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**In this issue...**

With the releases of Dan Buettner’s *The Blue Zones*, in association with National Geographic, and Martin Doblmeier’s, “The ADVENTISTS” on PBS, and his new release “The ADVENTISTS 2,” the public has begun to associate Adventists with longevity, health and the delivery of healthcare from a different perspective. That perspective is the core principle of Adventist Health System which serves the Lake Union — CREATION Health.

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She Made a Milkshake!

Twenty-nine years ago I was lying in a hospital bed with a life-threatening disease. It was nighttime, and I was all alone. Oh, I had Barbara, two daughters and many friends who I knew loved me, but at that moment I was alone.

Later in the evening, a nurse came in to check vitals — like blood pressure and pulse, to see if I was alive. She was nice and professional. As she left the room, she asked, “Can I get anything for you?”

I grinned and foolishly asked for something I knew she couldn’t get, “Yes, a milkshake would be great.” She laughed and left the room, probably thinking I was a little crazy.

Within a few minutes she reappeared — with a milkshake! No, she hadn’t gone to the hospital cafeteria or to a McDonald’s; she had gone to some freezer, collected a couple of those little ice cream cups, milk and chocolate, mixed them up, and produced a milkshake! While I’ve enjoyed some great milkshakes, that milkshake was extra good.

Is it possible that all of us should be milkshake-makers? Now, don’t get too narrow-minded on me. On that particular night, that milkshake made a statement. It said I was not all alone. It was an expression of care, a coming-alongside action that communicated I was valued and cared for.

It’s quite natural to go to church, seek a blessing for ourselves through the music and message, and be totally unaware of those around us who may just need a “milkshake.” Of all places, church should be a place where no one feels alone. Even active members who belong can sometimes feel alone in church.

Next Sabbath, I urge each of us to look around. Who are the people who need a coming-alongside “milkshake” statement? Maybe they just need someone to sit beside them or someone to take them through the fellowship meal line, or maybe they can’t even remember the last time they were invited to someone’s home for Sabbath lunch. You may discover they or someone they love are experiencing a health challenge and need someone to be with them through the trauma of surgery. Milkshake statements come in different sizes and flavors.

A few years ago, I especially was blessed before the morning worship service. I was the guest speaker and was in a room, behind the platform, where the pastor was meeting with the elders. I watched as the finely-tuned spiritual team took note of which members had a known need, which visitors were first-time attendees and who had returned, and they planned to connect with those people both during and after church. It was intentional planning to deliver milkshakes — spiritual connections with those who came to God’s House to seek Him and find a place to belong.

I recently heard someone describe Jesus’ ministry as focusing on whomever was before Him at the moment. While this picture does not give a full portrayal of His ministry, it does describe His day-to-day activity as revealed in the four Gospels. While some days included speaking to throngs of people, most of the stories are about touching the lives of one person at a time. His “milkshake” statements were given through touching, encouraging, healing, freeing and preparing lives for the Kingdom of God. How about joining Jesus in a spiritual “milkshake” partnership?
Walking in Faith

BY STEPHANIE AND VIC HARNOS

I was baptized and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church when I was a little girl, real little. In fact, the pastor had to lift me up so the congregation could see me in the baptistry. At eight years old, I knew I loved Jesus but didn’t understand the commitment I was making. I was raised in an Adventist home and attended church school, went to church every week, and dutifully recited my memory verses, but I wasn’t spending personal time with the Lord.

When I was 21, I moved to the Detroit area; it wasn’t long before I met my would-be-husband, Vic. I rationalized that even though we had different faiths we both believed in the same God, and that was all that really mattered. After we were married, I continued going to church every week and played piano for Sabbath school, but still lacked a personal relationship with the Lord.

When we had our daughter, Sarah, Vic agreed I could raise her in the Adventist faith, since he was not practicing anything. So every week, I took Sarah to Sabbath school, and Vic came once in a while. After our son, Adam, arrived, I started to bring the kids to Sabbath school at the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan. I was thinking about sending Sarah to Metropolitan Junior Academy, and wanted her to get to know the other kids. Vic started coming with us more regularly, but we got in the habit of skipping out of the church service. Vic began Bible studies with Bob Stewart (then Metropolitan Church pastor), and we started staying for church, but I still did not have a personal relationship with God. Oh, there were times when I studied my lesson or tried to read the Bible on one of those read-the-Bible-in-a-year plans. I even read an Ellen White book once in a while. But I didn’t make spending time with Jesus a daily habit, and the spiritual “high” didn’t last very long.

A few years ago, we began to have family worship in the evenings, and read The Bible Story books to the kids; but after they were in bed, we’d watch TV for a couple of hours. Getting up early to read the Bible was something I aspired to do, but rarely did.

Two years ago, Vic and I attended a marriage retreat at Crystal Mountain Resort in Michigan. We were really impressed with the guest speakers and bought their book about dying to self daily, which emphasized the importance of Scripture memorization. I started committing Scripture to memory, like I did as a little girl, and listening to Christian music, which I’d never done. I felt better than I had in a long time, but I
wasn’t spending time with God daily and soon the old self reappeared. I allowed the cares of this world to consume me and struggled with forgiveness, both giving and accepting it. I counseled with Jim Howard, Metropolitan Church pastor, and he pointed out, in the book *Steps to Christ*, that those are the tools the devil uses to draw us away from God.

One of the side effects of being raised in the Adventist faith is the tendency to be a “cultural” Adventist and doing what’s permissible in the eyes of the Church, not necessarily what is acceptable to God. I realized I was justifying certain habits and practices based on this way of thinking, when they really were not in harmony with God’s will. But God is gracious, working with us patiently, and helps us overcome anything that is contrary to His Word if we give it up to Him.

I chose to be rebaptized because I haven’t been faithful to God for most of my life, and I wanted to recommit my life to Him, alongside my husband. I want our family to spend eternity together, but realize that can happen only if I invite Christ into my heart each day and ask Him to change me into the wife, mother, friend and example He means for me to be. —*Stephanie Harnos*

I was raised in another faith, along with my six brothers and two sisters. We attended church just about every week. Both of my parents were alcoholics, and I started my bad habits at a young age. I just assumed my parents loved me, although it was hard to believe sometimes. I all but stopped going to church after high school. As my addictions worsened, I often thought about Jesus. How could He love me with all the things I’ve done? Then I met my Stephanie, the first Seventh-day Adventist I had ever known. We started dating and right away something was different, a good different. She shared her beliefs with me. Some things I understood; others, I thought, No way!

After only a month of dating, I asked Stephanie to marry me. Ten months later, we were married. I remember her telling her mom and dad, “Don’t worry, I’ll convert him.” Well, she did help in that. The first part of that were the magazines we started to receive: *Signs of the Times*, *Lake Union Herald* and *Michigan Memo*. When I read these, a lot of the testimonies touched me.

Our daughter, Sarah, was born in 1998, and our lives were changed. I can’t remember when I ever smiled so much. Inside, I still am smiling. I have always liked kids, growing up around all my nieces and nephews. Stephanie took Sarah to church, but I usually went to work or just stayed home. I didn’t know what the Sabbath meant. I went with them once in a while.

In 2003, our son, Adam, was born, and I couldn’t stop smiling. I think that smile just got bigger somehow. Stephanie asked if I would start coming to Sabbath school and church to help with Adam. She played the piano and sometimes led out in Cradle Roll. I agreed. I started to learn the Bible from those classes. I became more interested. By this time, I had attended one or two seminars about the books of Daniel and Revelation. They were difficult to understand at first. Stephanie explained things, and suggested Bible studies. Through these studies and prayer, I started to see so much. I understood what was being taught to me. The Bible truths I was learning started to make sense.

A few years earlier, my mother passed away. I never understood how she could be in Heaven looking down. Growing up, that’s what I was taught. Stephanie gave me a book, and I talked with her pastor. I was convinced about what really happens when we die — we sleep, we know nothing.

That’s when I really started to believe the teachings of the Adventist church. I had a lot of questions still. Every time I asked someone, my questions were answered with texts from the Bible. I began Bible studies with Bob Stew-art (then Metropolitan Church pastor). In my heart, I longed for a closer relationship with Jesus. But my ways of the world were stopping me from this.

On December 21, 2007, through the grace of God and God only, I was able to quit drinking. At about this time, I really understood that when you’re trying to get close to God, Satan will come after you harder. The things that happened since then have been a true test of my faith. About three years ago, my faith was really tested. I knew if I was going to make it, it was going to be through Jesus. The only times it was tough was when I let go. When I spent time in the Bible, I knew it would be all right. I have seen so clearly the ways Satan works to draw us away from the truth. Dying to self is the hardest thing to do. It’s even hard to understand. But, trust me, it is possible.

I can honestly say I know Jesus loves me, and I want to give my heart to Him. —*Vic Harnos*

Stephanie and Vic Harnos are members of the Metropolitan Church in Plymouth, Michigan. Stephanie was rebaptized and Victor baptized on March 23.
Despite our pledge when we marry, we don’t consider what “in sickness and in health” might require. Perhaps it is best that most of us are blissfully unaware of what life eventually can bring to us.

“Although it’s illogical, illness can feel like betrayal, a miscarriage of marital hope and promises,” suggests author Beth McLeod in her book, Caregiving: The Spiritual Journey of Love, Loss and Renewal. The losses are great — companionship, security, intimacy and our dreams. However, out of the heartache of caring for a partner comes lessons to inform us, strengthen us, build our faith, and set examples for the next generation.

Harlan cares for his wife, Carol, who has dealt with chronic back pain for almost a decade. Only in their 40s, they have searched for diagnosis and relief everywhere they know. Harlan says the physical and logistical elements, no matter how frustrating, are easier than providing emotional support and dealing with feeling responsible for his wife’s self-esteem. “When Carol is okay, she’s a joy to be around — smart, funny, warm, compassionate. The problem is she is not okay an awful lot of the time. What I’ve had to do, more than anything, is recognize my anger, because rationally you know this is nobody’s fault. And you know that however bad you are feeling, she’s feeling worse.

“My wife knows she’s sick, and there’s always the question, ‘Am I ever going to get better — or well?’ We want off the roller coaster, but dumping her in a nursing home or divorce and remarriage are not among the possibilities for me. The great hope is that we’ll get back to a normal life. If we can’t, then I hope she comes to terms with it in such a way that she can at least enjoy the life she has to the greatest level possible.”

As Harlan and Carol, and multiples of other couples, have faced the heartaches of chronic illness, they have been called to change their familiar ways. Beth suggests that in caring for a spouse, “We learn that only the present is given to us and that [it] is our choice how to react to it. ... It is in the now we live, and in the now that we can give.”

A few important action steps to consider now:

- Talk about illness and dying while you are both still healthy.
- Create legal and financial documents to clearly state your wishes. Update these documents every few years and/or when there is a change in family composition.
- Learn to identify uncomfortable emotions and talk about them so hurts and misunderstandings don’t fester.
- Tell your children where your important papers are kept. Discuss estate matters and end-of-life issues with them before a crisis hits.
- Develop support networks and educate yourselves to meet the challenges that may become your reality.
- As needed, delegate responsibilities so you can retain the more important aspects of your partnership without fatigue or resentment.
- Continue to build your love, your faith in God and His wisdom, strength and power.

Remember, your children will always need the attention of their parents. Involve them in any illnesses and care plans as they develop, so they will know you are all still a family despite disruptions.

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.
Celestial Sips

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

In many cultures of the world, there is a long tradition of tea-drinking. The leaves of *Camellia sinensis* are processed to produce either black or green tea. But many other teas are popular because of their fragrance or therapeutic value, such as enhancing relaxation or improving your digestion.

A herbal tea, or tisane, refers to any non-caffeinated beverage made from the infusion of dried flowers, fruit, leaves, bark, seeds or roots in boiling water. The tea may be sweetened and can be served either hot or cold. Many herbal teas are available as pure or blended samples.

Hibiscus is a common ingredient in many herbal teas. It gives the beverage a fruity, tart taste and a red color. Scientists at Tufts University have shown that three cups a day of herbal tea containing hibiscus can help lower high blood pressure in pre-hypertensive and mildly-hypertensive adults as effectively as some medications. Systolic blood pressure dropped an average of seven points, and diastolic blood pressure an average of three points during a six-week period. Those with the highest initial blood pressures experienced double the average drops.

Ginger is used in herbal teas to provide a spicy or zesty flavor. Ginger is used as an alternative to antihistamines to prevent and treat nausea, vomiting and dizziness caused by motion sickness. The rhizome of ginger is also used as an antiemetic for postoperative nausea. Compounds in fresh ginger also provide it with the ability to lower the risk of blood clots. The gingerols and curcumin in ginger have anti-inflammatory and cancer-protective properties.

Chamomile, one of the most widely-used herbal ingredients, helps improve gastrointestinal function. It relieves indigestion and flatulence. Its flavonoid content provides anti-spasmodic and anti-inflammatory effects. People allergic to ragweed, asters and chrysanthemums should avoid teas containing chamomile.

The fruity, mild-flavor of Rooibos tea, along with its high antioxidant polyphenolics content, makes it a very popular ingredient in various herbal tea blends. Due to its low level of tannins, Rooibos lacks the bitter astringent taste experienced with many other teas, and does not impair iron absorption as observed with many other beverages. Due to its anti-spasmodic properties, Rooibos is used for digestive upsets and intestinal spasms. Animal studies have shown that Rooibos has cancer-protective action as well.

Valerian root is used widely as a sleep aid and mild sedative without adverse effects on REM (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep. It is effective singly or when combined with other herbs, such as passionflower, lemon balm and hops. A number of clinical studies have shown the effectiveness of valerian for the treatment of insomnia, anxiety and sleep disorders, without producing morning sleepiness.

Only prepackaged teas should be used and not loose, unpackaged teas. While most herbal teas are safe, some are poorly tolerated by pregnant women. No more than one to three cups a day of any tea should be drunk by anyone on a regular basis. Self-medication using a herbal tea for a serious medical condition should not substitute for competent medical advice.

Winston J. Craig, Ph.D., RD, is chair of the Department of Nutrition at Andrews University.
The Spring of True Service

THE EDITORS

"Success in any line demands a definite aim. He who would achieve true success in life must choose and keep steadily in view the aim worthy of his endeavor. Such an aim is set before the youth of today. The Heaven-appointed purpose of giving the gospel to the world in this generation is the noblest that can appeal to any human being. It opens a field of effort to every one whose heart Christ has touched.

"God’s purpose for the children growing up beside our hearths is wider, deeper, higher, than our restricted vision has comprehended. From the humblest lot, those whom He has seen faithful have in times past been called to witness for Him in the world’s highest places. And many a lad of today, growing up as did Daniel in his Judean home, studying God’s Word and His works, and learning the lessons of faithful service, will yet stand in legislative assemblies, in halls of justice, or in royal courts, as a witness for the King of kings. Multitudes will be called to a wider ministry. The whole world is opening to the gospel. ... Millions upon millions have never so much as heard of God or of His love revealed in Christ. It is their right to receive this knowledge. They have an equal claim with us on the Saviour’s mercy. And it rests with us who have received the knowledge, with our children to whom we may impart it, to answer their cry. To every household and every school, to every parent, teacher, and child, upon whom has shone the light of the gospel of the Son of God, comes at this crisis the question put to Esther the queen at that momentous crisis in Israel’s history, ‘Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?’ (Esther 4:14).

“Personal love and loyalty to Christ are the spring of all true service. In the heart touched by His love, there is begotten a desire to work for Him. Let this desire be encouraged and rightly guided. Whether in the home, the neighborhood, or the school, the presence of the poor, the afflicted, the ignorant, or the unfortunate, should be regarded, not as a misfortune, but as affording precious opportunity for service.

“Skill in this work, as in every other, is gained in the work itself. It is by training in the common duties of life and in ministry to the afflicted and suffering, that efficiency is assured. Without this the most sincere purposes and efforts are often useless, and even harmful. It is in the water, not on the land, that men learn to swim” (General Conference Bulletin, July 1, 1902).

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 and questions:

- Compare this timely challenge with the theme and tone of Isaiah 49. In what ways are they similar? How do they differ?
- To what group did Jesus give much of His attention and to whom did Jesus direct most of His activity? (See Matthew 4:24 and Luke 6:16–18).
- Many can recite Isaiah 1:18, but notice the verse that comes before it and its implications for the process of learning.
Elijah: An Ordinary Man

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

Elijah was a man like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain — James 5:17

When we meet a man of prayer like Elijah, it’s tempting to think, I could never pray like that. But James, in citing Elijah as an example of powerful prayer, dispels that kind of thinking with his comment that Elijah was a man like us. James is saying that if Elijah, an ordinary person, could pray powerfully, so can we.

This is so because the power of prayer is not in the person or in the words of the prayer. All the power in prayer is God’s power released through prayer. It was God who held back the rain for three-and-a-half years, and it was God who caused the rain to return. Yet, prayer played a part. It was the prayers of Elijah that moved God’s hands. This ordinary man prayed — and look what happened! God still acts in response to the prayers of ordinary people.

Sometimes the prayers of ordinary people are prayers of simple faith uttered quietly and confidently. That was the case as Elijah faced off with the prophets of Baal (see 1 Kings 18:16–39). After the false prophets had failed to get a response from their god, Baal, Elijah stepped forward and simply prayed. O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and you are turning their hearts back again. Then fire fell from Heaven and consumed Elijah’s sacrifice, the wood and stones, and even the water in a trench around his altar!

This is not to say that any feeble, superficial, halfhearted prayer will be powerful and effective. James also makes the point that Elijah prayed earnestly. Earnest prayer gained the results. And that earnest prayer illustrated James’s point that, in the words of the J.B. Philips translation, tremendous power is made available through a good man’s earnest prayer.

The prayers of ordinary people also need to be persistent. In order to cause the rain to come again, Elijah went to the top of Mount Carmel and prayed persistently. Time after time, he sent his servant to check the horizon for signs of a cloud that would be evidence of answered prayer. Not until the seventh time, when the servant said he saw a cloud rising over the sea as small as a man’s hand, did Elijah stop praying and head down the mountain.

Is there something that God wants to accomplish through your prayers? Why not ask Him — earnestly and persistently, and watch for the results.

Reflect

- Have you ever felt you could not pray powerfully like some “super-Christians” you are aware of? What would James say to that?
- Have you ever given up on prayer after praying a half-dozen times about something? What if Elijah had given up after six prayer efforts?
- Review some of your recent prayers. Were they earnest, or were they halfhearted?

Pray

- Praise God for the power that makes powerful praying possible.
- Thank God that He hears and answers the prayers of ordinary persons and makes it possible for us to pray powerfully.
- Ask God to reveal to you what He wants you to pray about, and to help you pray earnestly and persistently.
- Pray that God will cause His church to grow strong in prayer and be effective in ministry.

Act

Tell God you are available to pray earnestly and persistently about anything He lays on your heart, then listen for God’s direction.

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.

*Read the full story of Elijah’s prayer victory in 1 Kings 17, 18.*
Outreach Breakthrough in Indianapolis

BY BETTY EATON

The Lord has been moving in mysterious and exciting ways in Indianapolis! During the weekend of April 27–28, hundreds of people stood in line at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Exposition Hall to learn more about their health. The line wove its way down the aisle and caused “traffic jams” as eager participants waited to enter the 11-station Lifestyle EXPO exhibition. Alex Rodriguez, Carmel Church pastor, said, “It was so exciting to see how much attention our program got!”

Trained volunteers worked tirelessly processing individuals through participatory activities related to nine health concepts — sunlight, nutrition, air, exercise, water, rest, temperance, health age and trust — plus welcome and resource stations. Participants’ blood pressure was checked, cholesterol and glucose tested, and lung expiratory rate measured. They consumed 16 oz. of water, discovered their cardiovascular health through a Harvard Step Test and current health age through weight, body mass and lifestyle information. A five-minute massage and consultation with a lifestyle counselor or health professional along with resource material completed the process.

This opportunity arose from the discovery that WTHR-TV Channel 13, NBC affiliate for the Indianapolis area, was planning a huge health and fitness expo. When Alex, chair of the Lifestyle Health Expo Committee, contacted management and explained the Lifestyle EXPO program, they were so excited they cut booth costs and moved participants’ spaces so the Lifestyle EXPO program could have a prime location.

Volunteer coordinators Randy Griffin and Susan Landess, along with Beth Bartlett of the Indiana Conference Trust Services Department, contacted and facilitated participation of more than 200 volunteers from 21 churches and two conferences (Indiana and Lake Region).

Results far exceeded expectations. “The first day we were nearly inundated with visitors; the second day we were better organized,” said Alex. Stations were rearranged and places provided for waiting people to be seated.

Feedback for the two-day EXPO was impressive. WTHR-TV conducted a gift drawing for those completing a questionnaire. Most participants indicated their favorite exhibitor was Indiana Healthy Choices, the umbrella name under which the Lifestyle EXPO program is conducted, and 35 people requested Bible studies. Numerous others indicated interest in follow-up fitness, health, cooking and stress management programs. WTHR-TV was so impressed they requested that Lifestyle EXPO participate in an upcoming exposition coordinated by a sister station in Columbus, Ohio. “Your group is the talk of the town here in Columbus!” they stated.

Volunteers were blessed, too. One said, “I am so proud to be an Adventist, working together in these last days.”

Another said, “We were able to give people ideas on how they could live healthier, happier lives. It was really rewarding!”

Betty Eaton is the correspondent for the Indiana Conference.
El valor de la influencia

POR CARMelo MERCADO

Cuando mora Cristo en el corazón por la fe, su Espíritu llega a ser un poder que purifica y vivifica el alma. Cuando la verdad está en el corazón no puede dejar de ejercer una influencia correctora sobre la vida. —Consejos para maestros, p. 213

En el mes de mayo tuve el privilegio de conducir una campaña evangelística en el Bronx, un barrio en la ciudad de Nueva York, en la Iglesia Adventista de Prospect, madre de todas las iglesias adventistas hispanas en dicha ciudad. Mi familia tiene una conexión especial con esta iglesia, porque es allí donde conocí el mensaje adventista y donde yo me bauticé. Para la campaña de mayo, mi propósito era no sólo ganar nuevos conversos sino también invitar a las reuniones a personas que habían dejado de asistir a la iglesia.

Para ayudarme en la predicación invité a un amigo de muchos años, Rubén Ortiz, quien también se bautizó en la misma iglesia. Conocí a Rubén en mi casa cuando su tío me daba estudios bíblicos. Luego, cuando fui por primera vez a la iglesia tuve el privilegio de presenciar su bautismo. Rubén continuamente compartía su fe en Dios con los demás, lo que tuvo un gran impacto en mi vida. Al pasar los años nos hemos mantenido siempre en contacto y él nunca ha dejado de compartir su fe.

Lo interesante es que a pesar de haber vivido en California por casi treinta años Rubén aún tenía conocidos en Nueva York que se acordaban de él y lo apreciaban. Durante la campaña Rubén y yo nos alternábamos las noches de predicación, y en las noches cuando Rubén predicaba algunos de sus conocidos fueron a escucharlo. En una de esas noches Rubén hizo un llamado, y gracias a Dios, uno de sus conocidos respondió al llamado. Damos gracias a Dios porque al final de la campaña varias personas hicieron su decisión de seguir a Jesús, y además, quedaron sembradas semillas de salvación.

Como discípulos de Cristo, Dios espera que consideremos nuestra influencia como un don de Dios y que la usemos para que otros vean el carácter de Cristo reflejado en nuestras vidas. Algunos piensan que debido a sus sermones y su mucho estudio el pastor es la persona clave para ganar muchas almas para el Señor. Pero en realidad esto no es así. Nuestra influencia, y especialmente la de los laicos, puede tener más impacto de lo que nos imaginamos. Por mi parte doy gracias a Dios porque desde mi juventud Rubén me ayudó a mantener mi fe en Dios y a compartirla con los demás. Apreciado lector, la influencia es un don de Dios, y lo deseo a que la use para llevar a otros al conocimiento del Señor Jesús.

Rubén Ortiz presenta la Palabra de Dios en la Iglesia Adventista de Prospect.

Carmelo Mercado es el vice presidente de la Unión del Lago.
The man, visibly upset, approached the medical clinic and pointed to his leg, which was bleeding. Two men, one holding a machete, had tried to rob him. When he fled on his motorcycle, one of the men pulled out a gun and shot him. Now the victim was outside the medical clinic in Villa de San Francisco, Honduras, where a team from Adventist Midwest Health had set up shop for the day, providing free medical care to the community.

Thankfully, two of the nine physicians participating in the trip were orthopedic surgeons.

Ted Suchy and Charles Paik examined the man’s calf and discovered the bullet went all the way through, missing the bone and artery.

Ted irrigated the man’s wound and cut away the burnt tissue with a scalpel to prevent infection. Within 30 minutes, the man was bandaged and ready to go.

The doctors provided instructions for care and sent him off with antibiotics. He walked out of the clinic, hopped on his motorcycle and drove away.

The team of 36 missionaries treated more than 1,600 patients during the week-long mission trip in January, partnering with Hospital Adventista Valle de Angeles (Valley of the Angels Hospital), a 30-bed facility about an hour from Honduras’ capital city, Tegucigalpa.

Each day, the group ran a medical clinic in a different community, providing care to those in need. The physicians, nurses and staff treated each patient and listened to their concerns.

The pharmacy team provided vitamins and medications.

The Kid’s Camp ministry team engaged children with CREATION Health activities, like jumping rope, healthy snacks and Christian-themed coloring pages and puzzles.

As the team set up the clinic one day, Sharon Bowers visited with representatives from the local Seventh-day Adventist church and asked them to refer her to anyone with spiritual needs, so she could pray for them.

“It wasn’t two minutes later that someone was tapping me on the shoulder,” Sharon said. “Every time I did a blood pressure, someone was coming to get me.”

So Sharon asked people sitting on her triage bench, “Do you want prayer?”

“Every single person said ‘Yes,’” she said.

“So after lunch, we made a sign for the waiting area that read, ‘Do you want prayer?’ Almost everyone did. It was like the Spirit was moving and guiding us.”

Patients asked team members Rudy Cortes, Cindy Hagner and Mary Jo Dellaria to pray for their good health, and asked that God provide food for their families.
One woman asked for prayers for her husband, an alcoholic. At one point, nine team members formed a prayer circle for a woman in a family financial crisis.

Later, Cindy was working in the pharmacy when she spotted a woman coming to fill her prescription. With six children following the woman, Cindy sensed the single mother needed more than medicine.

“I just held her and told her we were sisters in Christ and that God was always with her,” Cindy said. “I gave her the cross I was wearing. I felt the presence of God with us. I couldn’t pull myself away, even if I wanted to. We held each other for almost 10 minutes.”

As they ended their embrace, the woman, with tears in her eyes, said, “No one has ever hugged me or held me like that ever before. I’ve never felt love like that.”

Beyond prayer, some needed serious medical care. One 7-month-old baby had poor color, vital signs off the charts and rapid breathing. Doctors suspected sepsis, and paid for the mother to catch a bus (the only mode of transportation) to a pediatric clinic about 90 miles away.

One woman, in her 60s, arrived complaining of chest pain. She was sweaty, and her blood pressure was high. The team provided aspirin and gave her a beta blocker, but then she experienced a seizure.

At home, the normal course of action would be to use nitroglycerin, an EKG machine, oxygen and conduct blood work. But at the clinic, none of this was available. So physician Gary Lipinski called home to Duane Follman, a cardiologist at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, who assured the team they were doing the right thing. The woman was sent to the hospital. It was a case that required “telemedicine!”

Adventist Midwest Health has participated in an annual mission trip since 2006, traveling to Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana and Honduras.

“These mission trips provide much-needed help and allow us to extend the healing ministry of Christ internationally,” said John Rapp, vice president of Ministries and Mission at Adventist Midwest Health. “None of this would be possible without the dedication of the volunteers who take this trip every year, and the commitment from our executive leadership to making mission work a priority.”

Julie Busch is the regional director of public relations with Adventist Midwest Health.
Transforming Every Heart

OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

BY DAVID L. CRANE

Within Adventist Midwest Health hospitals, there is a special effort to create a memorable patient experience. We want our patients to feel God’s compassion and truth through our hands, giving them hope and healing.

We call this effort “Transforming Care—Transforming Lives.” When Jesus healed, He focused on transforming a person’s life. That’s what we try to do for our patients. But the transformation we aim for does not end with our patients. We are committed to transformational work in the hearts of our employees as well.

This important assignment is not one I take lightly. More than 5,000 employees work at our hospitals and outpatient centers, spending the bulk of their waking hours serving our patients, families and guests. I believe part of our responsibility as good leaders is to provide spiritual growth to those desiring it. Our work is a personal mission, and I know God looks to each of us to provide our teams with this leadership.

I believe each of us will have a personal conversation with our Lord — standing on the Sea of Glass, outpouring our gratitude. Jesus will welcome us, and we will be offered eternal life. He may even say, *Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things. I will make you ruler of many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord* (see Matthew 25).

During this conversation, I believe Jesus will ask me, “Where is your family? Where are your wife and kids?”

I hope to answer, “Heidi, Andrew and Zach are here with me.” And then He will ask, “But where are your friends? Your neighbors? Your employees?”

I want nothing more than to answer, “Lord, they are right here!” while turning to introduce them to our King.

In that conversation, Jesus may remind me of my role, as Paul stated in 11 Corinthians 5:20, *We are called to be ambassadors, as if God was making His appeal through us.* I want Jesus to say, “Well done!” and explain the role the Holy Spirit played within each of us.

I believe Jesus will introduce me to some strangers, people I barely remember. I may not even realize that a chance encounter ended up being a transformational experience.

It could be an employee who reminds me how I encouraged her to pray about an issue, and now she explains how God’s Word helped redirect her life. Or He may ask me about another employee, someone who I walked by on the way to my office every single day. This employee worked for the hospital for 18 years but never came to know Jesus. The Holy Spirit saved him on his deathbed, but there were 18 years of missed opportunities. Our leaders are committed to doing everything we can to minimize these squandered opportunities.

We have small encounters every day with people connected to us. If we reinforce Christ’s love, and do not miss those opportunities to connect spiritually, think of the magnitude of people we could touch. I think about the door-opening conversations we can have with our patients that begin with, “How are things between you and God?”

When I’m standing before Jesus, I want to know that every opportunity I’ve had in my lifetime was maximized as an encounter with God. Personally, every decision I make in life, I make with this conversation in mind. I know, in some small way, I am His ambassador, and I’m accountable for these interactions. Through the amazing grace of God, I have faith He will bless our efforts to expand His eternal kingdom of compassion, grace and truth.

David L. Crane is the president and CEO of Adventist Midwest Health.
Lee knows there will be a time when he and Catherine will be together again. "She was my life," said Lee, who is 91 years old and lives a few miles from the hospital. "I was her sole caretaker, and I still miss her every day. When I’m at the chapel, I feel like I’m near her." For the past four years, Lee has stopped by the chapel to remember Catherine. Excluding holidays and the occasional sick day, that’s almost 1,500 chapel visits.

Lee and Catherine met at a Chicago high school when she was 15 years old and he was 17 years old. “I sat behind her in class,” he said, about the day the two met. “The first thing I did was pull her hair, and she turned right around and told me to stop it. I knew then she was going to be my girl.” They married, had two children, and moved to La Grange, Illinois, 35 years ago.

Catherine was sick for nearly a decade. During this time, Lee learned to cook pot roast and vegetable stew; he managed her medications and drove her to all her doctor visits. When Catherine went for walks by herself, Lee silently followed her to make sure she was safe. They were together for 66 years before Catherine passed away from Alzheimer’s disease.

Lee, who wears a hearing aid, was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma in 2004. Today, he is in remission and drives himself to the hospital chapel. Most days he also stops by the local recreation center for yoga and tai chi classes. He checks his email daily and meets a group of friends at McDonald’s for coffee and conversation.

usually, he spends just a few minutes in the chapel, but sometimes he’ll play a few notes on the chapel piano, which he taught himself to play. He’ll often stop by the hospital’s pastoral care office to say hello to the chaplains and staff. Mark Woolfington, chaplain at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, introduced himself to Lee after watching him walk into the chapel, Bible and cup of coffee in hand, day after day.

“Lee is a gentleman in the truest sense of the word, and a great blessing to our hospital family,” Mark said. “If you enter the chapel while he is playing the piano, he'll always ask if his playing will disturb you. I’ve told Lee many times that the opposite is true. His presence and gentle music have helped many other visitors and patients through their own difficult times.”

Lee, in his own way, is extending the healing ministry of Christ to others just as it was extended to him.

Sheila Galloro is a public relations specialist with Adventist Midwest Health.
The hospitals already have participated in several CREATION Health activities. For instance, this past winter, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital hosted a “Do Nothing” activity for employees, allowing them time during their day to relax quietly, pray, read the Bible or journal. In March, hospitals focused on clearing out clutter and arranging their work environments, with departments competing to see who could declutter their space best. Focusing on Interpersonal Relationships, Adventist Lab Partners collected eight boxes of items to donate to local homeless shelters. Though the events will differ by month, all CREATION Health activities will fall into three basic areas: education, improving employee health and enhancing the patient care process, said Kim Stricker, regional CREATION Health and Wellness manager. “Our goal is to have CREATION Health become part of our organization’s culture,” Kim said. “For our staff, we’ll focus on healthy living and creating new wellness programs. For our patients, we’ll focus on chronic disease self-management.”

The hospitals also will extend CREATION Health into the communities they serve, through community education programs as well as a special educational effort from Stanford University that focuses on congestive heart failure, Kim said.

“Jesus has three mandates for an abundant life,” said John Rapp, regional vice president of Ministries and Mission. “Love God, love your neighbor as yourself, and pray for your enemies. CREATION Health lifestyle helps us be obedient to those mandates. CREATION Health is penultimate. God is ultimate.” The efforts to ingrain CREATION Health into the hospital culture will help to create practices that will spread to Adventist hospitals across the United States.

The Midwest hospitals are leading that effort, said Kathy Perno, director of corporate relations for Adventist Health System. Kathy is in charge of implementing CREATION Health at all AHS facilities and physician practices.

“When I train others in Florida or in Texas, I’m using the Adventist Midwest Health region as my example,” Kathy said.

Christopher LaFortune is a public relations specialist with Adventist Midwest Health. Visit http://www.CREATIONHealth.com for more information about CREATION Health.
Kate Watkins says Jacque McKernan saved her life. And all Jacque did was pull up a chair, pat Kate on the hand and listen. About a year ago, Kate found out she had nephritis, a chronic inflammation of the kidney, in addition to her high blood pressure and diabetes.

A labor and delivery nurse at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, Kate was used to taking care of other people, but was failing to take care of herself. So, for the first time in a while, she decided to change that and set up her first meeting with Jacque, who runs the hospital-based Diabetes Education Center.

“She listened to everything I had to say, my whole story,” Kate said. “She adjusted my insulin and gave me great nutrition tips. She just looked me in the eye and said, ‘We can fix this.’”

Jacque doesn’t have the disease herself, but three of her nine siblings had type 1 diabetes, so she grew up with the constant injections and blood sugar checks. When she was 9, Jacque gave her brother shots of insulin herself and, as an adult, diagnosed her sister.

“From the time I was very young, God gave me the ability to help others,” Jacque said. “I try to help people like Kate, medically and emotionally. I’m here for them. I listen and do the best I can to help ease their pain.”

Diabetes is a condition that affects the way the body uses food for energy. It occurs when the pancreas does not make enough insulin, or the insulin it makes does not work effectively. According to the American Diabetes Association, 25.8 million children and adults in the United States (8.3 percent of the population) have diabetes; another 79 million people are pre-diabetic.

Today, you’ll find Jacque, 71, in a small office in Elmwood Hall wearing lipstick, red gym shoes, a white lab coat, and tweeting under the handle “Diabetty.” Most days, Jacque eats lunch at her desk, munching on peaches, kale and cottage cheese, while flipping through the latest diabetes research journals. Her office is full of books and plastic molds of bagels, apples and carrots, which she uses to teach newly-diagnosed diabetics about food portions and how to count carbohydrates.

And they listen. Today, Kate is 60 pounds lighter and barely resembles the photo on her work ID badge. She’s come a long way, but still refers to herself as a “work in progress.”

“Diabetes is a huge issue, both nationally and locally,” said Shawn Tyrrell, chief nursing officer at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. “The CREATION Health lifestyle, which is at the heart of the mission of Adventist Midwest Health, is about being as healthy as you can be at every stage of your life, having a healthy, spiritual relationship with our God and Savior, Jesus Christ, and, in turn, being able to serve like Jesus did.”

“Jacque is a lovely person and genuinely wants people to feel better,” Kate said. “Jacque lives our mission every day. There is simply nothing about diabetes that she doesn’t know.”

Sheila Galloro is a public relations specialist with Adventist Midwest Health.
Waiting for His Instructions

BY JENNIFER ORDE

January 30 was the worst day of my life. But, thankfully, my Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital colleagues were by my side that fateful day. I attribute my being alive today to my inner Voice, which I believe is the voice of the Holy Spirit. This Voice guided me in everything I did, and didn’t do, that day. Each decision brought me to the right place at the right time.

I know this was not by chance, but by a loving, faithful God watching over me. I came to work January 30 after spending a week in Honduras on Adventist Midwest Health’s annual mission trip.

Toward the end of the trip, I wasn’t feeling well, and I stayed home for two days before returning to work. That morning, my husband, Kevin, asked if I’d rather stay home, but I decided not to.

At work, in the Patient Experience Department, where I work as a patient guide and registered nurse, I received a phone call from a patient’s wife. She needed to talk, and I agreed to meet with her later in the day, at a time when I’d normally head home. I really wanted to get home that day to see my daughters Jessica, 17, and Mia, 4, whom I had missed while away on the mission trip.

My team member, Tora Perkins, covered for me while I was away, so I asked her to join me for this meeting. Normally, we would not do this, but I asked and she agreed.

I was on the phone when, suddenly, I felt like someone was pushing me down. I remember saying I was going to faint. And then everything was gone, as I fell unconscious. Later, Tora helped fill in the blanks.

“I tried to catch you as you fell,” she said. “I touched your back, and it felt like you weren’t breathing. And then I called ‘Code Blue.’” Immediately, a rapid response team of medical professionals — my hospital colleagues — descended to the area near the main lobby where I lay unconscious.

The doctors shocked me to bring back my heart rhythm; ultimately, I had a defibrillator placed to protect me against this ever happening again.

Technically, this should not have happened to me. I’m a young mother, just entering my 40s, and I pride myself on staying fit, even running several local races every year.

The “what ifs” overwhelm me at times. I’ve made brownies and sent thank-you cards, but I don’t know if I ever can express the depth of my feelings to the doctors and nurses who saved me. Because of them, I got to celebrate my daughter’s 4th birthday and my 13th wedding anniversary this year. I’ve seen a niece and a nephew born within the same week.

When my emotions get the best of me, I remember the three most important people in my life, my husband and my daughters, and peace settles over me. Each day, I thank God for what He’s given me, and I ask for His help when I need it. I tell Him I’m still listening, and that if there is something more He needs, I’m ready. My inner Voice saved me once. I’m just waiting for His next instructions.

Jennifer Orde is a patient guide and registered nurse at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital.
A New Hire

HOSPITAL WELCOMES SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT

BY CHRISTOPHER LaFORTUNE

In His teachings to people, Jesus welcomed all — reaching out to everyone no matter who they were or what their background was. All God’s children retained dignity and worth within the eyes of the Lord, and everyone deserved caring. And it is in line with this view that Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital has, for the first time, hired a special education student.

Sam Smetko works part-time in the hospital’s Food Services Department. He is a special education student at Lyons Township High School, located just a block from the hospital. Sam first worked in food services thanks to a partnership the hospital has with the high school.

“He really works hard,” said Debbie Regnier, registered dietician and clinical nutrition manager at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital. “He comes in and finds things to do by himself, even after he finishes what we’ve told him to do.”

Part of the hospital’s healing mission is to acknowledge value in every person, chaplain Mark Woolfington said. Jesus spoke of caring for all believers in need.

In spite of the challenges Sam faces, he has found a place at the hospital.

“I’m proud that I work in a place that really embraces everyone,” Mark said. “That’s one of our values — inclusiveness, and I think it’s a great example of that.”

Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital has worked with Lyons Township for more than 15 years on its vocational studies program. Such partnerships are common for the hospital — working with schools, charities and other community organizations to extend its healing ministry.

Sam’s mother, Beth, has noticed a difference in her son since he started working as a dishwasher at the hospital.

“He’s a little more confident,” she said, “and very proud of himself. I think it’s been wonderful.”

The hospital has not had the opportunity to hire a student through the high school program before, mostly because of timing. Debbie said. When students have been available, positions have not been open. This time, the timing worked out.

The people helped through the hospital’s programs, such as Sam, appreciate the opportunities given to them, his mother said. When Sam comes home each day, he likes to talk about work. In the past, he’s had some difficulty with communication. “I think it’s great that there are businesses that work with Lyons Township to allow students to come and train,” Beth said. “I was surprised and really happy when they asked Sam to apply.”

Christopher LaFortune is a public relations specialist with Adventist Midwest Health.
Supporting the Troops

COUPLE FINDS DIFFERENT WAYS TO TOUCH LIVES

BY SHEILA GALLORO

Two large bulletin boards — one covered with photos of veterans done fighting and one covered with soldiers still in the thick of it — hang in a busy hallway of Adventist GlenOaks Hospital in Chicago’s western suburbs. The woman responsible for the boards, Yvonne Losey, is the director of the hospital’s birth center. She knows the military almost as well as she knows babies.

Her husband, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Garry Losey, is stationed at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware. A second-generation Seventh-day Adventist pastor with more than 30 years of ministry experience, Garry was selected by the Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon as the Chaplain for the Army Liaison Team.

Garry provides the needed counseling and spiritual care for family members during the dignified transfer ceremony to departing fallen soldiers on the flight line. Before his deployment, Garry was manager of pastoral care at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.

Yvonne witnesses new life every day, while Garry deals with the end of life, supporting the family members of the fallen through the grieving process.

“It’s the best job I ever hated, and the worst job I ever loved,” Garry has told Yvonne countless times.

The Loseys met 36 years ago at Loma Linda Medical Center, in California, when Yvonne was a nurse and Garry a theology student. Today, they have two grown children and two grandchildren. Garry joined the Army in 1988 and the Reserves in 1999.

In 2009, Garry helped 250 Army families when he was stationed at Dover Air Force Base.

Meanwhile, back home in Illinois, Yvonne has lost track of the number of people she’s helped. Besides her two military boards, which she hung the day Garry left in 2009, she also led an effort to ship homemade cookies to members of the U.S. military serving overseas and sews beautiful quilts decorated with American flags. From time to time, Garry asks Yvonne to make a special quilt for a grieving family he meets, as was the case in January 2012.

“I pray this quilt will give you comfort,” Yvonne wrote in a letter to a woman who lost her husband, a sergeant in the Army. “I know the days ahead are not easy. May our Heavenly Father wrap His loving arms around you and give you peace and comfort.”

She never heard back, but to Yvonne that’s not important. She provided comfort to a woman going through a terrible time. And in a small way, Yvonne knows what it’s like to miss someone you love. She hasn’t seen Garry since January, and says the military boards, tending to new moms and babies at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital, and sewing the quilts are a way to fill the hours while he’s gone.

“I know Garry is doing God’s work, and that it’s important,” Yvonne said. “He is helping people in a time of horrible loss and grief. They will never forget him.”

So, until he returns, Yvonne will continue to update the boards and wait for the big day in August when she can move her husband’s photo from the “active military” group to the “veterans” group. That’s when Garry will retire from the Army and return home.

Sheila Galloro is a public relations specialist with Adventist Midwest Health.
Waterfall feature dedicated at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital

When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown…. — Isaiah 43:2 NLT

In the middle of the busiest part of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital stands the building’s most calming feature.

Stretching more than five stories is a waterfall that runs from the roof of the hospital lobby to a tiered brick and granite base with smooth, dark stones and plants. The water, lit from the top, flows in a double row of fine Mylar strands. Bible verses engraved around the base convey messages of peace and comfort.

Recently, a group of hospital employees and CEO Michael J. Goebel gathered around the water for a special dedication ceremony. The group held hands and read out loud each Bible passage.

“This calming water represents so much of what our hospital is all about,” Goebel said. “We provide physical and spiritual care and comfort to not only every patient but, thanks to this beautiful feature, to every person who walks through our lobby.”

Adventist Midwest Health president and CEO David Crane suggested including the water feature in plans for the new pavilion, which opened in April 2012. Both visitors and employees have called the constant movement and sound of running water mesmerizing. Water is one of the most important religious symbols representing life, healing and rebirth in the Bible. Christ says that water is a symbol to a new spiritual birth into the kingdom of heaven (see John 3:5). Christ comes in water, blood and Spirit, witnessing to one God (see 1 John 5:6–8). He commands watery baptism in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 28:19).

There is another saying in the hospital lobby, one that guides staff on a daily basis: “Love is the universal language most clearly expressed in compassion.” attributed to David Paulson, one of the founders of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.

“I remember the day when this pavilion was still under construction, and dozens of hospital employees came and wrote their favorite Bible verses on the bare walls of this chapel,” said Tricia Treft, Pastoral Care manager at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. “Today, those walls may be covered with paint, but those Bible verses will remain in the hearts of our employees forever.”


— Revelation 22:17 NLT

Sheila Galloro, public relations specialist, Adventist Midwest Health.
Two professors were awarded a J.N. Andrews Medallion at the Andrews University commencement services on Sunday, May 5. Ranko Stefanovic, professor of New Testament at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, was awarded the medallion at the 8:30 a.m. Seminary and School of Health Professions service. L. Monique Pittman, professor of English and director of the J.N. Andrews Honors Program, was awarded the medallion at the 11:30 a.m. College of Arts & Sciences service.

The J.N. Andrews Medallion is given in recognition of excellence in research, teaching and service. Since it was first awarded in 1979, 94 medals have been awarded to Andrews University professors and teachers at Andrews Academy.

Stefanovic earned a diploma in theology from the SDA Theological School in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in 1970. He went on to complete an administrative officer certificate in Zagreb, Croatia, in 1988, and then a B.A. in theology and an M.A. in religion from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in 1989 and 1990, respectively. He completed a Ph.D. in religion from Andrews University in 1996.

Stefanovic began his career in 1970, pastoring in the Yugoslav Seventh-day Adventist Union conferences in Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia. From 1996 to 1999, Stefanovic taught in the Department of Religion at Canadian University College, before joining the Seminary faculty in 1999. He maintains a heavy schedule of preaching, guest lecturing, conference presentations and scholarship, and has received numerous excellence in teaching awards. He is the author of two books, published by the Andrews University Press. Stefanovic’s students describe him as an asset to the school and praise his spiritual influence in their lives.

Beloved and esteemed by colleagues and students alike, Pittman is well-known for her contributions to the field of literature and the enthusiasm she devotes to the professional development of her students. She earned a B.A. in English from Andrews University in 1991, an M.A. in English from the College of William and Mary in 1993, and a Ph.D. in 2000 from Purdue University. She taught for three years at Pacific Union College before joining the Andrews faculty in 1999.

Pittman has written extensively about Shakespeare and popular media, and has been published in top journals in the field, including Shakespeare Bulletin, Literature/Film Quarterly, and Early Modern Literary Studies. She published a monograph titled Authorizing Shakespeare on Film and Television: Gender, Class, and Ethnicity in Adaptation (Peter Lang, 2011). Pittman regularly attends conferences, most recently presenting at the 2013 Shakespeare Association of America conference and the 2013 Oxford University Round Table on Women and Education that took place at Harris Manchester College, Oxford University, in England.

In addition to teaching and publishing, Pittman finds time to mentor student research, guiding the scholarship of numerous graduate and undergraduate students who have presented their research at Honors Symposia and at various professional conferences. Her students have pursued or are currently pursuing advanced degrees at such institutions as Emerson College, Berkeley Theological Union, Western Michigan University, Ball State University, the University of Maryland, Northwestern University, Salisbury University, University of Florida, University of Toronto, Columbia University, and her alma mater, Purdue University.

Upon being presented with the medallion, Pittman received a standing ovation from her Honors students and alumni, many of whose research she has mentored and who have gone on to significantly influence the scholarly community. She is the youngest woman to receive the J.N. Andrews Medallion.

Samantha Snively, graduate writer, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication

Pieter Damsteegt received his degree at the 2:00 p.m. commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 5. Damsteegt graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and Documentary Film. His senior thesis project, a documentary film titled “Back of My Life,” chronicles his life as a college student while growing progressively more handicapped from degenerative rheumatism. To learn more about his film, visit http://vimeo.com/user2692714.
Led by the Spirit

BY PAM DOWELL

Linda Crosby, a long-time member of the Lewis Church in Indiana, earnestly and continually prayed many years for her husband to find God and come to church with her. She was surprised beyond measure one Sabbath when Jim showed up for the worship service.

The Holy Spirit had been speaking to Jim for some time. Jim warned Linda that though he would attend church with her, he would not attend Sabbath school. It wasn’t long before Jim was going to Sabbath school with her, too. He told Linda not to expect him to go to prayer meeting, but soon he was going with Linda to prayer meeting. Ah, the wonderful and awesome power of the Holy Spirit!

It took Jim five years to decide to be baptized. Putting aside some bad childhood experiences with religion and an aversion to standing in front of others, Jim was baptized on July 26, 2012. That date also happened to be Jim and Linda’s 43rd anniversary.

The story doesn’t end there. The Lord continued to bless and lead. Jim had been trying to cope with a Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test measurement that indicated the possibility of prostate cancer. Finally getting a diagnosis, after years of uncertainty, Jim and Linda sorted through the options available for treatment. Jim knew about Loma Linda Medical Center in California. After careful research, he decided to go there for treatment.

Many stumbling blocks — insurance problems, fear of flying, a place to live during the three months of therapy, finances and leaving home and family — all reared their ugly heads. Once again, God made His Holy presence felt. He guided Jim and Linda through all the many decisions and gave them the confidence they needed to carry through.

Good friends, Barb and Gil Hernandez, who previously had been members of the Lewis Church, now lived in Yucaipa, California, near Loma Linda Medical Center. They offered their home, helped Jim and Linda get around in a big city, and gave love and moral support.

The experience at Loma Linda Medical Center was top-notch in both medical and spiritual therapy. Jim and Linda found a home church away from home in Yucaipa. They were surprised when greeted by Kenneth Cox and Donna Kline, whom they knew from Three Angels Broadcasting Network. The members made them a part of their church family.

The Crosbys are back in Indiana, but they never will forget all the friends they made and the way God led them into a closer walk with Him through their trials. They look forward to their heavenly home where there will be no more cancer.

Pam Dowell is a member of the Lewis Church in Indiana.
HAA mission trip teaches seniors responsibility and teamwork

Illinois—Each year the Hinsdale Adventist Academy senior class uses its spring break to go on a mission trip. This is something they plan on from their freshman year. Students choose the destination and organize the funding for all expenses associated with the trip, including whatever project they undertake. This year’s seniors chose to travel to Cataña, Puerto Rico. They worked together to paint the Cataña Church and lead out in the church’s worship services.

“The senior class mission trip is the culmination of our students’ experience at Hinsdale Adventist Academy. It is a great launching pad for our kids, teaching them independence and responsibility. It also opens their eyes to life’s realities. They have to learn how to work as part of a team and that what they do really matters to others,” said Robert Jackson, associate principal.

After the trip, seniors had quite a bit to say about how much they valued their experience. John Gallagher said, “The senior mission trip made our class a lot closer and stronger. It changed all of us in different ways. For me, seeing the poverty made me appreciate what I have at home a lot more; it also made me appreciate Chicago weather! I feel like the trip helped open our eyes to the real world, and now I have a better idea of what is to come.”

Spencer Baum, Student Association president, agreed. “The trip made our class a lot closer, and made our senior year more memorable. It opened my eyes to see that not everything in this world is as nice as my community here in America. There is a lot of diversity in living standards, and some people are living in very difficult circumstances. The mission trip definitely helped us to get ready for the next stage of our lives.”

Allison Mochizuki, who has attended HAA for the past three years, said, “The trip was a really nice break from school, where we got to spend quality time with our class. It was very rewarding, there was no drama, and we completed our project on time. I think the trip taught us responsibility. Finishing the project was our responsibility. It helped prepare us for graduation by learning how to live more independently and be responsible for our own finances.”

Seniors were accompanied by their class sponsors, Thomas Dunham and Alex Adams, along with three parents. Adams, senior class sponsor and HAA’s athletic director stated, “The seniors learned how to work as a team and appreciate the little things. I don’t think they realized that what they were doing was so special. They were really appreciative of the response they got back from the church members. They didn’t think painting a building and singing was significant, but they received an overwhelmingly positive response from the local people. The project helped the seniors to realize that everyone has a role to play. It was important for them to do their work to the best of their ability with no excuses. They had to try their best and get it done. They learned how to rely on each other and care for each other’s burdens.”

HAA is a preschool–12-grade school nestled in the northeast corner of Hinsdale. Our students are prepared for lives of purpose and leadership in whatever field they choose. Enrollment is now open for fall. For more information, please email marketing@haa.org or call Cherie Jackson on 630-323-9211.

Cherie Jackson, communications coordinator, Hinsdale Adventist Academy
Local Church News

The Greenwood Church members have adopted and now eagerly support a mission church in Busonko, Uganda, Africa.

Greenwood Church adopts sister church in Africa

Indiana—The Greenwood Church is very supportive of a mission church in Busonko, Uganda, Africa. A Greenwood Church member, Irene Tambala, originally from Busonko, brought the needs of the church in Africa to her Greenwood Church family ten years ago. Since then, her American friends have adopted and now eagerly support the church in Uganda.

Each week, through the Lamb’s Offering, members donate funds to improve the Busonko Church. Sometimes just $1 or even just some coins are found in the collection basket, but the coins and dollars added up. With the members’ determination and the Lord’s blessings, the Busonko Church was remodeled.

Connie Moore, a member, sends “children’s Sabbath school materials on a regular basis to the church as well as other humanitarian supplies, such as mosquito netting,” reports Brian Yensho, pastor.

Recently, Moore and Tambala traveled to Africa to visit the Busonko Church. “Irene Tambala and I spent ten days with the people in this area,” said Moore. “Not speaking the language myself, I was glad she accompanied me on this trip. This was the first of many; we are already brainstorming for our next trip.”

While there, Moore and Tambala touched many lives for Jesus. One Sabbath morning, they decorated crowns and harps with the children, and sang “In My Father’s House” as the children wore a special robe. Moore brought along 75 pre-cut crowns, but says they ran out.

Another day they met with a ladies group. Moore and Tambala gladly accepted items they were asked to take back home to sell. They have received beautiful bowls, purses and wood-burned plaques to sell in the States.

Moore and Tambala brought eyeglasses to give the ladies. “Such a small thing to us,” remarked Moore, “but to be able to read their Bible again is huge!” They also took clothes to distribute. “On several occasions, we had people who were allowed to come to our hotel room. ... Getting all the clothes out each day we had visitors and then putting the items all away so we could get into bed at night was quite an ordeal,” Moore stated. The ladies also visited some of the Busonko Church ladies and shared clothes.

Some Greenwood Church members contributed to the enhancement of the Busonko School, too, where approximately 20–30 children eagerly attend. “The building is in need of much repair, or just starting over. I personally thought it was a chicken coop, said Moore.”

“Going to school is a real privilege for these children. They realize that if they want a better life, this is the beginning. Once their schooling is completed, the government will test the best students. Their test scores will tell just exactly which line of studies they are best fitted to follow. Then the government will pay for their education as long as they pursue that chosen line of work,” said Moore. The Busonko Church has begun a brick-making project. They hope to make bricks to sell and also employ some locals.

“The present goal is to make enough bricks to sell and some to keep for a stockpile to begin building the school,” Moore added.

Many of the children in the region have been orphaned because of AIDS. Without a sponsor, most never will attend school. The Greenwood Church tries to match sponsors with children, so they can attend the best Adventist primary and secondary schools.

“Compared to Adventist schools in the States, the cost there is unbelievably low,” Moore stated. For only $300, a child can attend an Adventist boarding school for one term. All they need to do is show up with a mattress and sheets.

“Everything else is provided! For a child who has nothing, this is everything! It is a dream come true. In Africa, usually the children of wealthy and important people send their children to boarding schools,” shared Moore.

Tambala’s brother, Noah Nsbuga, will attend the Third World Congress on Youth and Community Service, in Pretoria, South Africa, July 8–15, sponsored by the Greenwood Church. He was Moore’s and Tambala’s guide and chauffeur while in Uganda. He is a valuable member of the ministry team in Busonko, where he is in charge of an “academy-type school,” according to Moore, and recruits students from all areas to attend. He also will have the responsibility of starting a boarding school on the new land purchased for the school.

Greenwood Church members are thankful to partner with God, and watch as He helps the people in their sister church in Busonko. And there’s a double blessing: “Now that the Greenwood Church membership is growing, so is our Lamb’s Offering,” stated Moore.

If you would like more information about the Busonko Church ministry at the Greenwood Church, email Moore at csmoore1708@sbcglobal.net; or Yensho byensho@aol.com.
Metropolitan members collect Bibles for Africa and beyond

Michigan—“Many of us have Bibles that haven’t been opened for a long time because newer translations or study Bibles are being used in their place. By donating Bibles, we now have the opportunity to give people in Africa and around the world a chance to read God’s Word,” stated Dwight Hall of Remnant Publications on Thursday evening in Fall 2007 on Today LIVE (a program on Three Angels Broadcasting Network). These words sparked a flame in Ann Ferrari and her father, Henry Ferrari, as they watched the show.

The following Sabbath, Ann began to talk to fellow church members at the Metropolitan Church, in Plymouth, Mich., about the opportunity to share the Word globally. She even made announcements from the pulpit about her idea to collect Bibles, and shared that she and Henry would deliver them to Remnant Publications in Coldwater, Mich. Ann called other Adventist churches in the area. She was met with enthusiasm from members of these churches, so much so the other churches decided they would take on the ministry for their own local congregation.

Ann then stepped out of the realm of Adventism and spoke to her co-workers about her newfound passion. Then she started to call other churches in the area. Soon the Bibles began to accumulate. In January 2008, Henry and Ann loaded boxes containing 86 Bibles into their 2007 Chevy Impala and made their first excursion to Coldwater, a trek of more than 100 miles from their home in Livonia, Mich.

Word began to spread about the Ferraris’ Bibles for Africa project. Ann placed bins in locations around the Metropolitan Church and Metropolitan Junior Academy. Members deposited their unused Bibles in these containers. Every Monday for several months, Ann found two Bibles on her desk when she arrived at work, deposited by a fellow teacher.

The secretary at Ann’s place of work came to her one day and exclaimed, “Our church wants to participate in Bibles for Africa. You will be receiving a call in the next day or two.”

In 2008, Ann and Henry made four trips to Coldwater, delivering, on average, 196 Bibles. Since 2008, the secretary’s church has donated several times. In the last three years, this congregation alone has contributed 1,000 Bibles. A pastor in the community of Canton invited Ann to share the Bibles for Africa and Beyond story with local pastors at a district meeting. This pastor also custom-made business cards for Ann to give to the other pastors and to share as she and Henry contact people who show an interest in the Bibles for Africa and Beyond campaign.

All this enthusiasm soon became a problem for Ann and Henry. They were collecting so many Bibles that the weight of the Bibles began to cause the tires on the Impala to rub on the wheel wells, and put quite a strain on the shocks and frame of the car. The car could not provide adequate space for all the boxes. Fortunately, in February 2012, Metro-member Bob Weaver offered his pick-up truck. Now instead of only 200 Bibles per trip, the Ferraris carry more than 600. On the first trip, the weight proved too much for even the truck, and it broke down on the way.

Ann would like to give special mention to the City Temple Church in Detroit. Led by Nola Holloway, City Temple continues, to this day, to transport Bibles to Ann and Henry to add to their collection, and the church has contributed 300 Bibles and greater than $800 in donations.

Bibles for Africa and Beyond is a great witnessing outreach in the Detroit Metropolitan area. Many local churches, private schools, public libraries and hotels have participated in this project. In the past five years, Ann and Henry have collected and delivered more than 5,000 Bibles and made 16 trips to Coldwater.

The initiative began on Feb. 20, 2007. In the past six years, Remnant Publications has sent one million Bibles to 37 countries around the world. The goal is to distribute four million. Ann says, “Many of our families and
Fair generates awareness of ministry opportunities

Michigan—In order to generate more awareness of and involvement in the various departments that minister to the outreach mission of the church, in September 2012 the Personal Ministry (PM) Team of the Metropolitan Church, in Plymouth, Mich., decided to conduct a personal ministry fair. Originally, the fair was to include outreach groups like personal ministries, health/temperance, Supper Club, discipleship ministry, Pathfinders, Adventurers, community services/Yorba Hotel, vacation Bible school, Metropolitan Junior Academy/Bible Labs and the Metro North Church Plant. As word spread and more thought was put into the idea, the PM Team realized they were overlooking other outreach ministries of the church. Those additional teams included Bibles for Africa and Beyond, Sabbath school, Japanese and women’s ministry teams.

Once the idea took flight, it expanded to include not just outreach but those groups that nurtured the internal membership of the church. Included were the family, shut-in and youth ministries groups. Soon other ministry leaders said their ministries were being overlooked, so the list expanded to include the music and media teams and the newly-created Bridge Ministry, which is a district-wide youth ministry. When April 6 arrived, there were 22 different ministries on display in the Metropolitan Junior Academy (MJA) gymnasium in what was finally labeled “Metro Ministry Fair.”

Organization was key to the event. Beginning in February, PM Team leader Elwyn Hyde contacted the leaders of the various departments via emails and phone calls, informing them of ideas on how to decorate their booths and where each department’s booth would be located in the MJA gym. He sent several reminder emails with countdowns to the big day. Hyde and other PM Team members also notified the congregation of the coming event with pulpit announcements and bulletin inserts.

The PM Team with Jim Howard, pastor, altered the normal order of the actual church service. Prior to his sermon on April 6, Howard interviewed each ministry leader with four questions: What is your name?; What department/ministry do you represent?; What does your department/ministry do?; and Why should someone come to your booth?

Besides decorating their booths, each department leader earlier provided a question specific to their ministry for a questionnaire and displayed the answer prominently on their booth. During the worship service, deacons handed out the questionnaires to the congregation. Before the sermon, attendees were given 30 minutes for “booth exploration.” During these visits, department leaders answered questions, passed out fliers or stickers, shared pertinent information or snacks with their guests. The visitors filled in the answers on the questionnaires. Then the congregation returned to their seats and some of the children’s Sabbath school departments provided special music. The church’s Winds of Worship band also provided music during the service. Howard presented an uplifting, convicting sermon titled “Salt Is Good,” in which he spoke about being the salt of the Earth.

After the sermon, Hyde provided the correct answers to the questions, and the two members of the congregation who got all the answers correct were recognized for their achievement. Although not your typical Sabbath service, the event was a wonderful success. The congregation walked away with more enthusiasm and awareness of the many ministries at the Metropolitan Church. After the event, the booths were moved to the Fellowship Hall of the church for continued display and awareness-generation.

Joy Hyde, communications secretary, Metropolitan Church
[UNION NEWS]

Remembering pioneer missionaries to China

Wisconsin — On Feb. 2, 1902, the first group of Seventh-day Adventist missionaries — Jacob Anderson, Emma Anderson (his wife) and Ida Thompson (his sister-in-law) — arrived in Hong Kong to start work spreading the gospel in China. All three were from Wisconsin: Anderson from Poy Sippi, and the Thompson sisters from Mauston.

The year 2013 marks the 111th anniversary of Adventism’s entry into China, the most populous nation on Earth. Wisconsin Conference played an important role in bringing the Three Angels’ Messages to that country. While the Andersons were funded by the General Conference, Ida was financially supported by Wisconsin Conference.

Two years later, the China Mission was officially formed in Canton (Guangzhou), with Jacob as the first president and Emma as the secretary/treasurer. In the spring of the same year, Ida, who had a special burden for the women of China, established the first Adventist school in Canton, called “Bethel Girls’ School.” This name was chosen because both Ida herself and the school were financially supported by Wisconsin Conference and private donors from Wisconsin; furthermore, the name of the intermediate school in Wisconsin was called “Bethel School.” Later on, Ida’s sister, Gertrude Thompson, also joined the school. Unfortunately, she died of a sudden illness and was buried in China.

In 1905, another couple from Wisconsin, Benjamin and Julia (nee Peterson) Anderson, both from Poy Sippi, arrived in China, and commenced the mission work in southeast China in Amoy (Xiamen). Ben, a younger brother of Jacob, established the Meihua School in Amoy. He later became education secretary of South China Mission. Thus, a total of six missionaries came from Wisconsin during the early years of China Mission.

Through the untiring efforts of the early pioneers and the generous support of the members back home, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in China, with its mission schools and hospitals, continued to grow until it became among the largest Protestant churches in China, around 1949, when the People’s Republic of China was formed, with a reported membership of 23,415.

My grandmother attended the Bethel Girls’ School in China, and it was there, in 1909, where she accepted the Adventist faith at the age of 17. Without the selfless sacrifice of early Wisconsin pioneers, she, and many precious individuals in that country, would never have had the opportunity to learn about the love of Christ.

At a time when our society (and sometimes even among church-going folks) is focusing on a self-centered, what-can-they-do-for-me mindset, it is important for us to remember the selfless spirit of our early pioneers.

Bruce Lo, director of the Adventism in China project, Chippewa Valley Church
Chippewa Valley Hospital is a place to pray

Wisconsin—Did you know there is an Adventist hospital in Durand, Wis.? Chippewa Valley Hospital and Oakview Care Center operate under the leadership of Adventist members Doug Peterson, president and CEO, and Art Miller, resident chaplain.

The 25-bed hospital and 50-bed nursing home looks after the needs of more than 15,000 local people each year.

Chaplain Miller holds Spiritual Ambassadors classes for the staff, teaching them to listen, minister and pray with their patients. Recently, an employee told Miller, “I felt like praying with a patient today, like we learned in class, but just couldn’t. But you know, I think I can pray next time that happens.”

Another employee commented, “I like that we have a hospital where we can be spiritual.”

Miller prays every morning. “Lord, help me to be humble and make an impact for You.” Then he makes rounds to visit all the employees and patients. “I just say ‘Hi,’ ask how they’re doing, and offer to pray with them. God opens the doors from there.”

For additional information about the hospital and nursing home, visit http://www.chippewavalleyhospital.com.

Juanita Edge, communication director, Wisconsin Conference

Andrews Bible Commentary

Andrews University Press to publish new Bible commentary

A major, new Bible study resource, sponsored by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Andrews University, is scheduled for release at the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, according to Andrews University president Niels-Erik Andreasen.

The Andrews Bible Commentary, the Church’s first, concise, one-volume commentary, is intended as a coordinated resource with the Andrews Study Bible, released by Andrews University Press in June 2010.

Andreasen made the announcement about the new commentary on Monday, April 15, to delegates from around the world at the annual Spring Meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee. Delegates convened this year in Battle Creek, Mich., in observance of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the General Conference.

The commentary project is coordinated by Andrews University Press, the world church’s only regularly-established academic publishing house, with funding from Andrews and the General Conference, and oversight by a Project Committee of General Conference and Andrews personnel.

Andreasen said that, like the Andrews Study Bible, the Andrews Bible Commentary is intended specifically for the general reader as well as pastors and church elders, providing basic Bible teaching in the congregation.

In making his announcement, Andreasen referred delegates to a purpose statement for the commentary that had been approved by the Project Committee. It states that the Andrews Bible Commentary “is a concise, one-volume exposition of Scripture written by faithful scholars of the Church as a companion to the Andrews Study Bible for lay readers, pastors, students and teachers living in expectation of the Advent Hope.”

“This commentary is aimed to help the person in the pew. It is written in plain language,” Andreasen said. He told delegates that the writers had been instructed to write at the same reading level they would write an article for the Adventist Review, the general church paper of the Adventist Church. “In some parts of the world, these two volumes — the Andrews Study Bible and the Andrews Bible Commentary — will comprise the entire theological library they will have, so we are taking this assignment very seriously,” he said.

Andreasen said that 60 writers, all Bible scholars from church institutions and organizations around the world, have been contracted to work on the commentary under the direction of a small editorial team. The general editor is Angel Rodriguez, former director of Biblical Research Institute at the General Conference. The associate editors are Greg King (Old Testament), dean of the School of Religion, Southern Adventist University; Gerald Klingbeil (Old Testament), associate editor, Adventist Review/Adventist World; and John McVay (New Testament), president of Walla Walla University.

Andreasen said some of the writers for the one-volume commentary already have completed their assignments. He assured General Conference president Ted Wilson that a small, printed sample of selected portions of the commentary will be available for the next full meeting.
of the General Conference Executive Committee at Annual Council in October, when Andreasen will give another progress report.

“We’ll hold you to that,” Wilson said.

Andreasen thanked Wilson for the support of the General Conference in the production of both the Andrews Study Bible and the forthcoming commentary. Andreasen said that these publications represent one of the many ways Andrews fulfills its responsibility to serve the world church.

Staff at Andrews University Press have noted that when the Adventist Bible Commentary is published and released in 2015, it will have about 1,800 pages of commentary and helpful articles, about three times the original content of the Andrews Study Bible.

Keri Suarez, former media relations specialist, Division of Marketing & Communication, Andrews University

**NEWS**

**Lake Union Pathfinder teams place in PBE Divisional Finals**

The College View Seventh-day Adventist Church, Union College, Lincoln, Neb., was crowded with highly-trained Bible scholars, April 19–20, when 38 Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) finalist teams from across North America arrived to participate in the final testing program for the 2013 PBE Division Finals. Pathfinders from the United States, Canada and England, ages 10–16, demonstrated their knowledge of the Bible books of Acts and 1 and 2 Thessalonians by answering 90 questions of varying difficulty and point values.

“Their level of knowledge was phenomenal,” said one event judge. “They definitely know their Bible.” Many of the young people had memorized large passages of Scripture, often six to eight chapters, and they knew a lot of the content of the additional chapters.

NAD Pathfinder Bible Experience coordinator Gene Clapp reported that the 38 participating teams represented eight of the nine unions of the North American Division, plus one team from London, England. Each team was made up of six members plus an alternate.

The conferences represented were Allegheny East, Arizona, Carolina, Central California, Chesapeake, Florida, Indiana, Iowa-Missouri, Kansas-Nebraska, Michigan, Minnesota, Northern California, Ohio, Ontario, Potomac, Southern England, Southern New England, Texas and Wisconsin. Many more teams and conferences from across the Division participated in the first three levels of testing: Area, Conference and Union. The teams at Union College represented only the first-place teams from each Union.

“With team members, staff and families, we had approximately 650 persons in attendance for the weekend,” said Clapp.

On Friday night and Sabbath morning, each team participated in the programming by sharing a musical “special,” and everyone became involved in the rest of the programs, which consisted of mixers focused on the books of the Bible they had been studying.

On Saturday evening, following all the testing and tallying of points, parents, staff and team members screamed with delight as each team was called to the front and awarded their placement certificate. Twenty-six teams made first place, meaning the team score was at least 90 percent of the highest score. Six teams from the Lake Union finished in this first-place group: the Centreville (Mich.) Sentinels; Fort Wayne Hispanic (Ind.) Maranatha; Lansing...
Kyoshin Ahn called to North American Division

Kyoshin Ahn, former Illinois Conference executive secretary, recently accepted a call to become associate secretary for the Seventh-day Adventist headquarters in North America (North American Division). Ahn began his new role in March.

Ahn had served as Illinois Conference vice president for administration since November 2005, where his mission was to share God’s grace to the residents in Illinois through preaching, teaching and healing. Prior to coming to the Conference, he served as the North American Division coordinator for Korean Ministries. Ahn is known by colleagues for his scholarly research, love of travel, and for bringing integrity to the workplace.

In farewell, Ahn said, “Thank you for the privilege of serving you these past seven-and-one-half years. My experience here will forever shape my journey and path toward Heaven. Thank you for the hospitality I’ve experienced everywhere in Illinois. My prayer is that our churches may bring healing to hurting humanity and open doors of intense inquiry about life’s meaning and purpose. Please pray for me as I transition into my new ministry. Your prayers will definitely sustain me.”

Ahn and his wife, You Mi, have two daughters, Jisun and Jisoo, who attend Andrews University.

An additional 11 teams made second place, including the Wyoming (Mich.) Wranglers. And one team, depleted by sickness but still choosing to compete, placed third: the Sheboygan (Wis.) Shepherds.

Clapp added that the Bible Experience program has a major impact on participants. “Several students stated that their school grades have gone up because they are applying how they study for PBE to how they study for school.” A team member from England told his director that he was supposed to take a school assessment exam while he was traveling to the United States for this event. When the proctor heard why the student was not available to take the exam, he said the young man need not sit for the exam because his grades had improved so much since he began studying for PBE.

The 2014 Pathfinder Bible Experience will cover the book of II Samuel.

This article is adapted from three articles written by Gene Clapp, NAD Pathfinder Bible Experience coordinator; Brenda Dickerson, interim editor for the Mid-America Union Outlook; and Mark O’Fill, webmaster for http://www.Pathfinders.online.org.
AdventSource celebrates grand opening

AdventSource employees, board members and friends gathered April 17 to celebrate the grand opening of AdventSource’s new building, located on the campus of Union College in Lincoln, Neb. The program was followed with tours of the new facility.

As the official ministry resource distribution center for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, AdventSource serves local churches by providing ministry-focused books, DVDs, seminars and curricula, apparel, Pathfinder and Adventurer club uniforms and supplies, webinars, event registration, and more.

The process leading to AdventSource’s move began in early 2012 when Union College determined that AdventSource’s space was needed for additional classrooms. On April 9, 2012, AdventSource’s board of directors voted to move forward with plans to construct a new building.

Because AdventSource provides a significant amount of student labor and other services for Union College, the college wanted to keep AdventSource nearby. Union College offered AdventSource the option of a long-term land lease to allow for the construction of a new facility at Prescott Avenue and 51st Street.

“Union College continues to be blessed by an organization that does much to mentor college students and provide student labor opportunities for them,” said Gary Bollinger, Union College vice president for finance. “We are very blessed to have such a wonderful relationship with AdventSource, and we are just delighted that they are in a new facility that will better serve their mission.”

Ground was broken for AdventSource’s new building on May 31, 2012; construction began in June and was completed in December. The warehouse was moved by Dec. 28, and AdventSource was open for business in the new facility on Jan. 2. Throughout the entire move, all orders continued to go out on a regular basis.

The new 17,300-square-foot building houses all of AdventSource’s departments, including the call center, graphic arts, meeting planning, accounting, IT, resource development, and website support, along with operations and warehouse space. The new building also contains some additional space for future growth.

“We’re excited about our new space,” said Judy Glass, AdventSource treasurer. “It’s designed to fit us and the flow of our work. We are very excited about the future and the possibilities available to us in this new space.”

Dan Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, said, “We appreciate this partnership, and we will appreciate it long into the future. It is a mutual blessing.”

If you would like to learn more about the many services AdventSource provides to churches across the North American Division, visit http://www.adventsource.org or call 402-486-8800.

Cassie Milnes Martsching, communication director, AdventSource
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.LakeUnionHerald.org and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources; as these events are subject to change. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at http://herald.lakeunion.org.

Lake Union

Offerings
July 6 Local Church Budget
July 13 Women's Ministries
July 20 Local Church Budget
July 27 Local Conference Advance

Special Days
July 13 Griggs University

Michigan

The annual Health Professionals Retreat will be held at Camp Au Sable, Sept. 13-15. Guest speakers will be Brian and Lyndi Schwartz, physicians from Kettering Medical Center in Ohio. The Schwartzes have been involved in numerous ministries, and shared the gospel both in the U.S. and abroad at ASI conventions, AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network), in weeks of prayer, evangelistic outreach and while doing volunteer medical work. They love sharing the gospel and the importance of the medical mission work, especially in these times. Michigan Conference Health Ministries is partnering with AMEN, a national organization of Christian physicians and dentists whose purpose is to share Christ in their workplace through medical evangelism, to sponsor this family retreat. For registration and lodging information/availability, please call 517-316-1527 or email schristie@sda.org.

Notice is hereby given that the 32nd session of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Cedar Lake Church in Cedar Lake, Mich., Sept. 29, 2013, with the first meeting called at 9:30 a.m. Reports of the previous five years will be rendered, proposed constitutional changes may be considered, the election of Conference officers, departmental directors and members of the Executive Committee will take place, and any other business will be transacted which may properly come before the Session. Delegates are those duly elected by the various churches of the Conference and delegates-at-large as provided in the Constitution. Each church in the Michigan Conference is entitled to one delegate for its organization, and one additional delegate for each 100 members or extended fraction thereof, determined by the membership as of Dec. 31, 2012. As provided by the Bylaws, the Organizing Committee (composed of one member from each church, plus one additional member for each 500 members or major fraction thereof, as of Dec. 31, 2012) will meet Sept. 28. The meeting will begin with vespers at 7:30 p.m. at the Cedar Lake Church.

North American Division

Festival of the Laiy free virtual conference: Get equipped for effective ministry with no registration, travel or hotel expenses! The North American Division Adult Ministries Department is offering free online training for Sabbath school, personal ministries and prison ministries leaders through the virtual Festival of the Laity, Sept. 11-14. Attend from the comfort of your home, church or office — all you need is a computer with Internet access. All church leaders can benefit from these live broadcasts presented by globally-respected facilitators. To sign up, visit http://www.festivalofthelaity.com.

Oak Park Academy will hold its Alumni Homecoming Weekend, Sept. 27-28, in Nevada, Iowa. The honor classes of 1963 (50 years) and 1973 (40 years) will lead out in the Friday evening vespers and Sabbath morning worship services. Michael Porter (71) will speak Friday evening, Ron Karr (63) will speak at the 11:00 a.m. worship service, and Teresa Hoover (73) will speak at Sabbath evening vespers. Jaime Jorge, an internationally-known violin virtuoso, will present a concert Sabbath afternoon. For more information, contact Michael Porter at mport@eratp.com or 202-746-0744.

World Division

2013 ASI International Convention will be held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Convention Center in Orlando, Fla., Aug. 7-10. This year, convention speakers represent broad interests and backgrounds but share the common goal of presenting Christ to a world that is looking for answers, particularly in light of modern-day events that are fulfilling end-time prophecies. A variety of seminars are planned on topics pertaining to prophecy, outreach, health, business/nonprofit and more. For online registration and more information, visit http://www.asiministries.org/conven- tion. Have questions? Call 301-680-6450 or email asi@nad.adventist.org.

United for Mission: United for Mission: 150 Years. This year is a special celebration for the Seventh-day Adventist Church — from The Great Disappointment to General Conference. To learn more about the history of the forming of the General Conference and its different departments, see what events are planned throughout the year and what other anniversaries our Church is celebrating this year, visit http://www.adventist.org/150/. There also are slide show resources that can be downloaded for use at your church to celebrate 150 years of being “United for Mission!”

The Forever Faithful International Camporee, Aug. 11-16, 2014, will have a new addition — the introduction of a symphony orchestra and mass choir. The Center for Youth Evangelism currently is looking for Pathfinders, ages 9 to 19, who play an instrument or sing to join this special group. We are thrilled to welcome Andrews University assistant professor of Music and Symphony Orchestra conductor Claudio Gonzalez as our guest conductor for this incredible group of young people. For more information or to audition for the orchestra or mass choir, visit http://www.campoor.org or contact Catrina LeSure at cattrina@lesure@yaho.com.

2015 General Conference Session: The North American Division Music Committee for the 2015 General Conference Session (July 2-11 in San Antonio, Texas) is now accepting applications from musicians/groups desiring to perform at the 2015 General Conference Session. Applications can be downloaded at the 2015 General Conference website at http://www.gc session.org. Click the “Music Application Packet” tab and follow all directions. Applications will be processed through December 31, 2013.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

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Anniversaries

Pavle and Rozalija Molnar celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Sept. 8, 2012, by their church family giving them flowers during the worship service and a potluck lunch in their honor at the Elk Grove (Ill.) Church. They have been members of the Elk Grove Church for 10 years and the Yugoslavian Church for 32 years.

Pavle Molnar and Rozalija Szabo were married Aug. 31, 1947, in Lukino Selo, Yugoslavia. Pavle and Rozalija both have worked in maintenance.

The Molnar family includes Manika and Tibor Ronto of Schaumburg, Ill.; one grandchild; and two great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

CONATSER, Norman L., age 76; born June 2, 1936, in Terre Haute, Ind.; died March 25, 2013, in Terre Haute. He was a member of the Terre Haute Church.

Survivors include his wife, Bonnie (Bright) Jenkins; son, Dennis L.; stepsons, David P., Alan L. and Ronald E. Jenkins; daughters, Cheryl A. Clements, Roberta “Bobbi” L. McBroom; stepdaughters, Julie A. Cain and Patricia K. Johnson; brothers, Kenneth and Ronald; sisters, Wanda Hackett and Glenna Wrestler; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bruce Moore, and interment was in Earl Cemetery, Gobles.

FULPS, Joan (Ipock), age 56; born March 17, 1957, in Evansville, Ind.; died April 15, 2013, in Evansville. She was a member of the Westside Church, Evansville.

Survivors include her husband, Jacob; son, Jason Tepool; father, Charles H. Ipock; brothers, Steve and Jim Ipock; halfsister, Jo Eilen Rheinlander; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Bob Lloyd, with private inurnment.

GRAY, Maine J. (Figgies), age 85; born June 25, 1927, in Shelby Twp., Ill.; died April 5, 2013, in Mattoon, Ill. She was a member of the Mattoon Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Judy Luther; sister, Faye Woolever; three grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Larry Conch and Bill Boaz, and interment was in Mound Cemetery, Charleston, Ill.


Survivors include her husband, Virgil; son, Eric B. Smith; daughter, Jayla N. Jackson; brothers, Anthony Royals, and Robert, Cyril and Joel Rogers; and sisters, Andrea Whitehead and Gretchen Rogers.

Funeral services were conducted by Errol Liverpool, and interment was in Westlawn Cemetery, Wayne, Mich.

OLIVIO, Lou, age 91; born Feb. 2, 1922, in Wyatt, W.Va.; died March 8, 2013, in Fredericksva. He was a member of the Delton (Mich.) Church. He was a colporteur and Bible worker in the Michigan Conference for 17 years.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy (Litrell); stepson, David Augustinis; daughters, Janet Esselink and Judy Olivio; stepdaughters, Brenda Payne and Kim Rea; sisters, Mary Duke, Katie Robles and Lucille Wittwer; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted, and interment was in Quantico (Va.) Military Cemetery.

Pierce, Flossie M. (LaCourt), age 90; born July 3, 1922, in Carney, Mich.; died April 21, 2013, in Lansing, Mich. She was a member of the Battle Creek (Mich.) Tabernacle.

Survivors include her sons, Richard and Edward; and daughter, Sally Pierce.

Funeral services were conducted by Bruce Moore, and interment was in Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, Mich.

RAMOS, Linda K. (Paulsen), age 50; born Nov. 20, 1962, in Green Bay, Wis.; died April 14, 2013, in De Pere, Wis. She was a member of the Green Bay Church.

Survivors include her husband, Heber; son, William; father, Jack Paulsen; mother, Yvonne (Schlegel) Paulsen; brothers, Harold and Jack Paulsen; and sister, Darlene Misthaeu.

Funeral services were conducted by Bill Ochs and Zack Payne, and interment was in Oneida (Wis.) Methodist Cemetery.

SANTIAGO, Hector R., age 67; born Aug. 2, 1945, in Guatemala; died March 10, 2013, in Milwaukee, Wis. He was a member of the Waukesha (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Emma (Paz) Aracely; son, Hector E. “Eddy”; daughters, Claudia Santiago-Tucker and Marilyn Santiago; sister, Perla Santiago; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by John Glass, and interment was in Wisconsin Memorial Park Mausoleum, Brookfield, Wis.

SIGLER, Naomi D. (Coon), age 101; born Sept. 21, 1911, in Melrose, Mass.; died Feb. 25, 2013, in Glendale, Ariz. She was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, Ron and Carl; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Gary Vendem, and interment was in Resthaven Park Cemetery, Glendale.

SPRAIT, Shirley (Little), age 76; born Dec. 10, 1936, in Louisville, Ky.; died Jan. 15, 2013, in Detroit, Mich. She was a member of the Ecorse (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Randy; daughters, Sekwana McCray, and Betsy, Jamelia and Kenya Sprait; sisters, Mollie Mae Jones, Loretta Jones, Doris and Willie Mae Little, Annie L. Burks and Robin Hudson; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Damon L. Pierson, and interment was in Westlawn Cemetery, Wayne, Mich.

STEVENS, Barbara (Brown), age 88; born June 20, 1926, in Fairmount, Ind.; died Jan. 14, 2013, in Arcadia, Fla. She was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, William R. and James D.; daughter, Rosalie A. Tennity; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and one great-great-grandchild.

Memorial services were conducted by Ben Shurtliff, and interment was in Park Cemetery, Fairmount.

WITTE, Mary Ann (Snelling), age 49; born May 4, 1963, in Noblesville, Ind.; died Jan. 10, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla. She was a member of the Cicero (Ind.) Church.

Survivors include her son, John E.; and mother, Linda Snelling.

Memorial services were conducted by Ron Kelly, with private inurnment.
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JEFFERSON ACADEMY in Jefferson, Texas, is preparing for its 100th Anniversary Celebration. If you were a faculty or student, please send your contact information to Jefferson Academy Alumni, P.O. Box 187, Jefferson, TX 75657 or email jeffersonacademyalumni@gmail.com.

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At Your Service

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there is only one place in all of Scripture where God invites us to test Him. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe, says the Lord Almighty. Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land, says the Lord Almighty (Malachi 3:10–12 NIV).

It seems odd that God actually would challenge us to check out His faithfulness. And it seems clever that He would pick the area in our lives where we are least likely to trust Him.

As a pastor, I’ve heard a common excuse: “Pastor, I know I should tithe, but I just can’t afford to.”

My honest reply is always the same, “I can’t afford not to.”

You see, God says, The silver and gold are mine (see Haggai 2:8). And God is, by nature, a giver not a hoarder. He wants to throw open the floodgates to those who are willing to trust Him where it hurts — our finances. This financial partnership, based on blind trust, guarantees our blessing and security. How can you afford to pass up a deal like that?

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

PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Guaranteed Security

BY GARY BURNS
Wisp clouds sail past my window as I watch my home of three months fade away. Palm trees wave their gentle farewell while the shimmer of tropical summer reflects the heat along with all its side-effects that has kept me close company recently. Crazy traffic-crowded streets indicate a country where every driver is a law unto his own. Trash-covered roadsides, vibrant green mountains, people who have melted their way into my heart — it is all indelibly engraved upon memory’s hallways, paint still fresh. Shortly, my mind is ensconced by cloud trails to match those outside. It's a mystery to me...

I walk at a brisk pace toward the immigration hall, lugging my partially-in-capacitated suitcase behind me while endeavoring to maintain intestinal peace. My eaves-dropping capabilities have improved majorly since I first encountered this airport in January. I laugh later as I bump into someone and catch myself automatically responding with perdón or permiso despite the fact I’m now surrounded by English speakers. Other curious habits cause me to smile. Has this language, this culture, really become so much a part of me in so short a time? My mind is still whirling. It's a mystery to me...

It's my last flight. The flickering lights of city nightlife hold me captivated. They always have. Soon the view out my window evolves into complete blackness. I try to see the stars while attempting to avoid the draft coming from the exit row window. I’ve never been known to sleep easily on planes, yet, at least, I have an empty seat beside me this time. I curl up as comfortably as possible, heavy eyelids descending slowly. True to history, sleep eludes me while once again the inner recesses of my brain step into high gear. It's a mystery to me...

My eyes cast a bleary gaze around my room. I’m frozen, standing in tired delirium at the doorway despite the fact that it is two o'clock in the morning and I'm incredibly sleep-deprived. This room, this house, this country... How could I have become so comfortable as to count them normal? It's a mystery to me...

This enigma, this mystery has fastened its iron-fisted grip upon my heart. And in the silence of quiet morning, broken only by occasional flame crackles, I find an answer.

It's not the poverty, the necessity or even the simplicity of life; it's the contentment. These people accept their surroundings and day-to-day realities with a smile. They are satisfied to continue making tortillas and cultivating coffee on the mountainsides like their grandparents. If perfect contentment to accept with joy every situation God places in my life can make even a full life simple, that is true living. I can still dream, but I am satisfied that where He has me right now is the absolutely most beautiful place in the world to be.

It is no mystery...

Glesni Mason, 19, resides in Priest River, Idaho. She recently graduated from homeschool high school, and just returned from a mission opportunity in Honduras. If you would like to read additional articles and thoughts along her spiritual journey, please visit her blog, http://www.glesnimason.com. Her father, Robert Mason, is the art director/graphic designer of the Lake Union Herald.
Saying ‘Aloha’ to Student Missions

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

When someone goes to do missions prayerfully with the Holy Spirit guiding them, their heart and eyes open to God's leading,” says Roan Asumbrado. During the 2011–2012 school year, Roan served as a student missionary in Oahu, Hawaii. She taught physical education to grades K–8 at Hawaiian Mission Academy.

As a high school senior, she and her classmates went to Honduras for a short-term mission trip. The class aided families after Hurricane Katrina and performed regular community service activities.

These outreach experiences laid the foundation for her interest in serving others, and when God opened the doors to Hawaii, Roan couldn’t refuse.

The experience proved to be wonderful but very challenging at the same time, explains Roan. Some students were harder to reach than others.

“I had a kindergartener who was stubborn, and it just didn’t seem like she respected me very much,” says Roan. “I got frustrated in my heart and then thought, How would Jesus react to this?”

As Roan thought and prayed about the situation, she remembered Jesus and how “He loved and forgave even the people who spat in His face,” she says. This began to change her outlook toward the girl. Roan took intentional steps to reach the student in new ways and understand her perspective. When the school year ended, the girl was participating more and seemed happy to cooperate with Roan.

In Hawaii, Roan also noticed a change in her relationship with God. “I started being more intentional with my studies of the Bible,” she says. “If I could summarize my whole ten-month experience, it would be that God showed me His love for me and how much He really cares.”

Roan stays involved with missions at Andrews University through small groups and her involvement in the University’s Filipino club. She hopes to return to the mission field someday and learn more about other people’s cultures.

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

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LAKE UNION SCHOOLS

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