Lake Union Herald

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TIME TO RECONNECT
Summer Camps and Camp Meetings
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In this issue...

Ancient Israel had a camp meeting. It was called the Feast of Tabernacles. Ellen White describes the week-long celebration: “[All week] the temple was a festal scene of great rejoicing. ... The sound of music, mingled with hosannas, made the place jubilant” (Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 2, p. 344). Take a look at your many opportunities to participate in the gathering of God’s people this summer, and plan to bring a little bit of festal jubilation with you.

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Some Live, Some Die

This year marks a very special anniversary. Thirty years ago, I was diagnosed with an aggressive, advanced cancer. The days, weeks and months that followed included many tests, lots of anxiety, a moderately-challenging seven months of chemotherapy, loads of prayers, caring people and a very, very strong wife. At the end of treatments, I was told there was a 95 percent chance of a full cure if there was no reoccurrence for two years.

On December 3, 2004, the Georgia-Cumberland Conference twin-engine plane crashed. When the pieces of the plane came to rest, five of the six passengers had lost their lives (including our own Clay Farwell, retired Indiana Conference president). The co-pilot found himself sitting in his seat, still attached to a small piece of fuselage. He alone walked away. I am relatively sure that co-pilot, like me and many others, asked the question, “Why am I still here while so many others are not?”

While exceptionally grateful, I feel a sense of unworthiness for my miraculous healing when confronted with the reality of so many good individuals who have died from disease or accident through the ensuing years.

That thought process has made me cautious in rejoicing too loudly at what God did, because there are those who are dying or have lost a dear loved one who may think to themselves, What was wrong with my life that I did not benefit from that kind of miracle?

In Acts 12, we read stories with two very different outcomes. James, John’s brother (one of the inside three), is put to death. But then we read the story of Peter, arrested by Herod and placed in maximum security. The angel of the Lord performs the great miracle of releasing Peter. Although the church was praying with what seemed to be a low level of belief that there would be a positive outcome (Rhoda at the door), Peter is spared.

So why save Peter and not James? Both were in the closest relationship with Christ, both deeply loved, upright, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and sacrificially serving God’s cause. One died, and the other miraculously saved.

“Peters” and “Jameses” are all around us — those spared and those lost. While we praise God for every miracle he performs, and there are many, let us also be careful not to make those dying “Jameses” or their loved ones feel somehow second class.

We naturally are driven to ask, “Why?” But the best question is “How, in life or loss, might I honor God?” Either can be a witness for good or evil. Trusting in God through everything honors him. Allowing the great evil one to weaken our trust dishonors God and, subsequently, gives a form of honor to Satan.

So, it is clear that many godly men and women, deeply loved and cherished by God, have gone to their graves while others continued on. These are no less loved or cherished, and are fully honored by God. The “why” question is a great one to ask in the presence of God, during the first and great millennium in Heaven. There will be 1,000 years with the saints saying, “Oh! I understand,” “That makes perfect sense,” and “Amazing Grace!” As we understand God’s immeasurable love, our why questions will turn into an ecstatic “Praise the Lord!”
Summer Camp: A Discipleship Ministry

BY JAIME VARGAS

It’s almost impossible not to feel a pulse of joy every time I hear it playing. As the sound of our camp theme song rings through my ears, a flood of memories pours into my mind. I think of the evening worships, where we’d sing arm in arm as we swayed back and forth in the light of setting sun and the lakeside bonfire. I think of the campers, eager and excited to go swim, climb, ride, wake board, tube and just have some good, summer fun. And I think of Jesus, who always finds his way into our conversations, laughter, play and even our exhaustion.

Honestly, he’s the reason all these memories are interconnected, woven together in my mind to remind me that summer camp is not just a place you work at to earn money. It’s not just a place where kids come simply to have fun. Summer camp is where you go to meet Jesus. In my three years of being a boys’ counselor at Camp Akita, I’ve yet to miss out on seeing campers and staff be confronted with the reality of Jesus.

For example, I recall my first week of camp as a counselor. I was a high school graduate and, having been turned away from working at a different summer camp, I was floating in a high level of nervousness and excitement at the prospect of being able to counsel and mentor youth for the summer. From what I had been told by my boys’ director, it seemed like counseling wouldn’t be so hard that I wouldn’t know what to do at any given moment. My assumptions were wrong, however, because I definitely didn’t know I would be in tears halfway through my first week of Cub Camp. Yes, 7– to 9–year-old boys reduced me to tears as I walked back to my cabin by myself. I was exhausted. I was frustrated. Truly, I was overwhelmed, and I didn’t know how I’d be getting through the rest of the week. I did the only thing I knew I could in that situation: Talk to Jesus.

Cutting straight to the issue, I asked Jesus why my current situation was so hard. As I slumped on back to my cabin, I asked him if the dread I was feeling was what he felt when he was walking toward Calvary. Granted, this all seems a little melodramatic now, and I’ll admit that the prayer I prayed that day was perhaps a little selfish. Being temporarily defeated by 7– to 9–year-olds is certainly not the end of the world but, at the very least, my expectations for the summer underwent a paradigm shift that night, and I learned one of summer camps’ most valuable lessons: You can’t do it without Jesus.

Somehow, I made it through the rest of that week and the rest of the summer. I don’t remember if my campers ever managed to get another cry out of me, but I know that through many exhausting days and nights, Jesus taught me...
to depend on him and come to him for help. This was his summer camp, and these were his kids. I had no idea what I had gotten myself into, but he did, and he needed to have me following his lead and holding onto him if lives were to be changed during those summers. And sure enough, Jesus came through.

I think of a particular camper who, during my second summer at Akita, was in my cabin during Teen Week. Friendly, chatty and always cooperative, I learned he didn’t come from a fully-Adventist home. Yet, that didn’t stop him from letting Jesus make an enormous impact on his life. Moved by what Jesus had done and was doing in his life, he chose to be baptized in the waters of Camp Akita, and the following summer he became a full-time camp staff, allowing Jesus to use him to reach others in the same way he was reached.

Right before our eyes, Jesus had turned summer camp ministry into a discipleship ministry, a place where campers didn’t have to remain on the passive end of ministry but could instead volunteer as wranglers, rock wall assistants and even co-counselors. Of the many awesome, and sometimes crazy, things our campers say, probably one of my favorites is hearing them express their desire to be a counselor, a horse wrangler or an archery director one day. There’s encouragement and inspiration in seeing young people come to camp, only to leave wanting to be next summer’s leaders. These campers don’t just come to receive, but to be inspired to one day give back and complete the cycle of discipleship.

They also come, however, to have their barriers broken down. I’ve seen Jesus use camp ministry to help campers, with what seems to be calloused, well-built personas, open up and speak what’s on their hearts. Upon their arrival, you don’t always see the struggles and burdens that many of these young people hide so well. And yet, upon seeing camp plays that speak directly to their situations, and hearing camp staff be real and honest about the trials and sorrows they’ve experienced, veils come off, walls break down, tears fall, and campers allow Jesus to confront their issues, pains and fears.

I recall a specific camper whom I had met prior to camp. I was told he’d had a rough time growing up, so I expected a hard time being his counselor. And, certainly, it wasn’t easy. He had a short fuse and almost no tolerance for campers who directly, and intentionally, opposed and argued with him, something that was pretty common in our cabin that week. And yet, one night while campers from our cabin were lying in the grass, gazing up at the stars, he opened up about his life. He told me about his wayward adolescence, about his father who had loved him at his worst moments, and about the God whom he struggled to believe could love, accept or change him. Right next to me, this teenage boy, who strived so hard to put forth a tough exterior, let tears fall and spoke with a shaky voice as he allowed someone a glimpse into his chaotic past. In his two weeks at camp, Jesus managed to break down his walls; by the end of that talk, that camper told me words I still cherish today: “You’re my brother.”

This, and many other reasons, is why you meet Jesus when you come to summer camp. Not only do you experience his safety, forgiveness, redemption and hope, but you experience his abundant life through every laugh, sport and activity, as well as every moment of fun and peace that is had on the camp grounds. After all the fun, after all the worships, and after all the weeks have come and gone, you find that Jesus actually has found you, and that in your heart he’s placed a joy that can awaken and spring up even at the sound of a simple camp song.

Jaime Vargas is a junior theology major at Andrews University. Born and raised in Chicago, he’s worked as a boys’ counselor at Camp Akita in Illinois for the past three summers.
Lessons in Loyalty
BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Recently, I read an account of the loyalty of a dingo pup that saved a young child. The pup stayed with this little girl, lying across her body beneath a deepening cover of snow, throughout a sub-zero night. Dog and child were found in the morning not 100 feet from where searchers killed a large, black bear during the night. As the child’s mother shared her story, she said her daughter said she wasn’t even afraid that night because her dog was with her!

This story reminded me of the geese that were reported to have snuggled their eggs tightly beneath their own warm bodies during a late spring snowstorm in Alaska. Three feet of snow fell that day, completely burying the surrounding area, yet the mother geese did not abandon their eggs. When the spring sunshine reappeared and began to melt the snow, dozens of dead Canada geese were discovered. They had suffocated under the snow rather than abandon their eggs.

And then there was “Greyfriars Bobby.” In 1858, John Gray was buried in old Greyfriars Kirkyard in Edinburgh, Scotland. For 14 years, his faithful dog, Bobby, kept constant watch and guard over his master’s grave, until his own death in 1872. James Brown, the old curator of the burial ground, remembered John’s funeral and said Bobby, a Skye Terrier, was one of the most conspicuous mourners.

The casket was covered as usual, he said, but the next morning Bobby was found lying on the newly-made mound. Old James could not permit this intrusion, for at the gate an order clearly stated dogs were not admitted. Bobby was driven out, only to be discovered again the next morning. For a second time, James discharged Bobby. The third morning was cold and wet. When the old man saw the faithful animal lying there again, shivering on the grave, he took pity and gave him some food. This recognition of his devotion (and loyalty) earned Bobby the right to make the churchyard his home. From that time on, he never spent a night away from his master’s tomb. Attempts were made to keep him indoors in bad weather, but he made it known, by dismal howls, this interference was not agreeable to him. He was always allowed to have his way. Nothing could induce him to forsake that hallowed spot, which he so faithfully preserved.

I share these stories because I especially am moved by these examples of God’s creatures that show great loyalty. “Greyfriars Bobby” was a bittersweet movie our family watched with tears and cheers. As sad as it was, our children loved the story. I believe they learned an important lesson about loyalty—they saw that the dog had a lifelong covenant, alliance or pledge with his kind owner. It was an excellent opener for discussion about personal and family loyalty.

Although the word “loyalty” is not contained in Scripture, God established working relationships with key people throughout history based on this quality. Certainly, there are many stories of covenants made — Ruth, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel, to name a few. There also are stories of covenants broken (Judas) and the resulting loss of blessings.

I invite you to purposely engage in building your family’s loyalty quotient as you learn and grow together.

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

Hazelnuts, also known as filberts, can be eaten either raw or roasted. This nut has a thin, dark-brown skin, which has a bitter flavor, and is sometimes removed before cooking. In addition to their popular use in chocolate, hazelnuts are used to make a nut butter and a milk-like beverage. Roasting hazelnuts improves the flavor, color and crunchiness. Dry-roasted hazelnuts make a very tasty package for breakfast or lunch. The nuts also are utilized in confectionery goods, cereals, baked goods and ice cream, as well as many chocolate bars. Hazelnut oil, with its unique flavor, is popular for cooking.

Hazelnuts contain significant amounts of the trace minerals copper and manganese, and are good sources of zinc, calcium, magnesium, iron, potassium and phosphorus. Hazelnuts also are an excellent source of vitamin E, the fat-soluble antioxidant vitamin. Hazelnut oil actually contains two to three times more vitamin E than olive oil. Among the tree nuts, hazelnuts contain the highest amount of folate and biotin, and are a good source of thiamine, vitamin B6 and pantothentic acid. The high level of dietary fiber, phytosterols and the amino acid arginine in hazelnuts, along with their very low content of saturated fat, accounts for much of their cholesterol-lowering effects.

Hazelnuts are a rich source of natural antioxidants and bioactive compounds. Their high level of antioxidant polyphenolics, especially in the skin, is associated with a lower risk of cancer and cardiovascular disease. These compounds possess anti-inflammatory, anticoagulant and anti-carcinogenic properties. A regular use of nuts significantly lowers blood levels of interleukin-6 and C-reactive protein, factors which commonly are used as markers of inflammation.

Hazelnut oil has the lowest level of saturated fat amongst the tree nuts. A diet rich in hazelnuts produces a better lipid profile and a lower cardiovascular risk than a low-fat diet. Hazelnuts contain high levels of squalene. The oil of hazelnuts has a level of squalene comparable to that of soybean oil. Squalene is known to decrease cholesterol and triglyceride levels in patients with elevated blood cholesterol levels.

Although tree nuts are high in fat, they can play a useful role in weight management and improved insulin sensitivity. Eating 1.4 oz of hazelnuts daily during a two-month period reduced body mass index and percent of body fat, suggesting an anti-obesity effect.

Hazelnuts are recognized as a heart-healthy food since their use decreases the risk of heart attacks and cardiovascular diseases. Consuming 1.4 oz (40 g) of hazelnuts daily, adult males with elevated blood cholesterol levels were able to lower their triglyceride levels by 32 percent and cholesterol levels by 5 percent, while increasing their good HDL cholesterol levels by 13 percent.

Winston J. Craig is a professor of nutrition at Andrews University.
God is punishing this nation for the high crime of slavery. He has the destiny of the nation in his hands. He will punish the South for the sin of slavery, and the North for so long suffering its overreaching and overbearing influences.

“The greatest anxiety now exists among our national men. They are in great perplexity. Pro-slavery men and traitors are in their very midst, and while they are professedly in favor of the Union, they have an influence in decisions, some of which even favor the South.

“I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. There was war, bloodshed, want, privation, famine and pestilence, in the land; and as these things were without, God’s people began to press together, and cast aside their little difficulties. Self-dignity no longer controlled them. Deep humility took its place. Suffering, perplexity and privation caused reason to resume its throne, and the passionate and unreasonable man became sane, and acted with discretion and wisdom.

“My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Then the inhabitants of the earth were again presented before me, and everything was in the utmost confusion again. Strife, war and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this confusion and war. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men’s hearts will fail them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth (Luke 21:26 KJV).

“The unbelieving world will soon have something to think of besides their dress and appearance; and as their minds are torn from these things by distress and perplexity, they have nothing to turn to.

“In the time of distress and perplexity of nations there will be many who have not given themselves wholly to the corrupting influences of the world and the service of Satan, who will humble themselves before God, and turn to him with their whole heart and find acceptance and pardon.”

Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh? (Isaiah 58:6–7 NIV)

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:

• Would it be appropriate to read the above text, inserting today’s scourge of sex trafficking in place of slavery? How about the exploitation of emigrants and the poor in place of slavery?
• How much is our culture today focused on appearance?
• What effect does distress and perplexity, famine and pestilence, have on priorities?
• Take an inventory of personal faith and priorities. Are you among the “whole heart” people who find acceptance and pardon?

The Lake Union Herald editors
Is That Really You God?

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

The biggest problem in hearing God’s voice is knowing for sure that it is really his voice we hear. Is it possible, we may ask, that what I think I hear is really self-talk? Could it be just my imagination? Are there other voices that attempt to masquerade as his voice?

The answers to these questions are found in Jesus’ words. Sheep listen to [the shepherd’s] voice, ... his sheep follow him because they know his voice, ... and they will never follow a stranger ... because they do not recognize [the stranger’s] voice (John 10:3–5 NIV). Jesus is the Shepherd. Believers are the sheep. Believers will listen to and recognize the voice of the Shepherd. They also will know that certain voices are not his, and flee from them.

The better we know the Shepherd, the more certain we will be of his voice. To get to know him, we have to spend time with him.

The Shepherd knows us well and is able to relate personally to us. We come to better recognize his voice as we learn to know his thoughts and ways.

The “other” voices, competing for our attention, include the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh. Be sure the only voice you listen to is God’s voice. If I am uncertain, I need to ask God to silence the other voices. That’s a prayer God always answers. He is eager to protect us from the lies and deceits of other voices. He clears the channels of our hearts, with our permission and cooperation, so we hear only his voice.

It is also important to test what you think God may be saying by his nature and his Word and, if necessary, by godly counselors. Ask yourself, “Is this the kind of thing God would say? Does it fit with his Word? Have I sacrificed my own will in the matter? Ask God to further confirm his word to you and give you assurance. He wants us to hear his voice and to be sure of it.

Listening is mostly about love — his love for us and our love for him. God, above all, wants you to “hear” his heartbeat, a heart that beats with love.

Something to Think About

• When have you heard the voice of the Shepherd, and where was he leading you?
• When other voices tried to get your attention? What did you do with them? Why?

Something to Pray About

• Praise the Good Shepherd for his good shepherding.
• Thank him for guiding you, protecting you, and keeping you from harm.
• Confess if you have listened to the other voices and followed their lead, then receive your Shepherd’s forgiveness.
• Ask your Shepherd to help you hear his voice, to follow his lead, and to spurn those who would lead in wrong ways.

Something to Act On

Read and meditate on Psalm 23. Thank the Shepherd for everything he does for you as mentioned in the psalm.

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, Joy of Prayer. Reprinted with permission.
Prayer, Harmony and Healing

BY BETTY EATON

The warmth of 40 lightbulbs surrounded me as I sat with my head protruding from the large, wooden light box. Heat and soft background music relaxed my muscles. About to break into a sweat, my repose was disrupted by Muriel Wilson’s quiet voice: “Step out of the light box into this pan of water.” As I did so, she quickly rubbed me down with ice. Yow! Any sluggishness disappeared as I gasped in short, deep breaths. Just as quickly, I was thrust back into the heated box. Five minutes and another go around with the ice, not quite as shocking this time but still invigorating! A third round completed the treatment designed to increase circulation, build the immune system and detoxify the body.

Wrapped in a warm robe, I moved to the massage room. This was the part I had been looking forward to! Music played in the background. I lay on the padded table as soft hands gently massaged oils into my feet and legs, my back and arms and, finally, my face and forehead. It was so relaxing, so refreshing, so rejuvenating. I could imagine my Lord speaking, “I love you, my child. Be of good cheer. I will never leave you or forsake you. I am more powerful than the cancer that seeks to take hold of you. Relax, you are in my hands.”

I was visiting the newly-opened Naturopathic Center for Women in Greenwood, Indiana. Directed by Bonnie Love, CMT, MA, and Muriel Wilson, RNC obstetric-gynecologic nurse practitioner, along with Guirlene Durosier, soon to be certified family counselor, the Center seeks to reach women with the gospel of healing. In the process of providing gynecological services, hydrotherapy and medical massage along with training seminars, these professionals address lifestyle changes, women’s issues, understanding cancer and holistic healing.

“This clinic is about natural healing,” Muriel says. “It is about lifestyle changes and about getting back in harmony with nature and with the God who created nature. People who are unaware of biblical health principals still recognize that if they eat the right foods, sleep at the right time, and exercise in the fresh air and sunlight, they will be healthier. We don’t write scripts, but we do use the manual for healing — the Bible. Our scripts are the eight laws of health. We endeavor to help people better understand how lifestyle choices can impact their health.”

In the short time since the Center opened, cooking classes, health education seminars, a weekly women’s Bible study and a women’s prayer breakfast have been conducted, in addition to regular medical and massage services. Clients have been treated for diabetes, hormone issues, insomnia, circulatory issues, osteoporosis, arthritis, muscle tension and stress issues. Women have come for regular female checkups as well as just trying to slow down and focus on peaceful relaxation afforded through massages.

Bonnie reports that she has heard powerful testimonies from clients whose lives have been changed by therapeutic work in answer to prayer. “It is so rewarding to witness answered prayer, harmony and healing,” she says; “I can’t wait to see what God has planned in the future!”

Betty Eaton is the communications secretary of the Indiana Conference.
Recuerdo muy bien el primer congreso de jóvenes Conéctate que se llevó a cabo en la Universidad Andrews en el año 2010. Como era la primera vez que se realizaba un congreso en la División Norteamericana en que el formato estaba dirigido tanto a los jóvenes que habían nacido o se habían criado en este país como a los que habían nacido en países hispanos, yo no tenía idea de cómo resultaría. Gracias a Dios, el evento resultó muy exitoso, y por eso hace dos años se celebró un segundo Conéctate que fue igualmente de gran bendición para cientos de jóvenes en nuestra Unión del Lago. Agradecemos a Dios porque este año, del 6 al 8 de junio, podremos tener el tercer congreso Conéctate.

Este año Conéctate será un evento excepcional. Tendremos como orador principal a Jonatán Tejel, Director Asociado de Jóvenes de la Asociación General. El pastor Tejel es un predicador de renombre que ha presentado la palabra de Dios a jóvenes en diversas partes del mundo. Además, se ofrecerán siete seminarios que tratarán temas como nutrición, depresión, música, tecnología, noviazgo, adicciones y homosexualidad. Habrá también una variedad de actividades misioneras creativas en las cuales los jóvenes participantes podrán dar testimonio de Cristo. Habrá además varias opciones de juegos sociales en los que podrán participar. El domingo por la mañana se dará fin al congreso en la iglesia de la universidad con un mensaje del pastor Tejel, y se espera tener la oportunidad de ver a jóvenes que hayan tomado la decisión de bautizarse.


Animamos a los jóvenes que se inscriban cuanto antes ya que el precio de la inscripción subirá a $95 después del 30 de mayo. Para inscribirse deben pedir una hoja de inscripción al director de jóvenes o al pastor de su iglesia. También puede inscribirse por Internet en la página web de Conéctate http://jovenul.org/.

Pedimos las oraciones de cada uno para que el Espíritu Santo se manifieste durante este fin de semana y que los jóvenes regresen a sus hogares e iglesias con nuevo ánimo y una mayor consagración a Dios.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.

Por Carmelo Mercado

El Espíritu Santo se deleita en dirigirse a los jóvenes y descubrir ante ellos los tesoros y las bellezas de la Palabra de Dios. Las promesas pronunciadas por el gran Maestro cautivarán los sentidos y animarán al alma con un poder espiritual divino. Se desarrollará en la mente fructífera una familiaridad con las cosas divinas que será como una barricada contra la tentación. — Palabras de vida del gran maestro, p. 102
TELLING GOD’S STORIES

How Linda Found Church

BY FYLVIA FOWLER KLINE

Linda Casper* had a good life — a job, friends and lots of family members who lived very close to her. Yet, she was full of despair. “I could not fill this void and sadness inside me,” she says, remembering those dark days when she wanted to end her life. Having run out of options to handle her deep depression, she turned to prayer and the Bible. In her search for spiritual encouragement, she found Hope Channel on her television one day.

“The first truth Jesus brought to me through Hope Channel was his seventh-day Sabbath. I was amazed because I did not know about it at all. I checked the Scriptures to find out more, and then I knew it was true! I was so happy for this revelation,” she says, describing the first moment of joy she felt in years.

Every Sabbath, for weeks, Linda had church in her living room with Hope Channel. And every week, she wondered if there were people in her town who also worshiped on Sabbath. New in town and homebound by illness, Linda didn’t know how to go about finding a church that had services on Saturdays. Then one Sabbath, she noticed her neighbors pulling into their driveway. I wonder if they are returning from Sabbath church, she mused, and then quickly dismissed the thought. That would be too much of a coincidence.

The happier she felt in her new experience with Jesus, the more determined Linda was to find a Sabbath-keeping community. It had been 40 years since she stepped into a church, but that didn’t stop her. Opening her phone book, Linda looked for churches that included their hours of worship, and that’s how she found an Adventist church. The following Sabbath, she convinced her sister to join her, and the two stepped into a Seventh-day Adventist church for the very first time.

The people were friendly, and the service was so similar to what was on Hope Channel, yet it had the added warmth and connection of other worshipers. After church, the sisters were invited for lunch. As they walked down the hallway to the fellowship room, Linda noticed a photograph of familiar people on the bulletin board. She looked closer; it was her neighbors! God had nudged her to ask her neighbors about church several weeks earlier; but when Linda hesitated, God simply found another way!

Staring at the photograph, Linda broke down in tears, overcome by how God had watched over her from that very first moment she turned to him in desperate prayer.

In December 2013, both Linda and her sister were baptized and became members of the Seventh-day Adventist church. “I didn’t know how real God was before,” is how Linda summarizes the amazing way in which her life turned around in less than a year. “The Lord is so good, and I never want to be without him in my life. There’s nothing to go back to once you know the Truth.”
After the meetings ended, Jim led Joanna through a series of weekly Bible studies. Joey went through similar studies with Metro’s associate pastor Joe Reeves. Before her baptism on August 3, 2013, Joanna provided her testimony, stating, “I have always had a relationship with God. It wasn’t until I came to the Final Days seminar that I realized our relationship was focused mainly around me, my needs and wants. Basically, my worldly ways came first. At one of the meetings, Pastor Jim said, ‘You can’t be of the world and of God.’ You can’t be of the world and of God, what does he mean? I’m in the world and I have God; what is he talking about? Well, God heard that thought because during the next few months, God taught me what Pastor Jim meant.

“My life went through many changes — from my job to the type of food I put on the table at mealtime. My mindset went from what do I want, to what God wants. Baptism is a commitment of me personally to God. He promises to wash away my sins; I promise, to the best of my ability, to always have his grace and love in my heart, on my mind, in my words and actions, so I can be a good example of our Father’s love and commitment to us as his children.”

Joey’s thoughts were: “Before I accepted Christ, I played video games all day, every day. I have always believed in and loved God, I just never took the time to learn. One day, my mom came home and said she was going to a Bible study on the final days. Then, she started taking me to church. At one time, Pastor Jim said, ‘I want to get you a Bible study with Pastor Joe.’ After we met, [Pastor Joe] and I completed a Bible study on creation. Ever since I became a Christian, I have been studying my Bible a lot more. Now, I do worship every night. Psalm 147:11 reads, The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. That’s how I want to live my life.”
God is doing something very special in the Junior II (J2) tent at Michigan Camp Meeting. The staff are on a mission to make an eternal difference in the lives of the young people. Their main goal is for each one to know Jesus personally and to serve him practically in their local churches and communities.

“We believe the best way to help young people become disciples of Jesus is found in teaching, equipping and serving,” says Willie Iwankiw, pastor in Buchanan, Michigan, and J2 leader. A few years ago, the Emmanuel Institute of Evangelism provided training geared for this age group during the morning devotionals. “Since then,” Willie says, “we have become more intentional in giving our young people outlets to apply what they are learning and use their gifts for God’s kingdom.”

Every day, the J2 leaders give these young people, ages 11 and 12, opportunities to lead their peers by sharing a testimony, giving a devotional message, reading Scripture, leading out in prayer, providing inspirational music and leading out in praise. Participants also are sent throughout the campground to encourage and pray for others. Each Sabbath, they provide every part of the worship service, including the sermon.

For the past three years, the second Sabbath sermon has been provided by the young people. Nathan Moravetz was the first to be asked “to share a few thoughts,” and he prepared a full sermon on baptism. When he made his appeal, 20 young people made decisions to be baptized. The following year, Emily Woods, a visitor who attended with an Adventist relative, and Johnny Schnepp, both volunteered to preach. Johnny began to prepare his second sermon the next spring, and preached last year for the first Sabbath service.

Three fundamental principles guide the J2 leadership in their personal investment in young people:

They believe the same Holy Spirit at work in the adult service also speaks through these young people. Though the seats may fill fast to hear the big name speakers in the main auditorium, the promise of Joel 2:27 declares that God’s Spirit will be poured out on all people, including the 11- and 12-year-old sons and daughters in the J2 tent!

They are reminded of the words of Jesus when he quoted Psalm 8:2, From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise (Matthew 21:16 NIV), and shared the history of the child preachers from Scandinavia when, during the mid-19th century, God sent messages in a miraculous manner through little children six to eight years of age to replace the adult preachers who were thrown into prison for preaching the advent message.

They recognize they have no idea how God will choose to use these young people for his glory, and are motivated by their own personal experience of how God is using them in his service today because a pastor, teacher, camp counselor or church member invested in them when they were the same age. Now they have the experience of seeing God work in the lives of these young people to accomplish even more for his glory.

Gary Burns is the communication director of the Lake Union Conference.
The Akita Family Camp Meeting theme will be Illinois Conference’s new tagline: “Presenting Jesus Irresistibly.” Keynote speaker Herb Montgomery, Renewed Heart Ministries’ speaker and director, will tackle edgy issues as evidenced by some of his titles: “Finding the Father,” “The Jesus Dialogue” and “Jesus for Skeptics.” He presents relevant, weekly E-Sights and podcasts in worldwide defense of Jesus for all those — regardless of religious persuasion — hurt by religion or who genuinely are not religious. Herb’s belief is Jesus’ teachings transcend religious lines as well as the boundaries of culture, gender, race and economic status. For more information about this year’s speaker, visit http://renewedheartministries.com/Default.aspx.

Kelly Mowrer, full-time concert pianist, will provide special music and a concert during the weekend. Kelly enjoys regular airtime on television and radio networks around the world. For nearly ten years, she served as music director and pianist for It Is Written. She was recognized worldwide as the “NET pianist.” Kelly works extensively with pastors Mark Finley and Doug Batchelor, as well as plays for Three Angels Broadcasting Network and Voice of Prophecy reunion concerts.

Seminar speakers will feature Illinois Conference pastors. More information will be forthcoming.

RV and tent campsites are available on Camp Akita’s spacious grounds or, if you prefer, there are motels nearby. Meal tickets are available to pre-purchase.

Don’t miss this opportunity to come away from your busy life, reconnect with nature, spend quiet moments at Camp Akita, and see your church family. For more information, reservation forms, meal tickets or directions to Camp Akita, see the Illinois Conference website Ministries section, and then go to the Camp Meeting link.

Cindy R. Chamberlin is communication director of the Illinois Conference.
The early Adventist faith emerged out of a focus on Scripture. Jesus must continue to be the central figure, the preeminent topic of the everlasting gospel. Only he can prepare people for his soon return and enable all to stand in his physical presence. We must remain people of the Book.

This year’s theme, “Adventist Pioneers — Beginning of a Movement,” is intended to remind us of the faith and foundation of Scripture on which we stand. Scripture alone is our only safeguard against deception.

This year Dave and Sandy Bostrom will share how to make the Sabbath a delight. Gary Thurber will lead us to Jesus during the evening meetings. Ron Whitehead will teach us how to make our churches safe to attend for people, young and old. Roy Gane will share “Getting in Touch with Jesus in His Sanctuary.” Jerry Finneman’s theme is “We Would See Jesus.” John Matthews, from the Stewardship Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, will talk about 21st-century money management, and John Peckham will start our day each morning with the theme of divine love. On the weekend, we welcome Mike Tucker, speaker/director of Faith For Today, and Jennifer LaMountain, who will provide inspirational music Friday evening and Sabbath.

Our small groups and Sabbath school classes need to know and use the Bible like early Adventists. Visitors expect it of us, and we expect it from one another. In order to encourage us to be people of the Scriptures, we have a theme that takes us back to our Adventist roots — Jesus. Join us for camp meeting. Welcome to fellowship that can last eternally.

Van G. Hurst is the president of the Indiana Conference.
or members of the Lake Region Conference, camp meeting is a very, very special occasion. I can think of several reasons why this is so. First of all, it is a time for our members to relax from the stresses of everyday life and enjoy good preaching, good music and outstanding seminars. Second, it is an opportunity for brothers and sisters from various parts of the conference to come together and enjoy the pleasures of fellowshipping one with another. Last, but not least, it’s an occasion for our boys and girls to learn about the things of God from their teachers in Children’s Village.

Our theme for this encampment is “Know Him — Show Him.” In 1 Corinthians 2:2, the apostle Paul states, I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified (KJV). Like Paul, if we have come to know Jesus as our Best Friend and personal Savior, we will count it all joy to show him to others.

JoAnn Davidson, a professor of theology at the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary at Andrews University, will be a guest presenter. Dana Edmond, president of the South Central Conference, will speak the first Sabbath, and Ricardo Graham, president of the Pacific Union, the second Sabbath. Gary Thurber, executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference, will speak during the ordination service on the second Sabbath.

May God’s blessings rest upon each as we look forward to a great time in the Lord.

JoAnn Davidson is the president of the Lake Region Conference.
One of our favorite traditions in the Adventist Church is attending camp meetings. Members from all over Michigan look forward to the spiritual inspiration and instruction it offers. With the General Conference’s call for Revival and Reformation still ringing in our ears, we have chosen “Victory in Jesus” as our theme.

The Michigan Conference has the privilege of holding three separate camp meetings. Cedar Lake Camp Meeting is a nine-day event on the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy where inspirational speakers, seminars and great music, along with superb children’s programming, enrich the spiritual experience.

We also have two three-day camp meetings, one in the Upper Peninsula at Camp Sagola, and a special Hispanic Camp Meeting at Camp Au Sable. We look forward to seeing all of you who are able to join us this summer.

Jim Micheff is the executive secretary of the Michigan Conference.
We invite you to our annual Wisconsin family reunion that we call “camp meeting.” This year, our theme is “Words of Life.” Our focus will be on God’s gift, the Word of God. On Friday night, I look forward to seeing each one, and will present from God’s Word to open our camp meeting. Derek Morris, editor of Ministry magazine, will speak Sabbath and Sunday. Dick Duerksen, assistant to the president and storyteller for Maranatha Volunteers International, will speak Monday and Tuesday evenings. Mark Finley, evangelist and previous speaker for It Is Written, will be the main speaker Wednesday through Sabbath.

Jud Lake, professor of preaching and Adventist studies at Southern Adventist University, will be our mid-week morning speaker. His focus will be on inspiration, both in Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy. This year’s special features will include a half-size model of the Old Testament tabernacle where you can see and learn about the symbols of salvation, as well as the first Sabbath afternoon concert by recording artist Steve Darmody.

A variety of seminars will be offered each afternoon, focusing on Bible study, witnessing, community services and lay training. Come, be a part of a special time of spiritual renewal and fellowship.

Mike Edge is the president of the Wisconsin Conference.
What Really Happens at Camp?

BY CHARLIE THOMPSON

What happens when a church sponsors a child to attend a week at summer camp? Let me tell you.

Linda Morris from Greenwood, Indiana, first came to Timber Ridge Camp as a little girl. She was from a broken home and only occasionally made it to church. Her pastor, Brian Yensho, and church family from the Greenwood Church took advantage of the Opportunity Camper Program offered by Indiana Conference to sponsor Linda to spend a week at TRC. In Indiana, the Opportunity Camper Program is designed so that local churches pay half the cost of camp, the camper pays only $55, and the Indiana Conference covers the rest of the camp fee.

Linda’s experience at TRC was the greatest week of her life. She took advantage of all the fun activities, made friends and gave her heart to Jesus. Linda returned to camp each year, sponsored by the Greenwood Church. It was always the highlight of her year. Year after year, her local church sacrificed to see that this child of God could continue to spend that one week at TRC.

At TRC, we are very intentional with everything we do. From cabin worships to Camp Counsel in the mornings and campfire each evening, we strive to bring the good news of the Gospel to our campers. But there is another important aspect that can really impact our campers: We prayerfully select staff who have a committed, growing relationship with Jesus. We want TRC staff that can be living, Christlike role models for our campers. One staff member who impacted Linda’s life through the years was Jesse Wilson from Berrien Springs, Michigan, who worked at the waterfront; another was Sarah Fruth from Cicero, Indiana, a counselor for Linda.

Every Friday night at TRC and at other Adventist summer camps, campers are provided with an opportunity to give their hearts to Jesus, rededicate themselves to Jesus or to be baptized and join his family. Not only did Linda give her heart to Jesus at camp, but she also made the decision to be baptized!

When Linda was at Teen Camp, the recruitment team from Indiana Academy came to visit. After visiting with them, she went to bed one night and prayed to God: “I don’t know how it could be possible for me to be at Indiana Academy, but please, God, if you can help me to be there, I would be so happy!” God answered her prayer. Years later, she remembered she had prayed that prayer.

This year Linda is a junior at Indiana Academy. She has applied for a job at TRC. The reason? She wants to go back to camp and be a part of the staff who partner with Jesus to change other young people’s lives. We are happy to say that Linda will be on staff at TRC this summer! She will work in the camp kitchen and spend as much time as possible sharing Jesus’ love with campers!

God uses summer camp! It doesn’t matter if it is Timber Ridge Camp or any of the other summer camps in our union, God changes lives every summer. When we, as God’s people, work together, amazing things happen. This is the truth about what really happens at camp!

Charlie Thompson is the youth director of the Indiana Conference.
Summer 2014 is approaching like a child running wildly toward a playground! I want to introduce you to the Pack of Three. They are a three-pack because they are the same three young ladies, from different families, who come year after year to Camp Akita. They became friends, shared experiences and met Jesus there. Two years ago, the Pack of Three, who are not Seventh-day Adventists, decided to become part of the Adventist family because they loved what Jesus had to offer through the Sabbath and the family time that it provided at camp. After returning home, ready to begin their baptismal studies, they were saddened to learn their parents did not agree with their newfound faith.

Fast forward 12 months to summer camp 2013, and the Pack of Three were back, still excited and resolute as ever to continue their walk with Jesus in the Adventist family.

With godly friends, passionate staff and a joyous environment, Camp Akita is not only fun and games, but it is fun, games and Jesus! So what are you waiting for? Register now for a summer camp. We are waiting for you.

Manny Ojeda is the youth director of the Illinois Conference.
If you have ever been a camper at Timber Ridge Camp, then we don’t need to say this, but, well, we will: Camp is fun! Why? Here are a few reasons: swimming, horses, mountain biking, sailing, zip line, disk golf, crafts.... The list is too long to write out. To see a complete list of activities and learn more about each camp listed at left, visit http://www.trcamp.org.

The real reason to come to TRC? We have a passion to help you learn about our best friend, Jesus! Start the morning with worships about Jesus. Spend the day with staff who love Jesus. Every night at campfire, we end the day with... Guess who? Jesus!

Come to TRC this summer for the fun. But in the end, the best part of camp is to make Jesus your best friend.

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

Some campers who previously tasted the joy of Junior Camp often plan to stay all three weeks. However, first-time campers often call their parents asking if they can stay longer. So instead of picking them up at the end of the week, parents may bring extra clothing or money for the extended stay. The warmth and blending of worship and work, class work and recreation, and interaction with other campers and counselors are just a few of the many things blended to give each camper a sense of independence while allowing them to experience a sense of community.

Many of our regular campers are active members of one of our Pathfinder clubs and are looking forward to the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This is a major event that takes place every five years and requires much preparation. So due in part to our participation in the 2014, “Forever Faithful” International Camporee, our Summer Camp will be postponed.

We are looking forward to a bigger and better summer camp program in 2015. You can look forward to three 1-week sessions: July 12–18, 19–25 and July 26–August 1, for boys and girls ages 8–15 years old.

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

We are looking forward to seeing you there in 2015.

Leon George is the youth director of the Lake Region Conference.
Summer camp sometimes falls on a child’s list of “must-do’s” for the summer. However, in a period of financial decline, this may not have been an option for all children of one little country church. So the 23-member church decided to make a way for any camper-age child to attend camp. They gathered unwanted belongings to sell at the annual garage sale, and raised over $1,200 to send six campers. One of these campers, not a member of the local church, made a decision to study to be baptized and offered his talents for Christ in the local church.

Some children may spend these leisure summer days passively consuming media. Summer camp is a great opportunity to give a child, in your community or local church, a week engaged in God’s nature where they are impacted by godly, young people who are sold out for Jesus. The power of Christian camp is the combination of high-adventure, caring, adult role models, time to think without distractions, and a chance to be known and loved — all in the beauty of nature.

At camp, your children can build lifelong friendships in a temporary community where they can take safe risks, ask important questions and learn of God’s love, while also discovering their purpose and passions!

Ken Micheff is the youth director of the Michigan Conference.

**By Ken Micheff**
We cannot wait for another wonderful summer of camp at Camp Wakonda! There is just something amazing about summer camp that you can’t experience anywhere else. Campers are invited to unplug from electronics and media, and plug back in to nature, God’s second book. It is amazing to see campers fall in love with Jesus all over again each summer. It is a time of fun, fellowship and re-dedication.

Campers can participate in activities such as swimming, unicycling, archery, climbing wall, nitro cars, crafts, ceramics, nature quests, horseback riding, skiing, tubing, banana boating, blobbing and so much more. The programming is one of my favorite aspects of camp ministry. Stories and lessons from the Bible come alive as the camp staff provides powerful times of praise and worship followed by amazing drama presentations and a nightly challenge from the camp pastor. Every evening is a new opportunity to connect with God through these amazing worship experiences.

We are very excited about our amazing camp staff this summer. We have staff from all cultures, walks of life and from all across the 50 states, and even a few from overseas. It is such a pleasure to get to know these incredible staff members and see how God works through them each summer.

For these and many other reasons, we hope to see you at Camp Wakonda this summer! Please continue to keep all of our Lake Union camps in prayer as God is truly doing an amazing work through this incredible ministry!

Greg Taylor is the youth director of the Wisconsin Conference.
The Lake Union Herald is available online.

Social worker dedicated to solving patient problems

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital social worker Jeff Fish helps many patients with their care, but one, in particular, stands out — a man he believes he was called on to help.

The patient was a homeless man who arrived at the hospital in January 2013. He was hit by a car while walking along a busy roadway, breaking his leg. He had no known medical history, no family stepping forward to claim him, and was deemed ineligible for State support to pay for his care.

While hearings to appeal the man’s eligibility for aid dragged on, Jeff tracked down the man’s family and found a shelter that could provide him the services he needed. The day he left the hospital, seven months after his admission, was a difficult one for the patient and for Fish.

“Being in a place that has a mission of extending Christ’s healing ministry, it helped me to keep working with him, treating him as if he was my own family,” Fish said. “He is a child of God, and I knew that he was watching out for him when he brought him here.”

Fish has been a member of the hospital staff since October 2012. His mother worked as a nurse at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital for 25 years, and his father, a pastor at several Chicago-area Seventh-day Adventist churches, also volunteered in hospital chaplaincy. His uncle was a managing chaplain at Adventist GlenOaks Hospital for 17 years.

“I knew I wanted to work with patients and their families in some capacity,” Fish said. “I started out by studying for a career in physical therapy, but decided I was more interested in the barriers patients faced when trying to get treatment.”

As a social worker in Care Management, Fish helps patients find ways to pay for their health care. He also

arranges for care after patients are discharged.

This February, Fish was named the hospital’s Employee of the Year. He is always there for staff and patients, and has a way of making people feel good even if they face daily challenges, said Michael J. Goebel, chief executive officer of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.

“Jeff does a great job determining the needs of our patients and their families, immediately addressing them as they arise,” Goebel said. “His work with this particular patient was phenomenal, and illustrates his dedication to helping transform the lives of our patients.”

Fish’s dedication to patients is immense, said Janet Simon, director of Care Management at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. This was clear throughout the seven months he worked with his homeless patient while also caring for his other patients. Even after the man was discharged, Fish attended court hearings for him and submitted information that might help him.

“We all strive to live the mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ,” Simon said. “Jeff really believes it in his soul. You can see that.”

When he’s not working, Fish enjoys time with his family and teaches in his son’s Sabbath school class at the Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church. He and his wife, Sara, an employee at the hospital, met while Jeff was an intern at Adventist Hinsdale. They were married at Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Fish considers himself blessed to work with patients so closely. “There are not too many other things in my life that bring me as much joy as solving problems for people, especially if they can’t do that for themselves,” he said.

Chris LaFortune, regional communications specialist, Adventist Midwest Health
Honors student wins competitive scholarship

Melodie Roschman, junior English literature and journalism major and honors student at Andrews University, recently won one of only two competitive Sigma Tau Delta scholarships. Sigma Tau Delta is a nationwide English Honors society. The Sigma Tau Delta Junior Scholarship of $3,000 was awarded at the annual convention in Savannah, Ga., where Roschman presented her project, “Costuming and Selfhood in Gregory Doran’s Hamlet.”

Competing against 400 applicants from 87 chapters nationwide, Roschman won the top junior scholarship for the association. She also won Best Critical Essay for British and World Literature from among 250 presented.

Roschman’s research mentor, Monique Pittman, director of Honors and professor of English, attests to the high quality of Roschman’s work. Pittman says, “Her sound reasoning, strong source usage and innovative conclusions were rightly acknowledged, and I am thrilled. Her success testifies to the investment Andrews is making in resources to support undergraduate research.”

Roschman’s research mentor, Monique Pittman, director of Honors

My Favorite Things: Staff member wins, then donates

Just before Christmas, Wanda Swensen, assistant to the dean for off-campus programs for the School of Business Administration, entered the online sweepstakes for Oprah’s Favorite Things.

“I entered on a whim, thinking I’d never win,” she says. “I completely forgot about it. Who wins these things?”

A couple of weeks later, Swensen received a phone call from Oprah’s New York headquarters. She was one of 12 online winners of Oprah’s 60 favorite things in 2013. Items included a watch valued at $2,700, a Kindle tablet, a T-Fal electric fryer, a cellphone, various clothing and food items, cash and more.

The packages arrived about ten days later, each individually wrapped in holiday paper. A couple of items were sold on eBay and the money put toward her sons’ tuition; almost everything else was donated to Andrews University.

“It’s fun to win, but most of it was stuff I didn’t need,” says Swensen. “It was a joy to be able to share my good fortune with others, and I would do it again in a heartbeat.”

Swensen completed her master’s in business administration at Andrews in 2011, and has been working at Andrews for 14 years.
Closed school repurposed for Community Services Center

Michigan—A classroom in the former Edith B. Garrett School, adjacent to the Fairplain Church on Seneca Road in St. Joseph Township, has been converted to house the church’s Community Services Center. Each month, approximately 105 community residents are greeted by Mary Wein, director, or other volunteers, when they arrive. In 2013, 1,272 guests received assistance at the store, and 437 gift baskets were shared, easing financial strain and hunger pangs. Though the laughter of school children is no longer heard in the halls of the Adventist school, which closed in 2003, ministry at the facility continues. “The Community Services Center is a little known blessing, hidden behind the church,” said Wein. “It is like a store, servicing the needy for free!”

In the ‘70s, Wein and her husband, Lester, began to assist the needy from their basement in Gary, Ind. They distributed food and clothing. When the couple moved to Benton Harbor in 1982, the Weins joined the fellowship of the Fairplain Church. They discovered a need for support in that community, and soon began a Center there. It began with a double-wide, glass bookcase in a windowless room in the basement of the church. The location was not ideal. “It was not easily available for loading and unloading or giving out food, but it was a start,” commented Wein.

When the Edith B. Garrett School’s attendance declined and the difficult decision was made to cease operation, the Weins were offered a classroom for the Center. “There was heat, windows, electricity for a refrigerator and freezer, and many more cupboards and shelving,” said Wein. About that time, they discovered Gleaners, an inexpensive distributor of wholesale food to churches and businesses. The Weins were delighted because now they “didn’t have to ask members for all the food, just clothing. A small store was developed where the needy could shop for free,” said Wein. Partnering with Feeding America, formerly Gleaners, is a blessing, since they can order from a supply list and visit the warehouse to pick up a variety of items, including diverse frozen and fresh products plus bakery items.

The Center sees repeat customers at their store. Shopper Nelda Metzger remarked, “This is my second time here. It’s a really nice place.”

Wein is familiar with the desperate plight of many Michigan families. She, too, remembers a time when her family participated in a supplemental food program. She told The Herald-Paladium, “It always stuck in my mind how wonderful it was to get those [U.S. Department of Agriculture commodity boxes].”

Church members support Wein’s passion and vision; in October 2013, there was a flurry of activity which resulted in the Center’s total remodel. Improvements include new windows, paint and reorganization. “The special, little store looks so much better, and is so much more convenient,” remarked Wein. Arleen and Roy Anderson spearheaded the renovation project.

Wein’s husband passed away recently, but she continues their shared vision with the help of regular volunteers, including Dan Spaulding, Roselle Stout, Alf and Lanette Sanford, and Jerry and Ramona Greenhaw.

In addition to the free store at the Center, the church’s health education team, led by Michael Spencer, offers regular health education classes, with health and wellness screening, and cooking and gardening classes to the community.

The Center also partners with United Way of southwest Michigan. “We feed individuals at a United Way women’s shelter safe house and residents of other shelters within a 30-mile area,” said Wein.

During winter months, the Center’s store was open on an appointment basis. Beginning April 1, it will be open Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. If there is a need, Wein responds to calls that come to the church.
Paw Paw Church implements plan for affordable Adventist education

Michigan—The Paw Paw Church is committed to its kids now and in the future. About eight years ago, the Kalamazoo Promise was established, giving kids in the Kalamazoo public schools an opportunity to attend college free. That program led the Paw Paw Church to think about the long-term promise for their kids — an affordable Adventist education.

For years, Paw Paw Church has greatly supported its young people with their Education Plan, which is funded by offerings. But similar to the Kalamazoo Promise, the church wanted to see its kids taken care of in perpetuity. “When I heard about the Kalamazoo Promise, I immediately thought about Paw Paw, and wanted to start the same concept for our church,” John Boothby recalled. A few months later, following consultation with attorney Michael Hamblin (Jackson Church member), the Paw Paw Promise endowment was established with a small amount of money to start.

During the past six years, endowment donations have grown slowly, while not decreasing any annual commitments to education or other church projects. The small amounts of money earned from the endowment have been reinvested into the endowment, helping the account grow. In 2014, the endowment is expected to generate nearly $1,900; that money goes directly to kids in Adventist education. This means less dependence on offerings will be required (unless the number of kids keeps growing!). The dream is that the Paw Paw Promise eventually will provide for the entire expense of the Paw Paw Education Plan. And then the church budget would have lots more money for other projects.

The Paw Paw Education Plan is unique to most churches. Decades ago, Paw Paw Church members decided to forgo starting their own school; instead, they support surrounding schools. Depending on the grade of the student and a few other qualifying criteria, a family may receive up to 90 percent of its tuition paid for by the church. The Paw Paw Promise hopefully will help carry the significant financial burden in the future. In 2014, 90 percent of the endowment earnings will be invested in Adventist education, and ten percent will remain with the endowment.

“The kids in our church belong to all of us,” Barbara Randall, chair of the Education Committee, is often heard saying. “We believe that every child who wants to go to an Adventist school should be provided the opportunity and not be limited by finances.”

The Education Committee does have its challenges managing the requests. Randall summarized, “In order to adhere to the policies of our education plan and the Paw Paw Promise, a challenge we have had to face more than once is to remind families of the attendance requirement, and encourage them to attend more routinely and to be actively participating in the Paw Paw Church.” While those challenges can be difficult, the Committee stays focused on the nearly 25 kids they support in six different schools, equaling 35 percent of the annual church budget this year.

If you would like more information about starting an endowment at your church, contact John Boothby at boothbycrna@aol.com.

Janelle Randall, communications secretary, Paw Paw Church
Lake Union ASI is on a mission to serve

“There’s more we can do; we have to come back!” This was the shared sentiment of the 35 mission trip volunteers who finished the list of projects at Las Palmas in Bonao, Dominican Republic. Even after installing ceiling fans in each of the ten orphanage homes, replacing tile in one home, painting the exterior of the elementary school, library and music building, and repairing the playground equipment, there was still lots to do for this orphanage, which cares for over 70 children — orphaned, displaced or from families destitute of resources.

This time, 50 ASI Lake Union members, family and friends took the ten-day trip to Las Palmas, an orphanage operated by International Children’s Care. The project list included interior painting and floor tile replacement in one home, leak repair and sealing the administration building roof, updating the playground equipment, holding a health clinic in the local community and the impromptu — but very needed — repair of the main campus road.

The 19 children and youth volunteers, ages 6–18, worked, too! They painted, cleared debris, ran errands and learned puppet scripts, written in a mix of English and Spanish by one of the volunteers, Michael Jaquez. These modern-day object lessons were a feature during the evening worship time with the volunteers, staff and students, led out by Michael Taylor, a volunteer from the Paw Paw Church in Michigan. Daily, each morning, the children volunteers joined the orphanage students at school, exchanging English and Spanish words, while the youth volunteers assisted with painting, tiling and helping at the health clinic.

The fact that all this was accomplished in just a week is a small part of the story. It’s also the miracles the volunteers remember! All along the way, God removed obstacles and provided supplies for the projects — like the day supplies needed to be purchased to finish the roof. All the businesses closed in protest to anticipated tax increases by the government. Remarkably, someone was at the business where supplies were to be purchased, granted volunteers entry into the store, listened to their plight, and agreed not only to sell but also to deliver the supplies to the orphanage!

Jesus calls us to meet the needs of the least of these (See Matthew 25:45 NIV). ASI Lake Union is committed to this mission to serve. Are you?

Debbie Young, president, Lake Union chapter of Adventist-Laymen’s Services and Industries

ASI (Adventist-Laymen’s Services and Industries) is a collaborative organization of Seventh-day Adventist lay persons who own or direct for-profit or not-for-profit organizations. Their goal is to use their gifts and talents in their sphere of influence to support the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church, proclaiming the good news about Jesus’ love and His soon return. For more information about ASI or the ASI Lake Union chapter, go to http://www.asiministries.org or http://www.asilakeunion.org.
Lifeline Wellness Center teaches healthy living

Illinois—Nestled in the small rural town of Knoxville, Ill., is the Lifeline Wellness Center, a health retreat with a staff that empowers people to improve, sustain and manage their health through natural approaches. Since its opening in February 2013, Lifeline has attracted guests locally and internationally who sought a lifestyle makeover that enables them to live a more vibrant, engaging life.

Peter and Clemencia Carstens plus several volunteers oversee Lifeline. The Carstens, members of the Richland Bridge SDA Fellowship, have more than 31 years of experience, and Clemencia has taught and trained health and lifestyle educators internationally and locally (Mozambique, Africa, South America and now in the United States) for 14 years. Peter also is an active force in equipping individuals with the knowledge and tools to help recover their health.

Peter, now 74, is no stranger to poor health. The lifestyle he used to live was disastrous. At 45, he received a dire prognosis from his physician — he only had a short time to live. Determined to reverse this diagnosis, Peter was inspired to stop drinking, smoking and using poor eating habits. During this journey was when he discovered Christ’s love for him. Peter’s favorite food, steak, is now replaced with an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables, including power-packed micro greens, which are grown at Lifeline. His favorite beverages are no longer beer or whiskey but pure, soft, ozonated water that allegedly increases one’s energy level. Perhaps this is why Peter has more energy than the average 28-year-old.

Recently, Sally Atari, a registered nurse, songwriter and singer heard on more than 1,500 radio stations, traveled from New Jersey to Lifeline, seeking a healthier lifestyle. “I haven’t been happy,” Atari said. She has struggled with obesity for many years. “I was using television and movies to numb myself.” She needed to make a change, so came to Lifeline where she learned a new way of living. Upon leaving, Atari had lost weight and was energized to continue the new lifestyle at home.

Lifeline focuses on simple, natural lifestyle habits, including exercise, raw food nutrition, hydrotherapy, the rational and judicious use of some herbs and supplements, and a firm faith in God to assist the body in healing itself. Lifeline offers a 14- or 30-day stay. The program can be customized to meet the specific condition or illness of each guest, including systematic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, etc. Also incorporated into each session are daily health lectures, hydrotherapy, juice therapy, indoor and outdoor exercise, and gardening.

Lifeline Wellness Center, an Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries member organization, is located at 407 N. Hebard Street in Knoxville, Ill. For more specific information or to make a reservation, please call 309-289-2150.

Elaine Nailing served as a volunteer at the Lifeline Wellness Center and writes from Camden-on-Gauley, W. Va.
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.herald.lakeunion.org and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources, as these events are subject to change. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at http://www.herald.lakeunion.org.

Announcements

Andrews University

Howard Performing Arts Center Events: For more information on these events, call the Box Office at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or email hpacs@andrews.edu.

May 4, 7:30 p.m.: The Fountainview Academy orchestra and choir will perform a variety of uplifting, inspiring compositions, from old, familiar hymns like “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” to soul-stirring arrangements of “In the Heart of Jesus” and “Be Still, My Soul.” Their goal is to leave each member of the audience with a desire to better know the Savior, the aim of Fountainview’s many music tours and video productions since its inception. A free will offering will be collected to sponsor future projects. Admission is free.

Andrews University Graduation Weekend: Join us on the campus of Andrews University May 2-4 for 2014 graduation events. Consecration, May 2, 8:00 p.m.; Baccalaureate services, May 3, 9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.; Commencement, May 4, 8:30 a.m. For complete details and full schedule, visit http://andrews.edu/graduation.

Andrews University Summer Term: Got any summer plans? Spend your summer at Andrews University! Check out the class options, and see how you can seize the summer! Visit http://andrews.edu/go/summer for details.

Andrews University Spring Concerts: Andrews Department of Music presents two spring concerts: String Orchestra and Choirs perform on May 6 at 7:00 p.m.; Band and Handbells perform on May 15 at 7:00 p.m. Both concerts take place in the Howard Performing Arts Center on the campus of Andrews University. No tickets required.

Andrews University Graduation Weekend: Join us on the campus of Andrews University, May 2-4 for graduation events. Class Night, May 22, 7:00 p.m.; Consecration, May 23, 8:00 p.m.; Baccalaureate, May 24, 11:45 a.m.; Commencement, May 25, 11:00 a.m. For complete details and full schedule, visit http://andrews.edu/aa, email academy@andrews.edu, or call 269-471-3138.

Cruise with a Mission: Are you a young adult looking for a service opportunity close to home? If so, this Cruise may be just the right opportunity for you! It’s a mission trip, a cruise and a spiritual retreat all wrapped up in one meaningful adventure: a vacation with purpose! Cruise with a Mission offers an opportunity to release the tensions of life in the context of Christian community. Join other young adults as we return to the Caribbean in 2014. The ship sails from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Dec. 14-21. Early-bird registration is available until July 28, 2014. For additional information and to receive your discounted early-bird registration rate, visit http://www.CruiseWithAMission.org. You may also reach us by phone at 800-968-8428 or email cmwms@ymemail.com. We look forward to seeing you in the Caribbean in 2014!

Illinois

Hinsdale Adventist Academy Spring 2014 Events: For more information on these events, contact the school at 630-323-9211.

May 17 Praise Spectrum and Eternal Ring Performances

May 22 High School Spring Concert

May 30-June 1 Graduation Weekend

Indiana

Indiana Academy 2014 Upcoming Events: For more information on these events, contact the school at 317-984-3575.

May 6 Project 58 Day

May 10 Music Department Spring Concert

May 11 Boy’s Club Banquet

May 12 Private Lesson Recital

May 18 Final Exam Review Day

May 19-21 Final Exams

May 25 Graduation

The Indiana Conference is calling for mission-minded members to move to Indiana to help us plant 100 new churches. We need churches all over the state, and God is opening doors everywhere we look! For more information on locations and help with the move, contact Walter Allred and Van G. Hurst at wdallred@hotmail.com.

Lake Union

Offerings

May 3 Local Church Budget

May 10 Disaster & Famine Relief

May 17 Local Church Budget

May 24 Local Conference Advance

May 31 NAD Evangelism

Special Days

May 3 Community Services Sabbath

May 10 Youth Sabbath

May 17 Single Adults Sabbath

Michigan

Great Lakes Adventist Academy invites you to join them for Aerokhanas Home Show weekend, May 2-3, and May 9-10 for the Department of Music’s Spring Concerts. For more information, visit http://www.glaa.net.

Gobles Jr. Academy will mark its 80th year as a junior academy, June 6-8. Former students, teachers and parents are invited to join in the celebration weekend. Featured guests will be Mike and Gail McKenzie. For more information, visit the school website at http://goblesjunioracademy.org or call 269-628-2704.

Adelphian Academy Reunion will be held June 27-28 — Friday night in the Holly Church at 7:30 p.m.; Sabbath morning in the academy chapel at 9:15 a.m.; potluck dinner in the church school gymnasium; afternoon meeting in the Holly Church at 3:30 p.m. For additional information, call Peggy Hoffmier at 348-467-0985, or Arlene Bliesath at 517-536-4312.

North American Division

The Madison College Alumni Association Homecoming will be June 27-29, honoring classes 1944, ’49, ’54, ’59 and ’64. Also invited are those who attended Madison College or Madison College Academy or Anesthesia School. We will have activities and meals beginning Friday evening, 5:00 p.m., through Sunday morning at the Madison College Campus. This year we are commemorating 110 years since founding in 1904, the last graduating class of 1964, and rolling out a DVD history of Madison College, prepared by the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University. For more information, contact Harry Mayden, president, at 240-645-2305, or Jim Culeppeer, secretary/treasurer, at 615-415-1925.

Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend: All alumni and former faculty and staff are invited to this special reunion weekend Sept. 12-13. The 2014 Honor Classes are: 1939, ’44, ’49, ’54, ’59, ’64, ’74 and ’79. The reunion will take place at Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, Iowa. Make plans to attend. For more information, contact Mary Dassenko Schwantes at 636-527-0955 or email maryschwantes@sbcglobal.net.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Academy 2014 Upcoming Events: For more information on these events, contact the school at 920-623-3300.

May 10 Spring Concert

May 23-25 Graduation Weekend

Important Notice from the Editors

There will be ten issues of the Lake Union Herald published in 2014. The June/July and November/December issues will be combined.
### Obituaries

#### CANNON, Neta J. (Jones), age 87; born June 8, 1926, in Marion, Ind.; died March 4, 2014, in Marion. She was a member of the Ephesus Church, Marion.

Survivors include her sons, Delmar and Rhett; daughters, Mary Ann Dixon, Teresa Evans, Rhonda Dorsey and Tanya Cannon; 23 grandchildren; 46 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Jose Torres, and interment was in Estates of Serenity Cemetery, Marion.

#### CLINE, Elaine D. (Grossman), age 86; born Aug. 15, 1927, in Ann Arbor, Mich.; died Nov. 5, 2013, in Saline, Mich. She was a member of the Ann Arbor Church.

No memorial services were conducted, with private inurnment, Saline.

#### CLORE, Patricia L. (Woods), age 76; born Nov. 18, 1937, in Midland, Mich.; died March 30, 2013, in Midland. She was a member of the Midland Church.

Survivors include her sons, Kevin W., Christopher M. and Mark S.; brother, Paul Woods Jr.; and sister, Marjorie Madden.

Memorial services were conducted by David Mulder, with private inurnment.

#### CONKLIN, Florence V. (Rider), age 97; born March 7, 1917, in Midland, Mich.; died March 12, 2014, in Midland. She was a member of the Midland Church.

Survivors include her sister, Aletha Buckner; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Donald Turrell, and interment was in Horner Twp. (Mich.) Cemetery.

#### CURTIS, Ellen A. (Tucker), age 77; born June 28, 1936, in Huntington, Ind.; died March 21, 2014, in Dowagiac, Mich. She was a member of the Village Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Survivors include her son, Reggie; daughters, Renee Settiff and Ronda Dexter; sisters, Barbara Slawson, Betty Parker and Jackie Boomsliter; five grandchildren; one step-grandchild; and three great-grandchildren.

Private family services were conducted, and inurnment was in Huntington Cemetery.


Survivors include his stepsons, James and William Briggs; daughters, April No- land and Rebecca Hawkes; stepdaughter, Deborah Briggs; three grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Inurnment was in Charleson (W.Va.) Cemetery.

#### INSKEEP, Mary L. (Casey), age 76; born Aug. 22, 1937, in Marion, Ind.; died Dec. 19, 2013, in Indianapolis, Ind. She was a member of the Ephesus Church, Marion.

Survivors include her husband, William J.; sons, James K. Casey and Mark Inskeep; daughters, Robin M. Wilkins and Sparrell Inskeep; brother, Robert D. Casey; sisters, Frieda D. Collins and Norma J. Thompson; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Jose Torres, and interment was in Marion Cemetery.

#### JAMISON, William E., age 69; born Aug. 22, 1944, in Gary, Ind.; died Nov. 17, 2013, in Huntsville, Ala. He was a member of the Mizpah Church, Gary.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon (Walker); sons, William Jr. and Keith; daughter, Kimara Jamison; stepdaughter, Andrea Walker; brothers, Jerome and Sherwood; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Donnell Smith, with private inurnment, Huntsville.


Survivors include his wife, Edith (Thompson); sons, David and Dan Shultz; daughter, Lori Little; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Jeff Sobieralski, and private inurnment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.


Survivors include his wife, Selma (Wutzke); sons, Daniel R. and Robin D.; stepson, Adrian Wutzke; stepdaughter, Rosie Tanner; brother, Sam; and sister, Sara Fischer.

Funeral services were conducted by William Dudgeon Sr., and interment was in Graceland Cemetery, Bridgman, Mich.

#### SMITH, SR., Melvin “Mel,” age 89; born Aug. 18, 1924, in Fairfield, N.C.; died Feb. 7, 2014, in Battle Creek, Mich. He was a member of the Urbandale Church, Battle Creek.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley D. (Field); sons, Melvin Jr., Steve and Harley; eight grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Interment was in Fort Custer National Cemetery, Battle Creek.

#### STARKEY, M. Thomas, age 97; born June 24, 1916, in Vincennes, Ind.; died Feb. 6, 2014, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his daughters, Joan Banks and Barbara Marx; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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


Survivors include her husband, Curtis; sons, Michael and Benjamin; daughter, Emma VanderWaal; father, John Copin; stepmother, Delia Copin; brother, John Copin; and sisters, Janine Dent and Teresa Cope.

Funeral services were conducted by Jim Micheff and Dave Ferguson, and interment was in Union Cemetery, Berrien Center, Mich.

#### YORK, Debra A. (Smith), age 51; born April 22, 1962, in Hinsdale, Ill.; died Feb. 20, 2014, in Fenton, Mich. She was a member of the Holly (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her son, Nathan; daughter, Amber Butcher; father, Harold R. Smith; mother, Janice (Parke) Smith; sisters, Shelley Frederick and Sheri Brunson; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Chris Ames, with private inurnment.
All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: $36 per insertion for Lake Union church members; $46 per insertion for all others. A form is available at http://www.herald.lakeunion.org for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The Lake Union Herald cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The Lake Union Herald does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at http://www.herald.lakeunion.org.

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**Miscellaneous**

**THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER** can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more. Invest in your health and call 800-634-9355 for more information or visit http://www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle.

**HOMESCHOOLERS AND BOOK LOVERS,** check out our website: http://coun trygardenschool.org. We have hundreds of books. Call or email your order: 509-525-8143 or cgsrc@charter.net. All books and supplies 70% off.

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** again will offer its six-day Natural Remedies & Hydrotherapy Workshop, Aug. 3–8. In addition to University faculty, the following speakers will present: Don Miller, Uchee Pines Institute; David DeRose, Weimar Center of Health & Education; Elvin Adams, U.S. Health Works; Norman McNulty, neurologist. For more information, visit http://andrews.edu/go/nhw/, email fran@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3541.

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS MASTER’S DEGREES** in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit https://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies.

**WANTED TO BUY AND FOR SALE:** used SDA books, new or old, Your Story Hour tapes and games. For more information, contact John at 269-781-6379 or jfischco@aol.com.

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**Employment**

**MAJOR GIFTS OFFICER** needed in the Los Angeles area. Requires proven track record of securing $20,000+ gifts; expected to cold call, solicit, qualify, cultivate, lead to closure and steward these very important donors. SDA in good standing. Travel, evenings and weekends as needed. Send résumé to Better Life Broadcasting; ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com.

**BETTER LIFE TELEVISION** seeks a broadcast engineer to maintain 20 TV stations and our Grants Pass, Ore., headquarters. Requires knowledge of RF broadcasting engineering, FCC regulations. SDA member in good standing. Come, enjoy the beautiful Pacific Northwest while helping to reach millions for Christ. Send résumé to ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com.

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks a faculty member for Teaching, Learning & Curriculum Education. Qualified person should have a doctorate Ed.D or Ph.D. in Teacher Education. Must have at least three years teaching K–12 within the United States, public or private. For more information and to apply, visit http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.


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For more information visit AdventistHealthSystem.com.
UNION COLLEGE seeks chair of B.S. Nursing program. Responsibilities include strategic planning, curricular assessment, faculty development and support of college activities. Nebraska state licensure, teaching experience, and doctoral degree or advanced coursework required. Submit cover letter and vitae to Dr. Malcolm Russell, VPAA, at marussel@ucollege.edu, or call 402-486-2501.

Real Estate/Housing

SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE is an Adventist community in a rural Okla. setting but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has a fellowship you’ll enjoy. On-site church, independent living, nursing home and transportation as needed. For more information, visit http://www.summitridgevillage.org, or call Bill Norman at 405-208-1289.

ZEPHYRHILLS, FLA., RETIREMENT CONDO FOR SALE. This two-bedroom, two-bathroom, low-maintenance condo is three blocks from SDA church and hospital. For more information, call Norma Brown at 813-469-9335.

For Sale

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER CLUB NAME CREST: Order your Pathfinder and Adventurer club name crest at http://www.pathfinderclubnames.com. For more information, call 269-208-5853 or email us at pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com.

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LOOKING FOR AUTHORS who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc.). Also accepting children’s books, mission stories, biographies and inspirational/doctrinal topics. For more information, call TEACH Services at 800-367-1844.

MOVE WITH AN AWARD-WINNING AGENCY. Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves for you. Call us for all your relocation needs. Contact Marcy Danté at 800-766-1902, or visit our website: http://www.apexmoving.com/adventist.


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Travel/Vacation

Partnership with God

Catch-22

By Gary Burns

Many of the poor are in a catch-22 situation. If you don't need to borrow money, people almost throw it at you. If you are in desperate need, it's nearly impossible to obtain, except through those ubiquitous financial institutions that intentionally draw unsuspecting victims into a perpetual, nearly-inescapable, high-interest debt scenario with hidden penalties and fees — a modern form of slavery. The Bible speaks directly to this catch-22: Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court (Proverbs 22:22 NIV).

I have a friend who has an incredible partnership with Jesus Christ. His success in business comes from his gratitude for his Partner and Savior. Jesus has so impacted his life that he has a reputation for making unprecedented business deals. If you ask his business partners, employees or customers, you'll hear a common response: “He gave me a better deal than I anticipated.” That's the opposite of exploitation — providing for others in a way that helps them unfairly! What would you call that? A catch-22?

People who are in partnership with God, like my friend, have a heart for people, especially those who are disadvantaged. There are so many ways that our personal comfort can be obtained at the expense and exploitation of others. When we partner with God, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that the choices we make are not at the expense of someone else. Let's be good partners with God.

Gary Burns is the director of communication of the Lake Union Conference.
Growing up in Michigan, one of my favorite places to visit in the summertime was Camp Au Sable. The beauty of the trees and the placid lake always kept my family coming back for the sacred peace that one can experience out in nature. After my sophomore year in college, I applied for a job there, and ended up spending three wonderful summers working alongside a great group of young people.

One of the jobs I took a crack at, while working at Au Sable, was camp counselor. Each week, I counseled a different group of six to ten young fellows who were looking to have the most fun week of their whole summer. I did all the fun camp activities and ate meals with them, and tried to teach the fellows to get along with each other and learn a few spiritual lessons along the way.

During Junior Camp 2012, I met 11-year-old Danny*. From the moment Danny’s mom dropped him off, I knew he would be the counselor’s “dream camper.” He was super excited about every single activity and extremely attentive when I explained cabin rules. Because of his great attitude, Danny had an incredible week at camp. He even helped me round up rowdier cabin mates when they “bounced off the walls.” I naturally assumed Danny had the ideal home life to match his positive attitude.

On Friday night near the end of the week, I took my campers to the Friday night Passion Play which depicted Jesus doing many wonderful miracles for his people, and then dying for our sins. It was very touching, and the kids were oddly pensive after witnessing Jesus’ last days. Danny was especially sober.

After the play, I asked my campers to circle up and passed out Bible study/baptismal decision cards for them to look over. They were silent for a moment as they looked at the cards. Suddenly, Danny blurted out, “I just don’t know what to do about my dad.”

I turned my attention to him. “What’s going on with your dad, buddy?” I responded.

Danny proceeded to explain how his dad was of another faith, and he thought sending Danny to an Adventist camp was a stupid idea. His mother was an Adventist, though, and was fully supportive of the Church and its values. Danny had alternated between his parents’ churches weekly for some time, and felt pressure to decide on one or the other.

“I believe in the Sabbath,” said Danny, “but I don’t think my dad will talk to me anymore if I pick it over him.”

I had a long talk with Danny after the other campers had gone to sleep. I told him to be optimistic about his father, but encouraged him to always make the Bible his guide and put its words ahead of anything men might say, even someone he loved. Danny seemed at peace, knowing the truth when he left on Sunday morning.

I’m not sure what happened to Danny nor his relationship with his dad, but I know I encouraged a young heart in question of truth, and for that I am thankful. It still baffles me that this 11-year old boy has faced more faith conflict than I ever have in 24 years. I did my best to encourage him that summer, but seeing Danny willing to stand for his faith at such a young age encouraged me.

Matt Haus is a member of the Cedar Lake Church in Michigan. He will begin to study physical therapy at Loma Linda University in May. *Danny is a pseudonym.
ON THE EDGE ... where faith meets action

Missions: Easy as Uno, Dos, Tres...

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

“T’s crazy that so many things happen [during mission trips], and you can see how God makes them happen,” says Cindy Taylor, a junior at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. Cindy loves going on mission trips, and has participated in one every year since she was just 12 years old. She claims the short-term experiences have taught her the importance of simplicity and realizing the blessings God gives her.

For the past six years, Cindy, her family and a group of 80-some volunteers have traveled to Mexico during Christmas break. The group builds churches for the local congregations and also conducts vacation Bible schools and nightly evangelistic meetings. The days are long, says Cindy, but she finds joy in going door-to-door visiting the people, and mixing cement with volunteers at their site. At each trip, Cindy looks forward to reconnecting with the people she has met in years past and building new relationships with her group. She says, “It’s like they become your extended family. ... I look forward to going every year.”

Particularly exciting to Cindy are the baptisms that occur at the end of the trips. She says the decisions for Christ remind her she is making a difference, and, because of them, her hard work is worth it.

Cindy encourages other high school students to participate in mission opportunities “if they want to get closer to God,” she says.

“I think everyone always learns something from it,” she claims. “You always come back grateful for what you have. ... I see God working so much when I’m down there. It’s amazing!”

Besides the mission trips, Cindy is active in her high school community. Last school year, she participated in Witnessing class at the academy, which provided opportunities for her and her classmates to present sermons at several churches. She also plays percussion in the school’s Wind Symphony.

Someday, Cindy plans to have a career where she can help others. She has interests in nutrition, medicine and physical therapy.

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