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2012 MLK Celebration at Andrews University

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2012 MLK Celebration at Andrews University

“Prophetic Imagination: Breaking Through to a New Vision” was the theme for this year’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, held Jan. 12–17.

Walter Brueggemann, a world-renowned Old Testament scholar and author, provided two keynote addresses. His presentation, “The Prophetic Imagination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,” validated King’s universal contribution to the important role of prophets as peacemakers and advocates of justice.

On Sabbath, Jan. 14, during a worship service in the Seminary Chapel, seminary student, Richard Means, delivered “I’ve Been to the Mountain-top.” It was the speech King delivered on Apr. 3, 1968, just one day before his death.

On three separate occasions during the week-long celebration, a 2012 Martin Luther King Legacy of Freedom Award was presented. The Legacy of Freedom Award was instituted at Andrews, in 2006, to recognize individuals or organizations who exemplify Martin Luther King’s values of civility and equality. The recipients were Elaine Chaudoir, Jim and Gloria Hippler, and Richard White.

Elaine Chaudoir
Chaudoir has dedicated her life to serving those around her. Her volunteer work began in 1958 as a charter member of the Civic League. At the club’s 50th anniversary, Chaudoir was named “Exemplary Woman and Citizen” of Berrien Springs. The following year, she began volunteering at the Berrien Springs public schools, and enjoyed the time with the teachers and students.

Chaudoir volunteered more than 29,000 hours at Berrien General Hospital where she served as the gift shop chairperson for 20 years. She was president of Southwest District of Auxiliaries and the Michigan Association of Healthcare Advocates. In 1982, Chaudoir was awarded the Lion’s Club Citizen of the Year and, in 1985, the Margaret B. Upton Volunteer Leadership Award.

From 1971 to 1980, Chaudoir served as a trustee for the 1839 Courthouse Museum, and from 1979 to 1999 as a trustee on the Village Council.

She chaired the finance and trustees committees at the Berrien Springs United Methodist Church, has been a member of the choir, volunteered at the church’s store, and was a member of the English bell choir from 1988 to 2005. She said, “My life is given now to church; the friends I have there are dear to me.”

Richard White
White has helped families, churches and communities around him achieve financial stability for the past 16 years. His ministry combines principles of holistic stewardship with Christian leadership.

With a Bachelor of Accounting degree from Baruch College (1988) in New York, he later obtained his CPA license, which he has held for 27 years. White is currently working on both his Master of Divinity and Master of Business Administration degrees at Andrews University.

In 1995, White founded the Advent Financial Institute, Inc., and has since held a variety of seminars on holistic stewardship and financial management at churches and institutions across the country. He is the director of finance for Harbor Habitat for Humanity in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Recently, White held financial management seminars at numerous churches, Benton Harbor Street Ministry and I’m Saving Myself, Inc., a community non-profit organization in Benton Harbor. White also has served his church as stewardship director, elder, Sabbath school teacher and chair of the finance committee.

Jim and Gloria Hippler
Jim and Gloria Hippler met while attending Andrews University, and married in 1976. In 1990, the couple participated in a mission project in Venezuela, the first of 20 short-term mission trips the Hipplers have been involved in throughout Eastern Europe, and Central and South America.

In 1998, Jim Hippler returned to Andrews University to earn a degree in architecture while continuing to run his company, Exquisite Homes, Inc. In 2003, he graduated with a Master of Architecture.

In 2003, Jim Hippler and Gloria Hippler widened their mission focus to include Nepal, India and the Philippines, working on churches and schools. Jim Hippler designed an airplane hanger with living quarters on each side for a mission station in Palauan, Philippines.

Gloria Hippler has spent seven years working with the HOSTS mentoring program in the Benton Harbor, Mich., school district. She was the first female president of the Berrien Springs—Eau Claire Rotary Club. Both Hipplers have served on various community and school boards. Jim Hippler has been involved with Habitat for Humanity in Benton Harbor as well as the construction of several churches throughout Berrien County.