Maranatha Mission Trip
Ambato, Ecuador - March 13-25, 2013

Making progress on a building with two school classrooms.

Finished building - March 25. Thank you for your prayers for the project as well as our issues with the building permits!

Photos provided by Dawn Kingman

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"Like” us on Facebook!

April 2013

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Niles Westside’s

Got Talent

On March 9, Westside members, friends, and NAS family members participated in our second annual Talent Night.

The evening started in the church with inspirational talents, including piano, string saltry, whistling, vocal solos and duets, a poem, an object lesson, and a musical skit. The item voted Most Uplifting was Myrna Hunt’s piano medley. Most Creative was an object lesson involving ice cream, toppings, and dirt from a vacuum by Hannah (NAS).

The second part of the evening was held in the school gym. Acts included vocal trios, musical skits, music with sign language, a hand clap routine, a silent comedy skit, piano, guitar, cello, violin, vocal solo, an action video, and more. "The Chosen" video with Josh (NAS) was voted Most Unique, and Best Performance was the music with sign language by Heather (NAS). The Audience Favorite was “Statue in the Park,” a silent comedy skit by Luis Leonor, Doug Taylor, and Jamie Bennett (pictured right, by Don Hales).

A big thank you to all of the participants! All of your hard work and efforts were very much appreciated.

Enjoy being free, God’s way.

Pastor Darrel

True Freedom

Freedom’s cost has been great. Think of the millions who have died in wars for the cherished freedom in their country. Think of the total desire for nothing more or less than freedom when enslaved. Recall the incredible moment when the Israelite slaves’ first born children were untouched when the Angel of the Lord passed over Egypt, and the Egyptians thrust them out with much wealth.

Imagine that taste of freedom, true freedom from slavery for more than 400 years! How long do we have to wait until we taste the true freedom that the Lord offers us? This may really depend on how soon we surrender and trust His timing to begin, and complete, the good work He began. Just as the Israelites experienced total freedom from Egypt only after walking through the sea on dry land, freedom may take a process and need God’s work, a miracle, before we are totally free too. We don’t often think what it costs God to get our freedom, as we are so focused on our freedom. Look at the bloodstained doorpost and get a glimpse of what that real Lamb of God would do, not just for the firstborn, but all who desire His total freedom. True freedom is free, but at a great sacrifice, especially to God. Don’t take it for granted, and use this gift to remain free.

Enjoy being free, God’s way.

Pastor Darrel
Meet Our New Member

Ben Nichols

by Gina Meekma with Ben Nichols

Ben Nichols and his wife Madoka live in Berrien Springs, where Ben is a Master of Divinity student at the Seminary. Madoka is a teacher and works at the Crayon Box daycare on the Andrews University campus. Originally from Florida, Ben met Madoka in Okinawa, Japan. They have been in this area since June 2012.

Madoka and Ben got married in August 2011. They met when Ben went as a missionary English teacher to Okinawa, Japan, to the Adventist junior high school, where Madoka was also working at the time. They taught a class together and felt a connection early on.

The Nichols family heard great things about Niles Westside church—that the members are very active, the church is very youthful, and there are always great things happening here. They visited and found every word of that to be true.

Ben is helping out here at Niles Westside, partly because it’s the best way to really be a part of the church body and fellowship with others, and partly because it’s a part of his M.Div. education. Madoka is still working on improving her English, as this is her first time in the U.S., but she’s enjoying the warm welcome from Niles Westside.

Ben says, “Thank you all for letting us be a part of this community. It’s really a joy for us to be here!”

Welcome, Ben and Madoka!

Experience Pathfinders and Dinner Under the Stars

by April Hughes

We would like to extend an invitation to all fourth graders and other youth in grades 5th - 12th grade to join us for a special “Experience Pathfinders” meeting from 6:30-8:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 24, at the school gym. The invitation is also extended to adults who are interested in volunteering with the club and becoming staff members. At this meeting, you will get to participate in club activities and experience what we do at a regular club meeting. The evening will include worship, drill and march, small group activities, and more. If you are curious about Pathfinders, have questions, or are interested in joining the club as a member or staff, this meeting is for you. Join us and be blessed!

On another note, please mark your calendars for our annual Dinner Under the Stars Fundraiser. Join us for a delicious meal on Sunday, May 5, from 4-6 p.m. There will be an assortment of family-friendly dishes that are sure to please everyone in your party. Our picnic theme is sure to tempt your taste buds with such offerings as a baked potato bar with a variety of fixings, to gluten-free barbeque soy curls. Of course, there will be dessert and other tasty morsels offered as well. There will also be kid-friendly options such as macaroni and cheese and “ants on a log.” Tickets cost $7 per person for ages six and older, $2 per person for ages 3-5, and children under three years old are free. Pathfinders will begin selling tickets in April. On a side note, we want the thank Sam Hutchinson for agreeing to be our guest chef for the event.

Please watch for more announcements in the near future. We will be scheduling an information meeting about the Forever Faithful International Pathfinder Camporee. All current Pathfinders (and their parents) will be required to attend. This meeting will also be for parents with children that are planning on joining Pathfinders this coming fall or in fall of 2014, who are interested in having their child attend Camporee. If you would like to give a monetary donation or sponsor a Pathfinder, please contact Janessa Howell at janessa.howell@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support, and remember to tag Jesus!
iPerceive Comes to Niles Westside

When I got involved with the iPerceive evangelistic series, little did I know what a blessing I would end up receiving myself! Many prayers and a lot of planning led us up to the big day when iPerceive with Pastor Dwight Nelson started at Niles Westside on February 8, 2013. Looking back, I can see how the Holy Spirit was able to work in miraculous ways to bring just the right people to the event. I feel so blessed to have been a part of that. I was in awe when I arrived on the first day and saw how beautifully transformed our school gym was. I was lucky to be involved closely with the Table Hosts for the iPerceive meetings, and I believe that God led the perfect people to volunteer to do that important job. I admit that there were some nights when I would arrive exhausted after a full day of work, wishing that I could just go home and relax, but then Dwight’s message would recharge my batteries. It was so exciting to see the same guests returning night after night. The format with the Table Hosts was a new experience for the iPerceive team, and I was thrilled that it turned out to be a very warm experience for those involved. I heard many compliments on how well-organized the event was, and I can just praise God that everything was such a success. It was amazing to see so many from our church (and other local churches) step up to meet the needs of this event, from outside in the parking lot, to registration, to helping in the kitchen, to the childcare rooms, to being in the meetings assisting guests, and everyone in the background. Even our school had to sacrifice being able to use the gym all week. Some of the teachers helped every night, and then got up early to teach our kids all day long. What commitment!

I think I smiled more at iPerceive than I did the whole previous month! But they were genuine smiles, smiles at returning guests, smiles at volunteers’ willingness to help, and smiles that Dwight’s message cut right to the core of each spiritual matter. Dwight Nelson was able to start our spiritual lives on fire with his messages, challenging us to study for ourselves the truths in the Bible, and I pray that our church can continue to fan the flames that were lit in the hearts of those who attended. More than 400 people attended the series, including those who volunteered their time as helpers, and everyone I have talked to felt blessed by the experience. As a third generation Adventist, I wasn’t the target audience, yet to have the experience of seeing the Holy Spirit at work in such a huge way has strengthened my relationship with God in incredible ways. In my efforts to join with those in my church to reach out to others, I found that God reached even me. I’m glad that every week isn’t an iPerceive week, but I am excited at the direction that the Niles Westside Adventist Church is taking and am looking forward to winning more hearts for God.

O ur time on this earth waiting for the Lord to come is very much like our hope in the soon coming of Spring. Living here on this planet controlled by the evil one, it is hard at times to be able to see the Spring through the snow fall of trials and hardships. We all have our degree of sadness and pain, regret, and guilt. Breaking away from the bondage of fear and memories of pain is one of the most difficult trials a woman can experience. Recovery can be slow and frustrating if attempted without the Lord in control. We have a beautiful example of this struggle shared by one of our own members, Jacquelyn Hope Barney. She has written a book called Shattered, of which we have several copies in the library to check out. Her struggle is deeply touching and recognizable. Here are some excerpts from the book:

The Bible says trials come to make you stronger, but where do you get the strength from to endure the trials? Where does the strength come from for a person struggling with cancer, or a girl being xxxx by her dad or mom’s boyfriend? How about when you lose your job, your car, your house? Where does that strength come from? Where does the strength come from for the crack addict addicted to drugs and the single mom prostituting herself for stability, that young men finding family and comfort in gangs. Where is their strength?

Jacquelyn’s answers are compelling and deeply touching. This is a book we can all relate to in some way. The book is also filled with the most wonderful poems, some of which she has shared with us in church. Here is an excerpt from one of them:

You walk by faith, and get depressed when
The storms of life come headed your way
You tell others to hold on and be encouraged
Yet get blown away by the winds of your adversities
You can say thank you, when someone compliments you
But fail to give God the Glory
You can say you’re saved, sanctified and filled
With the Holy Spirit, but yet find it hard to forgive . . .
You will have to check out the book to read the rest of the poem.

In our video collection, we have some new adult stories. One of them is Journey to Jama. This is a tear-jerker, and a most wonderful true mission story. It is a true testimony to Our Lord’s gracious mercy and guidance for all His children.

The library ladies would like to extend a warm welcome to those new members and visitors who might like to become members. We need volunteers to check books and videos in and out, to keep track of the tables and make sure the kids are taking their choices to their parents to be checked out, and someone to put the returned items away. Working in the library is one of the best ways to get to know the congregation on a whole and to become involved right away. Just ask for Phyllis Shupp. We are putting out a plea for funds, as there are several series that we would like to add to the collection. The Love Comes Softly series is one for adults and children alike, and there are several books for juniors and teens that we would like to add. If you feel that the Lord is laying it upon your heart to give, you can give in the offering plate (mark the envelope “Library”), or hand it to Phyllis personally. Hope to see you all over a book!

Spring is coming in right on time. The ground is still too cold to turn and till, but it is time to start some of your seeds. Peppers and tomatoes take the longest. Most peppers and tomatoes need about 75-80 degrees to germinate, though you can get some heirloom varieties that take special care (the instructions should come with the seeds).

Starting seeds indoors is very easy and not very time consuming. There are many ways to make a germination chamber. You can buy a small plastic one at most garden stores, and they work well if you have a VERY bright window to set them in—bright enough to create condensation on the inside of the plastic lid. If you plan on doing a lot of seeding, either vegetable or flowers, you can make a medium to large germination chamber. You need one or two sets of heavy plastic shelving units (most come with three shelves), three florescent light fixtures, one power strip, one or two rolls of medium weight 6 mil clear plastic, and one misting spray bottle.

Put the shelves together, then take one to two light fixtures each and hang them underneath each shelf. Leave the chain long—you will want to adjust the lights as the plants grow. Take some of the plastic covering and cut it two inches over the length of the shelves (this is to help keep drainage off the floor). Then cut two more pieces of plastic to fit the size growing trays you have. (You will cover the trays with plastic when the seeds are first germinating to keep even moisture for the process. Once your seeds have germinated, you do not put the tray plastic back on.) Take the rest of the plastic and cover the shelving unit. (This does not have to be air tight, but you want to keep the heat and the moisture in and under the plastic.) Sew your seeds following the instructions on the packaging. The soil should be moist but not wet. Place the trays in your germination chamber and mist down well (the first misting is very important). Once misted, place the tray plastic on the top of the trays creating a kind of seal. Make sure your chamber is covered to the floor, and the hard part is done. Now you only need to mist down your seedlings/plants twice a day—once in the morning, and once at night between 8-10 p.m. Depending on the seed and variety, you will do this for 7-15 days, twice a day. Remember once your seedlings pop up out of the soil, take the tray plastic off and do not put it back on. If you have any questions, come to the gardening class or give us a call, and we will be happy to walk you through it.

This month the Gardening Class will be held on Sunday, April 21, at 11 a.m. at the church, in the Junior/Earliteen Sabbath School classroom. For ANYONE who would like to use the church garden to grow their own vegetables this year, we will be having our first meeting right after the Gardening Class on April 21. If you cannot make it to the meeting but would like to use the garden, please call Kerry or me at 574-271-4229. If we are not home, please leave a message with your name and phone number. Remember that there are no garden fees this year.

The church garden is looking for a donation of fencing to keep the beautiful deer out. If you have something we may be able to use, please contact Kerry.

“Christ is not valued at all—unless He is valued above all.” ~ St. Augustine
Church Family News

Welcome, New Members!
Myrna Hunt from Niles Southside Adventist Company, Niles, MI
Thandanani Mangena from Niles Southside Adventist Company, Niles, MI
Joyce Rodie from La Crosse Adventist Church, La Crosse, KS

Farewell to Our Member:
Kelley Wolff to Florida Hospital Adventist Church, Orlando, FL

Waldense Lecture: Sabbath, April 13, at 6 p.m. with Conrad Demsky. This will be a presentation of the history of a Bible-based people in Northwest Italy, Piedmont regions. Hear documentation of many early pre-reformation persons, leaders and religious separatists. The Waldenses were labeled in the 1200’s to become an endangered species—a people that needed to be eliminated from the face of the earth.

- Sense their fear of death.
- See places of their incarceration.
- View their travels through the winter’s cold and frost.
- Hear the pronouncements of their trusted government.
- See money that they paid for freedom.
- Sorrow with the remnant that survived.
- Rejoice over the continued scattering of the “Good News.”

Departmental Budgets: All church leaders, please submit a budget for your department with bottom line numbers to the church secretary, Bob Benner or Steve Sowder by April 15. Even if you are uncertain of your leadership plans and the nominating committee’s process, submit a budget with a brief plan on how you would like to spend the funds. Thank you!

Fellowship Lunch: Sabbath, April 20, in the gym, after second service. Please bring extra food and join us!

Special Baptism Sabbath: April 20. There are some who attended the iPerceive meetings with Pastor Dwight Nelson and have continued their commitment through to baptism. You are invited to embrace these new members and joyful decisions. Plan to attend this special service on Sabbath afternoon at 5 p.m.

Cardmaking Class: Sunday, April 21, at 2:30 p.m.

School Expansion Needs: During the recent church business meeting, the school board presented the space requirements problem that the school is facing for the upcoming school year. In order to meet the growth demands of the school, the school and church boards asked the church for permission to investigate the cost and effort to add two additional classrooms to the school. The business meeting approved the request to contact church members and other donors about fundraising and to explore the feasibility of breaking ground at the beginning of June to complete the project by this next school year. A fundraising dinner will be held on Sunday, April 21, from 5-7 p.m. in the school gym. It will include a business meeting that will make a final decision on expanding the school to keep up with current needs.

iFollow: This interactive Bible Study class, taught by Pastors Darrel le Roux and Walt Williams, meets in the first and second grade classroom at the school at 10 a.m. each Sabbath. Each week we explore a biblical perspective on daily living.

Prophetic GPS continues with Pastor Darrel le Roux, as we embrace prophesies that are predicted to take place soon. Plan to embrace prophecy every Tuesday evening in April. We will be talking about Heaven in May on Wednesday evenings.

Niles Caterpillars Adventurer Club News by Laurel Gaudin

In March, Chiare & Kerry Frazier taught the Gardener Award. A big thank you to both of them! Sunday, April 28, is Adventurer Fun Day at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. Also, mark your calendars because Investiture for Adventurers and Pathfinders is coming up on Friday, May 10, at 6 p.m. Keep watching for details of a Krispy Kreme Fundraiser coming soon!
**NAS Science Fair**
Sunday, April 14
4:30-6:30 p.m. (time change)

Come and view the science projects and bridge-busting competition at this year’s Science Fair! There will also be food for sale.

Ryan Hayes, Chemistry Professor at Andrews University, will be performing a Science Spectacular Show. Contact Staci Fagal at whatzthebuzz@gmail.com for more info about the fair.

**NAS Round-Up**
Thursday, April 18
8:30 a.m. - noon

School Round-Up (for prospective students who will be in grades K - 8th next year) will be on Thursday, April 18, from 8:30 a.m. - noon. There will also be a Parent Meeting that evening at 6 p.m. Please RSVP at www.nilesadventistschool.org or by calling the school at 269-683-5444.

Please note that students should be 5 by September 15 to enter Kindergarten.

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Students reading together (with stuffed animals) for National Reading Month. NAS students read more than 400 hours in March!

*Photo by Michael Jakobsons*

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**Michigan Blood Drive**

Thursday, April 11, from 2-7 p.m.
Call NAS to sign up and help save lives!
Upcoming NAS Events

Parent/Teacher Conferences - Monday, April 1, Noon Dismissal

Gift Card Orders Due - Tuesday, April 9

School Board - Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m.

MI Blood Drive - Thursday, April 11, 2-7 p.m.

NAS Science Fair - Sunday, April 14, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

NAS Round-Up - Thursday, April 18, 8:30 - noon

NAS Parent Info Meeting - Thursday, April 18, 6 p.m.

Grades 7 & 8 Music at NAS - Saturday, April 20

5th Graders at Outdoor Education (Camp Au Sable) - April 21-24

Gift Card Orders Due - Tuesday, April 23

No School - April Break - Monday, April 29

Spring Concert

Tuesday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Mark your CHOPIN LISZT of things to do! The Spring Concert will feature the SHARP, DYNAMIC students of NAS. Come and HANDEL an hour of strings, band, recorders, chimes, bells, and a musical adaptation of the Charles Dickens' classic, "Oliver Twist."

See more NAS photos on our Facebook page.
April Calendar of Events

1. NAS Parent/Teacher Conferences - Noon Dismissal
2. Adventurers (gym) ........................................ 6 p.m.
3. Prophetic GPS; Midweek Manna .................... 7 p.m.
4. Church Board Meeting ................................. 7 p.m.
5. Bible Study ............................................... 2 p.m.
6. Adult Volleyball (gym) ................................. 7 p.m.
7. Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker .................. 8:30 & 11 a.m.
8. Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ............... 8 a.m.
9. Lori Thames Visitation/Funeral ................. 10/11 a.m.
10. Adult Volleyball (gym) ............................... 7 p.m.
11. Bible Study ............................................. 2 p.m.
12. Beyond Books Club .................................. 3 p.m.
13. Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker ............... 8:30 & 11 a.m.
14. Sunshine Band at Riveridge Manor ............. 2:30 p.m.
15. Waldense Lecture by Conrad Demsky .......... 6 p.m.
16. Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ............. 8 a.m.
17. Nominating Committee ............................... 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
18. NAS Science Fair (gym) ............................. 4:30-6:30 p.m.
19. Adventurers (gym) .................................... 6 p.m.
20. Prophetic GPS; Midweek Manna ................. 7 p.m.
21. Pathfinders (gym) .................................... 6:30 p.m.
22. Finance Committee Meeting ....................... 7 p.m.
23. NAS Round-Up ........................................ 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
24. Bible Study ............................................. 2 p.m.
25. Beyond Books Club .................................. 3 p.m.
26. NAS Parent Info Meeting ......................... 6 p.m.
27. Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker ............... 8:30 & 11 a.m.
28. Music by NAS ......................................... 2nd svc
29. Fellowship Lunch (gym) ......................... after 2nd svc
30. Baptism .................................................. 5 p.m.
31. Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ............. 8 a.m.
32. Gardening Class ....................................... 11 a.m.
33. Cardmaking Class ................................... 2:30 p.m.
34. Fundraising Meal & Business Meeting (gym) ... 5-7 p.m.
35. Newsletter Items Due

Adventurers (gym) ........................................ 6 p.m.
Women’s Bible Study .................................. 10:30 a.m.
Prophetic GPS; Midweek Manna .................... 7 p.m.
Pathfinders (gym) .................................... 6:30 p.m.
Church Board Meeting ................................. 7 p.m.
Bible Study ............................................... 2 p.m.
Adult Volleyball (gym) ................................. 7 p.m.
Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker .................. 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ............... 8 a.m.
Adventurer Fun Day (GLAA) ......................... 8 a.m.
Adult Volleyball (gym) ................................ 7 p.m.

No School at NAS - April Break
Prophetic GPS; Midweek Manna .................... 7 p.m.

April Birthdays

Chandel Lawrence 1 Britney Hopkins 15
Reilly Gaudin 2 Chad Bell 16
Luis Leonor, Jr. 2 Frances Burton
Sandra Moore 3 Denise Kidder
Dorothy Quinones 4 Callie Carlsen
Richard Rorabeck 5 Evan Peak
Peter Shamererudeen 6 Patricia Rusher
Robert Benjamin 3 Todd Bell 19
Ryan Edwards 4 Dan Minter
Victor Zubar 5 Lucile Wadsworth
Noah Villwock 6 Nicole Gray 20
Philip Ashton 6 Daphne Kent
Walt Williams 6 Derek Wright
John Einhorn 7 Judy Benjamin 21
Sara Herzberg 8
Amy Shamererudeen 9
Regina Tyson 10
Claus Hill 11
Michael Ringler 12
Carla Snow 13
Zachary Benjamin 14
Christopher Corzine 15
Daniel Dennis 16
Craig McClellan 17
Katie Reitz 18
Carla Snow 19
Zachary Benjamin 21
Christopher Corzine 22
Daniel Dennis 23
Craig McClellan 24
Katie Reitz 25
Carol Saystrom 26
Zachary Benjamin 27
Zelma Dulemam-Vangoey 28
Kathryn Janesheski 29
Sharon Constable 30
Zachary Benjamin 31
Zelma Dulemam-Vangoey 32
Kathryn Janesheski 33
Zachary Benjamin 34
Zelma Dulemam-Vangoey 35
Kathryn Janesheski 36

Services

First Worship Service
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.

Prophetic GPS
Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Sabbath School
Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.

Midweek Manna
Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Second Worship
Service
Saturdays, 11 a.m.