



The Wind Point Lighthouse, which has been guiding sinps since it is now owned by the Village of Wind Point and open to the public. Photo by Lake Union Herald staff, 2013. In every issue...

The Wind Point Lighthouse, which has been guiding ships since

Lake Union

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In this issue...

The lighthouse has long served as a spiritual metaphor in poems, stories and songs. Maybe you remember "The Lighthouse" and that haunting line "If it wasn't for the lighthouse, tell me where would this ship be?" by Ronny Hinson, copyrighted in 1971.

The Wind Point Lighthouse in Racine, Wisconsin, featured on the cover, is one of 97 lighthouses and markers on the shores of Lake Michigan, the body of water that is shared by all five conferences in the Lake Union.

The Lake Union Herald is distributed to approximately 32,000 homes in our territory. What if every one of those homes had a reputation of being a real spiritual lighthouse in their community? What difference would that make in the lives of their neighbors? This edition is dedicated to helping us make our home a lighthouse in our community.



Features...

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The Lake Union Herald (ISSN 0194-908X) is published monthly (except for June/July and November/December) by the Lake Union Conference, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, M1 49103-0287, Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs, M1, and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription price is \$12.50. Vol. 106, No. 8. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to: Lake Union Herald, P. O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY DON LIVESAY, LAKE UNION PRESIDENT

Larger than Life

ome years ago, I heard the creator of a popular TV game show describe the hiring of one of the show's personalities. One factor in the final choice was that the person had a large head (in proportion to the rest of her body). You may have noticed that many media personalities, in fact, do have disproportionately larger heads. Evidently, the camera lens, or we, "like" larger heads. One explanation is that children have disproportionately larger heads, and we tend to think that is cute. Another explanation is that a larger head makes the rest of the body look thinner.

So, have you known anyone with a big head? I've now shifted from hat size to ego. Many people who project a large ego often may be compensating for smallness in their personal security. Then there are some who, though very gifted, lord it over others in distasteful ways. These people often can gather crowds, but so do car accidents. Surprisingly, these limelight individuals can be lonely. People find they are not particularly fun to be around. Yet, we are frequently enthralled by their abilities and can make the same mistake that Jesus' disciples made in recommending or choosing a Judas, rather than humble, modest people who sense their need to be totally dependent on the Holy Spirit.

So what about God? In Exodus 20, God calls himself a jealous God who commands that we have no other gods before him. When Moses asked God what he should say the name of the God who sent him is, the answer came, I AM WHO I AM.

If God were human and saying those kind of things of himself, we might think of him as one of our culture's super-ego superstars. But God is in no way humanly inferior. He is the Creator of the Milky Way galaxy that would take you 100,000 years, covering more than 16 billion miles per day, to cross its expanse. He is the Creator of countless galaxies, many of which are even larger. It is therefore right, yes, even duty for our Creator, the only true and living God who exists everywhere in all time, is all powerful and all knowing, to demand that we have nothing and no one to replace or outshine him in our lives. For the Creator to demand anything less would be dangerous for us and unloving of him.

So, for you, is God larger than life? Or is your life larger than God? This is the core issue of the human condition and beyond. Lucifer's fall started by diminishing God. Lucifer had such a big head that he actually thought to ascend to the heights of God and demand the worship and adoration of his fellow created beings. His desire to be bigger is the same aspiration he relentlessly promotes in our hearts and heads. I believe that is the common struggle each of us battles every day. But life must never become larger than God.

And when those bigger-than-life, wanna-be gods demand our attention, we need to remember they don't hold a candle to the One who is *The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...* (Exodus 34:6–7 KJV).

Make God larger than your life every day!

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Reaching Your Neighborhood for Christ

BY MADLYN HAMBLIN

or many years, I held a women's Bible study in my home. I felt comfortable sharing a vegetarian meal or snack, and then opening God's Word using a prepared set of lessons. Most of the ladies attending had, at one time or another, sought me out for friendship. I never had experienced knocking on doors to invite some of my more intimidating neighbors to come study the Bible with me. I often asked friends from church to join the group and, at times, there were eight or 12 of us who fellowshipped together.

With joy, I watched one young mother return to her roots — the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and followed her progress through the years as she enrolled her children in church school and became a very active member in her local congregation.

And then something sad happened. Three of the ladies (two sisters and a mother) had a terrible family feud and would not come to study if one of the other ones was there. This problem broke up our neighborhood Bible group, and my Tuesday evening witnessing endeavors came to a screeching halt!

The Lord encouraged me by refocusing me to reach my neighborhood for him, so I began to pay special attention to all the families who lived around us. I prayed God would show me what to do, and in answer to my prayers, impressions and thoughts came to mind.

I began to bake homemade bread to share with my neighbors, and whenever we held any type of social gathering (we live on a lake), I made sure to invite our neighbors. Two of our neighbors responded to almost every gesture of friendship.



Madlyn Hamblin

One summer evening, a neighbor stopped by for a little chat on our back porch. We talked about our families, our gardens and, eventually, the subject of religion and God came up. I was very interested to learn that she had a deceased aunt who was a Seventh-day Adventist. As we chatted, I noted her strong opinions about what one should eat, the state of the dead, and why she felt it was not important to belong to any church. Our conversation ended, and I filed away in my head some of the things she shared regarding her spiritual beliefs.

A few months later, there was a death in her family, and I responded by taking food to them and offered to have their lawn mowed. This was deeply appreciated.

That same year, her husband lost his job, and they became extremely worried about finances. In addition to praying for them, our family was able to share fresh produce from our garden that summer, and we had opportunity to speak often. We also offered assistance with yard maintenance when the husband was recovering from surgery and



unable to keep up with things around the house. We felt a deepening bond of friendship during this time.

A couple of years later, our church promoted small groups in individual homes. My husband, Ray, and I signed up to host a group, thinking probably no one would come to our home because we lived quite a distance from the church. To our surprise, two families signed up. One friend of ours wanted to bring her husband who was not of our faith group. We were excited about that, and decided to show the videos by Lee Venden about how to have a relationship with Jesus. Because we were encouraged to invite community guests to this group, I gathered my courage and asked these neighbors if they would like to attend. To my surprise, they acted eager to come. So, I invited our other neighbors, and they, too, accepted my invitation.

With much prayer, we began to study the simple Bible truth of getting to know Jesus on a personal level. Soon, our neighbors wanted to include their close friends. Our group grew from six to 12 for a period of time. When our video presentations ended, we all decided to pick a book of the Bible and read through it verse by verse, commenting on the passages as we went. This way, we were all on common ground, letting the Bible speak for itself, and were not perceived as pushing our religion on anyone.

This group has continued now for three years, and we are enjoying a tremendous blessing. Week by week, we watch spiritual growth in those whom we know have made no commitment to Jesus and his church. When we study the Bible with members of our community, it becomes easy to discern their spiritual walk and maturity. Some previously have given their lives to Jesus, and others have not. Most have merely scratched the surface of truth, and are learning step by step.

Our neighbors recently asked us if they could invite their friends who live down the street to our weekly studies. I realized that if each of us could reach one family in our neighborhoods, they, in turn, can reach others, including family members living in distant areas. In almost every community, there are many people who won't attend a preaching seminar or church service, but they will respond to an act of kindness and a personal invitation to your home.

So where does all this group study lead, you may wonder? I asked myself that same question this past winter when our pastor announced an evangelistic series at the church. I wondered if any of our neighbors would respond since they are very resistant to being involved with one denomination. However, we decided to give them a flier anyway and encourage them to look at the subjects to see if they saw anything that would interest them.

To our complete surprise, they attended nearly every meeting. We made sure to provide a DVD of the meetings they missed so they could watch them in their home. Just this past week, they asked our pastor to come to their home and review "The State of the Dead" presentation. You can imagine our delight as we see them moving closer to Jesus and the truth about him as revealed in the Bible.

Have they started attending church? Occasionally. Did they request baptism? Not yet. However, we have had the privilege of watching our neighbors grow in Christ during the past three years. We know that conversion is a process, and it is our privilege to participate in God's work of growing faith in our friends' lives. We are not discouraged because they have not accepted every doctrine yet. And we shall continue inviting them to church and other events that interest them. We have come to realize that God is in control and, in his own time, he will convict. That is not our job; our job is to be available to serve, sow the seed, and pray for God's Holy Spirit to nourish, grow and bring to harvest.

Have we reached our neighborhood for Christ? Yes, we have! Reaching our neighborhoods for Christ is an ongoing process. We are determined to continue to love and care for our neighbors, doing whatever God shows us is his will, and leave the results to him.

Madlyn Hamblin is the communication director for the Jackson Church in Michigan. She is the author of five books and has written many articles for various publications, including Women's Day magazine.



FAMILY TIES

Counting on Your Kids

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

ther than a spouse, who are you counting on most heavily if you need help as you age? If you were asked that question, what would be your answer? In an online survey, 56 percent of respondents to that question indicated it would be their children. Other family members, siblings and friends were down the list. Sadly, nine percent said there was no one!

Considering this question, I am going to challenge you to think about, and plan for, your relationships with your adult children in later life. While we cannot expect our children to care for us, and they have no legal obligation, most children want to honor their mothers and fathers. Certainly, an important key is building a strong relationship all along the way.

For those of you who have adult children, it's important to recognize there can be great ambivalence in anticipating actually caring for parents in later life. Even when the relationships are loving and strong, the anticipation of one's parents becoming older and less independent is daunting for many adult children, and most are uncomfortable talking about it. Discussions about financial concerns, medical conditions, or moving into appropriate housing are worth the effort. It helps adult children see how their parents view their futures and helps everyone make the necessary plans.

I believe the older generation has a responsibility to make arrangements to take care of themselves for as long as possible. It's important to remember that adult children have careers and families of their own who require much energy and attention. Children in their 20s and 30s are busy seeking independence and still learning how to be adults themselves. For our children with growing families, we can lend a hand by offering to step in and care for grandchildren living nearby or by traveling to see our children's families rather than expecting them to come our direction.

Too often, adult children grimace at their parents' nonacceptance of their lifestyle choices, the behaviors of their children,



and their lack of understanding current life challenges. Even an adult child needs and relishes the tenderness of a parent.

So, for those of you who have younger children, the possibility of these children ever taking care of you may seem only a distant possibility. I invite you to think of the adult-child relationship you are building today as being a foundation, a

type of insurance, perhaps, for the adult-adult relationship you will want with your children in their adult years.

In Gary Smalley and John Trent's book, *Leaving the Light On*¹, they discuss the importance of meaningful touch. They recount Jesus' example of almost seeming to go out of his way to express physical tenderness and reassurance. Once when some moms and dads crowded to the front of the line with their little ones, Christ's self-appointed guard dogs tried to intimidate them and keep them at a respectful distance. But Jesus was indignant at this, and he said to them, *Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them....* (Matthew 19:14 NIV).

I invite you to consider Jesus' tender touch. Just as our young children need our tender touch in everyday situations, so do our adult children. Let us strive to live by Jesus' example of acceptance, physical reassurance and tender touch. We may be blessed and comforted by our adult children's tender touch as we look to them for support in our later years.

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

^{1.} Smalley, G., & Trent, J. "Sisters," Leaving the Light On. Oregon: Multnomah (1994).

HEALTHY CHOICES

Fruits and vegetables positively impact brain function.

Smart Brain



BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

he brain is neuroplastic. It can be modified by life experiences and environmental factors. A healthy lifestyle not only improves your physical health, it also can have a significant influence on brain functions such as memory, learning, judgment and mental acuity.

Regular sleep is important to maintain cognitive function. A regular loss of one or two hours of sleep a night can impair brain function. On the other hand, getting a good night's sleep can double your chances of finding a creative solution to a problem the next day.

Exercise not only builds muscle, it also boosts brain power. Engaging in an aerobic workout plan for three months can stimulate the brain to make new neurons in the hippocampus, the area of the brain that regulates mood and controls learning and memory. Vigorous exercise stimulates the production of neuropeptide Y and brain-derived neurotrophic factor in the hippocampus. These two proteins are important for the growth of new nerve cells and the creation of new nerve connections, causing the brain to run faster and more efficiently. Regular aerobic exercise not only improves your mood, but also decreases anxiety, improves resilience in the face of stress and enhances memory.

Strong social ties lead to better memory function. Social relationships can help a person better cope with stress. Cognitive function in the elderly remains highest in those with good friends and family relationships.

What you eat also influences brain function and cognition. Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts and seeds are all rich in flavonoids and other antioxidants that help protect the brain cells from free radical damage. Foods rich in red and purple pigments, such as purple grape juice, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and other berries improve short-term memory in aging neurons. Elderly women experienced less cognitive decline when they consumed

higher amounts of green, leafy vegetables and cruciferous vegetables such as cauliflower, cabbage and broccoli.

In addition, garlic and turmeric, along with foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids (like walnuts and flaxseed) may help prevent age-related deterioration of brain functions that are linked to dementia. Irritability, depression and confusion can result when diets substantially deficient in certain B vitamins, including B12, are consumed over time.

Prayer, meditation and trust in Divine guidance can help reduce stress levels. Under stress, it is harder to remember things and to create memory files for new information. Chronic stress negatively affects learning and memory since it debilitates the hippocampus, which is a key center for learning and memory formation. Experiencing depression, using certain prescription drugs, and coping with chronic pain such as migraines all can impair mental acuity. High blood pressure for extended periods and elevated blood sugar levels also can cause loss of cognitive function. Persons with higherthan-normal blood sugar levels perform poorer on short-term memory tests.

After a number of cloudy or rainy days, sunshine also can energize a person, dispel gloom and elevate the mood. Solving jigsaw puzzles, learning a musical instrument or a new language, or enjoying other mental challenges are ways known to keep an aging brain young.

Winston J. Craig, Ph.D., RD, lives in Walla Walla, Washington. He is a professor emeritus of nutrition and wellness of Andrews University.



PRESENT TRUTH

Following the Lamb wherever he goes

By Beholding We Become Changed

BY THE EDITORS

he mind of a man or woman does not come down in a moment from purity and holiness to depravity, corruption and crime. It takes time to transform the human to the divine, or to degrade those formed in the image of God to brutes or to the satanic. By beholding, we become changed. Man, formed in the image of his Maker, can so educate his mind that sin, which he once loathed, will become pleasant to him. As he ceases to watch and pray, he ceases to guard the citadel, the heart, and engages in sin and crime. The mind is debased, and it is impossible to elevate it from corruption while it is being educated to enslave the moral and intellectual powers, and bring them in subjection to grosser passions. It is constant war against the carnal mind, aided by the refining influence of the grace of God, which will attract it upward, and habituate it to meditate upon pure and holy things."

"While with penitence and humble trust we meditate upon Jesus, whom our sins have pierced and our sorrows have burdened, we may learn to walk in his footsteps. By beholding him we become changed into his divine likeness. And when this work is wrought in us, we shall claim no righteousness of our own, but shall exalt Jesus Christ, while we hang our helpless souls upon his merits."²

"The perfection of our Saviour's character awakens the admiration of angels and of men. ... Our souls are cold and dull because we do not dwell upon the matchless charms of our Redeemer. If we occupy our thoughts in contemplating his love and mercy, we shall reflect the same in our life and character; for by beholding, we become changed. Oh, the mysteries of redemption!"³

"If every child of God would seek him earnestly and perseveringly, there would be a greater growth in grace. Dissensions would cease; believers would be of one heart and one mind; and purity and love would prevail in the church. By beholding we become changed. The more you contemplate the character of Christ, the more you will become conformed to his image. Come to Jesus just as you are, and he will receive you, and put a new song in your mouth, even praise to God."4

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:

- What influences can you identify that are educating your mind to be comfortable with sin?
- What experiences have you had that illustrate the principle that it takes time to transform?
- What are the results of a transformed heart?
- What Bible story or counsel can you find to illustrate the principle that by beholding we become changed?
- What counsel precedes the statement Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2 NIV)?

The Lake Union Herald editors

^{1.} White, Ellen G., "Appeal to the Battle Creek Church," pamphlet, (1870).

^{2.} White, Ellen G., "Sanctification," Review and Herald, (January 18, 1881).

White, Ellen G., "The Old Year and the New," Signs of the Times, (January 4, 1883).

White, Ellen G., "Consecration and Diligence of Christian Workers," Review and Herald, (June 24, 1884).



They Were Devoted to Prayer

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

he first Christians were truly devoted to prayer. The prayers at their prayer meetings were not short, shallow, bless-me kinds of prayers. Three times in the early chapters of Acts, Luke uses the intense Greek word proskartere, often translated as "devoted to," to report on the strength of their commitment to prayer. The word literally means "to occupy oneself diligently with something" or "to persist in." It's the word used in Acts 1:14 to describe their first prayer meeting: These ... were all continually devoting themselves to prayer (NASB). It's the word used in Acts 2:42 to characterize their community activities: they devoted themselves ... to prayer. It's the word used to explain the intent of their spiritual leaders to devote [themselves] to prayer (Acts 6:4 NASB). Do you get the picture? They were really committed to prayer.

Paul uses the same Greek word when he talks about prayer. For example, he instructs Colossian Christians: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful (Colossians 4:2 NIV). He exhorts Roman Christians to be devoted to prayer (Romans 12:12 NASB), and urges Ephesian believers to pray devotedly for all the saints (Ephesians 6:18 NASB). The New Testament writers could not have been clearer. Devotion to prayer was the norm for New Testament Christians.

Most of the above references to devoted prayer have to do with corporate prayer. Luke's list of activities to which the early Christians were devoted — teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer are all communal activities, including prayer. Acts 3 begins with a report of Peter and John on their way to a prayer meeting at the temple. In the next chapter, believers have come together for prayer in response to the threat by Jewish leaders (Acts 4:23-31). Not long after that, believers gathered in a home to pray for imprisoned Peter (Acts 12). That early Christians regularly gathered for group prayer is a biblical fact not to be denied.

Why, we may ask, were those first Christians so devoted to prayer? The answer is that this is what they saw in the life of Jesus. He spent entire nights in prayer. He bathed the key moments of his life in prayer. His words, his miracles, his power — all came

through prayer. He gave his disciples a pattern for prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) and taught them to pray with boldness and persistence (Luke II:5-8, I8:I-8). The first Christians simply continued with what they saw in Jesus' life and heard from his lips.

Unfortunately, most of today's Western church does not share this same devotion to prayer. Saying prayers now and then to try to get our problems solved is not devotion to prayer. Rehearsing meoriented prayer lists before God is not devotion to prayer. Prayer groups that spend most of their time sharing and a few minutes in prayer can hardly be called devoted to prayer.

God's Word pictures a church that was devoted to prayer, that persisted in prayer, and that occupied itself diligently with prayer. That is what God expects. That is what Jesus taught. That is what the New Testament Church modeled.

If you are a child of God, a Word-oriented Christian and a member of this same New Testament church, then Paul is speaking to you: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful (Colossians 4:2 NIV).

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, The Joy of Prayer. Reprinted with

SHARING our HOPE

Offering Hope to the Unemployed

BY SHONA CROSS

he Illinois Conference challenged constituents to join the "Go and Tell" initiative to reach Illinois residents for Jesus. Many have done so with much enthusiasm and passion. Some ideas shared and implemented lay the groundwork for more connections with a church in the future. Members of the Goshen Worship Center in Chicago heeded the counsel to consider Christ's method when reaching people (see *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143), and laid the foundation for building meaningful relationships with their community.

Goshen members developed a vision to operate a top-quality, professional job fair for the community. Their goal was to help the unemployed in their community experience success entering the workforce. They targeted high school graduates, college students and those beyond who needed assistance finding work.



The Goshen Worship Center in Chicago offered a top quality, professional job fair for the unemployed in their community. The iWorkChicago Job Training Fair took place June 22.

The iWorkChicago Job Training Fair took place June 22 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. It was well attended, and attendees were very happy with the professional advice and practical training received. This included how to build and edit a résumé, seek employment opportunities, learn successful interviewing techniques, and dress for success. Speaker D.J. Bagwell, owner and president of VisionPro Marketing, LLC, presented techniques and strategies of God-driven personal branding. Local business employers interviewed some attendees. At least one individual was thrilled when offered a job after the fair.

This project was not a one-day event. A website has been set up: http://www.iworkchicago.org, and there are many follow-up events and activities planned to continue to support those looking for jobs. Gordon Fraser, Goshen pastor, received a thankful email from a Calumet City attendee, who said, "I was very impressed with the care, attention, warmth and friendliness from the moment I entered the community

center. The members of the iWork-Chicago team were awesome! I was there for about 3.5 hours because of all that was being offered, from résumé assistance, cover letters to interviewing tips. It was clear to me a great deal of planning and thought [went into] what was needed for such an event to not only be successful but also meet the needs of its targeted audience. It

truly epitomized the mission of iWorkChicago to equip the community with the necessary tools to obtain employment. Job well done!"

Before the event, a church member went to a gas station to distribute fliers for the job fair. A lady was unable to pay for what she needed, so he ended up paying for her gas for her car and gave an invitation to the job fair, which she attended. She was impressed with the fair and remarked, "I didn't know Christians did stuff like this!"

The iWorkChicago Job Training Fair is an initiative spawned as a result of the Illinois Conference "Go and Tell" campaign. Church members look forward to the opportunities to juncture further with neighbors they met at the Job Fair. To learn more about the "Go and Tell" campaign outcomes, see pages 27–28 in this issue.

Shona Cross is communications secretary for the Illinois Conference with Lake Union Herald staff.



Administradores y pastores unidos en una misión

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Díos ha ordenado que las mentes talentosas de diferentes vocaciones sean combinadas para realizar su obra—Nadie, sea maestro, médico o ministro, puede esperar ser un conjunto completo. Díos ha dado a cada hombre ciertos dones, y ha ordenado que los hombres estén asociados en su servicio, a fin de que los variados talentos de muchas mentes puedan fusionarse. El contacto de una mente con la otra tiende a alertar el pensamiento y acrecer las capacidades. A menudo las deficiencias de un obrero quedan compensadas por los dones especiales de otro. — Ministerio pastoral, p. 126

n el mes de julio tuve el privilegio de asistir a una reunión junto con los pastores hispanos de la Asociación Regional y los nuevos administradores de dicha asociación. El propósito de esa reunión era que los obreros llegaran a conocerse como colegas y compañeros de trabajo en la obra del Señor y a la vez dialogar sobre los desafíos que enfrentan las iglesias hispanas y sus pastores. La reunión llegó a ser una bendición porque tanto pastores como administradores pudieron escuchar y comprender mejor las situaciones que vive cada uno y se comprometieron a trabajar unidos con el propósito de llevar adelante la misión de la iglesia Adventista. Fue inspirador ver cómo el Señor ha derramado sus bendiciones sobre esta asociación, especialmente desde que yo llegué a relacionarme con ella en el año 2004. Aunque existen todavía grandes problemas para resolver, la obra ha progresado mucho y no hay duda alguna que seguirá creciendo.

De acuerdo a lo que dice la Palabra de Dios, la clave para terminar la obra de Dios es que exista la unidad: "...yo en ellos y tú en mí. Permite que alcancen la perfección en la unidad, y así el mundo reconozca que tú me enviaste y que los has amado a ellos tal como me has amado a mí" (Juan

17:23, Nueva Versión Internacional).

Pastores hispanos y administradores de la Asociación Regional del Lago reunidos en las oficinas de la Asociación en Chicago.

"Es el plan de Dios que haya unidad en la diversidad. ...Se me ha instruido claramente en el sentido de que Dios dota a los seres humanos con diferentes grados de capacidad, y después los ubica donde pueden hacer la obra para la cual están mejor preparados. Cada obrero debe dar a sus colaboradores el respeto que desea se le manifieste"

(Mente, Carácter y Personalidad, Volúmen 2, página 70).

palabras enseñan que el Señor tiene su plan y desea que pastores, laicos y administradores trabajen juntos, en armonía con el Espíritu Santo, para así poder cumplir con la misión que Dios ha encomendado. He sentido gran gozo porque al haber conocido a los pastores y a

los líderes de la Asociación Regional he visto que todos se han comprometido a trabajar unidos.

Apreciados lectores, quiero animarles a que oren y trabajen en unidad con los líderes de sus iglesias para que podamos terminar la obra de ganar almas para el Señor Jesús y así apresurar su venida.

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



A Story of Faith

BY CATHY LEEDY

was just baptized October 5, 2013, at Warsaw Church. Soon after I gave my heart to Jesus, the troubles started. Right in the beginning of winter, I fell on the ice and broke my wrist. With that came the loss of my job (I had only worked for this company for three weeks).

No job, no insurance, yet, my wrist required surgery. When surgery was completed, the hospital bills totaled more than \$21,000. I had no idea how I would ever be able to pay those bills. I prayed constantly for strength. My faith was still being built, and I didn't know how much I could endure.

Warsaw Church members gave me a lot of spiritual support, and some offered financial assistance. And about a month later. I received a letter from the hospital, informing me my bill was paid in full -amiracle, I believe.

After my surgery, I spent some time with my sister, but I couldn't stay there. My lifestyle now was much different than hers.

After three months and a few sessions of physiotherapy, I was ready to work again. All the jobs I found required me to work on Sabbath. All my savings were gone; now with needs, my faith started to fail.

I took a job working second shift, including Friday night. I had the feeling I shouldn't be doing this job. I prayed constantly, asking God to show me another way and strengthen my faith.



Cathy Leedy

I started the new job on Tuesday. On Thursday, Jesse Santos, my pastor, called me. When I told him about the job hours and how much I needed that job, which was the reason I took it, he reminded me of the promises of God to those who are loyal to him. He shared that what, at times, can seem to be a blessing in my eyes, to God is the opposite. We prayed together on the phone.

I went to work the next day. I had decided not to continue to work there unless they would change my shift. Their decision was firm: "If you want to work here, you have to come in on your shift." I decided not to go. I was sad and worried but, somehow, I knew God would provide for me.

A few days later, I was called to work in another place. I was offered first shift and no work whatsoever on Sabbath. When I began the new job, I learned that every morning we have a prayer before work. I thank God for never failing to keep his promises, and for helping me stay strong as I prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Cathy Leedy is a member of the Warsaw Church in Indiana.

Finding Friendship in a New Church

BY MICHAEL TAYLOR

hen Greg and Shandy Piorkowski walked into Kalamazoo Junior Academy in late 2011, they didn't have very high expectations. The Piorkowskis had been rejected from several other schools in the Kalamazoo area, both public and private, because of their religious convictions. As believers of another faith group, they often were scorned by other Christian groups, and they expected that KJA, the last school on their list, would do the same. Instead, they met Anndrea Taylor, the upper-grades teacher, who told them she'd happily work with their oldest son. Within a few visits, Anndrea's class also added the Piorkowskis' second oldest son; by the start of the next school year, all four Piorkowski kids were students at KJA.

The kids weren't the only ones bonding with KJA. Shandy quickly was recruited to help with field trips, fundraisers and lunches, and she actively promoted the school to her church friends. Some of the staff joked that they wished more of the Adventist parents showed so much pride for their local church school as she did.

Greg also was growing at KJA, but in different ways. As the father of the household, Greg was

impressed to be spiritual leader of his family, and this meant he had to work on his own struggling faith. He was amazed at the spiritual questions and discussions his kids were having, and he wanted that for himself. Some afternoons, while waiting for school to dismiss, Greg sat down with me and Daniel Ferraz, the local pastors, and just "read Scripture." No agendas, no formal lessons; let's just see what the Word of God says, and God definitely spoke through his Word.

The months that followed brought many challenges to the family, but also many joys. Greg's business had ups and downs; his family faced conflict from the outside; and, finances were tight - especially when sending four kids to an Adventist school without any help from a local church. Through it all, the Piorkowskis weren't alone; they knew they were drawing closer to Jesus, and were actively embraced by the KJA family.

Two years in a row, the family spent New Year's Eve scattered among Seventh-day Adventist families, counting down



Greg and Shandy Piorkowski and their children stand with Michael Taylor (right), pastor of the Paw Paw Church. On the day he joined the church, Greg said, "Nobody ever tried to convert us; they just loved and encouraged us."

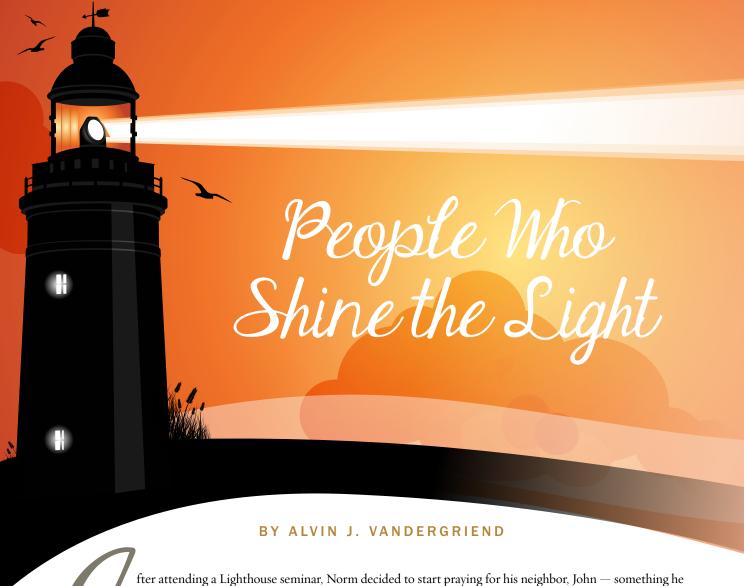
in a way they never had experienced before — with genuine Christian friends. They quickly adopted Adventist practices, such as abstaining from unclean meats and Sabbath-keeping, and noticed an improvement in many areas of their lives. Greg also was integrated into the Paw Paw Church activities, and joined its male quartet, "His Story."

In February 2014, Greg emailed me and let me know he wanted to join the Paw Paw

Church. After a handful of discussions and lessons, the entire Piorkowski family decided to leave their church and become Adventists (though Greg admits their kids were ready to make the jump months earlier, due to the tireless work of KJA staff).

The Piorkowskis' new church family has embraced them in a powerful way, involving the whole family in a number of ministries and encouraging them as they continue to learn more about Jesus Christ in the Scriptures. On the day he joined the church, Greg said, "Nobody ever tried to convert us; they just loved and encouraged us. We've never had friends like this before! As nice as that is, however, we've also never felt closer to Jesus as we have in the Adventist church. That's most important to us."

Michael Taylor is the pastor of the Paw Paw Church in Michigan.



fter attending a Lighthouse seminar, Norm decided to start praying for his neighbor, John — something he never had done before. Norm didn't know John very well, but knew him well enough to be annoyed by his messy place and irritating habits. Even though Norm thought John could not possibly change, he prayed, knowing that with God all things are possible. In fact, he committed to pray five blessings over John, five minutes a day, five days a week.

For the first two weeks, Norm was conscious that as he prayed he didn't like John very much. John was still that annoying neighbor. But, by the third week, Norm started to notice a change — not in John, but in himself. As he prayed, he began to feel genuine concern for John. God began to show Norm how much he loved John and that he was concerned for John's eternal destiny. Little by little, God's love for John worked its way into Norm's heart, and he began to feel a deep, genuine concern for him.

After seven weeks of praying, John and Norm just happened to meet each other outside one afternoon and, out of the blue, they struck up a conversation.

"Norm, I want you to know that two weeks ago I started going to church," John said.

"Really? That warms my heart because for the last seven weeks I have been praying for you," Norm remarked.

"Seriously? Well, keep on praying because I have a lot of changes to make. Do you have any Christian books I can read?" asked John.

Norm said, "I have a great book that I think you'd like! It's called More Than a Carpenter."

And then, against all of Norm's expectations, John accepted the Lord — *Wow!* After that, John's life continued to be transformed by God's grace. He joined a church. He was reconciled to his wife, whom he had divorced several years earlier. (In the meantime, she had become a Christian as well.) Shortly after that, they were remarried.

Norm's final comment: "Through this experience, God has taught me an important lesson. I cannot expect him to change my neighbors until I change my attitude toward them. For 20 years, I didn't care if John went to Heaven or hell. I couldn't minister to him because of my own bad attitude. I am grateful that, through prayer, God not only changed John's life for eternity, but that he also changed me!"

Pastor Jones, after hearing about the Five Blessings way to pray for neighbors, decided that he and his family would pray for the neighbors who lived in the five homes around theirs. Several weeks later, one of those neighbors asked him how she could have a personal relationship with Christ. He shared the gospel with her, and she accepted Christ.

Another neighbor —a drug dealer — asked for his help in order to get out of drug dealing. Pastor Jones promised his help and ongoing prayer.

A couple of another faith who lived across the street asked to go to church with the Jones family. He promised to take them.

The unchurched Hispanic couple next door asked Pastor Jones to start a Bible study in their neighborhood and said that they would like to be part of it. So, he started that Bible study. Other needs developed in his neighborhood, and the pastor's family stepped in to lend a hand.

Six months later, Pastor Jones reported that the young lady who had accepted Christ joined a church. The couple from another faith began to attend church. The wife in this family committed her life to Christ, and their children were in the Sunday school. The Hispanic couple next door, together with their junior-high-age children, became Christfollowers. Not surprisingly, when Pastor Jones challenged the members of his congregation to pray the Five Blessings over their neighbors, 80 percent of them said, "Yes!"

Prayer also changed things dramatically in an apartment complex in Bakersfield, California. When the Olive Knolls Church of Bakersfield assessed what was happening in the apartments near their church, they learned that the crime rate was so high the police often received two or three calls a day. Drugs were dealt freely. Prostitutes worked the area. Unemployment was high. Most families were broken; many lacked even the basics.

After prayer-walking the area and seeking to discern the Lord's will, the church decided to reach out to needy residents through prayer and compassion ministries. In order to pray for residents, they established eight Lighthouses of Prayer that met weekly for prayer in the complexes. At the same time, the church reached out to address physical and material needs.

Six months later, the pastor reported that, as a result of their prayer and compassion ministries, 54 Thanksgiving food baskets had been delivered; 45 families were receiving regular help from the church; and several new neighborhood Bible studies had started. A person from the complex got a job the day after he was released from prison. The manager of one of the apartment buildings was converted. Drug dealers moved out. Prostitution declined. Crime rates came down. An "outof-control" boy who was expelled from school for being unruly got back into school and behaved himself. Eighteen young people from the apartments got involved in the church's youth ministries, a number of the residents began attending their church, and ten persons made commitments to Christ.

In the months that followed, the police, who used to get called in two or three times a day, noted that the calls had dropped to barely one a week. The changes were so dramatic in those complexes that the police asked the pastor if the church would consider developing similar ministries in other parts of the city.

These kinds of things happen when believers move out of their comfort zones and into their neighborhoods with healthy prayer, care and share efforts. What do you suppose would happen in your neighborhood if you let your light shine for the Lord in ways like this? There is only one way to know, and we both know what that is!

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. During his time of ministry in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he directed HOPE Ministries (Houses of Prayer Everywhere), developed a lighthouse prayer strategy and resources, and served as a facilitator of Lighthouse Ministries for Mission America.



MAKE YOUR HOME A LIGHTHOUSE OF PRAYER

BY ALVIN J. VANDERGRIEND

o make your home a lighthouse of prayer requires a commitment on the scale of the Early Church — not only a commitment to prayer, but a commitment to discipleship. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42 NIV). But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word (Acts 6:4 NASV).

Remember Jesus' promises: Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.... How much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:7–8, II NIV) I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it (John 14:13–14 NIV).

But these promises are given to Jesus' disciples, and discipleship requires a full commitment. If you haven't read Romans 12 lately, that would be a good place to start. Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you (Romans 12:1-3 NIV).

The list of do's and don'ts under the title "Love in Action" in verses 9–21 provides

a real heart-searching prayer opportunity. Put a checkmark by any one of these commands you are failing to keep. Say a prayer of confession for specific sins you may discover in this way. Ask the Lord to clear your record and cleanse your heart. Make a fresh commitment.

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

Tell God you are committed to make your home a lighthouse by praying a prayer like this:

"God, I know my neighbors matter very much to you and that you have commanded me to make *petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving* for them (see I Timothy 2:I). So, out of obedience to you and out of love for my neighbors, I commit myself to ask for your blessings for my neighbors. I'll do this, with your help, to the best of my ability. In Jesus' name, amen."

Try the "Five-n-Five" prayer challenge. Pray five blessings, for five neighbors, five minutes a day, five days a week, for five weeks. Think of the word "bless" to remember five important ways to pray for your neighbors.

Body: health, protection, strength Labor: work, income, security Emotional: joy, peace, hope

Social: love, marriage, family, friends Spiritual: salvation, faith, grace

Establish your prayer neighborhood by writing down the names and addresses of those you will pray for. Do some research. Find out what is going on in the neighborhood. Create a simple map of your prayer neighborhood.

Start by prayer-walking your neighborhood. Just walk through your neighborhood, praying for the homes and people you see. This will get you out to pray onsite with insight. Let your prayers be informed by what you observe.

Begin to connect personally with your neighbors by simply asking them for prayer requests. Most people today are pleased to be asked. Make a note of their prayer requests and answers in a journal. Celebrate answers to prayer.

Let your praying be real caring and sharing. Make yourself available to God, and he will lead you into ministries of caring and sharing as well as praying. You'll have a threefold impact: By praying, you'll release God's grace into people's lives. By caring, you'll build bridges of love to them. By sharing the gospel, you'll help people come to know Jesus Christ.

Maximize your potential by expanding the number of people you are praying for. Be aware, however, that there is a limit. You can handle only so many felt-need requests and neighbor relationships. Expand also the numbers of people who are ready to join you in prayer.

The stronger your prayer life, the more impact you will have in your neighborhood. Always pray with a clean heart, compassion and persistence.

The Bible clearly requires us to pray for persons who are not saved. In 1 Timothy 2, we are reminded that God wants all persons to be saved, and we are urged "therefore" to pray for everyone. Jesus modeled prayer for the unsaved when he prayed, My prayer is not for [my disciples] alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message (John 17:20 NIV).

How shall we pray for those who are not saved? First, we should pray that the unsaved will be drawn by the Father. Jesus said, No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him (John 6:44 NIV).

Second, we should pray that those who hear the gospel will understand it. Jesus warns that the evil one will come and snatch away the gospel seed sown in a person's heart if it is not understood (see Matthew 13:19). The spiritual understanding and enlightenment required must come from God, who is moved to respond to the prayers of his people.

Third, we should pray that unbelievers' eyes will be opened so that they can see the light. As we pray this prayer, we will once again be contending with the adversary: The god of this age [who] has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4 NIV). Opening spiritual eyes is, of course, God's business. But releasing God's power to open blinded eyes is prayer business, to which God calls us.

God honors prayer for the unsaved. A lighthouse of prayer in Grand Rapids, Michigan, prayed for a young man who had run away from home and joined a gang. The young man returned home and made a commitment to Christ. Later, his grandfather gave his life to Christ shortly before he died, also in response to prayer.

Another lighthouse in western Michigan saw four families come to the Lord after eight months of weekly meetings to pray for their neighbors. This is prayer evangelism evangelism in which God moves in the hearts and lives of people in response to the earnest prayers of believers. Who among those who will believe in Christ are you praying for?

Put the list of unsaved persons for whom you pray in a place where you will see it every day. Pray that the Father will draw them to himself, that they will understand the good news of salvation in Jesus, and will have their eyes opened to the light of God's goodness. Continue to pray for them daily. Your home will be a lighthouse of prayer.

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e have ministered to many through training programs all around the world. But recently, we decided to join those we train, those who purchase our materials of love-in-action principles, by making a commitment to open our own home as a Home of Hope. We started by asking a young seminary student who came into our home. We gave her all the material, and she was the leader in our Home of Hope.

The first group was mostly unmarried of different ages — some in college, some out of college, some just worked locally, but they all felt a need to be together. We bonded together very quickly through the presentations, through asking questions. Sometimes we would have just a small group that discussed the questions at the end of the presentation and sometimes the total group participated.

Our group was listed as one of the Pioneer Memorial Church's Grow Groups. Grow Groups are part of the church's strategic plan to help members connect and grow in community. A Grow Group is larger than the traditional small group. It's more like a mini congregation. When we have presented this concept in the Philippines and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, they are called "Care Groups" because their emphasis is on caring for one another. It's an intentional, long-range process where they choose families that they nurture for a long time before inviting them into a home where the presentations are given. Following that, they conduct

evangelistic meetings. After the reaping evangelism, they continue their caring ministry. Every Care Group chooses one family that they really care for.

Our group also did the same thing; we cared for other people. Some people felt it was their ministry to lead out in caring for individuals in our community and a nearby community. One man was a veteran who was alone. The group brought food to him. It was springtime — and it was a long spring time, and he ran out of wood. Our group decided to minister to him by bringing wood to him. Later, when we had our social — we always like to have a social of some kind every ten weeks or so, he joined us in our group. He was beaming, so excited about being with us.

We often have more than 20 people in our Grow Group. Small groups are smaller — usually eight to ten people, and are characterized as "in" groups that are intentionally exclusive where you associate with people who are like you and share common interests or values, which, in our case, might be members of our church. But the real breakthrough in our experience came when we moved beyond the "in" group to those who are not members of our church. We found these people came to our Home of Hope because of their felt needs. The secret to moving out and expanding your group to the community is to discover their felt need and then minister to that felt need through a caring ministry.

Our son, Wes, was giving a lecture in the Village Church based on his recent book, Good-bye Diabetes. Two gentlemen who came to that lecture both suffered from diabetes, and had been invited to attend by our friend, Bill Habenicht. One lived in Niles, the other in Buchanan. They listened to the lecture. When the meeting was over, they perused some of the materials offered. One said to the other, "Well, what did you think of that?"

The other guy shook his head and said, "I'm a wreck!"

They felt their need. So, then Bill said to them, "Hey! Wes' dad and mom host a small group, and they are going to continue on with some of these same instructions. You'd be very welcome if you want to come." And of course, it was just a natural transition, so they showed up. They became a part of our group and, on occasion, their wives have come.

One day, as they walked out of our house, one said to the other, "Well, what do you think?"

"This is different," was his reply. He then proceeded to tell how much this group really meant to him as tears trickled down his face. "I'm going to take mini-steps," he said with determination and a sense that God is guiding him down a new path. "I'm going to take mini-steps, little ones!"

Well, his first mini-step was to buy some clothes he could wear to church. He came with us for a while, but now attends a smaller church in his own community. Although he attends church, he prefers our group because of the fellowship, bonding, caring and learning that takes place in community.

Then the word got around to a florist in Buchanan, and she came. A member of our group invited their letter carrier, and she came. And now we have another person who looks like they may soon become related to another person in our group.

It's just so exciting to see the Holy Spirit working in their lives. He takes them where they are, some from substance abuse and being dominant — strong individuals who wanted everybody to jump when they jump, and now they are submitting and trying to become patient when things don't go their way. They are being better to their children. The fruits of the Spirit are happening in their lives.

We asked one of the wives, "Has your husband changed?" And she said, "Oh, yes!"

And we asked another, "How has your life changed?"

And he said that he had been very strong with his children and so demanding of them. One day, his son was going on a trip. The father got the courage to go up to his son and say, "Son, I just want to tell you that I love you, and I'm proud of you." He had never told that to him before. It totally shocked the young man, and he couldn't believe he was hearing those words from his father. So, he is closer now to his son who also did not have a close relationship with his step-mother. The son now has decided to have a breakfast every Sabbath

The secret to moving out and expanding your group to the community is to discover their felt need and then minister to that felt need through a caring ministry.

morning before going to church with his father and stepmother; the relationship between them has grown closer.

With the encouragement of the transformation in the lives of these people, we decided to go up the street two blocks! We were real uncomfortable about going out and knocking on doors, so we prayed before we left. We prayed that God would guide us and open up territory on this street, based on Jabez's prayer (see I Chronicles 4:10).

We're making a difference. It energizes us, totally energizes us.

As we went down the street, we discovered it was kind of fun just to visit our neighbors. And as a result, some of those neighbors ended up coming to our home, and they eventually invited some of their friends as well. We've discovered if you just invite somebody and tell them to invite somebody else often they will do that, and the group begins to expand.

We used to call it "Friendship Evangelism," a term we think is still in vogue. We've changed it to "Love in Action."

If somebody doesn't feel comfortable going next door or down the street to invite neighbors to come to a WIN! Wellness Grow Group meeting, that's okay. Just take a loaf of bread to this neighbor or a batch of cookies that you prepared. You are looking for an entering wedge. You are looking for common ground. Anybody's going to accept some cookies that just came out of your oven, and they are going to be thankful for them. The reality is that we're trying to get on the same wavelength with our neighbors who may not be ready to take a giant step. They may not be willing to say, "Yeah, I want to study the Bible," but when you say, "Well, you know we're having a supper at our house," they may be willing to grow and go on from there.

We really think that before you invite them to your home, it's nice to nurture them in some way, giving them a leaflet on health or a path to health or just begin talking about health. In one group, a lady said she wanted to do something with our Homes of Hope, so she started talking about health to people who had no church home. After she'd done this for

some time, she said, "Would you like to get together and let's just talk about health one evening a week as a group?"

To her surprise, one lady said, "Sure, let's do it in my home." There are people in our communities who are willing to open their homes. We found that to be true in Clare, Michigan, where a lady who considered herself a hermit said, "Well, why don't we do it in my home." And she ended up

being baptized because she opened up her own home.

Actually, there was a whole new dimension when we moved out of our tradition and began to include people from the community. It has given us a greater mission. We found that as we shared we couldn't remember ever meeting people who are so appreciative. It happened again and again. Often

"You don't know how much I appreciate this."

we hear them say, "This has changed my life!"

"I'm a different person, and my wife says I'm a different person."

As we have shared with members of our community, seen their gratitude, exuberance, and how much they appreciate everything, it makes us feel good, too. We're making a difference. It energizes us, totally energizes us. We have so bonded with these people that we are like brothers and sisters. And when one has a need, we do pray for each other.

Our Pioneer Grow Groups are scheduled around the school year for specific periods of time. We had gone through two IO-week sessions with our new friends before the summer break. We could not leave these growing Christians until the next cycle, so we had a potluck and asked our guests what they would like to do next while we are waiting for the next series. And they said, "Let's talk about the Bible, we have lots of questions."

We've discovered that because our WIN! Wellness books introduce Bible doctrines very gently, many people ask more questions about the Bible. And so, we started a Bible topic night beginning with questions that they had. We discovered that some didn't know about angels; they didn't know that they had an angel. So, we spent a whole evening on angels. And we spent one night on creation. Then it just began to lead naturally to other topics. We spent one night on preparing for the second coming of Jesus, the coming millennium, and our next one is going to be on Daniel.

At the end of each gathering, we always have a session of prayer. And now we found some others who want to come only on Friday evening just for prayer. So there's a combination of community people coming in for prayer on Friday nights. We spend a lot of time praying for each other.

During this praying time, we try to minister, model and mentor how to pray, have personal devotions, and recognize the names of Jesus. Last week, we talked about what should be our everyday prayer, and we talked about how Jesus went to the Father God every day to get his marching orders or his directions as to what God wanted him to do that day. And so we talked about always asking God for direction in our prayers, in our ministry, in taking care of the day and choosing Jesus as Lord and Savior. We try to teach about prayer and how to study the Bible, how to read slowly and enjoy it.

Usually on Friday night, we'd say, "We're so tired; We've worked so hard. We're ready to go to bed." But when these people come to our home at 7:30, by the time they are gone, three hours later, we are so energized by what happened and just excited. We just feel like God's presence is with us. Truly, we do know that God is with us, and we believe he is answering our prayers, for each other.

One in our group knew of a little four-year-old girl who was dying from cancer, so we started to pray for her and contributed funds for her. At last report the doctors say she has started to gain weight, she's doing better, and now they are planning surgery. We believe God is answering our prayers. That's so exciting.

Financially, we're hearing people say, "I'm getting more sales than I've ever gotten before. I'm doing better." They are amazed at God's blessings in answer to prayer.

One group member had some expensive equipment he thought he'd loaned out, but didn't know where it was. He couldn't find it anywhere. So he said, "Pray that I will remember what I did with it."

So his friend, also in the group, said, "Let's pray: I want to pray that God will solve this problem by next Monday." Our prayers have been general with some of these people, but he asked specifically that the Lord would provide the answer by next Monday. That's a big prayer! What if God didn't answer that prayer? It was Friday!

We were a little bit concerned about it. And so, we prayed he'd remember what he did with the expensive equipment. Sure enough, we got the call, "I found it on Monday!"

Another person called all of us and said, "Pray for my brother, he's on his deathbed."

By the time everybody had prayed, he went to visit and learned his brother was doing better. And then several days later, they gathered to hear the doctors say that his condition was fatal. The nurses didn't do anything. The doctor didn't give him any medicine. Nothing was done there at the hospital because they knew he was dying. On Thursday, the doctor came in to give a report and they thought he was going to tell them the brother had a bad liver from all his alcoholism. The doctor looked at the CT scans and said, "You don't have any problems at all; your liver is perfectly healthy."



The Youngbergs' Homes of Hope resources are available in the store at http://www.adventsource.org.

Our group member said, "You can't convince me that wasn't a miracle!"

We kept praying for his brother. The alcoholic brother had his mother's Bible and wanted his brother to read to him. He had cleaned off the table really clean and put the Holy Bible down on the table, and said to his brother, "Now read to me."

His brother admitted, "I don't know what to read," but took their mother's Bible, and he just prayed, "Lord, help me." He then opened it up to John and read chapters one and two. It just fit perfectly. He said, "That was an answer to prayer! I didn't know where, and it just opened up to there."

One of our group said, Wow! I have a guardian angel! I didn't know that before! It's like it changed his life. He says, "I can't do these things anymore because my angel's watching."

One night we finished our lessons in the family room and we moved to the living room where we have the piano, and then we just sang. One of our group said, "I have felt the presence of God here." We all just felt God's presence amongst us. And on a Friday night we were praying for someone, and one of our Grow Group members was so amazed when we started praying — it was like popcorn prayers, this one prayed and then this one prayed and that one prayed — everybody was praying for this important situation, and when everybody left he said, "I felt like I was in a room full of angels." We sense that God's presence is here and that the Holy Spirit is working in the lives of these people. We're just happy to be a part of it.

So, you see, the Holy Spirit just keeps working from one to another to another. Our group members want to share it with somebody else, and they are beginning to bring other people. Our groups are not always large, but we keep going and God keeps blessing. He can do the same for you.

Millie and John Youngberg are professors emeriti of Andrews University. They directed Family Life International for 24 years, and have ministered in 42 countries and authored more than 30 books.



Hospitals, nurses volunteer time with Honor Flight

Throughout their recent Honor Flight tour, Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital nurses Sarah Tenuto and Sue Acker said it was hard not to get emotional while escorting World War II veterans around Washington, D.C.

"Seeing the veterans get thanks from everyone and watching how grateful people were to them, it was just amazing," said Tenuto, R.N., M.S.N., clinical educator on the hospital's Medical/Oncology Unit.

"People could not have been more kind or more patient with our group as we toured around the capital," added Acker, R.N., a nurse on the Medical/ Oncology unit.

The pair participated in an Honor Flight in May, traveling with a group of veterans to view the National World War II Memorial. As medical volunteers, the pair provided medical services to any veterans who were in need during the one-day trip. Since May, there have been a total of six Adventist La Grange Memorial nurses who have made the trip to Washington, D.C. More nurses have expressed interest and are on a waiting list to participate in Honor Flight.

Tenuto first learned about Honor Flight when her grandfather, a World War II veteran, participated in the tour several years ago. This inspired her to volunteer for an Honor Flight on her own, and the experience was so touching that she worked with the administration at the hospital to organize nurse volunteers throughout this year.

One of the reasons Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital was founded was to honor community veterans who served in World Wars I and II, chief nursing officer Mary Murphy said.

"Given our historical roots, we feel called to volunteer with Honor Flight,"



Medical/Oncology Unit nurse Sue Acker R.N. (left), and Sarah Tenuto R.N., M.S.N., clinical educator, stand in front of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Murphy said. "Our nurses are honored to offer their medical expertise to assist these veterans, who gave so much to their country."

When the Honor Flight idea was presented for support and sponsorship, it was an easy decision, said John Rapp, regional vice president of Ministries & Mission at Adventist Midwest Health. "Recognizing faithful service, loyalty and even sacrifice is directly tied to our mission to extend Christ's love and compassion to all. Historically, freedom costs. And we count it a privilege to honor those who have paid a price for the amazing opportunities and essential accountabilities of our country."

As Tenuto and Acker's group arrived at the National World War II Memorial during their trip, the heavens opened and it rained, but the veterans coped with conditions best they could. That evening, as they returned to Midway Airport following their visit, they discovered the terminal crowded with family, friends and community. The crowd cheered, waving flags as the veterans returned home.

"It was just phenomenal," Acker said. "The feelings of good will and

gratitude stayed with me for days after we came home."

Katie Quirk, communications specialist,
Adventist Midwest Health



Rain did not dampen the spirits of the veterans who visited the National World War II Memorial in May.



An official speaks to the veterans at the National World War II Memorial site in Washington, D.C.

Andrews \(\Delta \) University



SDA Theological Seminary names new associate dean

Teresa Reeve, associate professor of New Testament at Andrews University, has been chosen as the new associate dean of the Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Reeve succeeds R. Clifford Jones, who is now serving as president of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Reeve comes to the position with several years of experience in teaching and ministry. She holds an M.Div. from the Seminary and a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame, and has been teaching in the Department of New Testament in the seminary for II years.

"Reeve's appointment is especially significant because she is the first female associate dean in Seminary history," says Jiří Moskala, Seminary dean. "This is a historical nomination, and I am glad I can play a part in it. With this appointment comes unique diversity in our Seminary."

When asked about the significance of her role as first female associate Seminary dean, Reeve says, "I will leave others to debate what the appointment means for the Church. For the Seminary, my appointment is simply an expression of our belief that every believer is gifted by God, and it is our responsibility as the Body of Christ to put everyone to work for him in the places most appropriate to their gifting."

Reeve began her career as an elementary teacher, teaching in Adventist and Montessori schools for ten years and earning an M.A. in educational and developmental psychology from Andrews. She has developed materials and services in various aspects of child and family ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist world church and the North American Division, and for AdventSource, including work with the Adventurer Club and Sabbath school curricula.

Upon returning to Andrews to complete her M.Div., Reeve assisted the pastor and served as head elder at All Nations Church in Berrien Springs, Mich., for several years, before completing her Ph.D. and joining the New Testament Department. During this time, she published numerous articles and served the Church on a number of committees, including the Biblical Research Institute Committee, the Theology of Ordination Study Committee and the Seminary Deans Council.

"My central focus will be to work closely with the dean to pursue, in increasingly effective ways, our mission of preparing effective leaders to make disciples in preparation for Jesus' soon coming," says Reeve. "I especially hope to prioritize preparing students to work in a diverse, multicultural church by providing training, experiences and a diverse faculty that can serve as the needed educators and role models."

Reeve says she feels humbled by her appointment, but is counting on our gracious and mighty God for his wisdom and leading.

"I love my God, my church and our Seminary," she says. "I am excited about serving the faculty and students, and about seeking together the possibilities of the future and planning and working together in God's wisdom for the service of his kingdom."

> Melodie Roschman, intern writer, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication



Rachel Williams-Smith published her story about being raised in a religious extremist home. It is available via both e-book and in print.

Professor publishes her religious extremism upbringing

"It's easy to ignore that soft voice saying you need to do something," says Rachel Williams-Smith, chair of the Andrews University Department of Communication, "but the effect my story has on those who hear it tells me there's something in it that people need."

In July, Williams-Smith's book, Born Yesterday, was published in e-book format. What started as an auto-ethnography (a study of one's self set in culture) is now an intensely powerful, true story about a girl raised in a home of religious extremism, a child born in the 20th century and raised in the 19th.

"My life is not my own," she says. "I've grown tremendously in my faith and in my respect and admiration for God as a result of this project. He says that all things work together for good to them that love him, and he keeps his promise. That's amazing for me to see. I live my life with the knowledge that God is alive and real and actively working in my life. He has drawn me closer to him through this project, and it started the day I was born."

The print version of Williams-Smith's book is available this month. Visit http://www.rachelwilliamssmith. com for details.

> Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Division of Integrated Marketing &



[EDUCATION NEWS]



Judge Greg Mathis (back, center) and his wife, Linda Reese Mathis, stand with members of the Peterson-Warren Alumni Association.

Peterson-Warren Academy celebrates 50 years of Christian education

Lake Region—Three hundred alumni, supporters and current students gathered to celebrate Peterson-Warren Academy's 50th Anniversary on May 31 at the Sheraton Hotel in Romulus, Mich. Delighted guests of the black tie affair filled the grand ballroom for an evening of celebration. Special guest speakers for the night included alumnus Greg Mathis, star of the nationally-syndicated program "The Judge Mathis Show," and Evrod Cassimy, news anchor for WDIV Channel 4 in Detroit, Mich.

Mathis recounted his time spent at PWA and the bond he made with his seventh-grade teacher, Juanita Martin, recently-retired principal. Mathis says the discipline and structure at PWA gave him the chance to use education as a pathway out of the streets.

Cassimy also attended church school where his father was principal, and credited the early introduction of Christianity for his intimate relationship with God as an adult. During his speech, Cassimy explained to guests that it is important to stand on the beliefs taught at church schools, and emphasized how standing on those beliefs strengthens and helps one's faith grow.

As the only pre-K through 12-grade school in the Lake Region Conference,



Local news anchor Evrod Cassimy of WDIV Channel 4 in Detroit spoke at the banquet. His father, Glenn Cassimy, was the former superintendent of education for the Lake Region Conference.

PWA's endurance is, in part, because of the surrounding church communities' belief in Christian education. Many are convicted that a student's home, church and school should all work together in partnership to introduce, demystify and demonstrate to students the standards of a Christian lifestyle while achieving earthly success. For the past 50 years, PWA teachers have dedicated themselves to helping maintain the earthly trinity — church, home and school — and doing their part to prepare students not only for this life, but the life to come.

Since PWA doors were opened in 1964, 900 students have graduated, and many live successful lives. PWA has helped produce the following professionals: accountants, engineers, teachers, dentists, psychologists, journalists, U.S. Marines, software engineers, surgeons, judges, media buyers, police officers, U.S. Army soldiers, radio personalities, marketing executives, social workers, speech-language pathologists, entrepreneurs, scientists, lawyers, preachers and more.

The school was designed to give students a personalized education by creating small classrooms for intimate learning sessions. Smaller classrooms, as many Adventist educators know, give teachers the opportunity to adapt the

lesson to the students' diverse learning styles. In addition, students have access to one-on-one tutoring with teachers during and after school. By working together with the parents at home, PWA caters to a student's educational needs, no matter how high the mountain. Additional school programs like the latchkey program and summer school were introduced in the past 50 years to benefit students.

The misconception that church schools don't have the resources to provide students with opportunities outside the classroom to further their educational goals is fallacious. PWA partners with local and national schools and companies so students can absorb and learn about their desired career while also networking with professionals in that background.

For example, in 2010, PWA won the P.A.N.D.A. (Pan African Nurturing and Development Association) Games, besting Detroit Public School: 460 to 170. Two PWA high school teams each had to be knowledgeable in geography, general history, African diaspora history, famous African-Americans, Joe Lewis and world civilization. The academic games were sponsored by Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Mich., and the Charles H. Wright African-American Museum located in Detroit.

A few years ago, PWA began to partner with NASA for its yearly program that requires science and math excellence. PWA selects eight to 14 students to participate.

Long after leaving, past students still remember the long hallway at PWA. It's the school's unofficial trademark, and hundreds of students have traversed it since the school doors first were opened. The memories of school programs, best friends and the transition from the middle school side to the high school side forever will be embedded in students' hearts.

The PWA legend starts a new chapter for the next 50 years, and it begins with a new administration.
Retired principal Juanita Martin has





Juanita Martin, recently-retired principal of Peterson-Warren Academy, stands with alumnus Greg Mathis of "The Judge Mathis Show."

passed the torch, after serving at PWA for 43 years, to Buford Griffith from Texas who has completed more than ten years of education experience. Nettie Gray, academic counselor, replaces retired vice principal Pamela Bertram who served 38 years. School dietician Yvonne Slaten also is retiring this year.

Fifty years ago, the City Temple Church Board put together a committee to create an Adventist school for young Christians in Detroit and its local communities. PWA became a place where students can learn about Christ and be surrounded by others who share

the same beliefs, a place where teachers can be seen in the classroom during the week and in the church choir loft on Sabbaths. It's a place where some teachers were once students themselves, and where students have worship in the morning with their peers. PWA is a place where God protects, leads and reigns.

Malissa Martin, alumnus, Peterson-Warren

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]



Lee Venden (right) will present a new series on the book of Revelation titled "The Revelation of WHOM?" at the Battle Creek Church in Michigan, Sept. 12-20. Also pictured: Margie Venden

Battle Creek Tabernacle discloses 2014 strategic evangelism plan

Michigan—With declining success using the traditional evangelistic series, the Battle Creek Tabernacle board of elders prayerfully initiated a new, exciting plan to reach their community in 2014. Actually, parts of the plan had been in the making for several years, and the Lord brought it all together this year.

Lee Venden will present a new series on the book of Revelation titled. "The Revelation of WHOM?" These exciting presentations will show that Jesus (rather than the symbols) is the heart, core, center and pivotal theme of the Bible's last book. Venden will help attendees discover personal relevancy regardless of their present denominational affiliations. The series will be held nightly at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 12-20, at the Tabernacle, 264 Michigan Ave. W., in Battle Creek.

Additional presentations will occur during the Sabbath worship times starting at 10:45 a.m. (This series is being professionally videotaped for use in other locations.) Venden, who has taught academy Bible classes and pastored churches for more 30 years, is currently a full-time revivalist for the Upper Columbia Conference in Spokane, Wash. He presented a series at the Tabernacle in 2009 titled "It's All About Him," based on his book by the same name.

One month later, videographer Tony Moore will present, in person, volume I of his new series, "Tracing the Footsteps of Jesus — The Early Years and Ministry." This video was filmed entirely on location in the "Land of Jesus," and will lead viewers to Jesus' world and ministry as eyewitnesses. The series will be held Oct. 17-25 at the Tabernacle.

Following Moore's presentations, the Tabernacle's pastoral staff will continue the series with 21 "Tracing the Footsteps of Jesus" videos and discussions during ensuing months. It is their desire that this will initiate dozens of personal and family Bible studies.

It is the prayer of everyone involved in this strategic plan that Jesus will be lifted up, that members of the community will be attracted and won to him, and that many will become our brothers and sisters in Christ at the Tabernacle.

> Charlotte Erickson, communications director, Battle Creek Tabernacle



Videographer Tony Moore will present his new series, "Tracing the Footsteps of Jesus — The Early Years and Ministry," filmed entirely on location in the Holy Land, at Battle Creek Tabernacle in Michigan, Oct. 17-25.

NEWS



The new Kadauhan Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Philippines was completed on June 6, after being destroyed by super typhoon Haiyan in November 2013

Stevens Point Church helps sister church rebuild after typhoon

Wisconsin—When super typhoon Haiyan, locally known as "Yolanda," tore through central Philippines in November 2013, devastation was everywhere. The local Kadauhan Seventh-day Adventist Church was totally destroyed, along with 20 other Christian churches in the same district. The Kadauhan Church has about 70 baptized members and more than 100 active churchgoers, all of whom lost their homes and properties.

Jonathan and Recel Duarte, Filipino members of the Stevens Point Church, knew of the Kadauhan Church. They shared pictures of the ruins and spoke of the needs with their church family. After seeing the vast damage of the calamity in the central Philippines, Stevens Point Church local elder Lem Lowry initiated a call to action.

"It is good to use our extra money to reach out to these brethren," said Lowry. "They are badly in need. We must let them know that we care for them and we are here to help, even if we're continents away. It's good to have a sister church in the Philippines."

With direct communication to the church in central Philippines through Jonathan and Recel, the rebuilding project began in late February of this year. The estimated budget was about \$9,000 (approximately 400,000 Philippine pesos).

As the project began, the Kadauhan Church members heard many comments and questions from people traveling up and down their street. They decided to put up a sign in front of the church building project, letting people know that another Adventist church in the United States was generously funding their restoration efforts, making it possible.

Kadauhan Church treasurer, Gina Galos, emphasized how big the impact of this rebuilding project to their town was by saying, "Because of your financial sponsorship to have our church rebuilt, Seventh-day Adventists were recognized here in Kadauhan and in many parts of Ormoc City. The non-Adventists would say, 'Maayo pa ang mga Adbentista natabangan ug daku. Naa diay mga Adbentista sa gawas? Karon pa mi kabalo! Ka-maayo nila no?'" (You are so lucky to have gotten help as big as this. So, there are Seventh-day Adventist people in the USA, too? We didn't know it until now! And how generous of them!)

The Kadauhan Adventist church is the only Christian church that has been rebuilt so far, as none of the other churches have been able to locate enough funding. New people are starting to attend Kadauhan, and backslidden members are coming back to church. Some even helped with the church reconstruction.

"We feel so blessed," said Lowry. "It's hard to know who benefited the most — Kadauhan or Stevens Point."

Jonathan Duarte, member, Stevens Point Church as told to Juanita Edge, communication director, Wisconsin Conference

Ashland Church community meal draws 70 people

Wisconsin—Ashland Church members hosted a spaghetti feed fundraiser to support the BRICK (Believers Reaching Individuals for Christ's Kingdom) Ministries, a community food shelter. The community meal on June 8 was served from noon to 3:00 p.m. "Our goal was to let the Ashland community know there is a Seventh-day Adventist Church here," said Ashland church pastor Myoung Kwon, "and we want to help people. We were blessed that 70 community people came."

Long-time member Betty Butterfield said, "It was great to see so



Lorraine Benson, left, and Don Benson, right, present a check for \$530 to Elizabeth Seefeldt, director of the BRICK Ministries, a community food shelter. The BRICK is a faith-based, non-profit organization with the mission to address hunger and suffering in the Ashland and Bayfield counties of Wisconsin.

many people show up and our church members working together."

Elizabeth Seefeldt, the BRICK director, expressed appreciation and excitement that the Adventist church is a part of the Ashland community.



Ashland Church pastor Myoung Kwon and friends advertise the June 8 spaghetti fundraiser to benefit the BRICK Ministries, a community food shelter. Ads also were published in the local newspapers and churches.

A check for \$530 was presented to Seefeldt.

Kwon said the church plans to host more events like this as a bridge to future evangelistic meetings.

> Myoung Kwon, pastor, Ashland Church as shared with Juanita Edge, communication director, Wisconsin Conference

[UNION NEWS]

'Go and Tell' initiative produces exciting participation and results

Illinois—Extending the love of God to the communities in Illinois continues to bring joy to the hearts of the members of the Illinois Conference's churches as they "Go and Tell." There are exciting reports from all corners of the state, and prayers for workers continue daily.

In the Goshen and Beverly Hills churches, members have mobilized to reach out to neighbors. Each church designates a Sabbath every month to focus on evangelism. Members dress for action in casual attire. After spending time together in prayer and training, and often hearing a speaker emphasize aspects of evangelism, they go out into the neighborhood. This is not haphazard, but carefully planned: Each team is given two homes to visit. The first visit is short and focused on getting acquainted and praying for the new friends. The next time they go out, a month later, they follow up in the same homes, continuing to build relationships and meet felt needs. Over time, church interest and Bible studies have been generated, and strong bonds of friendship and church awareness are being built.

Meanwhile, every Sabbath morning, church member Derek Winston skips church and, instead, goes to the corner café, just a block away. There, he invites the community to attend a Revelation seminar in a little room he has secured. Roughly a dozen people enjoy these presentations each week and regularly come back for more.

Another "Go and Tell" initiative involves two churches located in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, who partnered to present "World Events in Bible Prophecy" seminar, a program created by Seminars Unlimited. The prophecy seminar started on



Goshen Church members Brandon Albury (left) and Justin Fraser (right) stand with Michael Rush (second left) and friends they met by visiting in the community.



Pastor Samuel Indreiu presents the "World Events in Bible Prophecy" seminar to a full audience.

Friday, April 4, at the Moraine Valley Community College, in Palos Hills. The Burbank Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Southwest Seventh-day Adventist Church pooled both their financial and human resources to make this happen.

Speaking of this partnership,
Samuel Indreiu, pastor of the Burbank
Church, stated: "This partnership
makes complete sense. When it comes
to advertising and marketing, the biblical principle stands: You reap what you
sow. The more we can sow, the more
people will come. Obviously, the Holy
Spirit can turn this on its head, too. ...
When it comes to staffing needs, it is
so much better to have the luxury of
the active members of two churches

help out during the seminar. Working together, on the front line of evangelism, really brings people together; we recognize that we must rely on the Holy Spirit and, therefore, prayer must be central to our work.

"I really enjoyed learning from Tom Ferguson, pastor of the Southwest Church, and his experience in conducting these prophecy seminars. While I had conducted evangelistic meetings before, this was the first time I actually was involved with meetings in a seminar format. All in all, it was a great partnership, a valuable learning experience — pooling our resources, our member involvement and on-the-job training, the fellowship, the learning and bonding opportunities."

NEWS

The seminar began with Ferguson and Indreiu alternating presentation of the lessons. On opening night, due to a scheduling conflict, the college asked for the seminar to be moved to a different room. The new room was twice the size of the room initially reserved. God knew there would be more people than expected on opening night so, in his providence, he made arrangements for his children. There were 62 guests along with 20-plus volunteers on opening night. On the second night, there were an additional 18 guests. Average attendance, after the first few nights, settled to between 40 and 50 guests.

Due to the tremendous attendance, the materials quickly ran out on opening night. By the end of the time at the college location, the offerings that were collected from the seminar participants more than covered the extra expenses.

After eight meetings (two weeks) and the change of the Sabbath had already been presented, the seminar continued at the two church locations, two nights a week. After the move to the two church locations, combined nightly attendance was 30–35 guests.

Of course, the greatest miracles are those being performed by the

Holy Spirit in the lives of both guests and members. Attendees John and Barb Dorgan from Oak Lawn said, "We attended the seminar to gain an understanding of prophecy. We had no idea that we would have the most eye-opening experience of our lives!"

Gary Young of Hickory Hills, said, "The prophecy seminar has turned my world upside down. I have been an active [member of another faith] for over 50 years and have never heard or read or understood any of the information. I haven't yet decided to make changes because it would change *everything*, but I am curious enough to want to learn more."

During the meetings, Sarah Aragon, a Burbank Church member, remarked, "The people who are coming to these seminars stimulate me to want to know and study more and to come night after night in expectation of the information given and the questions asked about the character of God."

As this article was written, preparations were underway for the graduation ceremony and follow-up activities. Participants are excited and looking for opportunities to share the new information received through the seminar with their families and friends. Many

Pastor Luis Eguiluz baptizes Windy Godinez (left) and Jorge Chinchilla (right) after the Holy Week outreach.

are being challenged by the conviction that they need to follow Jesus fully, and they realize that life will not be the same

In another effort to "Go and Tell," neighbors in La Grange-Brookfield enjoyed a block party in the church parking lot. The event also whetted the appetites of vacation Bible school attendees, which will take place later in the summer.

In southwest Illinois, the Review and Herald magabooks student literature evangelism team has been busy in the Alton/Oakhill district. The churches have received 54 Bible study interest cards from their door-to-door work. Members are mobilizing to meet the demand. One member, Scott Gonzalez, is planning a group Bible study beginning July 8, while others have been taking out video Bible studies; another is preparing to start a mailing system to process studies that were requested by mail.

Lastly, the Chicago Central Hispanic Church completed a special, inspiring Holy Week outreach in April. God's provision and the teamwork of the members produced results that were a blessing for all. Ten people were baptized, and another eight people are preparing for baptism.

Loving others is so easy when it means reflecting the wonderful love that is God. That's what "Go and Tell" is all about.

Shona Cross, communication secretary,
Illinois Conference



Goshen Church members Jordan Prince (center) and Brandon Albury (right) stand with a new friend, Latrice Eggleston (left).





ASI member Don Starlin (left) and his wife, Trudi, are actively involved in ministry to the refugees. Here, he prays with one of the lay leaders for the Burmese during a communion service.

Burmese refugees and immigrants convene for revival celebration

Indiana-Adventist refugees and immigrants from Burma and India face special challenges in maintaining their spiritual walk and nurturing their children in the way of the Lord when they resettle in the United States. Many church members have been lost and, especially, young adults and youth leave the church due to many factors such as the lack of worship services in their first language and meaningful interaction with other believers in their city. To help provide revival and support for these special believers, Sam Ngala, Burmese pastor of the Southside Burmese Group, along with several other leaders, worked to bring together Burmese refugees and immigrants from around the Midwest and eastern states.

The meeting was hosted at the Southside Church in Indianapolis and at Pioneer Park in Mooresville, Ind. During the Sabbath worship service, more than 400 people packed the church with additional groups standing at the back of the sanctuary, hallways or overflowing to other rooms. More

than 200 refugees and immigrants came from Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, New York, Ohio, Maryland and as far away as Florida.

The worship service included a powerful sermon given by Carmelo Mercado, vice president of the Lake Union Conference. This was followed by a communion service led by Mark Eaton, Indiana Conference secretary/treasurer. Steve Poenitz, Indiana ministerial director, also participated by praying for the group during the worship service. Participants from Michigan, Ohio and other areas helped provide mission stories, children's story, Sabbath school classes, music and more.

Those planning the celebration were not sure how they would be able to afford to feed and host that many people. They prayed and fasted, asking God to provide for their needs. In answer to these prayers, church members opened up their homes and gave generously of time and money to provide meals and lodging for the group. For many, this was a great sacrifice since they are refugees themselves, and struggle to make a living. One major contribution was the time, money and effort that went into a large traditional meal that followed the worship and communion services. The

traditional rice with various toppings along with a yellow, split-pea soup was enjoyed by all.

The weekend was a wonderfully uplifting experience for many who previously felt alone as did prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel. They were delighted, encouraged and refreshed to see, sing, pray and share experiences with hundreds of others who believe the Three Angels' Messages and the hope of Christ's soon return.

A special thanks is extended to the Southside Church pastor, their tech assistant, and leaders, along with the Indiana Conference, the Lake Union Conference leadership, and ASAP Ministries of Berrien Springs, Mich., for supporting the celebration in various ways. Mercado said a prayer of dedication, and then presented gifts of appreciation to lay leaders who attended from Rockford, Ill.; Wyoming, Mich.; Battle Creek, Mich.; Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Louisville, Ky.; and Jacksonville, Fla. These gifts were in recognition of their selfsacrificing labor of time and resources to help the Burmese, Chin/Zomi and Karen groups grow.

> Betty Eaton, communications secretary, Indiana Conference



Church members opened up their homes and gave generously of time and money to provide meals and lodging for their guests. It was a great sacrifice, since they are refugees themselves.





A group of attendees assembles at Pioneer Memorial Church on the last day of the 2014 Conectate youth conference, June 6–8. On Sabbath, the crowd swelled to more than 500.

Conectate helps youth stay connected

A connection to God is something many individuals seek, and Conectate is all about reaching out to youth and helping them be and stay connected. This year's theme was "Staying Connected to God," and youth from Wisconsin, Illinois, Lake Region, Indiana, Kentucky and Michigan were in attendance at the weekend conference, held June 6–8 at Andrews University.

Conectate 2014 took one-and-a-half years to plan. When the weekend finally arrived, the event staff decided to remove any insecurities and allow the bright light of God to lead. His light shined at the event, and God moved in many ways throughout the attendees. At this weekend, the spirit of fear was taken away and transformed into a spirit of power and love.

The program started with Friday night-lights designed by Digital Paradigm. Conectate was blessed to have a group from Wisconsin lead out in this act of worship. The theme song, "La Unica Razon de Mi Adoración," which means "The Only Reason for My Worship," revealed how all types of worship and all of our connections should all be centered on God. Raquel Miranda, one of the youth attendees from Illinois who volunteered during the event mentioned, "I loved it; I've

never helped out before so it was a new experience. I would totally volunteer again. Pastor [Jonathan] Tejel gave beautiful messages, and I could go on and on about Conectate. This event blessed me personally, and it was all about Jesus — a reminder of him being the center of everything."

Tejel was the speaker for Conectate, and his messages were nothing short of inspirational and motivational. He taught how to leave the past behind and stay connected to what is important today. Along with the speaker's messages, there were seven different seminars offered on Sabbath based on topics that affect youth today such as addiction, depression, homosexuality, dating, nutrition, music, God and technology. Like many of the youth, when surveyed, Brenda Jovel from Michigan says, "It was an amazing experience and such a blessing."

Three outreach programs were offered — "Free Hugs," "Sidewalk Sabbath," and "Painting on the Wall." Sidewalk Sabbath was planned to teach the community and strangers about God, and Painting on the Wall was an opportunity to paint a mural that read, "Get Connected. Gospel! Say it and Spray it!" With these outreach programs, the youth were taught that there are different ways of doing missionary work, whether it is by spray-painting a wall to give a message, giving someone

who is in need of a hug, or walking the streets and just talking to people about the power and greatness of our Lord.

Swemy Vidal mentioned, "All I can say is that it was the best experience ever. It was my first time, and I enjoyed it a lot. I learned from each and every seminar I took. Simply the best weekend full of friendship and, most importantly, the word of God."

Mayrel Narvaez, vice president and stage manager for Conectate 2014, Pontiac (Mich.) Spanish Church



One of the outreach programs during Conectate involved painting a mural on a wall of Larry's Mini-Grocery at 303 E. Main St. in Benton Harbor, Mich. Milton Coronado aka Milt-one and Pr. Graff led the group of 25 attendees who completed the project. A few years ago, the owner of the store agreed to use of the wall, and the street art ministry has been taught at the site each time Conectate occurs.

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.

Illinois

Hinsdale Adventist Academy alumni will celebrate their centennial (1914-2014) this year! Homecoming weekend will take place Oct. 17-19. We would love to see any and all former principals, teachers and students along with their families. A 100-Year Gala is planned for Saturday night, with a recreation day on Sunday. For more information, check the HAA Alumni Facebook page or contact Heather Hoffman at hsa@haa.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that the 32nd regular constituency session of the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church, Hinsdale, Illinois, with the first meeting called at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 26, 2014. This session is for the purpose of receiving reports of the quadrennium which ended Dec. 31, 2013; to elect officers, departmental directors and an executive committee for the ensuing term; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the constituency, including possible changes in the Constitution and Bylaws. Delegates are those duly elected by the churches of the conference and delegates-at-large as provided in the constitution. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each fifty members or fraction thereof, based on actual church membership as of Sept. 30 of the year preceding the meeting.

Ray Pichette, president Ron Aguilera, secretary

Indiana

Indiana Academy (IA) Alumni Association welcomes all graduates/attendees to the IA campus for Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 10-11. Honor classes: 1964, '74, '84, '89, '94 and 2004. Special recognition will be given to the Golden Age Club, classes 1929-1963. Sabbath morning speaker will be Les Speer, '64. The 24th Annual

Golf Classic will be on Fri., Oct. 10. For more information, contact Kathy Griffin, Alumni Development director, at 317-694-3260 or kathyagriffin@ gmail.com.

Lake Union

Offerings

Sep 6 Local Church Budget Sep 13 Fall Mission Appeal Sep 20 Local Church Budget **Sep 27** Local Conference Advance

Special Days

Sep 6 Men's Day of Prayer Sep 7-13 Nurture Periodicals (Adventist Review, Insight, Guide, Primary Treasure, Little Friend)

Sep 21-27 Hispanic Heritage Week

Sep 21 Let's Move Day

Sep 21-27 Let's Move Week/Health Education Week/ Vibrant Life

Thirteenth Sabbath

Sep 27 Euro-Asia Division

Michigan

'The Revelation of WHOM?' Presentations: Lee Venden is returning to the Battle Creek Tabernacle with a new series on the book of Revelation titled "The Revelation of WHOM?" These nightly presentations will provide a fresh look into this prophetic book with the intent of finding Jesus as the central theme, and will focus on ways to discover personal applications that impact our daily walk with Christ. The series begins Fri., Sept. 12, at 6:30 p.m., and continues nightly through Sept. 20. Additional presentations will be at 10:40 a.m. Sabbath mornings. The church is located at 264

West Michigan Ave. in Battle Creek. This mini-evangelistic series will have personal relevancy for every individual, regardless of denominational association. For more information, contact the church office at 269-968-1801.

The Michigan Boarding Academies Alumni Association invites all alumni from Adelphian, Cedar Lake, Grand Ledge and Great Lakes Adventist academies to Alumni Weekend planned for Oct. 10-11 on the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy. This year's honor classes are 1964, '74, '84, '89, '94 and 2004. Come, join us for a memorable weekend. For more information, visit http://www.glaa.net. or call the Alumni Office at 989-427-5181.

Grand Rapids Adventist Academy's Alumni Homecoming 2014 is Sabbath, Oct. 18, 10:00 a.m. The speaker will be Kimberley Bulgin. Come and see friends old and new! For more information, contact Justin Lawson at lawsoniu@ mail.gvsu.edu, Marian Cruttenden at macruttenden@gmail.com, or Phil Engelman at pengelman@misda.org.

"Celebrating God's Leading" is the theme of the Berrien Springs (Mich.) Village Church as members celebrate its 100year anniversary, Oct. 31-Nov. 2. Featured speakers for the event include Bill Knott, editor of the Adventist Review, and Don Driver, both former pastors of the Village Church. The original 42 members knew the importance of forming this new church and providing Christian education for their children. The Village Church will celebrate God's leading in the formation of an eightgrade school and for church membership growth to as high as 1,256. Expansion through the years has led to over 20 different ministries, including family life, evangelism and mission projects, leading souls to Christ. Former members, pastors and friends are invited to see how God has led through the years. For more information, contact the church office at 269-471-7795.

North American Division

Greater Boston Academy Celebrates 100 Years, Oct. 2-5: Come, join us and help celebrate this milestone in education in the Boston, Mass., area. For more detailed information and directions, go to http://greaterbostonacademy.org/ alumni, or contact Arthur Barnaby '51, alumni president, at afbarnaby@juno. com or call 951-359-4344.

Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, Oct. 2-5 - Honor classes are 1949, '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, 2004 and '09. Activities begin Thursday evening with the Silver Showcase Banquet, and continue on Friday with Career Day. Sunday is the Alumni Golf Tournament. For additional information, call 573-682-2164 or visit http://www.sunnydale.org.

Wisconsin

Legal Notice: Notice is hereby given that the Thirty-sixth Regular Quadrennial Session of Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the Wisconsin Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists is to be held at Wisconsin Academy in Columbus, Wis., on Sunday, Oct. 5, 2014. The organizing committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. with the first meeting of the Session convening at 10:00 a.m. Duly-accredited delegates and delegates-at-large will be authorized to elect officers, directors of departments/services, and members of the Executive Committee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and Nominating Committee for the new quadrennial term, along with corporation trustees for the ensuing quadrennial term. Delegates will also transact such other business as may properly come before them. Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the church organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof.

Mike Edge, president Brian Stephan, executive secretary

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Sep 5	Sep 12	Sep 19	Sep 26	Oct 3	Oct 10
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:14	8:02	7:50	7:37	7:25	7:13
Chicago, Ill.	7:19	7:07	6:55	6:42	6:30	6:19
Detroit, Mich.	8:01	7:49	7:37	7:24	7:12	7:00
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:11	8:00	7:48	7:37	7:25	7:14
La Crosse, Wis.	7:35	7:23	7:10	6:57	6:44	6:32
Lansing, Mich.	8:07	7:55	7:43	7:30	7:18	7:06
Madison, Wis.	7:27	7:15	7:02	6:49	6:37	6:25
Springfield, Ill.	7:25	7:14	7:02	6:51	6:39	6:28

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

Obituaries

BASHAM, Asuncion (Galva), age 76; born March 24, 1937, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; died March 16, 2014, in Naperville, III. She attended the Bolingbrook (III.) Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Marilyn Maxime: brothers. Pedro and Marino Galva: sisters, Olga De la Cruz and Tirsa Peña; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Joaguin De la Cruz and Jose Saint Phard, and interment was in Abraham Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, Elmwood, Ill.

BERLIN, Ernest M., age 98; born April 5, 1916, in Cantelupe, Italy; died July 1, 2014, in Berrien Springs, Mich. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.

Survivors include his sons. William Mario, Robert and Greg; daughters, Bonnie Perry, Debbie Smith Blosser and Jane Takizawa; sisters, Virginia Ventura and Eleanor Johnson; 17 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

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

BOLLIN, Marjorie L. (Cameron), age 90; born Oct. 17, 1923, in Raritan, III.; died June 15, 2016, in Keokuk, Iowa. She was a member of the Carthage (III.) Church.

Survivors include her sons, John, James and Michael; 14 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Lester Ramsey, and interment was in Nauvoo (III.) City Cemetery.

BUDD, Gregory P., age 60; born April 17, 1954, in Moses Lake, Wash.; died June 28, 2014, in Madison, Wis. He was a member of the Madison East Church, Monona, Wis.

Survivors include his wife, Lesa (Nelson); sons, Dustin and Seth; daughters, Heidi Shotts, Sasha Roberts, Rachel Roberts and Jacqlyn Mayr; mother, Patsy Budd; sister, Sherry Budd; and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Titus Naftanaila, with private inurnment.

BULL, Thomas M., age 93; born Dec. 29, 1920, in Hinsdale, III.; died June 7, 2014, in Belleville, III. He was a member of the Oakhill Church, Caseyville, Ill.

Survivors include his wife, Fern (Braun); sons, Martin O. and John E.; stepson, Michael Beshears; daughter, Pamela Bonnier; stepdaughters, Denise Hurt and Catharian Bergmire; three grandchildren; seven stepgrandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Dale J. Barnhurst, and interment was in Valhalla Gardens of Memory Cemetery, Belleville.

CLAUSSEN, Betty J. (Krampe), age 87; born Sept. 20, 1926, in Belding, Mich.; died Dec. 25, 2013, in Sunfield, Mich. She was a member of the Grand Ledge (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include her husband, Donald W.; son, Doug; daughter, Cheryl Olney; stepbrother, Delmer Krampe; stepsisters, Sharon Hawkins and Karen Clement; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Ron Olney, and interment was in Oakwood Cemetery, Grand Ledge.

COLE, Donald E., age 85; born July 8, 1928, in Grandville, Mich.; died June 14, 2014, in Grand Rapids, Mich. He was a member of the Grand Rapids Central Church.

Survivors include his wife. Ruth (Duska): son, Brent; daughters, Denise Newhall and Suzanne Cole; brother, Richard; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bob Stewart and Frank Lugo, and interment was in Washington Memorial Park Gardens Cemetery, Grand Rapids.

EAGER, Mabuta A. (Reeder), age 90; born Jan. 31, 1923, in Boulder, Colo.; died Jan. 5, 2014, in South Bend, Ind. She was a member of the Niles (Mich.) Westside

Survivors include her daughter, Nancy E. Rader; brother, Harold Reeder; sister, Elsie Russell; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Darrel le Roux, with private inurnment. Niles Twp., Mich.

FROST, Jeffrey D., age 44; born March 12, 1970, in Flint, Mich.; died July 3, 2014, in Flint. He was a member of the First Flint Church.

Survivors include his wife, Amy (Petiprin); son, Carter; daughters, Sophia and Nina; mother, Sharon K. (Curry) Frost; and brother, Gregory.

Funeral services were conducted by Ron Kenny and Jeff Akenberger, and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Grand Blanc, Mich.

HAZELWOOD, Jean D. (Cain), age 79: born Aug. 27, 1934, in Cicero, Ind.; died May 7, 2014, in Sheridan, Ind. She was a member of the Cicero Church.

Survivors include her stepsons, Leslie and Alan Hazelwood; daughters, Cindy Hamrick, Georganne Johnson and Iris Poor; stepdaughter, Elizabeth Burke; sister, Judy Peck; five grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and nine step-grandchildren. Jean also raised 71 foster children in her

Funeral services were conducted by Aaron Clark, and interment was in Cary Cemetery, Hamilton Cty., Ind.

HYDE, Gordon M., age 94; born June 20, 1919, in London, England; died May 27, 2014, in Ooltewah, Tenn. He was a member of the Wisconsin Academy Church. Gordon was a pastor in Baraboo, Wis., and other Wisconsin churches, and a pastor and teacher at Wisconsin Academy for four years before moving to Southern Missionary College (Collegedale, Tenn.) to teach Bible and speech for 13 years. He also served as secretary of the Biblical Research Institute of the SDA Church, was GC field secretary for 13 years, and was head of the Religion Department at Southern Adventist University after his retirement.

Survivors include his sons, Rodney and Bradley; daughter, Vickie Baily; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held Aug. 16 in Collegedale, with private inurnment,

MARINO, Gerolamo G. "Jerry," age 89; born Oct. 22, 1924, in Detroit, Mich.; died May 30, 2014, in Ann Arbor, Mich. He was a member of the Holly (Mich.) Church.

Survivors include his daughter, Maria Molden; and sister, Tita Migliora.

Memorial services were conducted by the Military and David Salazar, and inurnment was in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly.

WATERS, Stanley W., age 90; born May 2, 1923. in Oshkosh. Wis.: died Feb. 18. 2014, in Cleveland, Tenn. He was a member of the Poy Sippi (Wis.) Church.

Survivors include his wife, Gertrude (Mueller); son, Stanley Jr.; daughters, Charyl Severson, Gloria Klemp and Debra Gravell; brother, William Jr.; six grandchildren: seven great-grandchildren: six stepgreat-grandchildren; and six step-greatgreat-grandchildren.

Private memorial services with military honors were conducted, with inurnment in Chattanooga (Tenn.) National Cemetery.

WOOD, William M., age 80; born Jan. 16, 1934, in Aledo, III.; died March 22, 2014, in Mishawaka, Ind. He was a member of the Westside Church, Niles, Mich.

Survivors include his wife, Darlene F. (Townsend); sons, Jason and Dustin; daughters, Natalie Bruner, Pamela Livingston, Teresa Herron, Jeanne Johnston, Breanna Wood and Brooklyn Wood; sister, Marie Catlin; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by William Dudgeon and Darrel le Roux, with private inurnment, Niles.

WOOLF, Timothy J., age 64; born Sept. 23, 1949, in Detroit, Mich.; died June 16, 2014, in Ann Arbor, Mich, He was a member of the Cherry Hill Church, Garden City,

Survivors include his brother, Dan: and sisters, Carolyn Shell and Jeanne Scull.

Funeral services were conducted by Steve Conway and Abel Hagan, and interment was in Parkview Memorial Cemetery. Livonia. Mich.

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$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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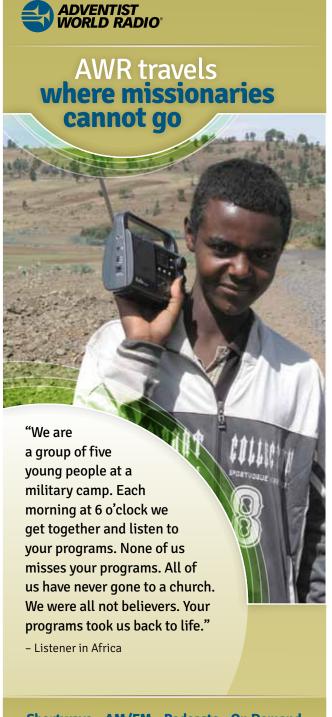
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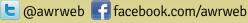


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Miscellaneous

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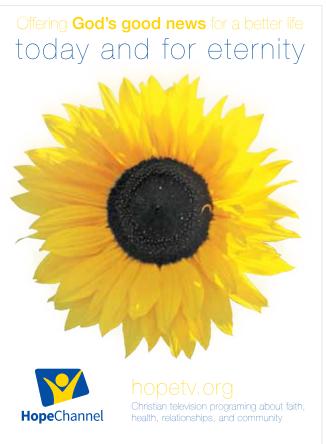
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WANTED: The White Estate is looking for original photographs, personal items or other artifacts relating to Ellen White for display in its new visitor center scheduled to open in 2015. To discuss your item(s), please contact James Nix at 301-680-6557 or Jim Nix@WhiteEstate.org. All messages about your items will be answered.

Employment

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2014

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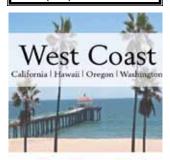
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emailed to circulation@lakeunion.org.

"This is what the Lord says: 'Put your house in order.'" —Isaiah 38:1 NIV Herb and Flo didn't.

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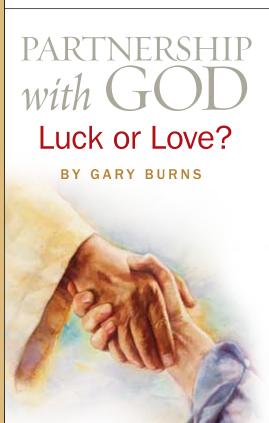
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friend of mine is a very faithful, conscientious person who puts forth extra effort to make sure his life is in harmony with God. One way he does this is by paying special attention to God's voice as recorded in Scripture and through personal impressions God gives each

Not long ago, he and his wife invested in some land. As with everything they do, they put this purchase before the Lord in prayer, and did not move forward without the assurance of God's peace.

A year later, they considered building and asked God to indicate his will through the sale of their house, which sold rather quickly.

They began construction, confident they were moving forward with God's blessing, when they learned, from the realtor, that the sale of their home unexpectedly had fallen through. Over the next few months, the house sold and fell through two more times, then finally sold at the full asking price. Not only did this provide more cash for construction than originally anticipated, the final buyers allowed my friends to stay until they could occupy the newly-constructed home.

Their "luck" didn't stop there. Throughout the construction process, one unexpected financial blessing after another was received from building suppliers through odd but legitimate circumstances. Some people get all the

My friend will tell you that his partnership with God isn't luck at all. It's an expression of God's love; and, sometimes, God expresses love by giving him the blessing of grace to endure deep valleys and trying circumstances.

Gary Burns is the communication director of the Lake Union Conference

Feed My Sheep

BY LAUREN BITTERMAN

long a bumpy dirt road in Nicaragua stands a Seventh-day Adventist Church. This church, "Revelación," is unique in many aspects. Its walls have yet to be built, revealing the roof and concrete floor as the only permanent aspects of the structure. Yet, every night and every Sabbath, a congregation of 30 gathers to praise our Savior. It is in this church where I spent three weeks of my summer last year, preaching an evangelistic series.

Every evening, I was greeted by warm smiles from both children and adults. Although preaching was difficult, that was not the hardest part. The most difficult part was saying goodbye — saying goodbye to a loving family. But the one thought that gave me peace was knowing that, if I never saw them on this Earth again, the next time I would see them would be in God's eternal kingdom. In that place, there will be no more need for goodbyes.

It is this experience that has especially helped me to realize the importance of service and witnessing for God. Not only are we able to see others blessed by the character of Christ, we are able to receive a blessing from the self-lessness and trust we must uphold while serving.

Throughout John 10, Jesus calls us "sheep." Jesus, the Good Shepard, with his love for his sheep, says: I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep (John 10:14–15 NIV). Jesus loves and died for all the sheep. Not some. Not only the good sheep, but for all sheep.

If we are to be true disciples of Christ, we must live out this same mindset and love his sheep. Once we have even seen a peek of Christ's love for us, our love for him begins to overwhelm us and swell in our hearts. It is through this love that we are called to serve. We are called to be missionaries. Witnessing to God's sheep is a way we can not only express our love for him, but also create a more complete relationship with our Savior

During the past two years, I have been blessed with wonderful opportunities to go on two mission trips — the one to Nicaragua and another to India. I discovered the pure joy in sharing the One in whom my hope is found and my salvation secure. Without traveling far or flying across the seas, we can still tell of his love and grace. There are plenty of opportunities surrounding you and me. Will we commit ourselves to them?

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "[Then] feed my sheep" (John 21:17 NIV).

Lauren Bitterman, 17, is a freshman at Andrews
University where she is majoring in biochemistry.
Lauren is a member of Pioneer Memorial Church.
She will receive a \$100 scholarship because her
story was accepted for publication.

ON THE EDGE ... where faith meets action

Spread the Word

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. —Romans 1:16 ESV

ikki Shingledecker has grown in her relationship with God since becoming a student at Word of Life Bible Institute in New York. The native of Allegan, Michigan, began classes at the college in 2012.



Shingledecker

"During my senior year [in high school], I decided to go. I thought it would be worth it to take a year off and learn about the Bible," she says.

Since making the decision, Rikki has learned many life lessons lessons like the infiniteness of God's grace, dependence on Christ, humility and how to apply the Word in daily life.

During her two years at the Bible college, Rikki has taken many classes focused solely on the Bible. She has been involved in numerous outreach teams, including street ministry, basketball missions and working at camp. In the spring, Rikki decided to try another form of ministry. She left the United States, for the first time in her life, to spend ten days in Thailand. She volunteered at an orphanage for mentally disabled and "unwanted" children.

"I wanted to go there to show the kids that people love them, and to show them that there is someone out there who died for them," Rikki says. "I just wanted to show them that people do care."

At first, Rikki didn't think she'd be able to raise the funds needed for the trip. Of the six missionary spots available through the school, going to Thailand was the most expensive. To her surprise, however, the amount was raised in no time. Rikki was able to join 30-plus other students in their travels.

"God was just showing me how faithful he is, even when we are faithless," she says.

Rikki encourages other students to participate in mission work, both in the States and abroad. She claims that whether they are at home or in a different country, everyone has a job to share the Word.

Some day, Rikki hopes to work as an accountant. Besides sharing the Gospel, she enjoys hobbies like photography, basketball and running.

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan.

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Official Publication of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church/Lake Union Headquarters

http://herald.lakeunion.org

September 2014

Vol. 106, No.8

THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | (269) 473-8242

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Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index



Biblical Stewardship Conference

Learn practical biblical stewardship principles that can equip you to better plan and manage your finances to live debt-free with the resources to support the causes you care about.

Sunday, November 16, 2014

Pioneer Memorial Church Berrien Springs, Michigan

Sponsored by

The Lake Union Conference Stewardship Department

Who should attend?

Stewardship leaders, seminary students, pastors, conference staff and anyone interested in learning how to find financial freedom in Christ

To Register

Visit http://www.adventsource.org and click "Events" or call 800-328-0525.

Registration Fee

\$25 (includes box lunch and materials)

Main Presenters



John Mathews



G. Edward Reid

Lake Union Stewardship Day November 16, 2014

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Registration

Devotional - Don Livesay 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Session 1 - Ed Reid 8:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

"The Devil's Last Temptation"

Session 2 - John Matthews 9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. "Latest Stewardship Research"

10:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. **Session 3 - Ed Reid**

"Teaching Stewardship in the Local Church"

Special Feature - John Mathews 11:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

12:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch Break (box lunches)**

Session 4 - Ed Reid 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.

"Retirement and Estate Planning"

Session 5 - John Matthews 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. "Theology of Tithes and Offerings"

Session 6 - Ed Reid 3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

"Biblical Principles of Money Management"

4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. Session 7 - John Matthews

Stewardship Resources and

How To Use Them"

Session 8 - Glynn Scott 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

"Use of Tithe"



