A Passion for Christ Centered Literature and Literature Ministry
by Alvin Kibble, Vice President, North American Division

A passion is a wonderful, almost indescribable, uncontrollable, compelling urge to do something. It cannot be held back or contained. Everything in your being requires that you do it.

This is what Jeremiah referenced when he said, “When I say, ‘I will forget the Lord and no longer speak in His name,’ then your message is like a fire burning deep within me. I try my best to hold it in, but can no longer keep it back.” (Jer. 20:9 GNTUK)

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The Harlem Globetrotters helped a young Adventist teen sponsor 13 kids who are blind to attend a summer camp especially for the blind as a way to celebrate his 13th birthday. At $679 per attendee, Christian Philson of Lincoln, Nebraska faced a daunting fund-raising
challenge. A March 25 pancake breakfast at College View Seventh-day Adventist Church raised about half his goal. Then the Harlem Globetrotters, the world-famous basketball exhibition team, became involved. MORE

Five years ago, 8-year-old Skyler Lee, now 12 and a sixth-grader at Kelso-Longview, Wash. Adventist School, began a project to collect as many warm coats for local youngsters as she could. Skyler has helped bring in 1,500 new and used coats. For her efforts, she has been selected as one of Washington's top two youth volunteers for 2012 in the nationwide Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. She recently was presented with an engraved silver medallion and will receive $1,000 and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., in early May where she will compete with 102 other finalists for one of 10 top spots in the contest. MORE

Gone but not Forgotten: Fernon Retzer, born November 12, 1921, died April 5, 2012 at age 90 in Chattanooga, Tenn. He graduated from Pacific Union College with a degree in theology and pastored in the Northern California Conference. He was a missionary in South America, and became GC Sabbath School Department director in the 1970s. He later served in the Southern Union in the Sabbath School and Religious Liberty departments. MORE

The following are positive stories that appeared this week in the news about Seventh-day Adventists in the North American Division territory.

Adventists in the News

Southwestern's Chadwick talks dinosaur bones, new museum
Cleburne Times-Review
April 8

Lloyd Perrin: Pointing the Way
Coeur d'Alene Press
April 8

Loma Linda Church Uses Web to Reach Worldwide Audience
Patch.com
April 7

Easter Celebration at SAU
WDEF News 12
April 7

Healing through music at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital
TribLocal
April 4

Work starts on 2nd Adventist Health building
Orlando Sentinel
April 10

Only American in Rwanda during 1994 genocide to speak in Fort Wayne
News Sentinel
April 8

Holy Week wraps up with SWAU University Singers performance
Cleburne Times-Review
April 5

Doctor in the House? Or Senate?
Willamette Week
April 4

Adventist diabetes education program earns national recognition
Hanford Sentinel
April 4

Upcoming Events:

GC Annual Spring Meeting, Apr 17, 18 (Pre-meetings, Apr 9-16)
Pathfinder Bible Experience, Apr 21
ACS Reach Out Symposium /New Jersey, Apr 21-22
Women Clergy Conference /Michigan, Apr 23-26
7th World Congress for Religious Freedom, Apr 24-26
Central California Conference /Hispanic Men's Retreat, Apr 27-29
"Restaurados" Hispanic satellite evangelism, May 5-12
NAD Adventist Single Adult Ministries Convention, May 25-26
Mid-America Hispanic Youth Leadership Convention, May 25-27
Adventist Single Adult Ministries Convention, Denver, Colorado, May 25-27
Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program, Session I, June 3-7
"Revive!" by satellite, June 9-16
For more information call the Religious Education Department at 269-471-6186

NAD Camp Meeting Schedule
More upcoming events

NAD Prayer Calendar

Daily Prayer Guide
Apr. 15-21: Michigan Conference, with 154 churches and 25,551 members

Hope Channel Programs

Hope Channel (HC)
(On DIRECTV ch. 368)
(All times given according to Eastern Time Zone)
Watch live, online

Remembering the Titanic:
• Apr 15, 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m.

April Offerings and
Are your church members involved in reading *The Great Controversy* in preparation for sharing *The Great Hope* with neighbors and friends? "There are things in *Great Hope* that you need to have a friend to talk to about after you read some of that material," said J. Alfred Johnson, NAD coordinator of *The Great Hope* Project. The Division wants to share *The Great Hope* in a relational way, and members need to know the whole story - to read and renew familiarity with *The Great Controversy* in order to be prepared to talk with anyone about it, as well as to sense God's interplay in the cosmic history and where you fit in.

January through June is the time for members to be prayerfully reading, while asking for guidance as with whom they should share *The Great Hope*. That sharing time is slated to begin in July. *The Great Hope* books can now be ordered in English, French and Spanish, from local Adventist Book Centers. On sale for .39 cents each until May 15. **MORE**

Registration has opened for the 2012 Adventist-Laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) Annual International Convention. It will be held August 8-11, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Both exhibitors and attendees are invited to register, either **online** or by paper. A full-scale youth convention, consisting of a wide variety of programs and activities, is planned for children and youth (ages 3-19), including daycare for tots (ages 0-2) during main meetings and seminars. The required medical and Youth Activities and Consent forms for them are **online, MORE**

The Publishing Ministry is "part of our Adventist DNA." Our annual Missionary Magazines Day (*Signs, Message, El Centinela, Priorities*) was April 7, and April 21 will be Literature Evangelism Sabbath. Both represent part of our Adventist publishing ministry which started with a vision given to Ellen White in November, 1848, where she saw a little paper, small at first, become "like streams of light that went clear around the world." That paper became what is now known as the *Adventist Review*, one of the oldest publications in North America. **MORE** in the April, 2012 *Adventist World*, p. 34, "Like Streams of Light."

**Special Days**

**iGiveSDA App**

**Offerings:**
- April 14, Christian Record Services
- April 21, Local Church Budget
- April 28, Local Conference Advance

**Offertry Readings**

**Special Days:**
April Focus: Stewardship
- April 14, Stewardship Sabbath
- April 21, Literature Evangelism Sabbath
- April 28, Education Sabbath

**Helpful website(s) and Resources:**
- NAD Stewardship
- iGiveSDA App
- NAD Education
- Counsels on Stewardship
- Faith and Finance

**Adventist World**

**NAD Edition**

**News:** "Camp Meetings in North America," p. 11
**Update:** "Train Up a Child" p. 14
**Perspective:** "Financial Faithfulness, Financial Freedom!" p. 17
**NAD Letters:** p. 18
**Feature:** "Like Streams of Light" p. 34

**Union Magazines and Websites**

Atlantic Union GLEANER
Canadian Adventist

http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=84ac041b8b705798057dab6f2&id=42ce0bac38&c=3075540be8[4/11/2012 2:50:08 PM]
As we approach this Literature Evangelism Sabbath (April 21), I would encourage you to download the EGW Writings App to your smartphone, iPad, Droid or Kindle. Choose one of the many books: *Steps to Christ, Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings, Acts of the Apostles*, and start spending a thoughtful hour each day in personal study, prayer, and reflection. You will soon discover that the inspired writings will begin to fill an all-important void adding greatly to your reality and aiding you in the competencies that daily life requires.

Begin to share inspirational passages with your friends on Facebook or Twitter. As you are blessed, and I know you will be, make it your practice to read a book and share a book. Purchase a couple of gift copies and share them with friends and family. You may find yourself saying as did Jeremiah, “Your message, oh God, is like a fire burning deep within me! I try my best to hold it in, but can no longer keep it back.” - Alvin M. Kibble

**Coming Soon! Stewardship Jack** is a book series developed for ages 5-8, and will present the principles of stewardship through a loveable dog, part retriever and part poodle, hence a golden doodle. Watch for Stewardship Jack at your local ABC.

**The Clear Word** is now available electronically for your portable reading or listening device. Published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, the ebook edition of this easy-to-understand paraphrased Bible features resizable text, bookmarking, built-in dictionary, easy verse selector, searching and more. Also available is the audio book. The high-quality audio was recorded by Lonnie Melashenko, former speaker/director of Voice of Prophecy. **eBook; Audio CDs; New Testament MP3 CD.** It's also available for all other ebook readers.

**ViewPoints**

This morning in the NAD Staff Worship, Pastor J. Alfred Johnson, Adult Ministries Department director, presented a short report and said, “If we would humble ourselves before God and be kind and courteous, tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the Truth where now there is only one.” (Testimonies, Vol. 9, p. 189) “To paraphrase, 'If we would humble ourselves before God and be kind and courteous, tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be 114,200,000 North American Division members where now there are only 1,142,000.'”

“Our goal is to change church members into disciples. Members come to church to find fault with the sermons. Disciples come to church to pray for the person who delivers the sermons. Members come to critique the choir. Disciples come to celebrate with the choir. Members come to the church fellowship dinner to complain about the food. Disciples come to network and fellowship for ministry and nurture. Fundamentally, members attend church to isolate and criticize problems. Disciples come to facilitate solutions.” (Photo by Shawn

http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=84ac041b8b705798057dab62&c=42ce0bac38&es=3075540be8[4/11/2012 2:50:08 PM]
A Passion for Christ-centered Literature and Literature Ministry

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Ellen White counseled: “We have the most solemn message of truth ever borne to the world.” (Gospel Workers, p. 92)

“If all of us who profess to be Christians were sharing our faith with others, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel.” (Counsels to Teachers, p. 324)

The quinquennium theme of the Ellen G. White Estates to “Connect with Jesus” is an effort to make the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy accessible to every church family in the North American Division. However, accessibility is of no value if there is no compelling desire to know Christ and grow in our relationship with Him.

An old Adventist evangelist would often say, “What made us Adventist will keep us Adventist,” but few today seem to know and appreciate the richness of our faith. When first discovered by our pioneers the Adventist message was for them as “hidden treasure.” It was so enlightening, so inspiring, they found that they could not contain it – they had to tell the world, and they did. In fact, Joshua Himes reported that the Three Angels’ Messages had been delivered to every mission station by 1883.

As we approach this Literature Evangelism Sabbath, I would encourage you to download the EGW Writings App to your smartphone, iPad, Droid or Kindle. Choose one of the many books: Steps to Christ, Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings, Acts of the Apostles, and start spending a thoughtful hour each day in personal study, prayer, and reflection. You will soon discover that the inspired writings will begin to fill an all-important void, adding greatly to your reality and aiding you in the competencies that daily life requires.

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4-11-12 Adventist Media Center Board Votes Changes for California Operation

On Tuesday, April 3, the Adventist Media Center Board voted to give permission to each media ministry to present a business and transition plan to the North American Division administration. The Board is allowing the proposed plans to include the option to relocate from the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, Calif. These plans will be presented to the North American Division administration by June 5 in which they will bring back to a future Adventist Media Center Board Meeting for consideration.

“We have had no formal indication, as of now, which ministries will choose to relocate,” said Dan Jackson, board chair of the Adventist Media Center and president of the North American Division.

The media ministries of the North American Division include Breath of Life, Faith For Today, It Is Written, La Voz de la Esperanza, and The Voice of Prophecy.

“The media ministries’ mission and messages of hope have helped to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout North America and beyond. We have appreciated the tireless efforts of the many people who have been involved with each of the ministries,” said Jackson.

On April 4, the Adventist Media Center Board voted to divest itself of LifeTalk Radio. This decision was made after a January 2011 vote to move the administration of LifeTalk Radio to the Media Center because of financial reasons. LifeTalk Radio broadcasts to approximately 75 stations across North America and internationally in Guam, Saipan, and England. Popular programs on the stations include Your Story Hour, Voice of Prophecy, Bible Answers Live, Breath of Life, and Science, Scripture and Salvation.

Adventist Media Productions, the electronic media production unit of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, and the Adventist Media Services Agency, which assists in media buying and placement, will continue to operate from the Media Center in Simi Valley.

About the North American Division media ministries

Breath of Life Ministries began broadcasting in 1974. It seeks to help individuals discover the truth of God’s life-enabling concern for their well being. The mission of Breath of Life Ministries is to present the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ to all people groups from a contemporary, urban perspective.

Faith For Today is a television ministry committed to sharing God’s grace with the world through broadcast media. Founded in 1950, Faith For Today launched its live inspirational television drama on ABC from New York City. That was more than 60 years ago making it the oldest religious television broadcast in the world! Today, Faith For Today produces a family of programs, including Lifestyle Magazine, The Evidence, Faith For Today, and McDougall, MD, as well as an Internet ministry, live seminars, a mobile device channel, and community concert events as well.

It Is Written is an international Christian television ministry dedicated to sharing insights from God’s Word with people around the world. Founded in 1956 by George Vandeman, the theme of this ministry can be found in Matthew 4:4: “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

Back when the Second World War was bringing uncertainty and death to millions, and hope itself was under siege, La Voz de la Esperanza (The Voice of Hope) was launched for the benefit of the Spanish-speaking people throughout the world. It has been broadcasting God’s Hope en Español for over 65 years to the more than 400 million Spanish-speaking people around the world. It does so through radio, television, its Bible School, the Internet, and its various worldwide evangelism activities.

The Voice of Prophecy is a long-running religious radio broadcast founded in 1929 by H.M.S. Richards, Sr. Initially aired on a single radio station in Los Angeles it has since grown to numerous stations throughout the United States and Canada.
Christian Philson is 13-year-old fund raiser

To celebrate his 13th birthday, Christian Philson of Lincoln, Nebraska decided to help 13 kids who are blind enjoy summer camp. At $679 per attendee, he faced a daunting fund-raising challenge. A March 25 pancake breakfast at College View Seventh-day Adventist Church raised about half his goal. Then the Harlem Globetrotters, the world-famous basketball exhibition team, became involved.

Known worldwide as the Ambassadors of Goodwill™, the Globetrotters team takes part in multiple community outreach programs and charitable efforts each year. Their publicist heard about Philson’s campaign of compassion. With the Globetrotters coming to Lincoln, she arranged for the local teen to be acknowledged as an honorary Ambassador of Goodwill. He received an autographed jersey and basketball from the Globetrotters during half-time of their April 4 game at Pershing Center. The team also donated autographed memorabilia for a fundraiser raffle, with all proceeds awarded to National Camps for the Blind. (When the total amount raised is announced, it will be posted on Outlookmag.org.)

Philson says he is amazed by the help he has received toward making his birthday dream come true. One of his biggest supporters is his grandfather, Joe Martinez, who works at Christian Record Services for the Blind. The Lincoln-based charity provides spiritual materials and other services, such as National Camps for the Blind, for visually handicapped adults and children.

“We at the Christian Record home office applaud the efforts of Christian Philson,” said Rajmund Dabrowski, assistant to the president for marketing. “His philanthropic spirit, at such an early age, is a testament to the creativity of our church’s youth. Christian is an inspiration to us, and we would love to see this idea catch on with other young people.”

For more information about National Camps for the Blind, visit christianrecord.org.

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Martin Weber, communication dir.
Mid-America Union of Seventh-day Adventists
402.617.4448 / martin@outlookmag.org
Volunteer project lands Longview girl in national spotlight

By Brenda Blevins McCorkle / The Daily News | Posted: Sunday, April 8, 2012 7:00 pm

In 2008, then 8-year-old Skyler Lee of Longview began a project to collect as many warm coats for local youngsters as she could.

Over the last five years, Skyler has helped bring in 1,500 new and used coats. For her efforts, she has been selected as one of Washington’s top two youth volunteers for 2012 in the nationwide Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.

She recently was presented with an engraved silver medallion. She also will receive $1,000 and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., in early May.

Skyler will compete with 102 other finalists for one of 10 top spots in the contest. The young people are both middle school and high school age youngsters (two from each state in the U.S.). If she wins at that level, both she and her charity will receive $5,000.

The 12-year-old, who is a sixth-grader at Kelso-Longview Adventist School in the Lexington area, and her mother, Alissa Lee, are forming a nonprofit organization called Warm Coats, Warm Hearts. Having a nonprofit status will help the family feel more comfortable with accepting money donations in addition to coats, Skyler’s mother said, in addition to easing any fears potential donors might have.

The majority of coats that Skyler gathers go to the Salvation Army, where they are distributed to local needy year-round and during the holiday season at the Salvation Army Community Christmas Center.

Skyler’s project follows in the footsteps of the late Dr. Fred Bishop, who started the Salvation Army’s Coats for Kids program in 1991.

Even though Skyler and Bishop never got the chance to meet, Beverly Gilmore coordinator for the Salvation Army’s Christmas Center said Bishop would have been thrilled with the youngster’s work.

Skyler’s interest in helping the needy stay warm stemmed from watching a report on “Good Morning America” about One Warm Coat, a nonprofit organization that gathers coats for needy people free of charge. The organization is a nationwide effort.

As she watched the program, Skyler said she was mesmerized by the armloads of coats that were unloaded out of big trucks. Her mom told her many children never have a coat, which made the youngster sad, she said.

She and her mother contacted Gilmore after buying two new coats around Christmas 2008. After seeing the tremendous need the Salvation Army faced, Skyler and her mom decided to continue the collecting year-round.

In the first few months of her project, Skyler delivered 114 coats and jackets after holding a coat drive at Canterbury Park — where her mother works in the kitchen — and setting up drop boxes around town.

Year after year, Gilmore would talk to Skyler about the coats, and the youngster always stepped up, Gilmore said.

“Usually, it’s a one-time thing,” Gilmore said. “They lose interest, grow up. She hasn’t left us because she’s grown up. If anything, I think we’ve grown closer.”

Skyler’s teacher, Tracy Lang, gave her an application for the Prudential award because of the young girl’s charitable work. When a package from the organization showed up at their home, Alissa Lee brought it to her daughter at school.

They were thrilled to discover that Skyler had been chosen for the honor. Alissa Lee will accompany her daughter on the trip to the nation’s capital. The two are leaving three days early so they can enjoy some sightseeing on their own before Skyler begins group activities with the other honorees.

“On Monday morning, we’re going to elementary schools and we’ll read to little kids and give them books,” Skyler said. “Then we get to go to the Arlington Memorial.”

All the 102 young people will eat their meals together, and she’ll stay in a dormitory, sharing a room with another recipient, Skyler said.

She doesn’t know if she’s going to be one of the lucky 10 to take home a top award, but the young woman said she plans to enjoy every minute of her visit. She said that she and her mom are already making plans for a coat drive after the start of the next school
year, with hopes that a sponsor for such an event might be found.

“That’s a really good time to gather coats,” Alissa Lee said.

Maybe something like, They’ll continue to donate to the Salvation Army, Alissa Lee said, and they’ll send some of the nicer women’s coats to the Emergency Support Shelter.

Gilmore said she has great expectations for Skyler.

“Who knows the potential of her and her friends,” she said, and “what they’re going to do as they grow older.”
Remembrance: Retzer, 90, was Sabbath School director, South America missionary

Apr. 10, 2012 Decatur, Georgia, United States

Southern Union staff

Fernon Retzer, Sabbath School Department director at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters in the 1970s and a missionary in South America, died April 5 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He was 90.

“Dad was a very positive leader, always smiling, always encouraging, always affirming,” said his son Gordon Retzer, who served as president of the Southern Union Conference from 2003 to 2011. “He was a caring person who exemplifies the gentle spirit of Jesus.”

As a department director, the elder Retzer was known for his creative promotion of mission. At large scale-meetings, including General Conference Sessions, his mission pageants employed spotlights, flashing colors and a dazzling globe that sparkled when the house lights were lowered. The entire production of scripts, signs and costumes would later travel to perform at camp meetings around the United States.

In retirement he continued personal witness, hosting a neighborhood Bible study. A life-long baker, Retzer would offer each participant a loaf of home-baked bread.

Retzer was born in Bowdle, South Dakota, on November 12, 1921, and moved with his family to Lodi, California. He graduated from Pacific Union College with a degree in theology and pastored in the Northern California Conference. General Conference President R. R. Fighur preached at his ordination service in 1948.

In 1949, he and his family moved to Colombia, where he served as president of the Colombia Mission and later president of the Colombia-Venezuela Union.
After serving as President of the Central America Union in San Jose, Costa Rica, Fernon became Sabbath School director for the Inter-American Division, headquartered in Miami, Florida. In 1966, he became the associate director of the Sabbath School department at the denomination’s world headquarters, before becoming director in 1968.

He later served in the Southern Union in the Sabbath School and Religious Liberty departments.

After retiring in 1986, he worked for four years for Mission Spotlight, a supporting ministry that operated from 1970 to 2007 and highlighted world mission projects through media presentations.

His wife Dorothy preceded him in death in 2007. He is survived by two siblings, Delores Buller and Harvey Retzer; four children: Gordon, Gerry, Doreen and Richard; and six grandchildren.

—Ansel Oliver contributed to this story
Members of the Cleburne Rotary Club studied dinosaur bones, shark teeth and other fossils during their Thursday luncheon at the Cleburne Conference Center and heard about a museum in the planning stages at Southwestern Adventist University.

Dr. Art Chadwick, professor of biology and geology, discussed Southwestern’s upcoming “Dinodig” in Wyoming, a summer course the school began in 1996.

This year’s Dinodig runs May 31 to June 29 and targets high school students who have completed their junior or senior year as of June, college students seeking lab science credit and teachers seeking professional development. In addition to those groups, the program is also open to anyone interested in dinosaurs.

The cost for four hours of college credit and site fees, which includes transportation from Southwestern, food, lodging and field fees, is $1,783. Other dig programs and cost options are available. For information, visit dinodig.swau.edu.

The site, near Newcastle, Wyo., contains a treasure trove of dinosaur bones and other fossils, Chadwick said, adding that participants excavated about 2,000 bones last year.

The dig affords participants opportunity for hands-on excavation of dinosaur and other carnivore bones and fossils and to attend casual setting lectures on paleontology, biology of dinosaurs, geology and taphonomy. Chadwick likened the last to “CSI” as it is basically the science of figuring out how the bones or fossils came to be the way they are by concentrating on what happened between the time the animal was alive and the discovery of its bone or fossil remains.

Chadwick also discussed computer data programs and GPS technology developed at Southwestern used to measure and position bone and fossil placement within the dig areas. Chadwick delved into irregularities within sedimentary formations throughout the area and other anomalies, such as the fact that while about 95 percent of the dinosaur bones found in the area come from duckbill dinosaurs, one site in the same area contained about 500 bones of numerous dinosaur breeds, but no duckbills.

Chadwick hypothesized that a single catastrophic event likely killed dinosaurs in the area and an encroaching sea subsequently deposited and buried their carcasses en masse deep beneath waters, which has long since receded. Being encased underground left bones relatively intact, Chadwick said, adding that had they been closer to the surface they would have disintegrated long ago.
Science Education Center

Most of the bones and fossils recovered from the Wyoming site over the years are stored in Southwestern's Scales Hall. The hope for some time, Southwestern President Eric Anderson said, has been to create a display area for those and other artifacts. Those plans moved closer to reality recently thanks to an anonymous $250,000 gift to the university.

Southwestern alumna and Rotarian Julie Roberts, who has spearheaded fundraising and grant efforts on behalf of the city of Cleburne and other project efforts, has undertaken the effort to raise the remaining funding required.

“The next logical step is to exhibit [the artifacts] and show how the science works,” Roberts said. “The plan is for interactive displays, not just a dull, dead museum display.”

Exact plans and specifics remain in the planning at this point, Roberts said. Initial plans call for the museum area to occupy a renovated and perhaps expanded section of Scales Hall, she said.
Lloyd Perrin: Pointing the way

By BILL BULEY/Staff writer | Posted: Sunday, April 8, 2012 12:00 am

COEUR d'ALENE - Every five years or so, Lloyd Perrin needs a new preaching Bible.

The pages and passages of the old one are so marked up, so crinkled and weathered and worn from reading and studying, it's time for a replacement.

But rather than place the old Bible on a shelf, it is passed to his children.

"I'll finish this and then I'll give it to one of my kids as a way to remember dad," he said. "All my kids get my preaching Bible. Every five years I finish with a preaching Bible that's falling apart. This is two years down the road," he added holding up the Bible sitting on his desk.

Perrin, 59, a pastor since he was 23, has been leading Coeur d'Alene Seventh-day Adventist Church for 13 years.

His path to preaching began when he was a boy, raised by Milford and Wilma Perrin. He called his upbringing "a rich heritage" from both parents.

"My dad was a man of the word," he said.

Young Lloyd memorized scripture before he went to school, and could recite chapters in Psalms, Isaiah, John and Matthew.

"I love the word of God. I got it from my Mom," he said.

Today, Perrin remains passionate about his faith. Whether standing behind the pulpit, having lunch with a friend or sitting around the dinner table at home, the theme is the same.

He loves to talk about Jesus Christ, about God, about heaven, about family.

Easter Sunday is a good day to share his message.

"Look at what God did to show his love. He wants a relationship with you. When we see heaven, when we see what Jesus gave up to come down to Earth, to rescue us, that's love."

On being a pastor:

I never wanted to be a pastor. But when I became one my mother said, 'When you were in the womb, I knew out of all the other kids, I knew that the hand of God would be upon you. And you'd be a pastor.' She didn't want to say it before then. She didn't want to influence me with her words. She just wanted to pray and let the Holy Spirit nudge me.

As a young man, I left Christianity, I grew real long hair, I hitch-hiked around the country, I got into mischief. But the prayers of my mom and my dad kept calling me back.
On playing Pontius Pilate in "The Borrowed Tomb" (final showing at 7 tonight) at Coeur d'Alene Seventh-day Adventist Church:

The first time I did that, I was introduced as a pastor at the door. A little girl stopped and looked up at me. 'I know you. You're that man that's good at being bad.' I got a little choked up on it. I grab his face, I say, "Don't you know who I am, and I shove him to the ground.'

I stand over him, dominate Rome. So, it takes a hunk out of me. The church knows it now. I have to prepare my heart to do it. It's just hard.

In the practices, somebody made a comment to me. It was a lady I baptized the last year. She came up with a perspective nobody else could see. She said, 'Pastor, I sense this is really difficult for you,' and I started sobbing.

On playing the role of Jesus on stage during his worldly travels:

The Sermon on the Mount is what I mostly do. It is the greatest words ever spoken. You want to know how to get to heaven? Jesus stands on this mount and says, 'Here are the principles of my kingdom.'

On prayer:

Pray is the most intimate thing you can do. You become vulnerable, transparent. If you learn to talk to God as a friend, then you've got a great relationship. It's not about things you do. The point is, if you're in a conversation with God at the deepest heart level, then the rest of this flows from it.

His mother's Wilma's last words:

I stood over her bed. She weighed 134 pounds when she got colon cancer. When she died she weighed 67. I was reciting chapters and chapters to my mom. I said, 'Let me close with John 3:16,' and I said it. Her hand started to shake and kept coming up. It pointed at the ceiling and I thought, 'What's she pointing at?' Her eyes were closed. And she said, 'Lloyd, don't forget John 3:17.'

It says, God sent his son not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. That was the last thing I know that she heard me say. She lost consciousness about four or five hours later and died.

On Christianity for nonbelievers:

I say you are at where I was at years ago. Christianity has to make sense intellectually. It's not just something you have a feeling inside. I have a lot of feeling. I get moved by Lassie being chased into a tunnel and he's going to die and I'll start crying. I'm a big baby.

The Bible invites us to use our highest mental reasoning powers. To sit down and check it out. See what the Bible has to say and ask your best questions. Christianity deserves an intelligent response.

To me, I can tell you it changed my life. It changed my life.

On challenges today facing him as a pastor:
It's always the same for me. I have to spend time with the Lord every day. I can not be robbed of that time. It always boils down to a relationship with a person. There's that pull, some things are happening, I'm needed, I've got to be there. Sometimes you just have to shut down, go into a room and say 'I've got to feed my soul.' That's always for me, the number one issue.

On a legacy for his children:
I want to hand all my faith to my kids. I want them to love Jesus.

On what he would like people to know about Lloyd Perrin:
He pointed to Jesus.

On how long it takes to prepare a sermon:
A lifetime. I could say I sit down, discipline myself eight to 10 hours a week. But I'm preparing my heart with everything, every day, in what I do.

On the importance of family:
I told my staff, you should never be gone from home more than three nights a week. Your best ministry is your own family. That's what my dad did.

A father's example:
The greatest gift you can give to their kids is to love their mother. And my dad did that. I knew my dad loved my mom, and I want my kids to know that I love their mother. I think that's the best gift you can give. It all starts that heartbeat in the home. The home is solid, it keeps moving out to the church, to the world. I think we're as strong as our homes area.

About God:
There's nothing like having a relationship with the Lord. We talk a lot about Jesus and knowing Jesus. But Jesus came to reveal the father. And most people are afraid of him. John 14 says, 'I go to the father's house to prepare a place for you.'

Jesus said, 'If you've seen me, you've seen the father.' I think knowing who God really is, the father. Jesus came to let us see what God is like. He is friendly. God was in Christ.

When Mary Magdalene was going to be stoned, Jesus knelt down and wrote in the sand and he said, 'Where are your accusers?' because they all left. And he said, 'Neither do I condemn thee.' Well, that's God the father. I think that's my passion. God's a friendly person. He loves you. You'll be safe in his care. You don't have to be afraid.

On the importance of Easter Sunday:
It's huge because it seals up all of the content of Jesus' life. We're not in our sins anymore. He is risen.
If Christ was still preaching today, the world would likely listen to his sermons on UStream or Youtube.

Centuries later, Jesus’ message is still touching lives. And thanks to a technology his disciples could not have dreamt of, that message streams from the pulpit at Loma Linda University Seventh-day Adventist Church to more than 1,000 followers across the country and the globe.

It may seem like a modern marvel, but using technology was an idea that Christ himself embraced. Nowadays, it’s just sent through a new medium, said Darold Retzer, executive pastor at Loma Linda University Church.

“(Jesus) spoke to the masses on the hillside,” Retzer said. “He was brought out in a boat so the sound would carry better. I think (now) he would have used whatever means were available.”

Every Saturday, an average of 1,000-plus viewers tune into the church’s weekly webcasts, said Stew Harty, director of media for University Church. He has 90 volunteers in the media ministry program, Harty said.

University Church has sophisticated equipment for their media ministry. The church uses professional broadcast boards, wireless microphones and network-worthy cameras. It is run entirely by volunteers.

“We generally run anywhere from 18 to 24 volunteers every weekend,” Harty said.

University Church’s feed goes over satellite and through some local cable stations, Harty said.

“It’s interesting, when our Internet is down, we get more calls on that than we do over the more traditional (channels),” Harty said.

Harty said they are in the process of expanding their web services. They just finished testing the use of the Roku box, which allows viewers to watch web programming on television. It might be launched within a month, he said.

They will also have a 10 a.m. young adult service they will start streaming online soon, he said.
"Whenever I travel, there are people that say, ‘Oh we watch you, we worship with you,’ " Retzer said.

It brought people into the church, but more importantly, it brings the church to those who cannot be there themselves, he said.

"I think the biggest benefit is to people in small areas where they don’t have a significant church to attend or people who are homebound in our own town," he said.
Loma Linda Church Uses Web to Reach Worldwide Audience - Loma L...
Hoisted high upon a camel is Andy Compton.

He is usually known around Southern Adventist University as an accountant, but on this day, his titles include anything but.

Compton adds, "I played Jesus six times. I played a thief before. I've sung at the crucifixion, and I've been a mobster, a priest, and random disciples."

None of those titles, he says, is more rewarding than the title of Jesus, here at the SonRise Resurrection pageant.

Compton adds, "And I don't know any other way to say I love my savior, but by playing him, and showing his love through me and to other people that come and see it."

Compton's says this is his 15th year reenacting scenes from Christ's last days.

He joins hundreds SAU students and church members from Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

Gordon Bietz, President of SAU, says, "Coming out here and experiencing the scenes in Jerusalem, and the last events of Christ's life, it's a transformational experience."

Transformational, and yet emotionally draining Compton says, all at the same time.

You can see and hear why.

Compton adds, "A lot of times we don't pick the roles, the roles pick us."

And little did you know the roles take almost a year to perfect.

Compton says, "We literally start planning SonRise almost the day after we finish it."

There is blood, sweat, and tears that go into the roles and elaborate props, and getting all the animals to the school is no small feat either.

Bietz adds, "It's an intense effort from a lot of people."

An intense effort volunteers say, all so you will come away with this message.

Compton adds, "It's just knowing that Jesus and God are there. They got our backs through the storm. They will hold our hands, as long as we keep our eyes on Him."

This is the 17th year for this event.

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**Tennessee Headlines**

- Man says girlfriend shot him, later dies
- ETSU opens food pantry for students and employees
- Memphis symphony taps local as interim CEO
- State development authority gets 1st female member
- UT guest house now on National Register
- Governor Bill Haslam Releases Statement on HB 368/SB 893
- Parent grading bill headed to House floor

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**Georgia Headlines**
Easter Celebration at SAU - WDEF News 12

http://www.wdef.com/news/story/Easter-Celebration-at-SAU/oB4XuTp...

- Man accused of burning clothes, attacking officers
- Reward grows for leads in horse shootings
- Ga. city to consider easing rules on 'speed humps'
- Threat of wildfires scars in Georgia
- MARTA to resume Braves shuttle
- Ex-Glock exec to be sentenced on theft charges
- Report marks milestone for Ga. port expansion

More State News

Alabama Headlines

- Threat of wildfires scars in Alabama
- Abortion foes ask state to shut down Ala clinic
- Summary of action in Alabama Legislature
- Romney gets support from Ala. members of Congress
- More La offshore waters open Saturday for shrimp
- Summary of action in Alabama Legislature
- Roll call vote in House on General Fund budget.

More State News
Healing through music at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital

By Sheila Galloro April 4 at 3:24 p.m.

Sue Wohld

Harpist Sue Wohld, a certified music practitioner, eases pain and lifts spirits at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. ‘I see people and I make them feel better,’ Wohld says. ‘To me, that’s amazing.’

Hinsdale – Propped up on a skinny elbow, a-15-year-old girl with pneumonia was in the middle of a coughing fit when Sue Wohld wheeled a harp into her intensive care room at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.

“Do you mind?” asked Wohld, poking her head out from behind the harp. “Would you mind if I played you some music?”

The girl smiled and nodded. A few minutes later, the acoustical notes of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” filled the room. Musical notes drifted down the hospital halls to other patients who didn’t even see Wohld enter the unit. A few minutes later, her heart rate went down, her oxygen levels went up and Wohld left the girl smiling and ready for a nap.

For many patients, it’s that easy. A certified music practitioner, Wohld of Downers Grove, plays a small harp at patients’ bedsides two days a week on all different floors of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. The music differs from music therapy in that it’s not interactive, so all patients have to do is listen. Sometimes Wohld will play for a whole group awaiting outpatient surgery while other times she will give private sessions in patient rooms. Whether she’s playing softly for new babies in the neonatal intensive care unit or softly for patients who are near death, Wohld seems to bring peace with her wherever she goes.

“Every day before I start, I ask God to let me be a blessing,” Wohld said. “I ask Him to let his work flow through me to promote a healing atmosphere.”

Music therapy has evolved into a respected tool in integrative medicine programs in hospitals across the county. It is widely known to help ease pain and reduce stress for both patients and their families. At Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, when nurses see Wohld step onto their floor, many times they are already waiting with a list of patients for her to see.

In fact, when she arrives on each floor, Wohld’s first stop is always the nurse’s station. Then she’ll walk around and introduce herself to patients and explain her service before asking permission to play her music. If a patient is unresponsive, she will obtain permission from a family member. Patients are always free to decline, although rarely they do.

Dressed in a white button-down shirt and black pants, Wohld tries to blend in with the clinical setting around her. It’s her tiny harp pin that reveals her true passion. She’ll mix in Christmas music during the holidays but mainly Wohld selects unrecognizable tunes, nothing that could trigger an unpleasant memory or an emotional response. She does however have “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” and “Wheels...
on the Bus” ready for her youngest fans.

“I see people who are in pain and I make them feel better,” Wohld said. “Sometimes I feel like I take a little bit of their stress and their pain with me when I leave their room. To me, that’s amazing.”

Wohld was “discovered” by Marcie Calandra, director of nursing process improvement and Magnet project director at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, at a regional meeting for advanced practice nurses a few months ago. Wohld officially joined the hospital in December 2011.

“Sue is unflappable. She goes into a room and connects with patients with such immediately and with such grace,” Calandra said. “It means so much to our patients.”

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Adventist Midwest Health includes Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital and Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital. To find a physician, visit www.keepingyouwell.com.

Media contact: Sheila Galloro, public relations specialist, Adventist Midwest Health, sheila.galloro@ahss.org; 630-856-2359.
Construction has started on a six-story office building and parking garage next to Adventist Health System’s new five-story corporate headquarters at State Road 434 and Maitland Boulevard in Altamonte Springs.

Crescent Resources, of Charlotte, N.C., is the developer of the 197,777-square-foot project, scheduled for completion next spring. The building and garage will become part of Adventist Health System’s new, 25-acre campus off Hope Way.
Today's Poll

Are companies incorporating green building practices in their new designs?

- YES
- NO

Vote

View Results

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Con-Test Labs
What could happen to the stock market if Obama is re-elected?

If you have a $500,000 portfolio, you should download the latest report by Forbes columnist Ken Fisher’s firm. It tells you what we think may happen in the 2012 elections and why. This must-read report includes research and analysis you can use in your portfolio right now. Don’t miss it!

Click Here to Download Your Report!
Only American in Rwanda during 1994 genocide to speak in Fort Wayne

By Ellie Bogue of The News-Sentinel
Sunday, April 8, 2012 - 10:07 pm

When others chose to flee in the face of a holocaust, Carl Wilkens stayed.

In 1990 Wilkens and his family were living in Rwanda. Wilkens was a relief worker for the Seven Day Adventist Development and Relief Agency International. According to the United Human Rights Council's website, a minority of extremist Hutus in the political elite blamed the poor economic conditions of the country on the Tutsi, who made up 14 percent of the population.

On April 6, 1994, the plane of Hutu President Habyarimana crashed. At that time, the extremist Hutus seized power and launched an ethnic cleansing campaign on the Tutsi. Armed with machetes, they slaughtered thousands of Tutsi and less radical Hutus who tried to help the Tutsi. In three months they killed 800,000 men, women and children. It is estimated that 200,000 people took part in the genocide.

Wilkens, 54, said leaving wasn’t a choice. A young Tutsi couple was living in his family’s home and working for them. Wilkens hid them. Shortly after the killing started, his wife and three children were airlifted out. But Wilkens stayed on, despite the urging of his family and church to leave. He helped carry food and water across roadblocks and through angry mobs and soldiers to hundreds of orphaned Hutu children trapped in the city.

Wilkens said the closest call he had with the Hutu extremists was at an orphanage with 400 children. The group showed up and was preparing to move in for a massacre when they saw Wilkens. Apparently, seeing an American man there caused them to back down. But they didn’t leave. Wilkens was able to get a sympathetic police lieutenant to stand guard so he could get some help. He said it was a terrible choice: Should he stay with the children or trust a police office? The police had been known to side with the extremists. In the end he decided to trust the man. Wilkens was able to get to the prime minister of the country and stop the intended massacre at the orphanage.

Wilkens said he was not the only person working to help the Tutsi; many moderate Hutus were hiding Tutsis as well.

After the uprising, Wilkens and his family stayed on through 1996.

In January 2008, concerned by the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan, Wilkens quit his job and he and his wife, Teresa started their own educational nonprofit, World Outside My Shoes.

Wilkens spends much of his time traveling around the world and doing educational lectures on genocide. He also takes groups back to Rwanda for educational purposes. This summer he will be taking a group of high school teachers and university professors to Rwanda to learn more about the genocide there and talk to the survivors.

Wilkens will be in Fort Wayne on April 16 and 17. On April 16, he will speak at Homestead High School and at a forum at the Allen County Public Library. On April 17, he will speak at South Side High School and St Francis University.

Wilkens is here thanks to Jon Baker, a history teacher in Southwest Allen County Schools who received a fellowship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum last year and was able to raise part of the funding for the program. Baker said he and his students are also selling copies of Wilkens’ book, “I’m not Leaving,” which chronicles his 1994 Rwanda experience, to raise more money for the project.

Baker said Wilkens would be helping them develop a sister-school connection with a Rwandan school.

“This visit will help open global doors for these students, both the kids in Fort Wayne and the kids in Rwanda,” Baker said.
Cleburne Times-Review, Cleburne, TX

April 5, 2012

Holy Week wraps up with SWAU University Singers performance

By Lisa Magers/Special to the Times-Review

A full house is expected at Friday’s Holy Week service — in the audience and on stage — with 28 members of Southwestern Adventist University’s University Singers bringing special music.

The final service of this year’s 36th consecutive community observance of Holy Week begins at 7 a.m. at the Cleburne Conference Center. Lay speaker is Ray Beavers, CEO/general manager of the Cleburne office of United Cooperative Services.

Serving as host of the day is Johnson County Sheriff Bob Alford, outgoing president of Cleburne Christian Business Club, which sponsors the Holy Week services each year. Amber Witte presents the invocation, and Wilma Reed provides the benediction. Fellowship leaders are Joan Hinds and Sharon James.

Christian Business Club officers for 2012-13 will also be introduced. They include President Dr. Robert Riza, Vice President Bobby de la Garza, Secretary Carol Cooper and Treasurer Don Davis.

The University Singers are led by Jonathan Wall, director of choral and vocal studies at SWAU. The choir is made up of students from across the nation.

“Ten different majors are represented by members of the University Singers,” Wall said. “While several members are music majors, nine other areas of study are also represented.”

The group just returned from a spring break musical mission trip to Puerto Rico where they presented 15 concerts. In May 2013, the University Singers will spend two weeks on a concert tour of the Czech Republic.

Preceding the presentation of the day’s message will be the reading of Scripture by Pat Beavers. The Beavers are active members of Shepherd’s Valley Cowboy Church.

Ray’s involvement in service to others extends to the clouds as a pilot with Angel Flight, an organization of volunteers who provide free transportation for people in need of critical medical treatment not available to them locally. Angel Flight chapters are found in regional areas throughout the United States and are supported primarily by volunteer pilots who fly the missions, often using their own airplanes.

Beavers came to the Cleburne office of UCS in 2009 with 22 years of experience in the electric cooperative industry. He is the former CEO of Southwest Rural Electric Cooperative in Tipton, Okla.

He has been published in national industry trade journals and local and regional news outlets for his perspective on the electric utility industry, the importance of energy conservation and efficiency and the role of electric co-ops. He also writes a monthly column for the Texas Co-op Power magazine.

Members of several areas churches and community groups will be recognized Friday including Cleburne...
Seventh-day Adventist Church, First Christian Church, Shepherd’s Valley Cowboy Church, employees of Johnson County, all King’s Daughters Circles and the Johnson County campus of Hill College.

Holy Week wraps up with SWAU University Singers performance » Cle... http://www.cleburnetimesreview.com/local/x1224373343/Holy-Week-wr...
Doctor in the House? Or Senate?
Oregon medicos flock to state politics as the stakes for health-care reform grow.

The average emergency-room doctor makes about $250,000 a year, but Dr. Sharon Meieran says she now makes “well under” that figure in her job at the ER of Portland Adventist Medical Center.

That’s because she spends time volunteering in her kids’ classrooms, and she’s president-elect of the Oregon College of Emergency Physicians, speaking out on behalf of her peers on a range of health-care issues.

Now Meieran is shooting for an even bigger pay cut by going after a $21,612-a-year job as a member of the Oregon House of Representatives.
Meieran, 47, has advocated for the Multnomah County ban of bisphenol A, written op-eds for *The Oregonian* about prescription drug abuse, and testified in Salem. But it’s what she witnesses every day in the emergency room at Portland Adventist Medical Center in outer Southeast that prompted her to jump into a legislative race.

“We see the results of addiction, mental illness and homelessness that show the system is failing,” Meieran says. “We see what happens when health care, education and public safety break down. But I’m not fixing the problem there.”

Meieran is now part of an unprecedented trend in modern Oregon politics: She and five other doctors are running in their first races for elected office.

“Going back 25 years, I cannot remember a time when there were this many,” says Jim Carlson, president of the Oregon Health Care Association. “And they come from different parties and different regions of the state.”

Three decades ago, Gov. John Kitzhaber parlayed his experience as an emergency-room doctor into expertise on health-care policy. Kitzhaber, who previously served from 1995 to 2003, has made health care a top issue.

“Ted Kulongoski had an agenda that was basically insuring kids,” says state Rep. Mitch Greenlick (D-Portland), House Health Care Committee co-chairman. “It’s very different having Kitzhaber pushing a health-care agenda.”

Dr. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, a family physician, got appointed in December to the Oregon Senate seat held by now-U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici.

Dr. Scott Hansen, a Gresham dentist, and Dr. Scott Roberts, an oral surgeon from North Bend, are GOP Senate candidates. Dr. Thuy Tran, a Democrat and Northeast Portland optometrist, is seeking nomination to the House seat being vacated by Portland mayoral candidate Jefferson Smith.

Dr. Knute Buehler, an orthopedic surgeon from Bend, is running for secretary of state on the Republican ticket and will face the incumbent, Democrat Kate Brown, in the fall. Buehler, a Rhodes scholar and former Oregon State baseball player, has been a strong fundraiser.

But Meieran—the only legislative candidate who has snagged Kitzhaber’s endorsement—also has a compelling résumé. Before medical school, Meieran practiced intellectual property law in San Francisco for seven years, where she helped Silicon Valley entrepreneurs protect their inventions.

“I decided to make the change when I was 30,” she says. “I wanted to do something more meaningful.”

Other doctors-turned-candidates say their experiences with a broken health-care system persuaded them to run.
Hansen, the Gresham dentist, says he’s grown increasingly frustrated with paperwork and regulation in the Oregon Health Plan. He says the plan intends to improve outcomes for patients, but it actually reduces compensation for doctors—and the number of patients served.

“I understand the laws that state, local and federal governments use to require practitioners to spend money that may be unnecessary,” Hansen says. “If you haven’t been practicing, you don’t see that.”

Tran has worked extensively with the Lions club to get eyeglasses for people who cannot afford them. She says running her own clinic for 15 years has taught her the difficulties many Oregonians face in meeting basic needs.

“I think I have valuable experience around the issue of access to medical care,” Tran says.

Prior to Steiner Hayward’s December appointment, the Legislature had two doctors: Sen. Fred Girod (R-Stayton), a dentist, and Sen. Alan Bates (D-Medford), an osteopath. Physicians’ groups have poured $2.3 million into Oregon campaigns since 2010. Bates got $72,000, the most of any legislative candidate.

Carlson, who has met most of the medically trained candidates, says they chose politics without being recruited. “Most of these folks are self-starters,” he says.

Meieran says the motivation is an extension of the problem-solving doctors are taught.

“Doctors are well-educated people,” she says. “They see what’s going wrong with this country—and maybe this is part of their response.”
Adventist diabetes education program earns national recognition

By Sentinel Staff | Posted: Wednesday, April 4, 2012 11:00 am

HANFORD — The American Diabetes Association has recognized the Adventist Health/Community Care Diabetes Self-Management Program for meeting national standards in helping patients manage diabetes.

Programs that achieve four-year recognition status have a staff of knowledgeable health professionals who can provide the latest, high-quality information and education services about diabetes management.

Adventist Health/Community Care has four certified diabetes educators who educate patients and community members through free monthly diabetes support groups, health fairs, group visits and one-on-one office visits at Community Care clinics throughout the Valley.

Board-certified endocrinologist Dr. Prem Sahasranam is the program’s medical director.

Self-management is an essential component of diabetes treatment. Diabetes education offered at Community Care clinics in Selma, Hanford, Reedley, Sanger, Dinuba, Kingsburg, Caruthers, Parlier, Fowler and Coalinga teach:

* Self-care skills of diabetes treatment regimen
* Nutritional management
* Proper physical activity
* Medication and monitoring
* Prevention and detection
* Treatment of acute complications
* Prevention, detection and treatment of chronic complications through risk reduction
* Goal setting and problem solving
* Psychological treatment
* Preconception care and management of diabetes during pregnancy

“We are honored to receive recognition from the American Diabetes Association,” said Derrick Gruen, DPT, vice president of physician and ambulatory services. “With the help and support from our educated staff, our patients can learn diabetes self-management, which improves their quality of life and prevents unnecessary hospital admissions and chronic complications for them in the future.”

For more information about managing and treating diabetes, contact Education Program Manager Mary Jane Torres at 589-2060. For more information about the American Diabetes Association, visit www.diabetes.org.
In Fulton, Maryland, Members Learn to Share Faith

Story by Celeste Ryan Blyden; Photos by Elizabeth Moore
Published 3/14/12

“What scares you about sharing your faith?”

The question posed by Kumar Dixit, administrative pastor at Chesapeake Conference’s New Hope church in Fulton, Md., drew a myriad answers from attendees to his Sabbath afternoon workshop.

Confidence, a better command of Scripture and knowing how to approach people topped the list of reasons cited. One woman posited, “We all have opportunities to share faith every day, but how do we open that door without knocking on doors?”

Many of the young and young at heart gathered, nodded or sent glances of agreement her way and then looked to the presenter for answers.

Pastor Dixit, perched on a stool in the center of their semicircle and using a music stand as his pulpit, smiled confidently and launched into his “Say What? How to Share Your Faith Seminar.”

First, he needlessly pointed out that learning to share faith was not a popular topic in Seventh-day Adventist churches and scored low on the totem poll in surveys conducted about local church priorities. Although Dixit promoted his seminar on the church’s website, in the church bulletin, through social media and even in last week’s Visitor News Bulletin, only 19 people took advantage of the promise of free childcare and a lunch buffet of chili, cornbread, salad and home-baked desserts.

There were more people in the baptismal class held simultaneously by senior pastor David Newman. In addition, the three-hour seminar was held in the tiny upper room above the church’s sprawling—and empty—sanctuary.

“We have 700 members and only four among this group are here,” Dixit admitted. The others were from area Adventist churches, and two were not church members at all but came to learn how to share their faith.
And Dixit, a master presenter, didn’t disappoint. Clad in his typical uniform of dress shirt, dress pants and, on this day, red dress socks (he often sheds his shoes during presentations), he led the group through a 32-page outline. “If you want to share your faith, this is your job description,” he declared. “You must genuinely care, you must be a sort of spiritual social worker and you must be a resource. In other words, you must build relational bridges.”

He punctuated his teaching points by sharing stories of people he met and helped bring to Christ using that approach. There was Zac, an Apple Store employee who fixed his computer, accepted an invitation to attend a God Encounters weekend and now visits periodically; Kareem, who joined after his girlfriend brought him to New Hope because she didn’t think her Adventist church was a safe place to introduce people to her faith tradition; and the Buddhist he commandeered to teach Sabbath School hoping she would study her way to the truth. (She did and he baptized her.) And just last week, there was the suicidal man who texted their pastor-on-call cell phone in desperation. “He came home, and his wife sat him down and handed him a piece of paper saying that after 10 years of marriage, she wanted a divorce,” Dixit recalled. “He was devastated and has texted me multiple times this week, but I was there for him. ‘Dude,’ I said, ‘don’t do anything stupid.’”

So far he hasn’t, and Dixit used the best option he knows to draw him and the others to Christ—sharing his personal testimony of where God found him, how his life changed and what’s happened since. On Sabbath afternoon, he encouraged attendees to do the same, and, through practice sessions, slowly helped allay their fears of witnessing for Christ.

“It was nice to hear the testimonies,” said Lynitta Karley, a member of Potomac Conference’s Remnant church in Silver Spring, Md. “I learned that it’s not our job to convict, and God has a way of helping us relate to others; He brings the right people to us.”

For Dixit, that revelation meant he had succeeded. Nineteen down, many more to go.