A Mother’s Kiss

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Andrews University is known around the world as the flagship Seventh-day Adventist university; and its reputation goes beyond the Adventist world. Many programs have received national attention for their innovation, high standards and relevance. But what excites me more about Andrews is its intentional commitment to the spiritual lives of its students. This issue will give you a perspective on both.

Gary Burns, Editor
Are You a Faith Builder?

While in college, my wife Barbara and I were able to visit H.M.S. Richards Sr. in his study. In a converted garage crammed with books, our host shared treasured thoughts with the small group of future ministers. As Harold spoke, his theme soon focused on his Friend and Savior, Jesus. His eyes filled with tears and he choked out, “Oh, how I love Him.”

Our faith was affirmed! We were in the presence of a sinner abiding in Christ. Our souls were filled with courage and conviction as we witnessed a life that pointed to the Savior.

We have been blessed with other faith-edifying times. Holding our baby daughters for the first time brought to us a greater understanding of our heavenly Father’s love. And there was my father’s patient and faithful care for my invalid mother in the last years of her life. These and other experiences affirmed and built faith. I trust you also have a valued list of faith-building experiences.

Life also includes faith-challenging experiences. We are surrounded with ungodly influences, philosophies and God-minimizing and God-substituting theories of origins, truth, values, etc. Anything that attempts to put God in the box of our limited, finite understanding runs the chance—and even probability—of tearing down and destroying faith in God.

But there is an additional impairment to faith—that of the dissident voice. While this voice is all around us in society, when it is present in the church it can be especially damaging to faith. I’m not referring to those who call for accountability or express concerns about legitimate problems. Accountability is central to good function. Those who attempt to avoid it can also damage faith. Scripture is clear. We are accountable to God and to each other.

The critical, dissident voice often tears people down by all available methods to widely communicate their viewpoint. A few years ago, these methods were limited to phone, letters and print. Today, e-mails, social media and Web sites are used by dissidents on opposite extremes. But when an appropriate cause is addressed in a dissident way, the faith of those caught in the backlash is often damaged. The simple act of forwarding an e-mail can do much harm and is often done with little thought or investigation as to its tone or legitimacy.

Jesus laid out a very simple approach for dealing with conflict in Matthew 18. Conflict is to first be addressed with simple one-to-one conversations in the spirit of love and respect. This biblical approach provides two options: the person in question can clarify where a misunderstanding exists by providing the other half of the story, or that person has the opportunity to take ownership of the problem. This approach often works. If and when it doesn’t, a wider, yet defined, circle of spiritual individuals can be engaged.

Matthew 18 is all about respecting others, seeking productive spiritual outcomes and salvaging a fellow believer. Instead of damaging the faith of the offender and others in the church, God’s methods are intent on building and affirming faith.

God calls us to build each other up in faith. Being right is so much more than standing on and for truth, we must be right in the way we walk in God’s love.

1. H.M.S. Richards Sr. was founder of The Voice of Prophecy radio ministry. See www.vop.com.
As someone who is still in the early stages of ministry, I have asked myself many questions about the Church and my particular place in it. What does God want for our Church? What kind of pastor has God called me to be? Is there even room for me in this Church? These were the types of questions that were on my mind when I first found out about the One project.

Needless to say, I was excited when I learned there was going to be a gathering where only Jesus would be lifted up and that everyone would have the opportunity to share what Jesus meant to them. The reason for my excitement was not motivated by a feeling of self-righteousness or eagerness to vent about my frustrations with the Church I love so much. The truth was that something was missing in my life, and I sensed that heading to Atlanta would be an answer to my prayers.

I arrived at the hotel in Atlanta—excited, curious and open. If God was to speak to me, I needed to be.

Day one arrived. We had breakfast, sat at our (round) tables and began with a great praise service. There are some praise services that tell you something great is about to happen, and that was one of them. This was going to be awesome!

The basic structure of the gathering was presentations on various topics (i.e., “Jesus in Our Theology,” “Jesus in Our History,” etc.) followed by a discussion. Every section depended on and was immersed in Jesus. This was not about tucking Jesus into a point or two of the message. Neither was this talking about how others do or do not truly follow Jesus. This was simply all about Jesus.

The focus on Jesus and sharing of our own experiences was incredible. People made some great points, asked meaningful questions, and were honest with their responses. It was true celebration of Jesus.

At the end of the day, there was much to be reflected on. I had to be honest with myself. I realized that I did not know what a life that celebrates Jesus completely, in every aspect of life—history, mission, church, etc.—looks like. The topics and conversations were deep and made complete sense, but had Jesus been central to my faith, ministry and life?

We have to ask ourselves whether or not we are truly and fully celebrating Jesus in our lives. Reflecting that evening made me realize that I had assumed much in my life. I assumed that growing up in an Adventist home and attending Adventist schools was true celebration of Jesus. I assumed Jesus was central in my life because I led out in
various ministries and participated in mission projects. I even assumed that my set of beliefs were automatically a celebration of Christ. All of those things are great, but they are not Jesus.

Realizing my assumptions was refreshing. After all, I re-discovered Jesus. That is an incredible feeling. I felt as though I was at square one in my relationship with Jesus, but it did not feel as though our relationship took a step back.

The second and final day came. I must point out that if the gathering ended after the first day, the trip would have been worth it. Up to that point it had been an incredible experience, but the second day was transforming.

The final message took place. It focused on the story of when Jesus washed the disciples’ feet with His hands and our call to serve others. We were asked to close our eyes and put our hands on the table, palms up. As we reflected on times when our hands could be the hands of Jesus, the table leader/facilitator anointed our hands with oil as they read a blessing from a sheet on the table. That was a sacred moment for me. I brought the sheet home as a reminder of what Jesus did with the disciples and the implications it has for my life.

We eventually came to the end of the gathering, and we were all able to take part in yet another amazing event. Someone from my table, Rene, came to Atlanta sensing God calling him to pastoral ministry, but was not sure. Gilbert Cangy brought Rene up to the front and announced that Rene had decided to accept God’s calling to be a pastor! Everyone was thrilled. Gilbert said it would be appropriate to lay hands on Rene. All the pastors and elders (about three-fourths of those attending) placed their hands on him as Gilbert led the prayer. It was a powerful prayer that really seemed to be for everyone, because we were all being sent out.

It was with that prayer that the gathering in Atlanta ended. No one got on the microphone afterward to say good-bye or remind us to register for the gathering in Seattle. It ended by a prayer that sent out a minister of the Gospel. There was no better way to conclude. The experience in Atlanta reminded me of what matters most, Jesus. It may seem obvious, but we tend to forget. Jesus has become a sobering focus for my faith, ministry and life. In my celebration of Jesus, I found a deepened appreciation for the meaning Jesus gives the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and I am humbled to be a minister of the Gospel. There is no greater life than one that makes Jesus. All.

Pablo Ariza and his wife, Erica, will return to the Southeastern California Conference when Pablo finishes his M.Div. this December. Pablo is currently serving as a student chaplain for outreach in the Andrews University Office of Campus Ministries.

Visit the 1 project at: www.the1project.org
Any of us who witnesses an animal mother with her young notices she spends lots of time licking her young, which creates a bond and teaches her the taste, smell, feel, sound and sight of her new baby. In this way, a mother claims her newborn as her own. A human mother also practices “claiming behaviors”—caressing her child, exploring the softness of her baby’s skin, taking in who that baby is through her own five senses.

The more time a new mother has in an environment which allows her the opportunity to explore this new little miracle, the more they both benefit. As she naturally leans down close to her baby’s head, she comes to know her baby’s scent; and through the actual act of kissing, she comes to know the taste of him or her. This is an important part of the attachment process, as she comes to know this child as her own. Unfortunately, it is not unusual to find that some women, deprived of the time and early privacy required to create this immediate bonding right after birth, often say they feel a distance between them and their baby, suggests Judy Snellson in her article, “Why Mothers Kiss Their Babies” (see www.unhinderedliving.com)

Claiming behaviors such as kissing provide not only emotional, but biological attachment as well. Breastfeeding is another way mothers bond with their babies. It is well recognized that after birth a new mother’s milk provides her infant with important antibodies. But it goes further than that.

In her book, How the Immune System Works, Lauren Sompayrac shares that “When a mother kisses her baby, she ‘samples’ those pathogens that are on the baby’s face. Those are ones that the baby is about to ingest. These samples are taken up by the mother’s secondary lymphoid organs like the tonsils, and memory B cells specific for those pathogens are re-stimulated. These B cells then migrate to the mother’s breasts where they produce just those antibodies that the baby needs.”

It is simple, yet profound. A mother’s kisses are a gift from God every day. They are pleasurable, nurturing and promote attachment, but there is that added ongoing value that promotes a baby’s health from day to day. What a wise and wonderful God!

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

NOTE TO MOM: Keep in mind that while kissing your baby is good for both of you, cleaning off your baby’s pacifier with human saliva, or licking off a spoon and then putting it in your baby’s mouth, is not good for either of you!
Really Living

BY WINSTON J. CRAIG

Living on a beautiful, lush tropical island with its white, sandy beaches, blue sky, cool breezes and delicious fruit sounds good, but it is not available for everyone. The keys for happiness actually lie within the grasp of everyone. And believe it or not, it is not wealth, beauty, youth or fame that makes us happy. People with an inner joy live a healthier and longer life.

Every day the average American is bombarded by about 250 marketing messages that encourage us to buy things we don’t need and eat things that are not healthy. Hours spent in front of electronic screens instead of interacting with people face to face are unlikely to provide one with a lasting sense of well-being.

Dan Buettner, in his latest book, *Thrive*, describes the people who are happy and thriving in this world, how they focus their time and energy on developing a circle of healthy friends, work at meaningful and satisfying jobs where they engage their natural talents, participate in volunteer work, engage in enriching hobbies, stay in shape, belong to a faith-based community, and create an environment that enables them to live out their values. These thriving people are not rich but possess enough money to cover their basic needs. Results show that one’s income is a poor predictor of happiness.

What are the benefits for people who feel life has purpose and meaning? Those who report higher levels of enjoyment manifest lower rates of health problems, fewer sick days, less sadness, more love and appreciation. Research shows that if you are happy, you have more energy and better coping skills, you are more creative and have a greater work output, and live a healthier and longer life.

Having facilities for outdoor physical activities seems to be important. Boulder, Colorado, and San Luis Obispo, California, are reported to be among the happiest cities in the U.S. They both have preserved open space for parks, public gardens and recreational activities such as bikeways. In Copenhagen, Denmark, one of the happiest cities in the world, one-third of workers bike to work every day. In addition, outdoor family vacations are vital to rejuvenate you, allowing time to pursue a variety of interests and do things you feel passionate about.

Being around happy people impacts our well-being. We tend to mimic what we see in those we hang out with. According to one study, each additional happy friend we have boosts our cheerful mood by 10 percent. Having friends that have a good sense of humor helps soothe stress and hardship. People are more likely to be happy when they are surrounded by people they can trust, who make them feel secure, and who listen to their opinions. Dan recommends setting up a display corner in one’s house where you can routinely be reminded of your achievements, and the people and events that make life worth living. Solomon says “there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good ... and find satisfaction in all their work” (Ecclesiastes 3:12, 13).

Winston Craig, Ph.D., RD, is a professor of nutrition at Andrews University.

Visit www.LakeUnionHerald.org
I’ve watched two of Andrews University’s finest, worked beside them, read their scripts, admired their photos and been inspired by their editing—for five years now.

As “storyteller” for Maranatha Volunteers International, I often travel with Tom and Christina Lloyd, graduates of Andrews University’s media program who work for Maranatha. Tom is professional photographer, videographer, lighting expert, sound expert and willing grip. Christina is a professional video producer extraordinaire, videographer, editor, scriptwriter, willing traveler and storyteller.

Tom and Christina graduated from Andrews University in 2004; and like hundreds of other Andrews graduates through the years, immediately departed for the mission field. Their passports held visas for India, their hearts dreamed adventure. Most people dream what they’d like to be when they “grow up” and may actually slip into that job for a few months before they die. The Lloyds graduated into their dreams.

Tom’s version: “My first day on campus I remember sitting in my professor’s office describing my dream to some day be a photographer who traveled the world capturing photographs that told the stories of people in great need. Today, as I walk through remote villages for Maranatha, I still can’t believe I’m actually living that dream.”

Christina’s version sounds similar. “My dream has always included producing quality television that made a meaningful impact on the world. Now, filming communities transformed through the construction of a church or school, and volunteers’ lives enriched by service, is an unbelievable experience.”

When we “drop out of the sky” into a hillside African village, Christina makes friends, gets permission, sets up a shoot that will tell a story and inspire viewers to new levels of caring—all without demeaning anyone in the village.

Tom checks the light and chooses possible interview and story locations. Then we immerse ourselves in producing four to six minutes of video we hope will be irresistible. Tom keeps track of the electronics and corrects problems he hears as we are filming. It’s excellent, Andrews University-trained television production done by a modern missionary couple.

Christina and Tom learned to see every problem as an invitation to do an even better job with God. Electronics fail. Goats wander into the shot at the worst possible instant. Moms feed their children in the middle of a perfect interview—making the shot unusable for our distributors. The sun plays hide-and-seek among flitting clouds, changing the light and making a carefully-planned, once-in-a-lifetime video useless!

Tripods disappear in strange airport baggage caves, video looks like a starry night instead of a sunny morning, roads do not reach the destination, and stones make trails impassible. Get the idea? This is hard and frustrating work that calls for “every breath being a prayer!”

But here they are cleaning the dust off lenses, re-setting exposures and starting again when the host speaks the wrong words or looks in the wrong direction.

Then, after multi-hour editing and recording sessions, the show finally airs, and an Andrews professor calls to commend them on its excellence. Scores send e-mails to Maranatha saying how they look forward to the program every Friday evening, and how they, too, want to become missionaries.

Andrews University? It’s still an open door to mission.
Does God Need Our Prayers?

BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND

As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.—Exodus 17:9, 11

When Israel faced a serious military threat, Joshua and the army went out to fight, but Moses went up on a hillside to pray. When his praying hands were up, Israel was winning. But when they were down, the enemy was winning.

Why, we may ask, would God allow His people to suffer defeat when there was no prayer? The answer is that God was teaching His people that He chooses to move in response to prayer and that He will not move without it.

Though He is almighty, all-wise and fully able to work without us, God chooses to work through our prayers. He calls us into a working partnership. We co-labor with Him to accomplish His purposes. Things happen when we pray that won’t happen if we don’t pray.

When God first taught me this important principle of prayer, it had a simple but pointed application for me. It was as if God said, “Alvin, when your children go to school each morning, they are heading into battle. If you as a parent keep your hands uplifted, they will be winning. But, if your praying hands come down, they will be losing.” I have never forgotten that lesson.

Since that time I have come to see that as church leaders and faithful Christians “lift up holy hands in prayer” (1 Timothy 2:8), the church grows strong and is able to break down the gates of hell. When believers in neighborhoods and workplaces lift up praying hands over those around them, the powers of darkness are pushed back.

What we need most for solving the problems in our society is not more money, more education, more ideas, books, or strategies. Our prime need is hands lifted up in prayer. “We can accomplish far more by our prayers than by our work. Prayer ... can do anything God can do! When we pray, God works” (The Kneeling Christian). Where are your hands right now?

Reflect
Where in God’s kingdom are people winning against the powers of darkness because of your prayers? Are there places where they appear to be losing because there is little prayer?

What kinds of things do you think God might want to do on your street or at your workplace in response to your prayers?

Pray
Praise God for the wisdom of His plan to govern the world through the prayers of His people.

Ask God to help you understand why your prayers are so important to Him.

Commit yourself to pray faithfully for family members, neighbors or coworkers so that God may work in response to your prayers.

Act
Stand outside your home or apartment. Look around. What is the evil one attempting to do in the lives of those who live near you? Lift your hands in prayer over this neighborhood (or at least visualize yourself doing it). Imagine God, in response to your prayers, moving to frustrate what the devil is trying to do.

Alvin J. VanderGriend is co-founder of the Denominational Prayer Leaders Network and currently serves as evangelism associate for Harvest Prayer Ministries in Terre Haute, Indiana. This article is an excerpt from his book, Love to Pray. Reprinted with permission.

1. For the full story, read Exodus 17:8–16.
Meeting Jesus

BY SAMANTHA SNIVELY

The annual Andrews University Easter Passion Play 2011 rotations drew to a close. Hospitality tent volunteers watched lives change all morning as they encountered Jesus through the story. Late that afternoon, six-year-old Claire Jordan visited the Easter Passion Play with her family. She smiled at the baby goats jumping around in the marketplace and stared in awe at the Roman soldiers with their large spears. But most of all, she wanted to meet Jesus. Her request was about to remind the entire 700-member volunteer cast why they signed up.

Claire watched the reenactment of Jesus’ death on the cross and His resurrection. When she arrived in the hospitality tent, she asked volunteer Naomi Best if she could meet Jesus. Claire wanted to ask Him in person the prayer she’d been praying every night—if He could take away her (inoperable) brain tumor.

But Jesus was nowhere to be found. In fact, each of the eight actors portraying Jesus was in another rotation. While volunteers looked for a Jesus, Claire met an angel and a Roman soldier. Hearing of her request, Naomi and the resurrection scene cast decided to stage a special performance for her. Justin McAuliffe, one of two students portraying Gabriel in the scene, volunteered to fill in for Jesus. At first, Claire sat on Naomi’s lap, but then she asked to get closer to Jesus.

From onstage, where she held an angel’s hand, Claire watched the disciples put Jesus in the tomb. She saw the struggle between the good and bad angels, ending in Gabriel rolling away the stone to reveal the risen Jesus who walked out and hoisted Claire onto His shoulders. The entire resurrection cast then assembled for a photo with Claire, who gleefully sat still on Jesus’ shoulders.

As the cast dispersed after the photo, Claire pulled Jesus aside—she wanted to ask Him her question now. Claire and Justin talked one on one. At one point, Justin told Claire that when Jesus came again He would take her but leave her illness behind. “She was really excited about that,” says Justin, “and I got to hear her laugh for the first time.” He was amazed by her faith and resilience. “She didn’t expect instant gratification,” Justin says, but she knew in her heart that Jesus would heal her some day.

Reflecting on the experience later, Justin realized that although his role was unique—not many people have the chance to play Jesus—“it’s an experience that we should have, as Christians, every day. When you take on the title of ‘Christian,’ you take on the ‘Christ’ part, too.”

Claire illustrated childlike faith to Naomi who remarked, “To see a little girl who was in that stage of illness and was so vibrant, and had so much faith, … meeting her made me believe in God ten times more than I did before. I see why our faith is to be childlike.”

Every Easter Passion Play has its own stories and its own miracles, but to the volunteers who interacted with Claire this one stands out. “Each year impacts your life in some way,” says Naomi, “but this year was truly life-changing.”

Samantha Snively is a student news writer in the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.
Todos tenemos una parte

POR CARMELO MERCADO

Esforzase personalmente para traer almas a Jesús y al conocimiento de la verdad. Esta labor será para vosotros un estímulo y un tónico; es despertará y fortalecerá... Mediante el esfuerzo hecho para bendecir a otros, vuestras propias almas serán bendecidas. —Testimonios para la iglesia, tomo 5, p. 364.

En el mes de agosto tuve el privilegio de asistir al campesino hispano de la Asociación de Wisconsin. Gracias al liderazgo del coordinador hispano, Evelio Miranda, y de los pastores de esa asociación hubo una excelente programación y muy buen apoyo de los hermanos que asistieron. El orador invitado para este evento fue el pastor Alejandro Bullón. Su mensaje en la mañana fue una admonición sobre la importancia de que cada creyente fuese un fiel testigo para Jesús. Su mensaje fue claro — el que no gana a una persona para Cristo no está bien en su vida espiritual, pero el que se esfuerza por ganar almas no solamente beneficia a las personas con quienes trabaja sino que también se beneficia espiritualmente a sí mismo. Además, el pastor Bullón hizo un llamado a las personas no bautizadas para que pasaran y entregaran sus vidas a Jesús; y varias personas respondieron. Luego hizo otro llamado a las personas adventistas que conocían a esas personas para que pasaran al frente y les dieran su apoyo en su decisión. Como resultado un buen número de hermanos se acercaron a estas personas.

Me alegró mucho ver a estas personas ir al frente, tanto los bautizados como los no bautizados. Dios espera que cada uno de los que profesan ser seguidores de Jesús hagan su parte en ganar almas para Cristo. Pero la realidad es que hay algunas iglesias que no crecen como Dios desea porque se dejan distraer de la misión por las controversias y desacuerdos que surgen entre hermanos. Satanás es muy sutil y sabe que si usa su influencia para sembrar desconfianza entre hermanos y hasta entre los líderes de la obra entonces la marcha de la iglesia se puede detener.

Al repasar la historia de la iglesia me viene a la mente la historia de dos pastores adventistas que habían hecho planes de dar simultáneamente campañas de evangelismo en Nueva York a pocas cuadras el uno del otro. Elena White recibió cartas de ambos pastores expresando su preocupación por la situación. Ella decidió viajar a la ciudad para tratar de ayudar a solucionar el problema. Habló con los dos pastores y les hizo saber que había suficiente trabajo para que ambos pudieran tener éxito en sus campañas. Luego ella predicó en uno de los salones y dijo lo siguiente: “Cuando el pueblo escogido de Dios sea de un mismo sentir, desaparecerán las barreras del egoísmo como por magia, y muchas, muchas almas se convertirán como resultado de la unidad que existe entre los creyentes” (Manuscript Releases, Vol 6, p. 331).

Al final de ambas campañas muchas almas fueron bautizadas y hasta se estableció una nueva iglesia. Mi oración es que el Señor nos ayude a lograr la unidad para así poder ganar a muchas almas para Cristo y a la vez fortalecer nuestra vida espiritual.

Carlos Mercado es el vice presidente general de la Unión del Lago.
I grew up in Rwanda. My parents, Seventh-day Adventists, raised me and my six sisters and three brothers with love for God. Life was perfect and happy. I couldn’t wait for Sabbath; I sang in the choir. Our church family was close and always ready to help each other.

In 1994, through the kindness of my cousin, I took the opportunity to leave my country and visit the United States. I praise God that this opportunity came when it did.

Just one month later, in about 100 days, it’s estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed by the two tribes—Tutsi and Hutu—killing mercilessly. I lost all connections with my family.

After six months, my oldest sister called and told me what happened. She had escaped to Bulundi, a neighboring country. She said my mother, two sisters, a brother, my nephew and my niece were all killed. My other two sisters, my brother and my father were still in Rwanda, hiding at that time. My sister who was killed in Rwanda had children—a boy and a girl. The girl, my niece, was killed; and my nephew, five years old at the time, survived under dead bodies for three weeks. He is now 20 years old and still in shock.

Eventually, my remaining family members were reunited at our home place—but everything was gone. They stayed and survived, but the country was still unstable. Dead bodies were everywhere; the water was covered with blood. A year later, my oldest sister reported that my father and my brother were imprisoned and tortured. Prison life was very hard.

I couldn’t believe this was happening to my family—not only my family but the country I love.

My father is still in jail; it’s been 15 years. My brother was in jail for 11 years, and then released. While in jail, he used the opportunity to preach God’s Word and encourage the inmates. Because of his faith and his good conduct, the Lord opened the door for him to be free. Right now he continues to preach the Word of God, and the Lord is using him—and I praise God for that.

Where do I get my strength after all these things happened in my country and to my family? How have I continued my life day by day? It’s because of God’s grace.

I came to the United States without speaking any word of English. My cousin, who brought me here, lives in Indiana. I stayed with her and helped her with her two children while she was in school taking nursing.

In 1996, I learned that another cousin, Petoni, and her family came here as refugees and were living in Chicago. Petoni invited me to stay with them. At that time I was holding a tourist visa. She encouraged me to apply for asylum, which was granted. Petoni helped me enroll at Wheaton College to learn English.

During all my time in the U.S., I called upon God for guidance. I prayed for God to send me Christian Adventist people, and specifically some people who would treat me as their daughter. I started attending Hinsdale Church, and Carl and Linda Bandy were the first couple who showed kindness to me.
me. Immediately, they treated me like a family member and made me feel at home.

After I finished school, in 2003, God opened an opportunity for me to work at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. God kept blessing me. I met more Adventist Christian families. I praise and thank God for the many blessings, the love and friendship of my church family.

I met Josie Plass at work, joined the prayer group in her department, and that strengthened my faith in God. Josie (now relocated to Florida) is a wonderful sister—kind, warm-hearted and a good mentor to me.

In April 2010, Josie invited me to attend the Mark Finley Amazing Discovery meetings. I was so grateful to see Mark in person, as I used to watch him on TV. His [sermons] touched my heart. My faith grew stronger, and I decided to be rebaptized and recommit my life to God. I’m so grateful to pastors Lidija Djordjevic, Ron Schultz, and the whole congregation who prayed for me and made me feel at home. Truly this church is home to me.

We serve a mighty God, a God who loves us. He humbled Himself and carried the cross; His love is so amazing. In spite of what happened to my family, and because of the love of God, I am healed. His love heals; His love forgives.

I can’t wait until Jesus comes where I can see Him in my own eyes, where there’s no more pain, no more tears. “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9 NIV).

Jeannette Nyiramana is a member of the Hinsdale Church in Illinois. This story was originally published in the July/August issue of Branches, the official newsletter of the Hinsdale Church. Adapted and reprinted with permission.

The Meaning of Camp

I found myself walking through the boys village at Camp Wakonda during Tween Camp this past summer. It was a Wednesday evening after our nightly program. I stopped by to check in with one of the counselors, but I saw he was in the middle of sharing a worship thought with his cabin. They invited me to stay, and so I joined them in their time together.

While in that cabin, I was again reminded of the beauty of summer camp ministry. The counselor shared some passages from the Bible as well as a way that God had provided victory over temptations. He encouraged his campers that they, too, could find this victory in Jesus as well. The message was simple, and one that many of us have heard before, but the atmosphere in the cabin was incredible. It was as though time was going in slow motion. The campers were hanging on every word. I was reminded of my own time as a counselor and just how life changing these experiences can be. I was reminded again that summer camp is truly evangelism. We ride horses, shoot arrows, blob one another; but most importantly, we experience Jesus together.

As a first-time camp director, it was my prayer that God would lead me to the right staff. I didn’t pray that I would find the best water-ski instructor or the greatest leather craft teacher, but that I would be led to hire staff who loved Jesus and were willing to share Him with their campers. God blessed abundantly! As a staff, we drew names of campers who we prayed for during the weeks they were here. They understood they were here to minister, and they rose to that occasion realizing that God had a work to do through them.

Through the five weeks of camp, 75 young people made decisions for baptism, and many others made decisions to accept Jesus for the first time. The Holy Spirit often left us speechless as a camp staff. We were reminded again and again that the work being done at camp is much “bigger” than we are. God has a mighty plan for this generation of young people, and I thoroughly believe their experiences at camp will only help them on that journey.

Greg Taylor is the youth director of the Wisconsin Conference.
Campus Ministries at Andrews University planned a series of spiritual programs and services for our students this year known as “The Way.” They include chapels based on the book of Acts. Meanwhile, Dwight K. Nelson, senior pastor at Pioneer Memorial Church, will preach a yearlong sermon series based on the Gospel of John. The other gospels will be the subject of exploration in other campus worships and services. This focused approach to study and worship is intended to lead the students onto “The Way.” What does that mean?

We know from Scripture that Jesus’ early followers were known as disciples, meaning students or learners. His inner circle of disciples consisted of 12 men, but we also read of a much larger group of 70—most likely including both men and women—who also considered themselves to be disciples of Jesus. Some were secret followers of Jesus, such as Nicodemus (see John 3), but most followed Him openly. Jesus was their teacher, leader and master.

After the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the number of His followers grew rapidly. Most were members of the synagogue; but some, like Cornelius, were not. When asked to explain themselves, they at first used the term “The Way” to describe who they were (see Acts 9:2; 18:25; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22). “We are members of the synagogue,” they would say, “but we belong to those called, ‘The Way.’ We follow Jesus.” That became the very first name the earliest Christians used to explain to others who they were.

In time, the gospel was shared with Gentiles who, along with Jews, also became followers of Jesus. That happened in the city of Antioch, in Syria; and suddenly, it was no longer possible for them to identify themselves as members of the synagogue who followed The Way. So as more and more people joined from all walks of life, a name was given to them: “Christians,” meaning followers of Christ. Some were Jews, but also Romans, Greeks and others joined up. They were called Christians (see Acts 11).

The first name for the early Christians is particularly meaningful for it described those among God’s people who made a decision to follow Jesus in a very specific way. By using the name, The Way, they indicated three things about themselves:

First, The Way indicated a certain way of life for these early believers. No longer would they live for themselves, but for each other and for God. So they would not wander off each in his own way (see Isaiah 53:6); but as Enoch had done millennia earlier, they would walk with God (see Genesis 5). The Way therefore is a way of life.

Second, by choosing the name The Way, the early Christians also implied a way of understanding. No longer would they walk in darkness, but in the light of the knowledge of God. They would study His word, and it would become a light on their path (see Psalm 119:105).

Third, they indicated that by following Jesus they had become people with a purpose in life. They would not wander aimlessly about without hope, but would find direction in life, seek a future, find their destiny. They became pilgrims fixing their sight on a city built by God (see Hebrews 11:16).

It is the fervent hope of the faculty and staff at Andrews that all our students will find The Way and walk on it—a way of life, a way of understanding and a way of clear direction, a destination toward God and His future for us.

This year’s theme for our campus is a good one, and the name for it, The Way, takes us back to those early followers of Jesus who said about themselves: “Oh, we are The Way.” And I suspect that most likely they would have added, “Won’t you join us?”

Niels-Erik Andreasen is the president of Andrews University.
Jesus Is ... The Way

**A WAY OF LIFE ON THE CAMPUS OF ANDREWS UNIVERSITY**

I just love what Japhet De Oliveira has put together for this campus. Every community of worship on this campus, dorm worships, co-ed worships, every venue will be spending time in the first five books of the New Testament—one of the four Gospels or the book of Acts—all through the school year. At Pioneer Memorial Church, we begin a new series in the book of John titled, “The Last Word: The Fourth Gospel for a Final Generation,” and on Wednesday nights at our House of Prayer we are going through the book of Matthew with three young preacher/teachers. I think it will be a powerful focus for Andrews University. —Dwight K. Nelson, senior pastor, Pioneer Memorial Church

Studying “The Way” makes me want Jesus to be all in my life. The craving for Jesus is like being held under water; all you need is a breath. Nothing else matters; all you can think about, strive for and need is air. And when you breathe, it fills you—and that is The Way. —Lindsey Pratt, senior

I know that lots of the topics presented on campus are important, but as a student it feels like artificial theological competition for my attention. Maybe “The Way” could recenter Jesus as our focus, so that the rest—while important—can naturally fall into place. But most importantly, so that students can pronounce, without delay, “Jesus. All.” —Enoch Lopez, graduate student

“The Way,” for me, looks a lot like what Jesus expounded on in John, chapter 10. It means listening and understanding the voice of Jesus in my life—in the “fold” where I currently am—be it in Andrews University, the SDA Church or “the world.” It means being called by Jesus from that “fold” to follow Jesus, the One shepherd, out onto the path that He leads. In a practical sense, “The Way” is my life of worship devoted to the person of Jesus and His word rather than the idea of Jesus and the words of others. —Kasper Haughton Jr., graduate student

The One project (see August 2011, p. 12–19) gave me a sobering focus for my faith, ministry and everyday life. When on a campus filled with students who are trying to figure out their identity and what their professional calling is, it only seems appropriate to allow Jesus, “The Way,” to reign as the primary focus of the year. In our celebration of Jesus, we will discover a reassuring acceptance and hopeful future. —Pablo Ariza, graduate student

“The Way” means to me that the whole of our focus is exactly where it needs to be, on searching out, knowing and lifting up Christ and Him crucified—desiring that nothing else would come in between us at Andrews and our desire to know Jesus as a personal Savior and Friend. —Tyler Cantrel, graduate student

“The Way” has provided me with a practical way to focus on the center of my faith with others. As we journey together, we learn from each other—as we learn from the One who has gone before us. The One project for me was a place where I was able to get reoriented on the central idea behind being a Christian. It wasn’t my starting place and it wasn’t my stopping place, but definitely it has empowered me to remember where my beliefs should be grounded. Now, here at Andrews, we get to continue this journey together on campus. —Ryan Whitehead, graduate student

“Focusing on Jesus has inspired me to live strong for Him.” —Jon Cobb, senior

“The Way” means living every day in deeper and deeper understanding of what it means to follow Jesus in your everyday actions. —Camden Bowman, senior

Any journey that has Jesus first and last is the best journey one can take. I am ecstatic to be part of AU campus that not only gives every student the word of God but also wants them to know the Word personally. In the words of my dear friend Dr. Tim Gillespie, it’s not “Jesus. And...,” it’s “Jesus. All.” —Japhet De Oliveira, director, Center for Youth Evangelism
Jesus at the Center

**BY TIM GILLESPIE**

Jesus. All.

It’s that simple. But it’s not just simple. It is Perfect. That is, the Savior is perfect; the saying is just okay.

It’s elegant in its simplicity. It’s like the children’s song, “Jesus Loves Me.” Simple and to the point.

I know, you can’t build a theology, a denomination, a faith, around a children’s song. But what if you could? What if the totality of what Jesus means to us was summed up by a child’s understanding of the fact that Jesus is the mark and measure of our faith? What if, like the old hymn, we surrendered all to Jesus? Would our fellowships look the same, would our lives look the same? Would our families look the same? Would our worship look the same? Would we continue to be easily offended by people? Or would we become those who could not get offended because we were too busy being about the Jesus business we have been called to? Would we cease to be defenders of the faith, and become disciples of Christ in a more palpable and palatable way?

What if we actually took seriously the idea that Jesus is coming again? Rather than being focused on the events leading up to the Second Coming, we might be safe in the knowledge of the Second Coming—and maintain a focus on who is actually coming.

What if we actually took seriously the idea that Scripture is God-breathed and that every word reveals who Jesus is, not simply how we are supposed to speak of Him.

What if we believed that the greatest gift to the world might be summed up in the name of Jesus, which supersedes any label or loyalty that we might have?

What if the special message that we have for the world is Jesus? What if our peculiarity was formed from the exalted place that Jesus had in our theology, worship and fellowships? What if our lives reflected the highest Christology?
“Jesus. All.” came out of a deep frustration from the seemingly 
“Jesus. And...” theology that many of us have fallen into. I know, 
I know, “Jesus is a good starting point, but the destination seems 
to lie somewhere else. We have to mature past a faith that can be 
summed up in one word, in one name, in one person.” This is too 
often the sentiment I hear.

“Get to the meat,” I’m sometimes told. But Jesus is the milk 
and meat of our faith. He is also the flesh and bones.

Paul knew the importance of the supremacy of preaching 
Christ:

“And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came 
to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I 
proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to 
know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him 
crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trem-
bling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and per-
suasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so 
that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s 
power” (1 Corinthians 2:1–5 NIV).

The first century Christians figured it out.

When I was about nine or ten years old, my father was associ- 
ate director of the Caesarea Maritima archaeological dig run by 
Drew University. I was blessed to grow up on the sand dunes 
that overlooked the Mediterranean Ocean. On one particular 
day, the archaeological team excavated a series of grain storage 
units that ran south from the crusader fortress at the site. There 
were a number of these units, and the team was working on the 
first one. Interestingly, they had discovered a Mithraeum, which 
included an altar to the bull god, Mithra, one of the competing 
religions in the first century Pantheon of Illustrious Sailors.

I was the smallest person at the site that day, so when they cre-
ated a small space to crawl through they sent me through it. As 
I made my way into the storage space that had not seen new air 
in at least a few hundred years, I was asked what I could see. My 
answer was less than brilliant, I’m sure. In fact, as I remember it, 
I just said something about scratches on a wall.

As the archaeologists made their way though the hole, which 
they had enlarged, and brought much more brilliant lights, it be-
came clear that there was a first century fresco on the wall. It was 
a fresco of The Lord’s Supper, painted crudely, with the disciples 
taking a secondary place to the larger figure of Jesus.

While I don’t know the archaeological significance of the dis-
covery, there was one thing that was and continues to be clear: 
Jesus was the center of the fresco. And for the first century 
Christians, He was the center and circumference of their faith. 
In other words: Jesus. All.

In 2,000 years, the wall has been covered with graffiti. The 
wall has been tagged by people seeking to make a name for them-
selves amongst the halls of faith. It has been defaced by those 
who would rather us focus on something other than the figure of 
Jesus. It has had pictures painted and repainted, many of which 
were meant to enhance the figures that were so carefully drawn 
2,000 years before.

But perhaps it is time for us to strip the wall of all the extra-
neous work and go back to the simple picture of Jesus and the 
community of believers.

What if we took Jesus at His word in John 12:32: “I, if I am lift-
ed up from the earth, will draw all peoples to myself” (NKJV). 
What are we lifting up today? “Jesus. All.” or “Jesus. And...” or 
“Jesus. Maybe?”

Jesus said two words that changed Peter’s and Andrew’s lives: 
“Follow me” (Matthew 4:19). In those two words, their lives 
were changed, their priorities fixed on Him—a certain shift from 
what they were working on previously—and their trajectories 
were vastly skewed.

I guess I would say it like this: The good news is not simply 
about Jesus. The good news is Jesus. And Jesus is all.

I, we, desperately want a church that seeks the heart of Jesus. 
We want a church that can unite on at least one thing, and only 
Jesus can be that thing. We long to hear those who represent our 
Church cease creating boundaries and begin to speak of Jesus in 
a way that lifts Him up and draws us in. We long to see Jesus 
lifted up above everything else.

I long to be part of a people whose greatest identifying marker 
is nothing short of Jesus Christ and Him crucified!

Tim Gillespie is the pastor for young adult ministry at Loma Linda University 
Church and a co-founder of the 1 project (www.the1project.org). Tim was 
the keynote speaker for the opening chapel service this year at Andrews 
University to launch “The Way.” This article was adapted from his sermon 
with permission.

Photo (above): This first century fresco of The Lord’s Supper at Caesarea 
Maritima was first glimpsed through a small opening by young Tim Gillespie 
when his father, Bailey Gillespie, was associate director of the archaeological 
dig run by Drew University.

Public domain.
The Idea of a University

By Keri Suarez

At a recent address, Andrews University president Niels-Erik Andreasen reflected upon a book written in 1852 by John Henry Newman entitled, The Idea of a University. John, at the time the leader of a new Christian university in Dublin, Ireland, began his new assignment by asking, “What, at its heart, should a university be about?” John questioned if the main goal should be to help students get a job? To make money? To discover new knowledge? Or was the purpose of a university to prepare students for their chosen profession? He concluded the answer was “yes” to all of the above; but even more importantly, a university should teach students to think clearly, to communicate truthfully and effectively, to be informed about the mysteries of life—both those within us and around us—to become faithful, to act morally, and to become responsible. “Whether or not there is a job waiting for students after graduation,” commented Niels-Erik, “this kind of university education has great merit on its own.

“You may well object that those ideas are about 160 years old and the university has surely changed completely in the interval. Perhaps the main task of a university nowadays is to prepare students for a stable and well-paying job,” continued Niels-Erik.

More recently, in 1992, Jaroslav Pelikan, a professor at Yale University, wrote a book with a title similar to Newman’s: The Idea of the University: A Reexamination. Jaroslav concluded the original idea of a university was still valid—it still has value all its own. “And it is that value we celebrate here at Andrews University,” says Niels-Erik. “Here our students will begin their pursuit of higher education; they will learn to think clearly and to communicate truthfully and effectively. Our students alongside their professors will marvel over the mysteries of life, affirm their faith, learn to act morally, and become responsible Christians changing the world around them. This is the foundation on which their reputation as committed, competent Christians will be built and where the reputation of this good Seventh-day Adventist university will be made.”

Framed within our mission—Seek Knowledge. Affirm Faith. Change the World—we share these stories from Andrews University. First, we take a close look at the birth of the Undergraduate Learning Center, located in the heart of our campus in Berrien Springs, Michigan. This academic building will become a hub of teaching and learning. Here students and professors will have daily meetings of minds—informing, inspiring and supporting the finest ideas the Seventh-day Adventist Church has developed since the first Adventist university—Andrews University—was founded in 1874. Then, we will turn our focus to a member of our faculty who helps students around the world study for an Andrews University degree through our International Development Program. The program is headed by Dawn Dulhunty and her husband, Paul. They have dedicated their lives—both personally and professionally—to humanitarian aid. Today, they work tirelessly at multiple international sites around the world, shaping the lives and professions of countless individuals through the International Development Program.

Keri Suarez is a media relations specialist in the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.
A Dream Come True

ANDREWS, ANDREASEN UNVEIL BULLER HALL

BY KERI SUAREZ

“I have been dreaming of this day for a good many years. And here it is,” said Andrews University president, Niels-Erik Andreasen, on Friday, July 29, while standing in front of the newest building at the University. It was a long-awaited day—the grand opening of the 42,000-square-foot, $9 million Buller Hall. This building project, which began more than 17 years ago, completes half of the new Undergraduate Learning Center located in the heart of the campus.

More than 300 Andrews University faculty, staff, Board members, donors and neighbors from the southwest Michigan community came to be among the first to walk the new corridors of Buller Hall. During the brief ribbon-cutting ceremony, Niels-Erik welcomed all the guests. David Faehner, vice president for University Advancement, expressed deep appreciation to numerous individuals for their support, specifically Allan and Mickey Buller, the lead donors for Buller Hall. David also noted the 500-plus donors who made this building project a reality. He also acknowledged The Troyer Group of Mishawaka, Indiana, architects for Buller Hall, and CSM Group of Kalamazoo, Michigan, for their project management.

When Allan stepped behind the podium, his words cast his vision for Buller Hall. “To the students who come here—I’d like to suggest that they keep their hearts open to the relationships that can be established here. The building was designed to encourage social, spiritual and academic relationships,” he said. Niels-Erik then presented the President’s Medallion to Allan. This special honor is reserved for special friends of Andrews who have built bridges between the University and the community.

Niels-Erik shared that this building represents a promise. Some time ago, during a conversation between him and Allan about the then-proposed building project, Allan asked Niels-Erik, “Can you promise me,” he implored, “that in future years...”
there will still be a good Christian college up north in Michigan where young adults can receive a first-class Christian college education?” Niels-Erik committed to the promise, asking for Allan’s help in return.

“This is where students will become Christian college men and women. This is where the idea of a university is realized. Andrews University will never be better than the quality of education offered here in English 101, Communication 101, Religion 101, etc.,” said Niels-Erik. “That is what I promised all these years ago—to establish such a center, to revive the heart of the university right here in the oldest part of campus where everything begins. I made this promise to myself, but of course I cannot keep it by myself. So now I ask the faculty, staff and students to help carry out that promise. It will take a while, but it is well worth pursuing.”

“This building is built for students,” said Keith Mattingly, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. “It’s a building that invites one to stay and study.” After thanking numerous individuals for their contributions to making this dream become reality, Keith, whose voice started to break with emotion, said, “In the end, there is one person who really gets a lot of credit for today ... that person is Dick Scott.” Dick is director of facilities management and oversaw the myriad of details that accompanied the 15-month building project.

Clay McCausland, who attended on behalf of congressman Fred Upton, offered these words: “Yet again, Andrews University stands as a leader in our community, and for that, I am deeply grateful. Thank you for your vision and dedication to providing high caliber education in southwest Michigan.”

After a special prayer of dedication offered by Andrews University’s Board of Trustees chair, Benjamin D. Schoun, Allan and Mickey, joined by several other University officials, officially cut a large blue ribbon hanging in front of the main entrance to Buller Hall. Then, all were invited indoors for building tours and refreshments.

The first day of classes in Buller Hall and the newly renovated Nethery Hall was Monday, August 22.

ABOUT BULLER HALL

Buller Hall is home to three academic departments, the Red Rose Chapel, a student lounge and the Newbold Auditorium, which is one of eight classrooms. It was built in a collegiate
Gothic architecture style that mirrors the style of its companion building, Nethery Hall. An indoor bridge walkway connects Buller and Nethery halls, allowing students easy access between the two buildings—particularly in times of inclement weather.

The three academic departments housed in Buller are the Department of Behavioral Sciences, the Department of History & Political Science, and the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages. Each of these departments’ suites is designed with a reception desk, a workroom, faculty offices and a common area with a lounge area surrounding a fireplace. Each department has a Gothic arch-shaped display case located in the main hallway where they can showcase their discipline.

An Andrews University floor mosaic on the main level, designed by Sarah Mitchell of The Troyer Group, mimics the mosaic compass in the Nethery Hall Four Points Lobby.

Occupancy sensors controlling the lighting throughout the building promote energy savings, safety and ambiance. The ample seating provided by the benches located throughout the main hallways will encourage student to stick around awhile after class.

NEWBOLD AUDITORIUM

Although unable to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony, Robson and Isabel Newbold are the donors for Newbold Auditorium. Robson attended Andrews, where he became close friends of Allan and Mickey. It was that friendship that led Robson and Isabel to be part of the Buller Hall project.

With a seating capacity of 260, the auditorium will primarily be used for larger general education classes. Each seat in the auditorium has its own power outlet; and the large screen, projection capabilities and voice acoustics make it an ideal space for lectures. The auditorium also includes a green room, temporary curtains and side rooms to facilitate drama productions.

RANDALL STUDENT LOUNGE

Numerous individuals gave gifts for specific rooms or areas in Buller Hall, including the Randalls. Much to Barbara Randall’s surprise, her husband, Charles, gave a special gift toward the Buller Hall project in honor of his wife. The plaque by the entrance to the Student Lounge reads, “This student lounge made possible through the generosity of The Charles Randall Family in honor of Barbara Randall.”

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, a small gathering was held in the Student Lounge, announcing this gift to Barbara. Charles said, “I asked Barbara out on our first date about 75 feet away from where we are standing today. Andrews has been wonderful to us, and it’s a big part of our lives.”

RED ROSE CHAPEL

A unique feature of Buller Hall is the Red Rose Chapel, a tiny, intimate prayer chapel located on the northwest end of the building. Keith says, “The only purpose for this chapel is prayer and meditation.”

The Red Rose Chapel is a gift from Hans and Herta von Stiegel, who met when they were students at Andrews University. The chapel is dedicated to their parents, Georg and Johanna Ludwig and Jack and Ruth von Stiegel, and named “Red Rose Chapel” in honor of Hans’ ancestor, Henry William Stiegel. A seventeenth century ironsmith, famed glassmaker and philanthropist, Henry “commonly used a red rose as decoration in things which were special to him,” says Hans.

ABOUT ALLAN AND MICKEY BULLER

Allan and Mickey met and began courting in the spring of 1939 while attending Emmanuel Missionary College. They both studied business administration, and Allan exhibited a spirit of service and leadership as president of the student body and president of his senior class. After graduation and military duty, the couple married and established their individual careers. Mickey earned a teaching certificate and was a Title I reading specialist for elementary students. Allan had a successful career at Worthington Foods, culminating as president and chairman of the Board. The Bullers made their home in Worthington, Ohio, where they raised their four children. They are active members at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church. Buller Hall now stands on the campus location where Allan proposed to Mickey.

Keri Suarez is a media relations specialist in the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.
The Andrews University International Development Program (IDP) is a Master’s degree course of study that holds annual intensives in Chile, Japan, Canada, Italy, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa.

Dawn Dulhunty, as the program director, and her husband, Paul, have committed their lives to the humanitarian mission of this program, essentially living out of a suitcase at least eight months of the year with a “home” base in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and another in Australia, their home country. Together, Dawn and Paul oversee the IDP student body, which exceeds 400 students representing 77 countries and approximately 180 organizations.

DulhuntyS’ MISSION DEFINES THEIR PROFESSIONS

Dawn Maberly was born in a country town in Queensland, Australia. At two years old, her family voyaged by sea to India where they settled in Kalimpong, a hill station in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains. Dawn’s father worked in health education and as a pastor with the Tibetan refugees. She often accompanied her father in his work. These experiences later became a guiding factor in Dawn’s decision to devote her life to humanitarian development and be a missionary for God.

In the early 1970s, Dawn met Paul Dulhunty, a fellow Australian and newly-baptized Christian who was working as an anaesthetic technician and surgical assistant at Sydney Adventist Hospital. Dawn soon completed her nursing qualifications; and in 1976, Paul, Dawn and their one-year-old son moved to Zambia, Africa, to be medical missionaries at Yuka Hospital and Leprosarium. It was an act of faith for this young family to trade the safety of life in Australia in exchange for long hours of hard work caring for the community in an African region, often isolated by monsoon floods and situated in a corridor of dangerous freedom fighter activity.

The Dulhunty family spent seven years in Zambia where Dawn provided community healthcare and nursing leadership at Yuka Hospital. Paul established the Seventh-day Adventist World Service (later Adventist Development and Relief Agency) for the Zambia Union.

In 1983, the Dulhunty family, which now included a daughter born in Zambia, returned to Australia after some members of the family contracted a water-borne infection.

In 1986, Dawn and Paul founded the work of ADRA in Nepal. Paul was responsible for obtaining the necessary approval from the Nepal government for ADRA to be registered. Dawn became associate country director of ADRA Nepal, where she and Paul started a volunteer program that flourished under their vision. The Dulhunty’s work resulted in many life-changing experiences for both the volunteers and the Nepalese people. Dawn played a pivotal role in developing literacy and community programs for Nepalese women and their families. After spending 12 years in Nepal, Dawn became the program director, and with ADRA, they helped coordinate one of the biggest emergency operations in post-war Kosovo.

DAWN DULHUNTY TAKES LEADERSHIP OF THE IDP

In 2000, while working for ADRA in Kosovo, Dawn completed her Master of Science in Administration from Andrews University, and was almost immediately invited continued on page 24
In May 2011, Paul and Dawn Dulhunty were awarded Andrews University’s highest faculty award for academic excellence and noteworthy service—the John Nevins Andrews Medallion. (Dawn is seen here holding the medallion.) The award citation read, in part, “Dawn and Paul have been inspiring advisors, dedicated mentors and personal friends to the hundreds of students who have participated in the International Development Program. They have been passionate advocates of leadership training for humanitarian workers who in turn help fulfill the mission of Andrews University to ‘Change the World.’”

From left: Patricia Mutch, IDP concentration advisor for Kenyan students; Dawn Dulhunty; Paul Dulhunty; Øystein S. LaBianca, a member of the IDP coordinating committee

Abraham Kur Achiek

Abraham Kur Achiek is a child protection officer with UNICEF South Sudan and a current student in the International Development Program at Andrews University. At the early age of 12, Abraham was thrust into the object of what would be his later passion and greatest concern. In 1987, following the devastation of his hometown by Civil War, Abraham was separated from his family by the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA). Placed in a refugee camp in Funyido, Ethiopia, Abraham received a primary education and military training to become a child soldier.

At the age of 16, Abraham experienced the collapse of the Ethiopian Regime and, as a result, the move of his refugee camp back to Sudan where it joined the SPLA. Following his involvement in warfare for three years, Abraham escaped and made his way to a refugee camp in Kenya. During his stay at this camp, he became a youth leader. Abraham oversaw all the youth from nine different nationalities until a sponsorship by the Africa Refugee Education Program enabled him to study in Nairobi.

Separated from his family since 1987, Abraham traveled to South Sudan, in 2004, in an attempt to reunite with his family. Tragically, he discovered his parents had been killed; however, he did find his little brother and two sisters.

Abraham was first led to the Andrews University International Development Program off-campus Master’s program through his involvement in child protection activities. With the aim of protecting children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, Abraham felt the program Andrews offered would expand his influence, increase his achievements and give shape to his ideas concerning the livelihood of children.

Since 2007, Abraham’s role with UNICEF allows him to work on the demobilization, disarmament and the reintegration of children who have been associated with armed groups. “By achieving my educational goals through Andrews, I will contribute to the improvement of the systems in my home country by imparting knowledge and skills,” observes Abraham. He continues to do just that by providing justice, support and education to the many children in need in the country of South Sudan.

Bonnie Greene is a student news writer in the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.
to become director of the IDP at Andrews University. “At that time, ADRA collaborated with Andrews from funding coming from USAID (United States Agency for International Development), which enabled ADRA’s upper level management to study for a Master’s degree in International Development. At the conclusion of the USAID grant, ADRA turned their focus to other projects while Andrews decided to continue growing the program,” said Dawn.

Under Dawn’s leadership, the program continued to grow and began to utilize the facilities of other Adventist institutions for the off-campus annual sessions. “Students used to meet for classes in four star hotel venues,” says Dawn. “When we came on, we were not satisfied that our own Adventist education institutions were not being used for this program. So we moved the program onto university campuses.”

The partnership has been a “plus-plus,” says Dawn for both the IDP and the hosting campus. “For example, in Kenya, due to Andrews University being connected to a university in Kenya, the indigenous university received a grant to build a community training and research center which is very successful in Kenya,” says Dawn.

The Andrews University International Development Program

A typical student is in the program for a total of three to four years. Students meet annually for a three-week session and are required to attend a total of four sessions culminating in completing a significant research project.

“Our student body has changed from what it used to be. In the beginning, it was 100 percent ADRA students,” says Dawn. “Today, it is perhaps 30 percent ADRA, and now serves students from various humanitarian organizations including the United Nations, World Vision and the Red Cross, to name a few.”

Dawn is clearly quite passionate about her work. “It is exciting to work with humanitarian aid practitioners. These students come from backgrounds that most of us can never imagine. The skills and best practices obtained in this Master’s program give our students the vision to continue to advocate for positive change in their communities,” says Dawn. “We feel blessed and energized by these amazing students as we dialogue and listen to their stories.”

During her years as director of the IDP, Dawn learned time and again how valuable her life experiences were to leading this program. “Having been a humanitarian practitioner for many years, it has been exciting to advocate for our students in the world of academia in crafting a program where both education and career goals can be met for humanitarian practitioners. Often, students come to an intensive session concerned about dilemmas involving their work problems; and they find the instructors stimulating and networking with other students very thought-provoking. Then they go back to their organizations feeling refreshed with new vision and new excitement.”

The future of the IDP is for the courses and instructors to be always relevant, current with benchmarking skills in meeting the management needs of humanitarian aid practitioners. This program, in the spirit of Christ who identifies with the needs of the world, is for the students to “Seek Knowledge. Affirm Faith. Change the World.”

Keri Suarez is a media relations specialist in the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.
Stella Mkiliwane

Stella Mkiliwane is a member of the minority Ndebele tribe in Zimbabwe. After being abducted and interrogated by security agents, she fled to South Africa. Soon after arriving in South Africa, Stella played a significant role in humanitarian relief protection that was offered in response to the wave of xenophobic outbreaks in 2008 where 100,000 families were displaced by violence.

“Going into the field every day and ensuring that everyone I met received the assistance they needed made me sleep soundly at night,” says Stella. “There is so much to be done to ensure people’s dignity is restored. The challenges in South Africa for refugees and asylum seekers have just gotten worse. I wouldn’t be anywhere else.”

Stella is now the director of operations for the Refugee Ministries Centre where she offers counseling to refugees and asylum seekers in Johannesburg. “For me, this service is a calling and a passion,” says Stella. In honor of her tireless service, Stella was awarded the prestigious Voices of Courage Award by the Women’s Refugee Commission on May 3.

Stella is pursuing her Master’s degree through the Andrews University International Development Program. During the 2011 IDP Summer Session at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, Kenya, Stella shared her story of trial and triumph with her peers and professors, encouraging them to be proactive in humanitarian endeavors. “There is much work and very little resources,” says Stella. “My wish is to see every refugee and asylum seeker empowered through accessing the proper documentation and services that will restore their dignity. I love this work, and I know God will provide a way for this work to continue. He is good!”

Dawn Dulhunty is the director of the International Development Program at Andrews University.

IDP Sites

Intensives are offered at the following sites for International Development Program students.

January: Chile
Universidad Adventista de Chile (Spanish)

February: Japan
Aoyama Gakuin University (English)

May: Canada
Canadian University College (English)

June: Italy
Italian Adventist College, Villa Aurora (English)

July: Ghana
Valley View University (French and English)

August: Kenya
University of Eastern Africa, Baraton (English)

October: Rwanda
Adventist University of Central Africa (French and English)

November: South Africa
Helderberg College (English)

IDP offers a Master of Science in Administration with two emphases options. Most students pursue their MSA in International Development; others pursue their MSA in Organizational Leadership.

Effective with the 2012–2013 bulletin (which takes effect academically May 2012), the degree will be a Master of International Development Administration. The two emphases will remain the same. Those interested in more information about IDP and the intensives offered at the above sites may call 269-471-3668, fax 269-471-6937 or e-mail idp@andrews.edu.
Adventist Midwest Health leader committed to quality improvement

Implementing a massive culture and workflow change in an organization is never easy. Doing so at four hospitals nearly simultaneously without interrupting patient care—after all, hospitals never close—is infinitely more challenging. Yet, Adventist Midwest Health was able to successfully put into operation a new computerized provider order entry (CPOE) system thanks to key leaders like Richard Carroll.

Carroll, co-chief medical officer of Adventist Midwest Health, is passionate about improving the quality of care patients receive at the hospital. His work revolves around analyzing the region’s data regarding congestive heart failure, surgical site infections and other quality measures, and developing plans to improve those statistics. This work is of vital importance to patient care and ties directly to Adventist Midwest Health’s mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ.

“Quality improvement allows us to fulfill our mission by shining a light on how we can better our processes to meet each patient’s individual needs,” said John Rapp, regional vice president, ministries and mission. “That is what Jesus did 2,000 years ago—His healing interactions were personalized. We continue that today.”

The CPOE system is designed to drastically reduce medical errors and speed up patient care by eliminating handwritten orders for all inpatients. Regular use of a CPOE is something the U.S. government specifically identified as necessary to accomplish so-called “meaningful use” of electronic medical record systems in the 2009 federal stimulus law. Adventist Midwest Health is considered a trailblazer in implementation of this new technology and is in the process of rolling out CPOE at more than 40 U.S. hospitals with excellent results.

According to Carroll, CPOE is the foundation that will allow Adventist Midwest Health to become nationally known for providing quality care.

“We’re asking a lot of our doctors to learn this new process because it’s completely different from the way they’ve practiced in the past,” Carroll said. “But they understand that at its core, CPOE will improve patient care.”

Sue Cascino, regional director of quality management at Adventist Midwest Health, said Carroll solicited input from a wide variety of experts to ensure that the orders in CPOE followed best practices.

“He listened attentively to feedback, and applied his own clinical expertise to resolve issues,” Cascino said. “Dr. Carroll’s passions and talents are always directed toward improving the quality of care for our patients.”

Yet Carroll, a cardiologist who is board certified in cardiovascular disease and internal medicine, did not discover his passion for quality until later in life. As an undergraduate student, Carroll studied mental health counseling. It was when he was introduced to the emergency department that he realized he wanted to become a doctor. He was accepted into medical school at age 26 and became involved in hospital quality during graduate school at Johns Hopkins University.

Carroll initiated a quality program at an academic medical center in the Chicago suburbs, and in 1997 was recruited by Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital to create a quality program. The program has since expanded to all of Adventist Midwest Health.

The fourth oldest of 12 children, Carroll has two daughters of his own. Both daughters are following in his footsteps by preparing to enter the field of medicine; his oldest is studying pre-med at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his youngest is studying nursing at the University of Iowa.

God’s fingerprints are evident across the various stages of Carroll’s life.

“I can see how God uses the work we do every day at Adventist Midwest Health to make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families,” Carroll said.
Iwasa named dean of University Towers

David Iwasa, the new dean of University Towers, comes to Andrews University from Gem State Adventist Academy in Caldwell, Idaho. University Towers is a graduate student residence comprised of Burman Hall (the men’s residence) and Damazo Hall (the women’s residence), connected by a shared lobby area.

Prior to his arrival at Andrews, Iwasa worked as a residence hall dean at Gem State Adventist Academy since 2004. While there, he trained and managed staff in both the men’s and women’s residence halls, developed a worship program and taught a math class. Iwasa began his career as the treasurer at Thunderbird Adventist Academy in Scottsdale, Ariz., in 1990, and became dean of men two years later. He assumed the position of vice principal of Thunderbird Academy in 1994. Iwasa also served as business manager and administrator at several assisted living facilities in Oregon and Washington. From 1995 to 1997, he worked as an accountant at Marketing One Securities in Portland, Ore. Of the many capacities he filled, he particularly enjoyed being a girls dean. “[It was] difficult, but extremely rewarding and character building,” he says.

While working at Gem State, Iwasa attended a workshop for deans at Andrews University, and immediately noticed how well the Student Life team worked together. He felt God was calling him to Andrews and had prepared the way for him to arrive. He says he “appreciates the team atmosphere prevalent in the residence halls and throughout the campus.”

Iwasa is also the owner of K.I.D. Accounting Services, a company he founded in 2000. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration and an MAT in Educational Leadership, both from Walla Walla University. Iwasa is married and has two children.

Andrews highlights fitness at Expo and 5K

“It was a great event! Great weather, atmosphere, attitude and camaraderie among students, faculty, staff and the community,” said Dominique Wakefield, director of the Fitness & Exercise Studies program. “We had participants of all ages!”

The third annual Fitness Expo & 5K Fun Run/Walk was held at Andrews University and sponsored by the Andrews University Department of Nutrition & Wellness and Pioneer Memorial Church’s Health & Wellness Ministries. This year’s theme was “Let Fitness Inspire You.”

More than 270 people participated in the 5K Fun Run/Walk. Then, the Fitness Expo was held in the Johnson Gym and offered 13 different booths, many featuring mini-workouts including Pilates, resistance band, a push-up test, a curl-up test, resistance ball and Bosu ball. The workout booths were staffed by Andrews University students enrolled in the course, “Current Concepts & Applications in Physical Fitness.”

The other booths highlighted various fitness activities available on the Andrews campus, including disc golf, rock climbing wall and self-defense classes. Lamson and Meier Health Clubs, the Office of Student Activities & Athletics and PMC Health & Wellness Ministries were also on hand to share what they have to offer. Students from the Department of Physical Therapy offered massages. In total, more than 300 individuals participated in the Fitness Expo.

“We had great volunteers from across campus and the community,” said Wakefield.

Christine and Ryan Wallace of PMC Health & Wellness Ministries were co-directors of the 5K Fun Run/Walk. “At Andrews University, where we have such a diverse student body, staff, faculty and community (young and old), our goal is to motivate, inspire and encourage people to exercise,” says Christine.
First Andrews University/Griggs University MBA graduate, Bui Thi Hanh, from Vietnam, receives her diploma from Niels-Erik Andreason, president.

Griggs graduates march into Andrews history

Michigan—On Sunday, July 31, 42 MBA students from Vietnam marched into history at Andrews University, becoming the first graduating class of Griggs University to participate in Andrews University commencement exercises since ownership of Griggs University was transferred to Andrews in November 2010. The students traveled to Berrien Springs, Mich., from Vietnam, where each one is a working professional, to graduate at their American university.

Griggs University dates back to 1909 when Frederick Griggs, an Adventist educator, convinced the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s leadership that the church needed a correspondence school “to fill in the gaps that the resident schools could not fill.” His vision was to make Adventist education available around the world while still bringing the same quality education to those unable to attend traditional schools.

During the next 100-plus years, 380,000 individuals have obtained a faith-based education through Griggs University. For this most recent graduating class, their story first begins with the fall of 2007 decision by Griggs University to enter into a partnership with the Center for Educational Technology & Career Development (ETC), an associate organization of the National University of Vietnam in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. They began offering both BBAs and MBAs, and classes formally launched in March 2008 making Griggs University the only fully licensed American university to offer an MBA in Vietnam. The very first graduating class from this partnership participated in Commencement exercises at Griggs University’s previous location, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist headquarters in Silver Spring, Md.

“With Griggs in Maryland, it was definitely a distance education program housed within an office building,” says Trinh Phuong Nhi, program coordinator for ETC. “Here, at Andrews, there are students, a library and a busy campus. It makes a big difference in the eyes of our students. We were very excited to hear the good news that Griggs merged with Andrews because not only is Andrews the flagship Seventh-day Adventist university, but it also has a good reputation outside of the Seventh-day Adventist system.”

The graduating students represent a wide spectrum of working professionals, from business owners and customs border officers to sales and marketing executives and educators, even medical doctors and securities stock market traders. All are living and working in Vietnam, a nation that has been making headlines as having one of the top ten fastest growing economies in the world.

Hoang Ha, senior sales and marketing director for Yamaha Motor Vietnam, is one of the Griggs University graduates. Ha and his fellow classmates spent two years, meeting for class two days out of the week, working toward their MBA. “It was a great program and was very flexible, which is a great benefit for a working professional.” Ha says of his graduation experience, “Andrews was amazing. I didn’t expect it to be so big. Graduation was very emotional for me and unlike anything I’ve experienced before.”

The Griggs/ETC program started with 33 students. In just four years, it has grown to more than 3,000, adding about 100 new students every month. “It’s grown so fast!” said Alayne Thorpe, president of Griggs University and dean of the School of Distance Education at Andrews University.

“Vietnam is growing at such a rate that they need business leaders to help steer the economy in the right direction. It’s a wonderful thing to feel that we’ve actually made an impact on a country.”

With enrollment numbers skyrocketing, some may wonder why the Griggs University program in Vietnam is so successful. Thorpe says, “We have a very good partner in ETC and are affiliated with the National University of Vietnam. They are positioned in the country in a way that they are able to find the very best teachers in the country, and many of them are international business people hailing from places such as the United States, Australia, South Africa and many from Europe, all of whom are in Vietnam, due to the rapid growth of the Vietnamese economy.”

The students gather two days a week, studying together in a classroom with five professors. They also benefit from this Web-enhanced program, meaning some course content is delivered online.

“It’s also a very practical program with appeal to working professionals. “It doesn’t teach just theory. It’s so much more than that,” says Thorpe. “On both sides, we have both said this program is stronger because of the other partner. The more we learn from each other, the more we grow together and the stronger we are.”

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication, Andrews University
Students request pet shelter donations for birthday

Michigan—Four third-grade students at Village Adventist Elementary School, in Berrien Springs, Mich., decided to celebrate their birthday in a new way this year. They still played party games, ate cake and ice cream, and enjoyed cheering each other on to break the piñata; but instead of getting presents, they collected donations for a local pet shelter.

Emma VanderWaal and Kassie Metzger, who turned ten, along with Hunter Baldwin and Josie Suarez, who turned nine, had about 35 of their friends join the birthday celebration in March held in the Village School gym. As each guest arrived, they brought with them dog and cat food, pet toys, kitty litter and even some cleaning supplies—all for the Berrien County Animal Shelter.

Although the idea originated with the children’s parents, once the kids had a chance to think about it they became very excited about the idea and started telling all their friends. The excitement continued to grow because each student at Village School always looks forward to a few traditional fourth-grade year projects that also support a local pet shelter.

“One of my friends couldn’t make it to the party, but wanted to give some of his extra cans of dog food to the shelter,” says Josie. “So we kept getting donations even after the party was over.”

“In our family, we love to make birthdays a big deal but with big birthday parties comes lots of guests who each bring a gift. Although always appreciated, my child doesn’t need all those gifts,” says Keri Suarez. “And at nine years old, I think it’s a great time to start getting them involved in thinking about what others need instead of what they want.”

The donations, which filled up the back of a minivan, were delivered to a very appreciative staff at the Berrien County Animal Shelter.

Andrews Academy offers spiritual journey

Michigan—Andrews Academy, like other schools in the Lake Union, is blessed to have parents, students and teachers praying for the spiritual journey of the school. Many church members often see school programs, drive by their church school or hear about weeks of prayer, but not many people are able to see the spiritual journey happening behind the walls of an Adventist school. I invite you to take a peek behind the walls of Andrews Academy to see the spiritual journey of a school year.

At Andrews Academy, numerous parents developed prayer groups that Andrews Academy offers a mission trip every other year. Pictured is the entire group of students, parents and volunteers who participated in the mission trip to La Barra, Mexico.
regularly meet to pray for the teachers and students of the school. For many years, one of the parent groups met once a week in the conference room to pray for the students. They pray for all students, and specifically pray for a number of students and teachers by name. They pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives. This current school year the senior class parents set up a Prayer for Seniors Partnership where parents pray by name for five different seniors each week. They pray that the Holy Spirit will convict the seniors’ hearts to choose God and be baptized before they graduate and move on to new endeavors. Or if they are already baptized, they pray the seniors will continue to keep God number one in their lives and also pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The teachers also actively pray for the students, not only during morning devotions, and at the beginning of many class periods, but also throughout the day. As a group, the teachers set aside some time during each faculty meeting to pray for individual students and groups of students. As teachers interact with the students, opportune times develop when teachers can pray with individual students in a meaningful way. It may be during one of the times when a teacher is praising a student for an accomplishment or in the midst of resolving a discipline issue that may have just occurred.

The students are also very involved in praying for the spiritual journey of their peers, and this past year Andrews Academy was blessed by the spiritual leadership of so many students. Four years ago, Andrews Academy set aside a “sacred space” called the “Prayer Room.” The Prayer Room has softer lights and colors, and inspirational décor. There are comfortable chairs, Bibles and a journal in which students can write prayer requests. Students use the Prayer Room before or after school, and sometimes during their lunch break. In fact, most mornings a group of students meet to pray and read the Bible. Sometimes, when a student faces an extremely trying circumstance, he or she slips into the Prayer Room for a few moments to lift the problem to God. Some faculty and staff also use the Prayer Room as a place where they can pray for each other or for a particular student need. It is a quiet place dedicated to God for students who want to step out of the daily routine and refocus their life through a few moments with God.

Each of the student organizations at Andrews Academy has a student pastor as one of the officers. The student pastors of the various organizations regularly meet throughout the year to plan spiritual programs at Andrews Academy. For example, class pastors lead in worship and prayer with their peers during class vespers, often held at the home of one of the students of the class. The class vespers usually includes a meal together; and sometimes, prior to sundown, there is an activity to enjoy together such as a hayride, snowmobile rides, swimming at the lake or skating. Social activities like these build bonds that promote camaraderie and deeper friendships. This promotes more openness so that during the vespers it is more natural for students, teachers and parents to share their spiritual journey together and encourage each other to keep Jesus first in their lives.

Three years ago, Carrie Chao, Andrews Academy chemistry teacher, began inviting international Chinese students to her home on Friday evenings. Chao provided supper, an opportunity to socialize and a vespers program. Most of the international students from China attending Andrews Academy know nothing about Christianity. Their time at Andrews Academy is not only an introduction to American culture and education but an introduction to Jesus, too. They are introduced to Jesus not only during the school’s morning devotions and Bible classes but in each of the classes they attend since teachers integrate faith with learning. Chao commented that when the vespers started a few years ago it was mostly a social gathering for these students that are far from home. Each year since then, there has been an increased interest in the spiritual topics. This past year guardians often had to wait to pick up their students.
because the discussion of the evening went a lot longer than planned.

There are so many opportunities for students to learn about Jesus and share their faith. This past school year Andrews Academy students went to a village in La Barra, Mexico, during their Christmas break, where they built a church and conducted Vacation Bible School for the children there. Everyone worked hard building the church and sharing their faith. All returned blessed by the experiences and the miracles that occurred.

There are many other small trips that Andrews Academy offers where prayers and blessings occur. Winter Bible Camp and Leadership Retreat, held at Camp Au Sable, are awesome weekends. Also, the Andrews Academy Student Association camp-out held on the shores of Lake Michigan provides a weekend of fellowship and fun together. It is a spiritual weekend that begins the school year, and many of the students participate in it. This past school year, Yejin Kim was baptized during camp-out.

There are so many wonderful working of God’s Spirit at Andrews Academy, and many learn to love Jesus more or even meet Him for the first time. This is in part made possible by your prayers and participation at our school. Please continue to pray for Andrews Academy and all students of the Lake Union schools, that each would choose God and decide to be baptized and remain close to Him.

Students’ lives continue to change as a result of Adventist education at Andrews Academy. Numerous stories could be told, but this one is interesting. Recently, a parent was thinking about moving to Michigan so her daughter could attend Andrews Academy. She toured the school and gathered information about the academy. As she was leaving the school after the tour, the parent talked with a number of students to ask their opinion about the spiritual atmosphere of the school. One of the students replied, “When I came to Andrews Academy, I was an atheist. Now, as you can see, I’m reading my Bible.”

As already mentioned, many of the international students arrive knowing nothing about Christianity. This past spring, Mikey Guan, a student from China, was baptized during a Sabbath afternoon Andrews Academy baptism held at Pioneer Memorial Church. Besides the various baptismal services Andrews Academy holds, numerous other Academy students were baptized in their home churches.

[LOCAL CHURCH NEWS]

Girls with shared passion raise funds for ADRA

Michigan—While their classmates were at summer camp, attending a Vacation Bible School, or just enjoying being home all day during the summer, sisters Ashley and Caitlin Jankiewicz, of the Pioneer Memorial Church, and Julianna Bojko, of the Chicago Polish Church, spent their time focused on raising funds for a cause they all shared a passion for: ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency).

They started as a club of three Polish girls. They each wore Polish shirts and hats as uniforms, and selected a theme song with the line, “We like to help other people.” This serves as a sort of motto for sisters Ashley and Caitlin, and Julianna, a friend who was visiting them from out of town.

One week, during July, they were searching for something to pour their energy into. They started by giving out free cold water on a hot day to those who passed by their home, located in a bustling neighborhood adjacent to Andrews University in Berrien Springs. After getting such a positive response, it occurred to the girls that maybe if they offered cold water for free and charged 25¢ for cookies and lemonade they might be able to raise funds to do something to help other people.

The three girls decided to raise money to buy a gift from ADRA’s Really Useful Gift Catalog (see http://giftcatalog.adra.org), which allows people to select gifts of humanitarian aid in varying dollar amounts. The project they chose was to empower Musahar youth—members of a lower caste in the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, in India—with $125.

Ashley, Caitlin and Julianna soon realized the market for free water and 25¢ cookies and lemonade in their neighborhood wasn’t large enough to help them achieve their fund-raising goal. So, they obtained permission to sell their cookies and lemonade to their neighbors.

They used the money raised to select projects from ADRA’s Really Useful Gift Catalog. They chose to empower Musahar youth—members of a lower caste in the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, in India—with $125.
from George Schmidt, manager of Apple Valley Natural Foods store in Berrien Springs, to take their cookie and lemonade stand to where the customers were abundant.

The girls created a few signs outlining what ADRA was about and the mission project they were raising money for. As customers entered the store, the girls took turns asking if they were interested in buying cookies or lemonade to support ADRA. If a customer had questions about ADRA or the particular gifts the girls were raising funds for, the girls were effortlessly able to articulate more information about their project.

“I was very impressed with the young girls; for as young as they were, they presented themselves quite professionally,” said Schmidt. “It is really gratifying to see young people like this out there who will one day steer our country. They were really great.”

After exceeding their goal the first day, the girls selected four additional gifts from ADRA’s catalog: send a child in Nepal to school for one year—$120; feed a malnourished child in Bolivia for one year—$90; give medical care for an Albanian gypsy child—$20; and give a cow to a blind person in Vietnam—$300. In total, they raised $655 in just a few days.

The girls were amazed at how generous some people were. “One lady gave me a $10 bill for a cookie and didn’t even want her change back!” said Ashley.

The next time the “club” convenes, likely during the next break from school, they plan to put their fund-raising skills to good use again.

Spiritual heroes honored during Sabbath school program

Indiana—Spiritual heroes often tend to be great missionaries who spend their lives in foreign countries sacrificing for the sake of spreading the gospel. Or, sometimes our heroes may be dynamic preachers who successfully bring many souls to the Lord.

We may not think about it, but there are also other heroes right in our midst who faithfully go to work each day—rain or shine—to make the money that is needed to support their families, and to also support the valued work of the missionaries and preachers.

As Cicero Church leaders reflected on this, a decision was made to recognize the worth of the working heroes in the local congregation who keep bread on the table for their families, tithe and offerings flowing into the church, plus contribute much effort to keep the wheels of organization in their home church running. It was the season of Father’s Day, so each father in the Cicero Church was recognized as an unsung local spiritual hero by giving them a small loaf of homemade bread.

“Being a father has been what has shaped me, helped me grow and made me a better person,” said Rich Uphus, head elder of the Cicero Church, as he received his loaf of bread.

Along with the bread, the oldest and youngest fathers were also given a pecan tart. A tart was also given to the fathers with the most children and the most grandchildren, etc. Several dads expressed gratitude for the special recognition at the themed Sabbath school program, and said they had never thought of themselves as heroes because of their contribution to their families and to the Lord’s work at home and abroad.

“The program made me feel honored because of my contributions to my family and the Lord’s work,” shared Larry Zirkle, a member of the Cicero Church. Without these local heroes, the famed missionaries and preachers would not have funds to do their great work.
VBS teaches about faith, hope, love

Michigan—On Friday, July 22, Vacation Bible School was held for one evening at the Reed City Seventh-day Adventist Church. Fifteen children, ten from the community and five from the church, came to learn the meaning of the words “faith,” “hope” and “love.”

Faith, they were taught, is like Daniel when he faced the lions in their den and prayed to his God. God will shut the lion’s mouth if you are faithful to God. All the children seemed caught up in this story told by Ron Mills, pastor.

Hope is like waiting for something you want, knowing it will be coming soon.

Love has all different kinds of meanings. There is love for a pet, love for a parent and then there is the kind of love that took Jesus to Calvary. According to 1 Corinthians 13, love is above everything else. That kind of love is hard to understand, but it is what Jesus would like us to have for our fellow man.

One little girl enjoyed the evening so much her grandmother has been bringing her to church at least every other week.

The children were happy doing crafts and having a bite to eat. All church members that could took part and received a blessing in doing so.

Mills held a Revelation Seminar in the spring followed by the VBS with the children, and he plans to hold meetings on the prophecies of Daniel this fall.

Marleen Swan, communications director, Reed City Church

Volunteers and Pathfinders make VBS a success

Michigan—Preparation for the Buchanan Church Vacation Bible School began early this year. Invitation fliers attached to balloons were handed out to children at the town’s Memorial Day parade. But driving past the church between July 18 and 23, attention was drawn to the large red and white striped tent in the side yard. This year’s VBS attendees used the tent for their opening exercises, even though the weather was unusually hot and humid.

Members of the Buchanan Red-buds Pathfinder club helped in the main program by leading singing and performing skits. An unusual thing for this year’s VBS was the number of twins in attendance—two sets of twins from the visiting children and one set from the Pathfinder club! One visiting twin, Darius Goins, even brought his guitar to play along with the song leader, Daphne Kent.

The VBS was progressive; each activity was held in a different part of the church or yard. Inside the church sanctuary was The Bible Discovery Museum, which was also this year’s
Share Him ministry feeds the hungry in Wisconsin

Wisconsin—For about three years now, the Share Him ministry team at the Green Bay Church has prepared a monthly meal at the new Community Shelter, an organization which provides meals and/or temporary housing to those in need in the Green Bay area.

Jairus Campbell, who heads up the Share Him group, is an inspiration to all involved. There are several who represent the core group of the Share Him ministry, plus others who join the regulars off and on as they are able.

Share Him group members purchase whatever groceries are necessary for this meal, which serves about 200 individuals. Rick Mathewson and Laura Brinkley do the buying most often, and they have made a game of it. The first time, since there was much trepidation because they weren’t familiar with Woodman’s Market and didn’t know where any of the items were located, it took about two-and-a-half hours! Since then, an attitude of “Let’s see how fast can we do this!” has helped them improve their shopping time.

On the second evening, Paul Ray, an archaeologist from Andrews University Institute of Archaeology, talked to the children about his job and shared how archaeologists find artifacts from Bible times. He also told what happens when artifacts are found. Ian Freeman, one of the attending children, said, “It was interesting to hear about what got buried a long time ago.”

Each evening also included recreation, Bible study, lessons on prayer, projects and snacks, which went along with the theme. The night when Joseph was portrayed, little boy cookies in brightly striped icing coats made by the VBS leader Gloria Hickman, were handed out. Recreation time included water balloons and other games, led by Darah Regal with the help of her two sons and their friends, and also the Pathfinders. Zane Freeman liked playing the game “Duck, Duck, Goose” the best. Michael Marotz looked forward each evening to the prizes given for memorizing a Bible verse.

All of the volunteers and Pathfinders working together made this a successful VBS despite the unbearable heat. All those who attended, including two-year-old Seth Freeman, enjoyed themselves!

Judi Doty, assistant communication director, Buchanan Church
Now they zip down the aisles, using an organized list with aisle numbers, in about 15 minutes! Mathewson and Brinkley believe the Lord greatly blesses them whenever they do something together, in friendship, in His name.

Everyone helps to prepare the meal on Sunday, starting about 7:00 a.m., which usually takes about two hours or so. The same meal is prepared each month—a vegetarian stew (made with a delicious gravy concocted by Peggy Campbell), cookies, juice, bread, a colorful and tasty lettuce salad, and, lastly, a fruit salad containing mixed fruit as well as fresh grapes and bananas. The vegetarian stew has gained quite a reputation at the Shelter, and is loved by all.

Joel and Naomi Campbell, Jairus and Peggy’s children, have been part of Share Him from the onset, and have grown so much in their ability to serve the Lord. They are living proof that you are never too young to serve the Lord if you have a willing and loving heart. They often prepare the grapes and bananas, cookies, juice and bread, and have become very independent and are able to work on their own with limited supervision.

All members involved love being part of this ministry, because even though they don’t always feel like getting up early on a precious Sunday morning, they find that God does bless them each and every time in extraordinary ways. They laugh and hug and have fun, and they always get the meal done on time, even if a “regular” can’t show up. The Lord simply sends them someone else in his/her place. It is truly amazing! Share Him volunteers always convene for prayer with joined hands and bowed heads, giving thanks to God.

Share Him ministry volunteers believe this ministry is important to the residents at the Shelter, as well as to the community. It is a blessing for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to have this exposure in the community, so people are aware of the church’s presence and know that they are invited to participate. There are regular residents at the Shelter who enjoy working with us, and they seem happy to join the Share Him group and help as needed, carrying in the groceries and locating items in the kitchen. The volunteers have a system in place that allows them to just spring right through their chores, so they are finished in no time at all.

A great addition to the group more recently are Bruce Kirby and Pat Ogerman; they’ve added much to the joy and fellowship of this monthly event.

Since the Share Him ministry team actually serves the meal each time they prepare it, this provides a great time to get to know the residents better, to provide a listening ear for their stories, and, most importantly, to witness for their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As with all ministries, it takes people contributing in a variety of capacities. It only takes a few hands to actually prepare the meal, but many more hands are actively involved in other ways. The Share Him ministry team appreciates the support, finances and prayers of their church family. The group’s few small families could never achieve any of their initiatives on their own, without the church body and Jesus Christ. The financial burden would be impossible for them. Since the beginning of this ministry, the church has contributed close to $10,000. Praise God! Every year it costs about $3,200 to purchase the grocery supplies.

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need” (Acts 2:44–45).

Laura Brinkley, member, Share Him Ministries. Adapted with permission from the September 2011 issue of The Messenger, the newsletter of the Green Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Women of Faith draws 200 to southwest Michigan

Michigan—On Sabbath, Apr. 29, the men of the Gobles-Pinedale Church moved next door to Gobles Jr. Academy to make room for the nearly 200 women who attended the southwest Michigan’s Women of Faith conference.

After seeing what a blessing the Michigan Men of Faith has been to the Michigan Conference, and realizing that all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need” (Acts 2:44–45).
that some ladies are not able to attend the women’s retreats held at Camp Au Sable, Stephanie Howard, along with other staff members and graduates of the Emmanuel Institute, planned a day of spiritual renewal for women in southwest Michigan.

The featured speaker was Vicki Griffin, health ministries director of the Michigan Conference, who spoke about her own experience of going through a crisis and living in peace.

A group of women of various ages began the day with a panel discussion on what they did right—and wrong—as they reared their children.

The afternoon was devoted to various breakouts seminars on topics such as hospitality, grandparenting, health ministries, living the single life, child rearing, witnessing and reaching goals.

If you would like to receive information about next year’s Women of Faith, send an e-mail to rcoffee@misda.org.

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**Lake Union welcomes new staff**

Recently, the Lake Union Conference welcomed two new members to the office family.

Floyd Brock serves as assistant to the president for special projects and is the construction manager for the new Lake Union Conference headquarters in Berrien Springs, Mich.

“We are grateful God led Floyd to join the Lake Union office staff. With his strong track record in the Wisconsin conference overseeing several major building projects, his experience will be essential in the office project,” stated Don Livesay, president, Lake Union Conference. The administration is still finalizing details with the Michigan Department of Transportation, so construction may be delayed until Spring 2012.

Brock worked in the Wisconsin Conference for 22 years where he most recently served as men’s ministries coordinator, community services coordinator and property manager for the Wisconsin Conference. Brock was project coordinator for the new conference office and two student dorms at Wisconsin Academy. He was also involved in the building of Pioneer Pavilion and Fireside Lodge at Camp Wakonda. During this time, he helped in the maintenance department at Wisconsin Academy.

Brock’s family includes his wife, Joanne, four grown children and 12 grandchildren.

Ben Freeman joined the Information Systems team in a part-time capacity as PC support specialist. His responsibilities will include fixing computer problems for office staff and upgrading hardware or software on their computers.

Before joining the Union staff, Freeman spent six years teaching GED and ABE (Adult Basic Education) education classes.

Freeman’s family includes his wife, Erin; son, Christopher; and daughter, Graci.
Hinsdale Adventist Academy welcomes all alumni and friends to join us for a special homecoming weekend Oct. 14–16. Come relive memories of school days and reconnect with faculty and friends. The event is for graduates of Hinsdale Elementary, Hinsdale Junior Academy and Hinsdale Academy. Honored classes include 1961, ’66, ’71, ’76, ’81, ’86, ’91, ’96, 2001 and ’06 (as well as honorees of any year prior to 1961). To register, e-mail alumni@haa.org or phone 630-323-9211.

Indiana

The Indiana Academy Alumni Association welcomes all graduates/attendees to the IA campus for Alumni Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 7–8. Honor classes this year are 1961, ’71, ’86 and 2001. For detailed information regarding the weekend, contact Rick deFluit, IAAA president, at 989-833-2393. The IAAA Golf Outing will be Oct. 7; registration begins at 7:45 a.m. For Golf Outing information, contact Lawrence Johnson at 765-649-7256 or ljjohnson@mustinbuilders.com. For questions regarding RV or hotels, call Kathy Griffin, alumni development director, at 317-984-3575, ext. 241.

Lake Union

The Lake Union Pathfinder/Adventurer Training Weekend for leaders will be Oct. 28–30 at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. Check-in will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday. Classes begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday in the Seminary building and end at noon on Sunday. Classes for Pathfinder leaders include: “Basic Staff Training,” “Master Guide Training,” “Pathfinder Leadership Award” and “Pathfinder Instructor Award.” Classes for Adventurer leaders include: “Adventurer Basic Staff Training” and “Advanced Leadership Growth: Unit 1 Classes.” The registration fee includes lunch and dinner on Sabbath. Housing is on your own. Registration is online. Go to camporee.org/LUC, then select “Lake Union Training.”

Michigan

The Michigan Boarding Academies Alumni Association invites all alumni from Adelphian, Cedar Lake, Grand Ledge and Great Lakes Adventist Academies to Alumni Weekend Oct. 7–8 on the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy. This year’s honor classes are 1961, ’71, ’81, ’86, ’91 and 2001. Come join us for a memorable weekend. For more information, visit www.glaa.net, or call the Alumni Office at 989-427-5181.

Memorial Service: The family of Dorothy Beardsley-Culbert-White invite those who knew her during her many years of service to the church to join in sharing memories of her life. The memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23, at the Reed City Seventh-day Adventist Church, located on State Highway 10, five miles east of M-131 at the Reed City exit. Dorothy passed away Aug. 17 at age 97. Her ashes were interred Aug. 23 in the Lakeside Cemetery, Holly, Mich., next to her first husband, Eldred J. Beardsley.

North American Division

Breath of Life Ministries Christmas Special: This December, Breath of Life Ministries will air a Christmas special on most NBC affiliates entitled, “The Present: Unwrapping the Gift of Christmas.” Special guest artists include Grammy-award winning a cappella group, TAKE 6; Jennifer La Mountain, vocalist; and Jaime Jorge, violinist. Carlton P. Byrd, speaker/director of the Breath of Life Telecast, will be featured. The special holiday program was filmed live at the Atlanta Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church. For a list of stations and air dates, go to www.breathoflife.tv or call 805-955-7681 after November 1.
Within the Lake Union, the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Forms are available in print format, or they can be filled out and submitted directly online. Milepost forms are available at www.LakeUnionHerald.org. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

**Weddings**

Katie Ferguson and Andres Campos were married June 26, 2011, in Fallbrook, Calif. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Jamey Houghton.

Katie is the daughter of Calvin and Donna Ferguson of Fallbrook, and Andres is the son of Juan and Graciela R. Campos of Dupont, Ind.

The Camposes are making their home in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Mary Ellen Barlow and Nicholas A. Eller were married June 26, 2011, in White Lake, Mich. The ceremony was performed by Calif. evangelist Jeff Tatchark, with Mich. pastor, Bob Benson, officiating.

Mary Ellen is the daughter of Marc and Diane Barlow of Holly, Mich., and Nicholas is the son of Kirk and Yvonne Eller of Madera, Calif.

The Ellers are making their home in San Bernardino, Calif.

Laura Clark and Brent Sherwin were married on June 23, 2011, in Grass Valley, Calif. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Greg Harper.

Laura is the daughter of Douglas and Marilyn Clark of Auburn, Calif., and Brent is the son of David and Jane Sherwin of Berrien Springs, Mich.

The Sherwins are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif.

**Obituaries**

COX, Esther C., age 94; born Nov. 28, 1916, in Saginaw, Mich.; died Aug. 28, 2011, in Saginaw, Mich. She was a member of the Centreville Church.

Survivors include her children, Michael, Paul and Marlene; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Steve Smith, and interment was in the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.


Survivors include his wife, Dolly A. (LaVoye); daughters, Debrah L. and Jennifer L. Corder; brother, Ivan; sister, Doris Spohn; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Russell C. Thomas, and interment was in Arthur Twp. Cemetery, Harrison, Mich.

COX, Wilma H., age 88; born Nov. 17, 1922, in Gratiot (Mich.) Twp. Cemetery, Harrison, Mich.; died July 14, 2011, in Saginaw, Mich. She was a member of the Centreville Church.

Survivors include her children, Patricia and Susan; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Steve Smith, and interment was in the Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs.


Survivors include his wife, Mildred; his son, Harvey Johnson; and his daughter, Barbara Carpenter.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Ken Huff, and interment was in Prairie River Cemetery, Centreville.


Survivors include her daughters, Ronaldie “Rosie” Rosado and Suzanne Renton; brother, Harry Wilson; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Dwight K. Nelson, Arne Swanson and Skip MacCarty, and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Berrien Springs.

WEBB, Geraldine (Henry), age 84; born Dec. 20, 1926, in Constantine, Mich.; died May 29, 2011, in Centreville, Mich. She was a member of the Centreville Church.

Survivors include her husband, Maurice “Mauri”; son, Stan Clark; stepsons, Bret, Gordon, Scott and Kurt Webb; daughter, Ellen Hull; stepdaughter, Randy Webb; brothers, Dick and Floyd Henry; eight grandchildren; nine step-grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Harry Hartmann, and interment was in Prairie River Cemetery, Centreville.

YOUNK, Virginia E. (Mason), age 88; born May 14, 1921, in St. Charles, Mich.; died Apr. 16, 2010, in Saginaw, Mich. She was a member of the St. Charles Church.

Survivors include her husband, Arnold; sons, Benjamin and Harry West; stepsons, Arnold and David Younk; stepdaughter, Kathleen VanBuskirk; 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Robert C. Quillin, and interment was in Roselawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Saginaw.
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PARTNERSHIP with GOD

An Impossible Dream

BY GARY BURNS

A few of us late “Boomers” recently reflected on our college experiences more than 40 years ago. Our conversations invariably went to the subject of tuition. Our experiences were similar. We were able, with limited assistance from parents, to work our way through school debt-free by cleaning offices, pumping gas, painting, building, etc. Tuition and jobs were more compatible then.

As I listen to the commentators describe the state of our economy and the high rate of unemployment, they often make comparisons to The Great Depression. My mother and several of her nine siblings were born during that era, and it was a struggle for Grandma and Granddad to provide a safe, warm and healthy environment for them.

But it didn’t stop with those basic needs. They believed their primary responsibility was to provide for the spiritual needs of their children, and that included an Adventist education to prepare them for service in this life and the life to come.

In 1938, they packed up the whole family in their “home-conversion” truck, *The Grapes of Wrath* style, and moved to a community where all ten children could be in school—from elementary to college. Talk about a leap of faith!

Their partnership with God included much prayer, extreme personal sacrifice and divine intervention to realize the dream He gave them for their children. They went to their rest in peace, knowing their partnership with God made their dream a reality—even when that dream seemed an impossibility.

Gary Burns is the communication director of the Lake Union Conference.
My baby brother died of liver cancer when he was just 11 months old. In 2002, my mom was diagnosed with a brain tumor that was quite large. We didn’t know if she would make it through the surgery, but she pulled through even though there were many setbacks—including an infection that almost cost her life. During my freshman year of college, we found out she had a second brain tumor. For now the doctors are keeping an eye on it, but she will most likely need to have surgery again.

My health, which is problematic itself, has landed me in the hospital multiple times. When I was in academy, I had strep throat for more than three months. Nothing the doctors did was helping me to get better. I had to take off three straight weeks of school so my family could nurse me back to health.

But through all of that, God was right beside me. Somehow He was working in my life, even though I could not understand what He was doing. I have learned to trust Him; yet, that is not to say that I feel I have “arrived.” With each passing day, I continue learning to trust God more and more. Like everyone else, I struggle. But at the end of the day I know God is there for me. My favorite verse in the Bible is Isaiah 41:10: “Fear not for I am with you, be not dismayed for I am your God I will help you; yes I will help you, I will uphold you with my right-hand of righteousness.”

There are so many times when I just need to know that someone cares about me—God always comes through for me. He has loved me even when I have been unlovable. He has taught me to not fear the future because He is already there. In trials that may lie ahead of me, I know He will be by my side.

Bad things happen to good people. That’s not something I can explain. But from all my experiences, I can clearly see how God has led my family and me. I am so thankful for everything God has given me.

No, my life isn’t perfect. But life is what you make it. Focusing on the negative things in life will make your life be negative. If you focus on all the positive things, life will become happy and joyful again.

Christine Reynolds is a senior majoring in family studies at Andrews University. She also serves as executive secretary for the Andrews University Student Association.
To the Ends of the Earth

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Mission work is life changing—just ask Gabe Modiga. Gave participated in two unforgettable Maranatha mission trips in the last three years. Called “Ultimate Workouts,” the trips send high schoolers to remote locations to build churches, teach Vacation Bible Schools and perform community service.

In 2010, Gabe went to southern Mexico for his second Ultimate Workout. He endured a seven-hour bus ride and two hours in the back of pickup trucks to reach the community of Jetjat. When Gabe’s group arrived, they were shocked at the village’s simplicity. “There were no phones, no mail, pretty much nothing but running water. ... It was very primitive. It made me realize that people don’t have much,” says Gabe. “It helped me appreciate what I have and realize how blessed I am in the States.”

Gabe helped build two churches. He became friends with the villagers, talked with the children, and played games with them. Most importantly, he worshiped with them and led many to Christ. In the evenings, his group had worship together. The villagers were so interested in God that they crowded around the students and listened in. A translator came, and the group told sermons and sang songs with the people. Gabe claims each night was a blessing and a chance to know the villagers better.

Gabe spent nearly two weeks in Jetjat. Toward the end of his trip, he witnessed God’s power in another incredible way. A huge storm was headed for the village, and the churches were not yet complete. The group rushed to finish the buildings, knowing it would be impossible if the storm hit. They came together and prayed for a miracle from God.

“Unfortunately, it began to rain,” says Gabe, “and didn’t stop for ten minutes. It was supposed to continue for the whole day and night when suddenly, it just stopped. It was so awesome—a really amazing experience.”

Gabe will never forget these experiences. He is currently making plans for his next mission trip. Gabe spent the summer ministering to youth at Camp Au Sable in Grayling, Michigan, and has also been involved with gymnastics and music ministries.

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan. She is pursuing a degree in physical therapy at Andrews University.

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Lake Union Herald - October 2011

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