera clave de cumplir con esta misión que Dios nos ha dado es plantar nuevas iglesias. Es tan fácil para uno mantenerse en su propia iglesia junto a los hermanos y amigos que ha conocido por años. Por supuesto que necesitamos evangelizar las comunidades donde están las iglesias actuales, pero la realidad es que hay muchas comunidades donde no hay congregaciones adventistas.

Quiero desafiar a los hermanos y a los pastores a que tomen en cuenta las ciudades que los rodean. Si sienten que es necesario plantar una iglesia en alguna de ellas, les aconsejo que consulten con los administradores de su asociación y que oren a Dios para que el Espíritu Santo los guíe y bendiga.

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

Tom Morrissy, a certified financial planner, tries to conduct business as if Jesus is in the room.

Advising people about how to invest their money, Tom found that the Lord has blessed him with success, too. This has drawn other professional advisors to him, asking what his secret is. “I tell them we have to do what’s best for the client, not what’s best for us. I think we ought to look at them as if they were our own sister or mother, and do what we can to help them.”

Tom sees many people in his office and has offered Bible studies to those he feels may be receptive. But not everyone can be approached directly. A picture hangs on the wall in his office of a businessman introducing Jesus to a client. It’s the Nathan Greene painting, “The Senior Partner,” prominently hung and hard to miss. Though Tom may not find the opportunity to talk of Jesus, the canvas speaks volumes. “Even if I don’t talk about my faith, the painting is silently witnessing.”

Tom is thrilled when he is taken up on his offer to study the Bible. Margaret, a fellow advisor, is married with three young children and was of another faith. She was curious about the Jesus she often heard about in Tom’s conversations and asked for Bible studies. Margaret was excited and amazed at what the Bible said about the Sabbath and end-time events, and she committed her life to Jesus in baptism.

Greg, a colleague at work, was very interested in Tom’s approach to investing and his faith. “I would always tell him we need to be pure in our recommendation, not looking for our own advantage,” Tom said. He gave Greg books with a positive Christian message, like Norman Vincent Peale’s The Power of Positive Thinking. “We started talking about the Scripture verses in the books. ... I told him, if you ever want to start studying the Bible, I’m happy to do that.” Greg took Tom up on the offer and has since been baptized.

Tom traces much of his boldness in sharing Christ to his association with ASI, Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries, an international organization of working individuals who seek to serve Christ in the marketplace. Tom serves on the Board of the Lake Union ASI chapter, and is very enthusiastic in his support of this organization.

“All the ministries come together at the National Convention every August: It Is Written, Three Angels Broadcasting Network, Southern Adventist University, Loma Linda, Adventist World Aviation, Adventist Southeast Asia Projects, Outpost Centers, Inc., our publishing houses. I hate to pull a number out of the air, but I think there are 400 booths. You get to see the Church in action and meet people going out to all corners of the world. Whether it’s over the airways or missions, you personally meet the people who are going there. At dinner, you could end up sitting next to a pilot in the mission field or Mark Finley (a vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the world headquarters).”
Finding a Church Home

BY RACHEL SKAIFE

José Santana describes his journey back to God as a gradual one. José grew up in the Adventist church. However, as a young person, he chose to follow the ways of the world. Time passed and life wasn’t going his way. José decided he needed to go back to church.

He and his wife, Nilda, talked about it. Nilda was raised in another religious faith. José wanted to be sure she was comfortable attending an Adventist church, so he told her, “You go first, and if you like it, then I’ll come with you.”

Nilda began attending an Adventist church. She liked the Bible focus and began to study the Bible for herself. Nilda continued to go to church, but José didn’t come with her. She then moved to another Adventist church. José came for awhile but, again, Nilda found herself going to church alone.

About a year ago, as José was driving down Loomis Road on a Sabbath morning, he saw a sign that read, “Southside Adventist Fellowship.” He pulled in, joined the study time and even stayed for church. When he got home, he told Nilda, “You gotta go with me to this church. The pastor’s a cool guy.”

José and Nilda quickly became part of the church family at Southside and were baptized. They are actively involved in ministry opportunities. “We’re born into families and we don’t have a choice, but in the Church we get to choose our family,” remarked José. “I truly love our church.”

The Santanas were participants in the CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program) program this year, and assisted with the Super Foods of the Bible program, which recently ended. When they see a need, José and Nilda do what they can to assist. God’s calling on their lives and ministry was recognized as both José and Nilda were ordained as a deacon and deaconess.

Barbara Weimer is the vice president of communications for the Lake Union chapter of Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries.
As a child, I loved camp meeting! Camp meeting was held each June at Mt. Pisgah Academy, a sprawling campus in the rolling hills of western North Carolina. Camp meeting spanned two weekends, and promised more fun and adventure than imaginable for children like me.

Preparation for camp meeting meant assembling everything a family of five might need for tent camping or dormitory living. This included sleeping bags, bug repellant, flashlights, ice chests, bags of food and cooking utensils, clothing, Bibles, and so much more. We barely could see out the back window of our old, green Chevrolet station wagon as we eagerly rode through the curvy mountain roads to the ultimate vacation. Sometimes it was just Mom, me and my two sisters who attended camp meeting, and Dad joined us on the weekends. But, some years, Dad took the whole week off work and joined us. What fun!

One year, my two sisters came down with chickenpox just days before camp meeting began. My mother decided to stay home with them, but she and Dad agreed I could go with him to camp meeting since I hadn’t broken out with the telltale spots. I was so excited! I didn’t want to miss anything. About halfway to camp meeting, I discovered a small, itchy spot on my tummy. It couldn’t be! Maybe it’s only a bug bite. I won’t tell Dad yet, but will watch to see what happens, I decided. I so badly wanted to go to camp meeting and hoped beyond hope that I wasn’t getting chickenpox, too. The next day, I noticed the one spot had multiplied; I couldn’t hide the spots and scratching any longer. I cried as we packed our belongings and headed home. I imagine a few others attending camp meeting also discovered chickenpox a couple of weeks later.

Another year, I encountered some young, vibrant Junior class leaders who created an environment that “packed the house.” No one wanted to miss the Bible stories brought to life...
by Jay Gallimore or the crafts Linda Gallimore taught. They were just beginning in pastoral ministry in the Carolina Conference, but their love for Jesus was evident and we wanted to know Him like they did.

In my formative years, going to camp meeting meant hearing captivating tales from missionaries like Josephine Cunnington Edwards and Eric B. Hare. Their expressive storytelling styles kept us spellbound, and, after hearing them, many of us determined to serve God and His children one day, too. Camp meeting meant listening to songs by The Wedgewood Trio, Del Delker and The King’s Heralds (the second tenor, John Thurber, later became my father-in-law) wafting from the outdoor gymnasium speakers as we sat nearby on the grassy hillside. It meant sneaking in the Adventist Book Center to taste free samples of Worthington and Kellogg’s products and hoping the food demonstrators wouldn’t realize I had already been through line. It meant picking out a stack of storybooks from the same bookstore to satisfy my quest for knowledge all summer long, a tradition my parents began early on. It meant swimming at the local pool with new friends or riding the bus to Sliding Rock where we stood in line for a quick slide in the icy-cold mountain water to an even more frigid pool below. There were Pathfinder parades and exhibitions, which we planned and practiced for many weeks in advance. Camp meeting meant hearing speakers like H.M.S. Richards Sr. and Morris Venden, who painted word pictures of the Jesus they knew and loved. It meant giving my heart to Him again and again every year with each new appeal.

I’m thankful my parents sacrificed each year to give me the opportunity to capture so many precious, lingering camp meeting memories, and to enrich my spiritual heritage. In the first line of one of Franklin E. Belden’s hymns, he wrote, “Look for the waymarks, as you journey on.” A waymark, according to Merriam-Webster’s dictionary, is an object serving as a guide to someone traveling. I can say honestly that those who contributed to, planned for and presented at the camp meetings during my childhood, and through the years since, provided waymarks in my growing relationship with Jesus. I look back and see His guiding hand on that journey, too, through the experiences encountered.

The last line of the song’s refrain reads, “The journey’s almost o’er.” Jesus is coming soon, and one day we will experience the ultimate camp meeting. I just can’t wait to hear firsthand the Bible stories retold by Jesus, Daniel, Deborah, David, Noah, Esther, Abraham, Moses and so many others. I want to see the smiles on the faces of people from faraway lands who learned of Jesus’ love because of mission dollars shared at church each Sabbath. I want to sample the delicacies from the Garden and watch the animals parade by. I long to sing in a mass choir with angels and play my flute in the heavenly orchestra as we praise our Savior. Until then, let’s enjoy the camp meeting waymarks offered this summer and experience the blessings God has in store for us there.

On the next few pages, you will learn what is planned by each of the five Lake Union conferences. Don’t miss the watermelon feed or Richard Stenbakken portraying the disciple John at the Indiana Camp Meeting or the spiritual feast at the Illinois Conference Family Camp Meeting as you’re enveloped in nature at Camp Akita. The Lake Region Camp Meeting always offers outstanding, inspirational music and this year you also will be blessed by the rich baritone voice of Wintley Phipps. At the Michigan Conference Camp Meeting, listen as archaeologist Michael Hasel mines the Scriptures for gems. Wisconsin Conference Camp Meeting attendees will celebrate 150 years of God’s leading in Wisconsin and in the Seventh-day Adventist Church organization with special exhibits and programming. If your schedule won’t permit you to enjoy a Lake Union camp meeting, plan to attend one of dozens of camp meetings occurring throughout North America this summer. See http://bit.ly/13qUnPW for a list of camp meetings maintained by AdventSource.

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

— Hebrews 10:25 NLT.

Diane Thurber is the associate director of communication for the Lake Union Conference.
Join us for “Living a Life Connected to God” from July 24–27. This is a camp meeting for all ages at Camp Akita. Speaking will be Lonnie Melashenko, a Columbia Union Conference area-wide revivalist. Lonnie begins his 45th year as a gospel minister and radio-TV evangelist. He is a premier speaker, musician and author of dozens of books. The recipient of numerous awards for excellence in broadcasting, Lonnie serves as a world ambassador for the broadcast industry, his church and his alma mater.

The second speaker will be Lynell LaMountain, senior manager for CREATION Health at Florida Hospital in Orlando. Lynell works with churches, hospitals and schools worldwide to bring God’s message of total-person wholeness to their members and communities.

Join us for Hispanic Camp Meeting at Camp Wagner in Cassopolis, Michigan, from May 24–26. This year’s theme will be “El Remanente, su Misión y el Fin del Tiempo” (“The Remnant, Your Mission and the End of Time”).

The main speaker will be Pedrito Maynard-Reid, vice president for Spiritual Life and Mission at Walla Walla University. Pedrito is a graduate of West Indies College, Andrews University and Fuller Theological Seminary. He brings a piece of the Caribbean, thus nudging others to examine things from a “two-thirds”-world perspective. As a prolific writer, he also has authored several books on contemporary worship, holistic evangelism, and the book of James. Pedrito exhibits an enthusiasm and evangelistic spirit, which makes important contributions to the outreach of the School of Theology in the Northwest.

Cindy R. Chamberlin is the communication director of the Illinois Conference.
Camp Meeting week will be built around servant leadership and how Adventists can lead their community in compassion and outreach, with Stan Patterson’s Kingdom notes each evening on leadership, godliness and authority. Lonnie Melashenko (previous Voice of Prophecy speaker) will uplift Jesus Friday night and Sabbath, punctuated with Richard Stenbakken’s impersonation of John the Apostle and the A’Men Quartet.

During the week, Jud Lake will address the misleading 2250 theology. Kenneth Matthews will give us windows into Daniel and Revelation. Tim Riesenberger will share outstanding nuggets on health. Joseph Kidder will focus on the character of Christ. Judy Benjamin will share how each member can sharpen their church’s outreach, and Joe Hammer will lead us to victory over a critical spirit. Gary Burns, Lake Union Conference Prayer Ministries coordinator, will teach us how to have a vibrant local church prayer ministry.

With you present, camp meeting will be ... let us say, “well done.”

Van G. Hurst is the president of the Indiana Conference.
Camp meeting is one of the great highlights that the members of the Lake Region Conference look forward to each year. The reason is because it is a ten-day period for them to relax from the stresses of daily living and enjoy good preaching, good music and outstanding seminars. It’s also a great time for brothers and sisters to fellowship with one another.

The dates for camp meeting this year are June 14–22. The theme for our encampment is “Grace To Grow.” Grace is the theme of the Bible. It’s what salvation is all about. The apostle Paul says, in Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” Accordingly, all seminars and workshops will center around this goal.

Of course, we are very excited to have Wintley Phipps and Henry Wright as our Sabbath speakers. Wintley also will give a musical concert in the afternoon at 4:30 p.m. on the first Sabbath. Nicholas Miller, associate professor of Church History at Andrews University, will be a guest presenter the entire week; he will lecture on the subject, “The Bible, Leadership and Gender.” Additional highlights about Camp Meeting are found on the Lake Region Conference website, http://www.lakeregionsda.org.

We invite everyone to join us. We invite you to see our new youth pavilion. We invite you to see our newly-built senior citizens cabins. We invite you to see our new restroom areas. Come! Enjoy the blessings of God with us. May His blessings also rest upon each of you as we look forward to having a great time in the Lord.

Jerome L. Davis is the president of the Lake Region Conference.
We have chosen the theme “His Vision, Our Mission … Go Tell” for all three camp meetings this year, to remind us that there is something for us to do when we return to our homes.

On Friday night, Jay Gallimore, Michigan Conference president, will open the Cedar Lake Camp Meeting. Dan Jackson, North American Division president, will speak on Sabbath and Sunday, concluding Sunday evening.

At the early morning meetings, beginning on Sabbath, Steve Wohlberg, speaker/director of White Horse Media, will inspire everyone to a deeper commitment as we near Jesus’ second coming. During the mid-morning general sessions, Jud Lake, professor of preaching and Adventist studies at Southern Adventist University, will share biblical answers to theological issues that have surfaced in some Michigan churches and abroad. Each evening, throughout the week, Michael Hasel, professor of Near Eastern Studies and Archaeology at Southern Adventist University, will reaffirm our faith in Scripture and inspire us to a closer walk with God. A wide range of seminars are planned to train, equip and inspire us to service. Doug Batchelor, speaker/director of Amazing Facts, will leave us with the call for personal evangelism ringing in our hearts as we return to our various fields of labor.

Wes Peppers, a Michigan Conference pastor, will speak at the Upper Peninsula Camp Meeting at Camp Sagola.

For our Hispanic Camp Meeting, various speakers will minister to the needs of those attending at Camp Au Sable.

We look forward to seeing the Holy Spirit being poured forth this summer.

Jim Micheff is the executive secretary of the Michigan Conference.
You are invited to attend Wisconsin Camp Meeting, June 14–22, at Camp Wa-konda in Oxford. The theme, “Heritage of Hope,” will commemorate 150 years of God’s leading in Wisconsin and the Seventh-day Adventist Church organization. During this nine-day gathering, special exhibits and programs highlighting our history will mark this milestone.

Wisconsin Camp Meeting is for the entire family. Special speakers, swimming and other planned activities are provided to make this camp meeting meaningful and memorable.

The annual Hispanic Camp Meeting also will be held at Camp Wakonda, August 14–18. Learn how you can be involved in these special gatherings at http://wi.adventist.org.
Donna, the youngest of three sisters, lived in a little town of Terhune, Indiana, where she had attended a two-room country schoolhouse through eighth grade. As a student at Sheridan High School, Donna focused on her education and had no interest in boys or dating. Kenny’s interests pertained mostly to caring for the farm, inventing useful items, milking cows, mowing lawns, painting fences, working in a blacksmith shop, and whatever else he could find to bring in a little extra money. Up until that study hall, Kenny, a senior, and Donna, a junior, were totally oblivious of each other’s existence.

As time passed, Kenny’s and Donna’s best friends planned a double blind date for them. After their friends arranged for a second date, Kenny and Donna planned their own.

After high school graduation, Kenny started work at a machine shop where Donna joined him to work in the office the following year. Kenny laughs as he speaks about this experience, for he says there was a large window in the wall between where he and Donna worked; this way, he was able to keep an eye on her. Kenny and Donna were married July 23, 1945. They were so loved by the other employees that they found Donna’s desk piled high with wedding gifts when they returned to work.

Kenny and Donna were blessed with two daughters, two sons and a niece, whom they raised from the age of six years. After gaining additional experience with another company, Kenny started his own part-time business in an outbuilding by their newly-constructed home. It was run by the family but, eventually, became too much for them, so he gave the business to a friend.

At this time, Kenny had pretty much what he needed and wanted, and the prosperity began to turn his life in the wrong direction. Kenny decided to sell the new home, and they all moved back to the farm in Westfield, Indiana, where he started another business and funded it on his own. At this same time, Donna was employed at the Carmel High School bakery. (She didn’t have a clue the ministry that was ahead of her, all planned by God!)

Both Kenny and Donna attended a church in Carmel, but as Kenny’s business flourished and became more demanding, he attended church less.

During this stressful era, Kenny began to teach and call square dances. He had three square dance clubs of his own and taught when he didn’t have dances. Kenny learned how to “control” his crowds and delighted in doing it, admitting it was a real ego trip for him.

Kenny and Donna loved riding their motorcycle and traveling long distances with some of their friends. It was a “high life” for Kenny, but not for Donna. She cried because Kenny was no longer interested in attending church; she so wanted him at her side.

Donna began to pray that the Lord would speak to Kenny in a way that he would know it was God speaking to him.

Late one night, shortly after Kenny and Donna arrived home from a square dance, there was a knock at their door. It was a fireman bearing the bad news that Kenny’s shop was on fire. They thought they could get it under control, if he would hurry. Kenny barely had entered the building when there was an explosion. He retreated, and soon flames engulfed the building, destroying it totally.
As Kenny watched his world go up in flames, he paced back and forth. Then, finally, as he got back into his truck, Kenny heard, “Don’t worry about it. I will take care of you!” Kenny didn’t know who was talking to him, so later Donna encouraged him to read his Bible, which he began to do.

The more he read, the more questions he struggled with, especially as he studied the book of Isaiah. The one question that really troubled him was about the Sabbath. He checked the encyclopedia and talked with different pastors or whomever he could get to listen to him. By then, Kenny was convinced that Saturday was the Sabbath, so he closed his business on that day.

Now that the shop was closed on the Sabbath, Kenny was puzzled as to how he should observe it? Sitting in his office and reading, he tried to keep it the best way he knew how. Trying to share the Sabbath with others was a disappointment to Kenny, since no one seemed to have an interest. Approaching the Lord, Kenny asked more than once, “What do I do with what You have shown me?”

One Sabbath morning, when Kenny went to his office to pray and meditate, the Lord said, “We are going someplace this morning.” Though initially resistant, Kenny picked up his Bible and drove many miles until he ended up in the parking lot of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cicero, Indiana.

Kenny was quite impressed with the friendliness of those he met and, following the service, the pastor and Kenny made arrangements to meet together the next day.

As Kenny and Donna met with the pastor, they discussed many issues and asked questions that had plagued Kenny’s mind. When the pastor visited the Picketts’ home, he was quite astonished to find the Picketts’ library stocked with many books by Ellen G. White. Kenny explained that their daughter had sent a copy of The Great Controversy all the way from Colorado. Donna had read the book her daughter sent, and then started going to the Adventist Book Center where she bought other books to read. She tried to share with Kenny what she was learning, but he refused to read them — until he was shown, while reading his Bible, that these books were truth.

The church family loved and mentored the Picketts as they met almost every Sabbath with a small prayer and Bible study group. Kenny’s outlook began to change drastically, and he and Donna were baptized on April 14, 1974. They both became active members of the church.

Kenny’s business grew to the point that he invited his two younger brothers to partner with him. The partnership was short-lived, however, due to his brothers’ unwillingness to keep the shop closed on the Sabbath. Kenny and Donna walked away from the business for God and His truth now had first place in their hearts.

Kenny and Donna then relocated closer to the Cicero area. Their trust was fully in the Lord, and He did not disappoint them. When the monthly house payment came due, God provided for them and kept Kenny busy working at odd jobs with a friend for the next two years. Through this test, their faith continued to grow stronger.

One Sunday morning, as Kenny was trimming the bushes around his home, a neighbor stopped by. In the course of conversation, the neighbor asked Kenny if he would be interested in a job at Timber Ridge Camp in Spencer, Indiana. Kenny’s abrupt response was “I wouldn’t take it if they gave it to me!”

**THE NEIGHBOR LEFT, AND THE SWEET HOLY SPIRIT BEGAN TO SPEAK TO KENNY. HE KNEW THIS WAS THE DIRECTION GOD WANTED HIM TO GO.**

The neighbor left, and the sweet Holy Spirit began to speak to Kenny. He knew this was the direction God wanted him to go. So, on October 7, 1982, Kenny and Donna moved to Timber Ridge Camp where Kenny served as the camp ranger and Donna was the head dietitian. God had prepared Donna for this position through the Ellen G. White books she had read so long ago. A dear friend came from Weimar Institute that first summer to assist and help train Donna for the God-given position. Her gourmet cooking was appreciated far and near, for she was always willing to share her recipes and what she knew about healthful diets.

God blessed the Picketts’ services and efforts. The camp took on a new look with renovation. Many groups began to schedule events, and other major activities enhanced the financial income of the camp. The camp became known as “a place of peace and a spiritual retreat.”

Donna has now retired from her position at the camp; however, Kenny continues to maintain an active role there. He also serves as the pastor of a small church 36 miles away and hosts a weekly prayer and Bible study group in their home.

The Picketts have been married 66 years and have been blessed with a total of 34 children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. They are dearly loved not only by their family but by all who meet them. If you haven’t met them yet, why not this summer at Timber Ridge Camp?

Kitty Kuszmaul is a member of the Spencer Church in Indiana.
Ah! The wonder of summer camp! Smell, taste and feel the experience of new friends, exciting activities, and Jesus our God, who is also our Friend.

Summer Camp 2013 is quickly approaching, inviting you to become part of the summertime fun. After a long winter, it’s time to defrost and warm up with the power of Jesus as He has chosen us!

Yes! Jesus has chosen you! He says, in John 15:15, 16: No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you... (NKJV, emphasis added)

Summer 2013 is the summer to accept that invitation from Jesus to be His friends! Like the prophet Jeremiah, God has chosen us to do some pretty incredible, powerful and awesome things in our world. Are you ready?

We invite you to come join us at Camp Akita this summer. Come explore the limits of your bravery at the rock wall, heights of the blob, speed of the wind through your hair on horseback, your artistic side at crafts and ceramics, and your skill to make our RC planes soar through the air, and many other activities!

Come make memories for eternity. See you at camp!

Manny Ojeda is the youth director of the Illinois Conference.
Every spring, schools are filled with students who hardly can wait for the summer break. Usually, a week after school lets out, parents hear these words: “I’m bored!” Timber Ridge Camp is a great answer to that lament! The ultimate cure for summer boredom is a week of great outdoor activities plus the opportunity to know Jesus better.

Boredom-banishing activities include: giant water trampoline (new this year), swimming, the shark, canoeing, dive dock with our swing, sailing, jet skiing, crafts, nature center, horseback trail rides, mountain biking, archery, caving, rock wall, sports, Sabbath corn roast on the beach, campfire program and much, much more!

Boredom-banishing resources include: 200-plus acres of land dedicated to the service of God, counselors and staff who love Jesus and campers, a program that is prayed for before, during and after camp each summer, and the presence of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Above everything else, this is the most important fact about Timber Ridge Camp: Come to camp to escape boredom, leave camp in love with Jesus and the desire to make Him a part of your life permanently.

Charlie Thompson is the youth director of the Indiana Conference.
Summer is a time for fun and adventure! At Camp Wagner, the laughter of boys and girls, counselors and campers, instructors and students seem to resound all across the campground. Line calls, camp councils, dining hall, laundry or kitchen, bus rides, onsite and off-site activities — all seem to ring with joy as camp is in full swing while lifelong friendships are formed.

Some campers often stay all three weeks of Junior Camp! The warmth and blending of worship and work, classwork and recreation, and interaction with other campers and counselors are just a few of the many things that give each camper a sense of independence, while allowing them to experience a sense of community.

Camp Wagner is a member of Adventist Association of Camping Professionals and is accredited through American Camp Association.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Leon L. George is the youth and camp ministries director of the Lake Region Conference.
As children, we love to hear a good story! Even as “big kids,” i.e. adults, we lean forward on the edge of the chair at the retelling of some adventure. Jesus loved to tell stories; more importantly, His disciples lived Jesus’ story. This summer at Camp Au Sable, we will look at what it means to “Be His Story.”

Throughout the summer, campers will learn the simple lessons of trust at high adventure, overcoming fears at the horse barn, discovering the extraordinary in the ordinary at their nature classes, and so much more. Friendships will be made that will last through eternity. Most of all, these experiences will tell His story that will tell others of the God who loves us.

The itinerary for the summer at Camp Au Sable includes three weeks of youth camps, two weeks of father/son outposts, a mini-family camp and three weeks of family camps. A new, exciting addition to the summer camp line-up is the Rad Teen Outpost. Teens will experience nature, build their leadership, and learn practical, spiritual lessons from their trip. These camps are for those who are looking for an exciting adventure, want their knowledge of nature challenged, and desire to be closer to their Creator.

Make plans this summer to join us at Camp Au Sable!
Wisconsin Conference
SUMMER CAMP

CAMP WAKONDA

BY GREG TAYLOR

We can’t wait until summer camp at Wakonda! Every year we look forward to experiencing God in new and amazing ways. Camp is evangelism. It is a safe place to come and learn about God through fun activities, programs, relationships and nature. There is nothing else like it!

We have a lot of new additions to camp this summer. The greatest addition is a brand new Yamaha boat that was built for wakeboarding fun. The second is a brand new water trampoline that will spice up the waterfront activities. We also have a fifth nitro car, which is electric and goes up to 75 mph. At Wakonda, we also offer trail rides, archery, crafts, ceramics, nature center, basketball, swimming, wakeboarding, wall climbing, the giant swing, nitro cars, model rockets and much, much more.

The theme for this summer is “Nothing To Fear,” based on Ellen White’s famous quote, “We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history” (Life Sketches of Ellen G. White, p. 196, 1902). Our four-night play will help teach us what it means to let God lead in our lives and know that when God is for us, nothing can be against us.

So what are you waiting for? Register online today, and plan to have an incredible time at Camp Wakonda! Hope to see you there!

Greg Taylor is the youth director of the Wisconsin Conference.

CAMP WAKONDA DATES
Junior Camp: June 30–July 7, Ages 7–10
Blind Camp: June 30–July 7, Register with Christian Record Services*
Tween Camp: July 7–July 14, Ages 10–12
Teen Camp: July 14–July 21, Ages 13–17
Family Camp 1: July 21–July 28, All ages
Family Camp 2: July 28–Aug. 4, All ages

LOCATION
W8368 County Road E
Oxford, Wisconsin
Phone: 608-296-2126
Fax: 608-296-4329
Website: http://www.wakonda.org

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Register online: http://www.wakonda.org.
Contact: Nancy Martling
Phone: 920-484-6555
Email: nmartling@wi.adventist.org
*Christian Record Services
Phone: 402-488-0981
Fax: 402-488-7582
Email: info@christianrecord.org

Visit http://herald.lakeunion.org
Lake Union Herald • May 2013 • 27
Discovering Israel: Bringing the Bible to life

Israel is the land of the Bible. But, for the most part, it’s simply the background — the background of Jesus’ life and death; the background of His incredible works, and the background of the lives of the disciples He chose to carry on His Word.

A lucky few actually get to walk the rocky hilltop where many believe King David first established the Jewish capitol more than 3,000 years ago and stand in the spot where Jesus taught His disciples The Lord’s Prayer. Can you picture yourself at the Sea of Galilee or the home of Mary Magdalene? Imagine standing in the same spot where Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes.

John Rapp, vice president of ministries and mission at Adventist Midwest Health, stood in front of these awe-inspiring places and, in a way, stepped right into the pages of the Bible.

Rapp was one of 12 influential Christians brought to Israel in January by the Chicago branch of Israel’s Ministry of Tourism. The tourism group is tapping into the shared religious heritage of Judaism and Christianity to boost tourism to this land, and its standing on the world stage. And it seems to be working. A new, all-time high for visitors to Israel was set in 2012 with the arrival of 3.5 million travelers, a 5 percent increase compared to 2011.

Within the Chicago group, leaders represented the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox Church and Protestant faith backgrounds. Rapp was chosen to represent the Seventh-day Adventist faith because of his significant and influential leadership role within the church, said Omer Eshel, director of Israel Ministry of Tourism’s Midwest region.

“We wanted leaders who would bridge differences and embrace diversity,” Eshel said. “We felt that with Israel as a host, leaders were able to come together, putting aside denominational doctrines and share in the birthplace of Christianity in the belief that there is only one God.”

The group visited all the key sites, including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Garden Tomb, Yardenit, the Sea of Galilee, the Western Wall and Capernaum, just to name a few.

For Rapp, the most awe-inspiring sites were the archaeological excavation of ancient Jerusalem at the City of David and the Western Wall, which is Judaism’s most sacred site. Rapp also was impressed by a tour of Zippori, the name of an ancient settlement that flourished during the time of Jesus’ life. Some suggest that Jesus’ grandparents (Mary’s mom and dad) were born there. Excavations have uncovered ruins from multiple settlements through the ages, including some spectacular Roman mosaics.

During the trip, Rapp was interviewed by The Jerusalem Post and spoke about the importance of the Sabbath on a popular Christian talk radio station. Rahm Emanuel, Chicago’s mayor, even hosted a special reception for the group a few weeks after they returned.

“To stand in front of the Western Wall on a Friday night and watch women and men welcome the Sabbath like they were welcoming their best friend was an experience I’ll never forget,” Rapp said. “It was a privilege to represent the Seventh-day Adventist Church on such a sacred and meaningful trip.”

Sheila Galloro, public relations specialist, Adventist Midwest Health
New Seminary dean named

A new dean has been named at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University: Jiří Moskala, who has served at the Seminary since 1996, accepted the position most recently held by Denis Fortin. Moskala’s appointment is effective July 1. In October 2012, Fortin announced his desire to step away from administration in order to return to full-time teaching in the Department of Theology & Christian Philosophy at the Seminary, beginning fall 2013.

“We narrowed it down to five candidates. When the final candidate review was done, it felt like the Lord was leading because there was a definite consensus that emerged on one candidate: Jiří Moskala,” says Ben Schoun, chair of the Andrews University Board of Trustees and a general vice president for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. “Dr. Moskala is a fine academic scholar and very loyal to the church. I don’t know anyone who can question his commitment to the mission and values that we stand for.”

Moskala presently serves as professor of Old Testament exegesis and theology and chair of the Department of Old Testament at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Moskala says of his new appointment, “My vision for the Theological Seminary is to be the light for the world and the theological resource for the church. We are here to serve the worldwide church in various capacities, to prepare future church leaders to work and deal with different challenges in order to proclaim the eternal Gospel with conviction, urgency and passion, make a difference for good, and prepare people for the soon second coming of Jesus.”

The Seminary dean is a member of the General Conference Executive Committee, the International Board of Education, and the Board of Ministerial & Theological Education, to name a few.

Additionally, the dean of the Seminary works closely with leadership from both the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Schoun says, “The Seminary at Andrews University is like a wonderful think-tank for the Adventist church. For those of us in church leadership who are out encouraging the work on the ground to go forward, it’s nice to get the counsel of the thinkers who are here at the Seminary. It’s a wonderful resource to be able to call upon in these various kinds of church issues.”

Born in Cesky Tesin, Czech Republic, Moskala received a Master of Theology in 1979 and a Doctor of Theology in 1990, all from the Comenius Faculty of Protestant Theology (now Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University), Czech Republic. In 1998, he completed his Doctor of Philosophy from Andrews University.

Moskala began his ministry as a pastor for the Czechoslovakian Union, serving in this capacity until 1989. When the Communist regime fell after the Velvet Revolution, he established and served as the first principal of the Theological Seminary in Prague for training pastors; he also served in various other capacities including director of the Life and Health Society, Education Department and Health Department for the Czechoslovakian Union. Moskala has served as a speaker for many Bible conferences and theological symposia in all 13 divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and has lectured at Adventist universities and colleges around the world.

Moskala and his wife, Eva Moskala, have five grown children and three grandchildren. “This is a great honor for the confidence expressed in me, but it also holds a sense of immense responsibility. I feel like Moses in front of the Burning Bush. One of the Bible verses which speaks to me in this situation is Proverbs 16:9: ‘In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. But I trust God, because when He calls one to do something, He also provides strength, wisdom, guidance, and constant help.’”

New MPH program in Department of Public Health & Wellness

The Department of Public Health and Wellness, formerly known as the Department of Nutrition & Wellness, has received approval to offer a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Nutrition & Wellness. The Board of Trustees approved both the Department name change and new degree during their 2013 spring meeting.

This new program is the first and only online MPH program in Nutrition & Wellness offered in the country. It will prepare health professionals for service in the church and community by building knowledge and skills necessary to enhance the health of human populations and promote a healthy lifestyle through personal and community efforts. The program will be offered online at 50 percent tuition discount. For more information visit http://www.andrews.edu/shp/publichealth.

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

Visit http://herald.lakeunion.org

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[EDUCATION NEWS]

Illinois Conference hosts education tours

Illinois—The Illinois Conference Education Department hosted weekly, informative tours for middle-school students (grades 7 and 8) this winter. Adventist schools within Illinois picked a week to visit the Willowbrook headquarters, whereby office personnel welcomed students into their workday for more than two hours. The trips followed the format of a big welcome by officers, an Adventist pioneer PowerPoint prepared by Trust Services, giving an overview of Church history, a meeting with the president, a stop at Treasury, time at the Adventist Book Center, candid talks with ministerial directors, and a walk by the “Adventist Hall of Fame.”

According to Ruth Horton, Conference education superintendent and creator of the event, the objectives of the field trip for students were four-fold: 1) acquire a first-hand account of church organization; 2) understand the role of the local conference; 3) learn the connection of local church and its departments to the local conference; and 4) gain a picture of how the local conference is connected to the larger church organization.

For many students, it was their first time in the conference building. “It’s surprising how very few students really understand their church’s structure,” said one conference employee. “The tours provided a great way for teens and even their teachers to learn the role the conference has in their own education.”

Tours ended with goodie bags and gifts from all departments, pictures, smiles, and a greater awareness for both workers and students.

April 30 was set aside for homeschool student tours. If you are a homeschool student or parent who missed the tour but would like to take this field trip opportunity, please contact the Office of Education at 630-856-2890.

Cindy R. Chamberlin, communication director, Illinois Conference

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Village School students have heart

Michigan—On Thursday, March 14, pre-K to sixth-grade students at the Village Adventist Elementary School in Berrien Springs raised $2,831.58 at their annual Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart. The program promotes physical activity, heart-healthy living and community service to children.

Jess Swackhamer’s sixth-grade class presented an assembly on heart health and disease to their fellow students. The assembly included a short video, which showed stories of elementary school-age students with health problems. Inspired by what they saw, students sought sponsors and pledges, and then participated in the March 14 Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart event at the Village School gym. The funds benefit the American Heart Association.

Keri Suarez, mother of students Josie and Keira Suarez, Village Adventist Elementary School
Milwaukee students witness door-to-door

Wisconsin—Each quarter, Nate Skaife’s students in grades seven through ten, at Milwaukee Adventist School, do outreach. In September 2012, the students went door-to-door in neighborhoods near the school. Here’s what a few of the students had to say about the experience.

When asked what he did at the doors, Emiliano Campos replied, “We prayed for the person’s problems, then we gave them a pamphlet that they could fill out if they wanted Bible studies.”

Several students shared some of the responses they heard. Jarret Coleman recalled, “One lady said, ‘It’s really good to see young people out doing something like this,’ and she said that we were a blessing.”

Branyely Vega recalled that a teenager at one door seemed really interested in the Bible studies. “One man, doing lawncare, praised God that we met,” said Emily Laurence. “We prayed with him. He said he is going to check out our church.”

The students were asked how the experiences affected them. Emiliano said, “I learned that not everyone knows what I know about God, and that everyone deserves the opportunity to know.”

Branyely Vega stated, “It makes you think about what you’re doing. People don’t know about God.”

“Those that have to work hard for things tend to call on God more,” Emily said.

Skaife, who is also pastor of the Milwaukee Southside SDA Fellowship, said the reason he involves students in activities like this is because “students need the opportunity to be directly involved in sharing the gospel. I hope these experiences give them confidence to do outreach at church. We pray people will respond to the Bible study cards left in their homes.”

When students were asked if they want to do this again they all said, “Yes!”

Milwaukee Adventist School students, in grades 7-10, knocked on doors in the neighborhood near their school last fall. The outreach activity gave them opportunities to pray and share about God with those they encountered.

Metro Church GLOWS

Michigan—The sun may shine and stars may twinkle but, on Sabbath, Jan. 19, the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth started “GLOWing.” The 19th was a special Personal Ministry Sabbath service in which the personal ministry leaders, Elwyn Hyde and Bruce Higgins, highlighted the numerous outreach projects they had planned for 2013.

To kick off the year, the leaders, with the rest of the Personal Ministries Council, formulated the idea to spread the Word with a GLOW-a-thon. Similar to a marathon, which is 26 miles, Metro Church members began the race of distributing GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tracts to as many people as possible in 26 days, ending Feb. 14. Hyde and Higgins, along with associate pastor Joe Reeves, Cynthia Salinas, Bible worker, plus representatives from the Michigan Conference, Publishing director Kamil Metz and GLOW director Matt Hasty, encouraged and cajoled the congregation. Reeves showed a video recorded where GLOW got started in the Central California Conference. In the video, church members were introduced to the purpose of GLOW. Hasty shared innovative ideas of how individuals were distributing these mighty tracts. One of the most interesting was how a young woman who was visiting the Vatican left tracts on the caskets of dead popes. As a result, a young priest picked up the tracts and requested Bible studies. The congregation learned that, besides passing out GLOW tracks individually, they also could sponsor a GLOW rack, which contains slots for six or 12 tract packs.

In the narthex of the church, Reeves and Salinas had assembled a special GLOW kiosk where members could pick from the numerous different GLOW tracts as well as health tracts by Balanced Living. The GLOW tracts cover subjects such as the state of the dead, the antichrist, the love of God, the war in Heaven, the reliability of the Bible, the Sabbath and many, many more topics. Metro Church members...
left that Sabbath service excited and energized.

Also on that Sabbath day, the Metro Church’s Explorer Adventurer group distributed 495 GLOW tracts to nursing homes they visited. During the remaining 26-day timeframe, Metro Church members placed GLOW racks in doctors’ offices, hospitals and laundromats. Jeanie Weaver placed a rack in her community exercise class in the Metropolitan Junior Academy gymnasium. Cathy Brockman, a nurse who is studying for baptism, initially put a six-pack rack in the hospital office where she works. But it generated so much interest, she had to increase to a 12-pack size. Members gave GLOW tracts to fast-food establishment employees and returned GLOW tracts with their bills or in prepaid return envelopes. Deb Bedell and Melissa Bedell passed out GLOW tracts as special Valentines at the mall, distributing 294 tracts in one hour.

Probably the most unusual method of GLOW distribution was done my Joanna Jankowski, who also is studying for baptism. While running errands with her son, Joey, Jankowski was stopped by the police for speeding. When she reached for her registration and proof of insurance in her glove box, her son saw numerous GLOW tracts. Joanna thought to give a few GLOW tracts to the officer, but Joey encouraged her to give them all to him. He did. The officer took the information and the tracts to the police car. He was gone quite a while. When he returned to Jankowski, he said, “I’m going to just give you a warning this time. Lately, I’ve been thinking about the way my life has been going. Thank you for giving me these pamphlets.”

All told, the Metro Church members distributed 4,870 GLOW tracts in 26 days. But that is only what the membership reported. They actually took out 20,000 tracts, and the enthusiasm has not stopped. Since Feb 14, Metro Church members have continued to report their weekly GLOW tract distribution as well as replenish their tract supply. Hundreds of tracts continue to get into the hands of many searching individuals. Metro Church membership looks forward to hearing stories in Heaven of many people who learned of the true Word when they read a little pamphlet given to them by a willing sharer of truth.

Joy Hyde, communications secretary, Metropolitan Church

Burns Church hosts Job Fair

Lake Region—It is a fact that the Burns Church in Detroit exists to minister to its local community while spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ministering can take the form of providing a food pantry, clothing distribution or offering educational tutoring. However, Wed., Feb. 6, at 1:00 p.m., ushered in an unprecedented new ministry — Job Fair hosting!

Partnering with a local Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (a Michigan Works! agency), the Burns Church fellowship hall was transformed into a local employment office. The event was advertised extensively on local radio, TV and the Internet; however, no one anticipated the hundreds of job-seekers who turned up.

Facilitating employment opportunities in the form of a job fair was the brainchild of Cory Jackson Sr., pastor, whose passion it is to make the Burns Church increasingly relevant, both spiritually and socially, to its local community. Jackson connected with Douglas Kraft of the Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation and together they made the Job Fair happen.

Fifty or more job-seekers came before the announced 1:00 p.m. start time, and waited in the sanctuary while the fellowship hall was prepared. Many were impressed by what they saw, since it was their first time in a Seventh-day Adventist Church building. After a few minutes, Jackson introduced himself as pastor and offered a word of prayer for success in their job search.

Nearly 300 persons came to the event, and Kraft and his team of four associates interviewed approximately 220 job-seekers. Each interview lasted, on average, ten minutes, and many job seekers patiently waited for more than an hour to be interviewed.

Don Drabik of MeritHall Construction Staffing also talked and interviewed several job-seekers. Human Resource Consultant Nakita Morgan of the Burns Church offered job search advice and résumé critiquing for interested job-seekers. Valerie Hearing, Toya Ogelsby and Oliver Page assisted with registration and directed job-seekers as needed.

Interviews were scheduled to cease at 4:00 p.m. but, given the large number of job-seekers, interviews lasted until 5:30 p.m. The event was a tremendous success, and feedback received from many job-seekers was generally positive despite having to wait in long lines.

Appreciating the success of the event,
iPerceive series blesses guests and volunteers

Michigan—The Niles Westside Church invited the community to come to a series of meetings that would help them learn to dig deeper in Scriptures for the truth. The iPerceive evangelistic series was offered Feb. 8–16 with guest presenter, Dwight Nelson, senior pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church. “When I got involved with [the] iPerceive [evangelistic series], little did I know what a blessing I would end up receiving myself! Many prayers and a lot of planning led us up to the big day. ... Looking back, I can see how the Holy Spirit was able to work in miraculous ways to bring just the right people to the event,” stated Nicole Koenigshof.

Koenigshof was in awe when she arrived on the first day of the series and saw how the Niles School gym had been beautifully transformed. She was involved closely with the table hosts for the iPerceive meetings, and said, “I believe God led the perfect people to volunteer to do that important job.” The table hosts were seated at round tables with participants until the second weekend when the series moved to the newly-renovated sanctuary. The hosts led discussions, answered questions, helped visitors feel welcome and friendships were formed. The guests also were served hot drinks or juice every night and, occasionally, cookies, fruit or other snacks.

“I admit there were some nights when I would arrive exhausted after a full day of work and wished I could just go home and relax, but then Dwight’s message would recharge my batteries. It was so exciting to see the same guests return night after night. The format with the table hosts was a new experience for the iPerceive team, and I was thrilled that it turned out to be a very warm experience for those involved. I heard many compliments on how organized the event was, and I can just praise God that everything was such a success,” Koenigshof said.

Many members of the Niles Westside Church and some other local churches stepped up to meet the needs of this event — parking attendants, greeters, registration, helping in the kitchen and childcare rooms, assisting guests, and everyone that functioned in the background. Koenigshof said, “Even students in our school sacrificed the use of the gym all week. Some of the teachers helped every night, and then got up early to teach our kids all day long. What commitment!”

Koenigshof said she smiled more at the iPerceive meetings than in the whole previous month! “They were genuine smiles: smiles of happiness to see returning guests, smiles at volunteers who were so willing to help, and smiles that Dwight’s message cut right to the core of each spiritual matter. Dwight was able to start our spiritual lives on fire with his messages, and challenged us to study for ourselves the truths in the Bible. I pray our church can continue to fan the flames that were lit in the hearts of those who attended,” she stated.

Nearly 400 individuals attended the iPerceive series, held Feb. 8–16 at the Niles Westside Church in Michigan. The guest presenter for the series was Dwight Nelson, senior pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church.

More than 400 people (volunteers included) attended the series. Koenigshof shared, “Everyone I have talked to felt blessed by the experience. As a third generation Adventist, I wasn’t the target audience, yet to have the experience of seeing the Holy Spirit at work in such a huge way has strengthened my relationship with God in incredible ways. In my efforts to join with those in my church to reach out to others, I found that God reached even me. I’m glad that every week isn’t an iPerceive week, but I am excited at the direction that the Niles Westside Adventist Church is taking and am looking forward to winning more hearts for God.”

Nicole Koenigshof and Gina Meekma, members, Niles Westside Church, as shared with Lake Union Herald staff
Women’s Ministries educate members about abuse, prevention and ministering to hurting hearts

Do you know how to minister to abuse victims in our midst? To survivors of abuse in our community?

The Lake Union Conference Women’s Ministries Department invited both men and women to make a difference in their churches. Ministering Hope to Hurting Hearts was a training event held at Adventist Frontier Missions Center, Feb. 22–24, designed to educate members about the stages of healing and ways to minister and to provide resources for churches.

The presenter, Roberta Fish, LCSW, came with 30 years of experience as a counselor, teacher and chaplain. As Fish prepared for this seminar, she felt compelled to include the material in a book, *Ministering Hope to the Hurting Heart.* Carla Baker, NAD Women’s Ministries director, came in support of this first training event. About this new material, Baker said, “We have an outstanding resource for both pastors and lay members to minister effectively to those whose lives have been tainted by abuse.”

Fish first led participants to see Jesus as the Great Healer. During the weekend, she made the analogy that an abused person is wounded. Their emotional, oozing wounds may manifest themselves in various types of behavior and coping strategies. Practical suggestions were given to help the abused through each stage of recovery.

Is our church a safe place? Participants learned that each abused person needs a resource person — someone who can listen, be nonjudgmental, help provide resources and, above all, be discrete. Fish cautioned that when someone is in crisis is not a time to announce during prayer meeting that so-and-so is having a hard time.

Fish also stressed that every church can begin by laying plans with its family ministries team, men’s and women’s ministries, youth ministries, and the church board. Plans should include: 1) educating the congregation and young people to help break the cycle and strengthen the family unit; 2) making the church a safe place by continuing to encourage members to keep confidences; 3) encouraging everyone to speak up (Have an abuse prevention emphasis day, so members are aware of what constitutes abusive situations.); 4) making resources available (Small cards with a local hotline number can be placed in both men’s and women’s restrooms, and “Breaking the Silence” brochures are a great tool to distribute.); and 5) encouraging everyone to report abuse when they see it (Teach that they do not have to deal with it on their own. The abuser and the abused need separate counseling by a professional and shouldn’t be asked to meet together).

Four pastors were present for the training. They concurred there is a great need to educate their members about abuse and how to minister to victims.

We live in a sinful world. Therefore, all of us have some type of wound, even if it isn’t abuse. God wants to heal our wounds. As we are healed, let’s turn around and minister to others. To view resources prepared by the Seventh-day Adventist Church to minister to women, visit http://adventistwomensministries.org and http://www.nadwm.org.

Janelle Hurst, coordinator of women’s ministries, Lake Union Conference
### New Generation Leadership Network initiative launched

On Sunday, Feb. 9, about 40 pastors from different parts of the United States met together at the Westin Hotel in Lombard, Ill., to be a part of a new, unique initiative designed to provide encouragement, support and resources to a generation of young pastors who have a burden to learn how to be the most effective in ministry in a rapidly-changing world. The initiative, named “Next Generation Leadership Network,” was developed as a result of conversations between Roger Hernandez, ministerial director of the Southern Union Conference; Jose Cortes Jr., youth ministries director of the Atlantic Union Conference; and Carmelo Mercado, director of multicultural ministries for the Lake Union Conference.

Dave Gemmell, associate ministerial director for the North American Division, was present as the pastors gathered, and he shared information about available resources for the pastors. Joel Sam, from the Symbiota company of Atlanta, Ga., gave a presentation on how technology can be used in ministry, and Kendall Turcios, pastor of a church plant in Sugar Land, Texas, gave a presentation on pastoral ministry. At the close of the meeting, the pastors expressed their appreciation for the initiative and a desire to meet again next year.

The Next Generation Leadership Network is open to young pastors who have an interest and passion for creative ministry geared toward youth and young adults in a multicultural context. The initiative is not exclusively for any particular cultural group. The Hispanic pastors who came have a special interest in reaching second generation Latinos, but they see the Church of the new millennium needing to create and even plant churches that would be English dominant and multicultural. If readers from the Lake Union want more information, they may contact carmelo.mercado@lucsda.org.

Carmelo Mercado, director of multicultural ministries, Lake Union Conference

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### Award-winning filmmaker releases ‘THE ADVENTISTS 2’

Martin Doblmeier, an award-winning filmmaker and director, released a new documentary, “THE ADVENTISTS 2,” in April 2013. The film is the sequel to “The Adventists,” an award-winning film seen on public television stations that became a national success.

In “THE ADVENTISTS 2,” Doblmeier explores how Seventh-day Adventists are changing healthcare in communities around the world. Filmed on location in Haiti, China, the Amazon, Africa and Peru, “THE ADVENTISTS 2” is a collection of six stories that demonstrates the importance of its health message and mission to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and its commitment to take both to the ends of the world.

Doblmeier’s films examine how faith compels individuals to perform extraordinary feats to meet societal needs. For information on how to schedule an interview or special screening event, contact Karen Pearson at karen.pearson@pacificpress.com. To view a clip of “THE ADVENTISTS 2,” visit http://bit.ly/14WKFJx. The DVD is distributed by the Pacific Press Publishing Association. Other notable films released by Doblmeier’s production company, Journey Films, include “BONHOEFFER,” “Albert Schweitzer: Called to Africa,” and “The POWER of FORGIVENESS.”

Karen Pearson, director of publicity and public relations, Pacific Press Publishing Association (adapted)
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 http://www.LakeUnion Herald.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 http://www.herald.lakeunion.org.

Announcements

Andrews University

Cruse with a Mission: Are you a young adult looking for a service opportunity close to home? If so, Cruise with a Mission, sponsored by the Center for Youth Evangelism, may be just the right opportunity for you! It's a mission trip, a cruise and a spiritual retreat all wrapped up in one meaningful adventure; a vacation with purpose! Cruise with a Mission offers an opportunity to release the tensions of life in the context of Christian community. Join other young adults as we explore Alaska in 2013. The ship sails from Seattle, Wash., Sept. 15–22. For additional information and to register online, visit http://www.cye.org/cwm.

Subscribe to the Forever Faithful International Camporee Newsletter. The Camporee Newsletter is the best way to stay up-to-date on details concerning the upcoming International Camporee, Aug. 11–16, 2014. Get exciting news and the information you need about the camporee by subscribing on our webpage: http://www.cye.org/camporee/about. We will post our archived newsletters on our website http://www.cye.org/camporee/newsletter. You can also download and view newsletters that you've missed. For more information, please contact Catrina Lesure at catrinalesure@yahoo.com.

Be a part of the International Pathfinder Camporee Orchestra. Do you play a musical instrument? Will you be attending the International Pathfinder Camporee Aug. 11–16, 2014? If so, the opportunity for you to audition for the Camporee Orchestra is here! The steps are simple. If you would like to audition, download the audition music from our website, practice and upload your audition videos. You must be a pathfinder between the ages of 9–19 to audition. The Orchestra will perform for the Sabbath morning church service under the direction of Claudio Gonzalez, Assistant Professor of Music, Andrews University. For more information about how you can audition, requirements and rehearsal times, visit our webpage at http://www.cye.org/camporee/what-to-expect/orchestra or contact Catrina Lesure at catrinalesure@yahoo.com.

Indiana

BIKE, offered June 6–9, is an annual road-biking event with full SAG support! Bring your multi-speed bike, a tent and sleeping bag, and we will care of the rest. For information, email youth@indydsda.org or call the Indiana Conference Youth department at 317-844-6201.

Lake Region

Annual Honors Retreat: Calling all Pathfinder directors and Pathfinders! Please join us at our 9th Annual Honors Retreat, May 17–19, sponsored by the London Swordbearer Pathfinder club under the direction of LRC TLT coordinator Angie Gardner. This year’s theme is “S.H.I.N.E.” – Serving Him In Everyway. There will be a variety of honors taught by expert instructors – Archery, Drilling and Marching, Amphibians, Nutrition, Serving Communities, Paper Quilling and much more. Our goals are to help your Pathfinders have a spiritually-enriched weekend, earn honors to prepare for class in- vestiture, and obtain knowledge and skills through the honors they earn. The location for this event is Camp Michawana, Hastings, Mich., just north of Kalamazoo. Extra weekend activities include: zip line, climbing tower, miniature golf! For more information and costs, call Teresa Rodgers at 313-283-7775, Robert Jackson Jr. at 248-877-8300, or email gardner.angeline@yahoo.com.

Shiloh/Chicago SDA Academy 100-year Celebration will take place Aug. 29–Sept. 1. The guest speaker is Alvin Kibble, a vice president of the North American Division. Come and bring your family. Reconnect with old friends and staff. Activities include: banquet, concert, picnic, choir and band reunions, and more. Sign up online for the weekend events at http://www.shilohchicagoalumni.org.

Lake Union

Offerings

May 4 Local Church Budget
May 11 Disaster & Famine Relief
May 18 Local Church Budget
May 25 Local Conference Advance

Special Days

May 4 Community Services Sabbath
May 11 Youth Sabbath
May 18 Single Adults Sabbath

Alumni from all Lake Union academies are invited to a potluck on Sabbath, May 4, at 1:00 p.m. It will be held at the Loma Linda University School of Nursing West Hall, 11262 Campus St. (1/2 block north of Barton Rd.) in Loma Linda, Calif. For more information, call 909-799-8039 or 909-748-5178.

Michigan

The Publishing Ministries Department’s youth magabook program, Michigan Youth Impact, invites young people ages 16–25 who love the Lord, have a good work ethic and wish to earn a scholarship for school to join us this summer! The summer magabook ministry is a 10-week program filled with daily worships, testimonies and training. Young people can expect to offer countless prayers, share innumerable amounts of literature, and see God work in the lives of others and themselves. Program dates are June 2 to Aug. 11. To apply, go to http://goyouthimpact.com or call 866-356-0832, and make an impact all around Michigan this summer! Apply soon — programs are filling up fast!

Adelphian Academy Reunion will be held in Holly, Mich., on June 7–8. Fri. evening program will be held in the Holly Church, starting at 7:30 p.m. Sabbath morning Sabbath school and Church service will be held in the old Adelphian Academy chapel, starting at 9:15 a.m. The afternoon service will be held in the Holly Church. For more information, contact Arlene Blesath at 517-536-4312.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Academy Upcoming Events:

Gymnastics Home Show, May 4, 8:30 p.m.; Spring Concert, May 11, 8:00 p.m.; Graduation Weekend, May 24–26.

For more information, visit our website at http://www.wisacad.org.

Mission Trip to Panama: We are going to Panama from Oct. 10–21 to build a church and to have medical-dental clinics. If you are interested in joining in this mission trip, please contact Paul Conner by email: dk2doc@aol.com or phone: 920-986-3410 (evenings) or 920-733-2371 (daytime). Names should be in by the end of May.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

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**Weddings**

Rachel Whitaker and Gregory Cabose were married Sept. 23, 2012, in Lansing, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Dan Towar.

Ralph Williams, and interment was in Cedar Lake Church.


The ceremony was performed by Pastor Justin Ringstaff.

**Obituaries**

BUCKETTNER, Victor J., age 88; born May 20, 1913, in Lansing, Mich.; died Jan. 23, 2013, in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. She was a member of the Clare (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his sons, Stephen and Bradley; daughters, Dana John and Lynn Sprague; brother, Wesley John; sisters, Charlotte Todd, Jeanette Hattis and Patricia Williams; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Russell C. Thomas, and interment was in Gilmore Twp. (Mich.) Cemetery.

**Married Sept. 23, 2012, in Lansing, Mich.**

**Burton, John D., age 54; born Oct. 18, 1958, in Marion, Ill. He was a member of the Metropolitan (Ill.) Church.**

Survivors include his wife, Karla L. (Parks); sons, Matthew Jones, and Jason and John Emerson; stepson, Jason Parks; stepdaughter, Krystal (Parks) Gage; father, Jacob R.; mother, Mable (Bell); brothers, Robert and Mark; sisters, Glenda Smallwood, Martha Millikan, Becky McHughen, Sheila Hunt and Jeannette Gardner; six grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Rick Binford, and interment was in River Bank Cemetery, Pella, Wis.

**Burke, George W., age 82; born Nov. 12, 1932, in Plainwell Village, Mich.; died Jan. 23, 2013, in Mt. Pleasant, Mich.**

She was a member of the Clare (Mich.) Church.

**Mary Lou (John), age 80; born No. 12, 1932, in Plainwell Village, Mich.; died Jan. 23, 2013, in Mt. Pleasant, Mich.**

She was a member of the Clare (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Stephen and Bradley; daughters, Dana John and Lynn Sprague; brother, Wesley John; sisters, Charlotte Todd, Jeanette Hattis and Patricia Williams; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Russell C. Thomas, and interment was in Gilmore Twp. (Mich.) Cemetery.

**ENNEAHT, Nicholas, age 83; born June 11, 1925, in Hope, Mich.; died Dec. 3, 2013, in Winchester, Va.**

He was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Elinor M. (Porsch); sons, David and Ovid Jr.; daughters, Sharon Wagner, Elinor Clark and Alice Schlundt; brothers, Robert and Dan; sisters, Ella Greve, Viola Chen; and Jeannie Mack; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Bruce Hayward, with private inurnment.

**MORRISON, Patricia J. (Flarken), age 82; born May 31, 1930, in Moline, Ill.; died Dec. 8, 2012, in Berrien Springs, Mich.**

She was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs.

Memorial services were conducted by Bruce Hayward, with private inurnment.

**SMITH JR., Kenneth, age 61; born July 31, 1951, in Stonegate, Va.; died Oct. 5, 2012, in Joelit, Ill. He was a member of the Bolingbrook (III.) Church.**

Survivors include his wife, Ava M. (Hancock); stepsons, Glen Malone, Anthony Grant and Alexander Williams; daughter, Nikkita Haynes; stepdaughter, Aletha (Williams) Dupont; father, Kenneth Sr.; mother, Frankie (Horton); brothers, Emanuel and Leroy; sisters, Jackie Robinson and Shirley Moulton; and seven step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by D. Morris, and interment was in Mt. Vernon Memorial Estates Cemetery, Lemont, Ill.

**Sprague, Mary Lou (John), age 80; born No. 12, 1932, in Plainwell Village, Mich.; died Jan. 23, 2013, in Mt. Pleasant, Mich.**

She was a member of the Clare (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Stephen and Bradley; daughters, Dana John and Lynn Sprague; brother, Wesley John; sisters, Charlotte Todd, Jeanette Hattis and Patricia Williams; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Russell C. Thomas, and interment was in Gilmore Twp. (Mich.) Cemetery.

**Thomas, Bud, age 87; born July 17, 1925, in Hope, Mich.; died March 3, 2013, in Winchester, Va.**

He was a member of the Midland (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his sons, Carl and Bruce; brother, Richard; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Richard Thomas, and interment was in New Hope Cemetery, Hope Twp.

**TOMLINSON, Darvin G., age 91; born Jan. 11, 1921, in Alton, Ill.; died Dec. 7, 2012, in Columbus, Mo.**

He was a member of the Oakhill (Ill.) Church.

Survivors include his daughter, Linda Knile; one grandchild; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by David Wendler, and interment was in Vallaha Cemetery, Alton.


He was a member of the Stevensville Church.

Survivors include his wife, Leslie (Scherer); and sister, Jane Watts-Salus.

Funeral services were conducted by Stanley Hickerson, and interment was in Lincoln Twp. Cemetery, Stevensville.
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PARTNERSHIP with GOD
Community Stewardship

BY GARY BURNS

The first community steward was Adam. *Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it* (Genesis 2:15 NKJV). I don’t know if you’re a farmer or if you’ve ever had a vegetable garden, but if you are or have, you know what the words *tend* and *keep* mean. Farming and gardening *tend* to take a lot of time, attention and hard work, and you have to *keep* at it. You can’t let up for a minute!

I had the privilege of spending my “wonder years” in the Walla Walla Valley, on the border of northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington, where I learned to be in the pickup truck by 4:30 in the morning to set sprinklers in the sugar beet field, then to go back and move them again right after supper. The time between was spent either bailing hay or climbing up and down a ladder with a picking pouch or pail for the cherries, apricots, prunes and apples. And we had to pick when the fruit needed picking.

So let’s take the agricultural metaphor and apply it to our communities. Does God expect us to be community stewards — to *tend* and *keep*, to work on behalf of the children in our communities?

Like the young lawyer who asked Jesus, *Who is my neighbor?* (see Luke 10:25–37), we could ask, “Who are my children?” Let’s be good community stewards and care for the needs of all our children.

Gary Burns is the communication director of the Lake Union Conference.
I remember my sophomore year in college, sitting in the library of Andrews University studying. I felt a sense of God’s presence. It wasn’t unusual to feel His presence. Morning and evening worships were special times for me to commune with God. But this was the middle of the afternoon, in the midst of Introduction to Linear Algebra homework!

I put down my pencil and sat still, soaking in that moment of peace and pleasantness. Then, I felt God speak, “This isn’t what I had in mind for you.” I smiled in agreement. Linear Algebra wasn’t going the way I’d planned either. But God didn’t stop there. “Education is a great field and you would be a good teacher, but that’s not what I want you to do.” This statement jarred me. I was confused. All my life I had wanted to be a teacher. All my life I had wanted to teach middle school math and science. How could God be telling me now, in the middle of my studies, that what I’d believed all my life was wrong?

I waited, trying to formulate a response. Finally, I said, “Okay, Lord, what did You have in mind?”

I was mortified by what God said next: “Seminary.” That was the end of the conversation for me. There wasn’t anything left to be said. The answer was “No.” I would be a good teacher, and education was the field I’d dreamed about since I was a child. There was no way I was switching to become a pastor.

I graduated in 2007 with a B.S. in Elementary Education, and was hired within a month as a math teacher. The first year was good, but I constantly felt this tugging at my heart, this questioning — Is this really it?

I spent several years trying to convince myself that I was happy as a teacher, but my actions gave me away. I found myself volunteering to work with Pathfinders, teach Youth Sabbath school, and work with Adventist Youth. The moments I spent planning for my church involvement were the moments I loved most. I was thrilled by the excitement of my Pathfinders during campouts and the insight of my youth in Sabbath school. The nagging continued.

Eventually, I realized I wouldn’t be happy as a teacher because God had called me to be and do something different. But now I had a different problem; I couldn’t afford to quit my job and definitely couldn’t afford to attend the seminary.

In December 2012, I prayed and then took a step forward. I quit my job and called the Financial Aid Department at Andrews University to discuss my options for paying for school. Within a month, I’d made arrangements to cover my schooling, been hired to work at the Center for Youth Evangelism, and started my first classes toward my degree. God has shown me through this experience that if I simply follow Him, He will provide for me.

Catrina LeSure attends Andrews University Theological Seminary where she is working toward a Master’s in Youth and Young Adult Ministries. She is a member of the Praise Fellowship Church in South Bend, Indiana.
Matt Haus had no idea the plans God had for him when he signed up to be a student missionary. The sophomore at Southern Adventist University was inspired to serve overseas, saying he “could use some direction” and “wanted to serve God.” During the 2011-2012 school year, Matt experienced missionary life in Chad, Africa.

Matt spent his time in Chad as a construction worker, building an airplane hangar for aviation ministries. He lived with a family in a mud hut where there was no electricity, running water or working sewage.

“The first three months were very difficult because of the extreme culture shock and change,” says Matt. “It was also hard because I was sick most of that time.”

Though he was in a tough situation, Matt learned to trust God more than ever. When he wasn’t at the hangar, he spent time with the family he lived with and their 14-month-old daughter, Ella. Unfortunately, she was very sick. When Ella’s health didn’t improve, Matt took her to the local hospital to find a cure. There the doctors found she had malaria, dysentery and an unknown virus.

“I spent a lot of time with her there, trying to get her to eat and keep food down,” says Matt. “We prayed so hard for her, holding her hand in the hospital and praying, but she passed away.”

At first, Matt was shocked and couldn’t understand why God let Ella die. It didn’t make sense to him. After much prayer and consideration, however, he realized it was merciful. She wasn’t in pain anymore, and God let her rest in peace. He knew what He was doing, and all Matt could do was trust.

“I really believe she’ll be in Heaven,” he says. “The next thing she’ll see is Jesus.” This thought gave Matt hope and taught him to trust God no matter what the circumstance.

He hopes to do missionary work again someday and would encourage any student considering missions to step out in faith. “Being an SM can really help mold someone’s life,” says Matt. “It changes your perception, how you view the world and what’s important.”

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she is majoring in physical therapy at Andrews University.

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