

Births & Adoptions

Shawn (BA '04, MDiv '07) and **Camille (Trubey) Brace** (BA '06) are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Acadia Belle Brace, born on Feb. 9, 2011.

Deaths

Blossom L. Engen (former faculty), 84, of Hamburg, Pa., and formerly of Berrien Springs, Mich., died Monday, Dec. 27, 2010.

Blossom was the wife of Gordon O. Engen. They had been married for 61 years. Born in Lincoln, Neb., Blossom was the daughter of the late Charles F. and Hazel (Nelson) Church. She was a graduate of Champion Academy in Colorado and Union College in Lincoln, Neb., and then earned a master's degree in home economics from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich.

Blossom was a lifelong teacher. She taught at Union College from 1948–1949, at Adelphian Academy from 1949–1953, and Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) from 1953–1961. After taking time off to raise a family, she taught at RMES in Berrien Springs.

Upon moving to Maryland, Blossom taught at the John Nevins Andrews Elementary School and Spencerville Junior Academy. She then accepted positions in the family life, communications, and education departments of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Maryland, where she helped co-author a series of elementary reading textbooks. In her retirement, Blossom returned to Berrien Springs, where she volunteered at Pioneer Memorial Church and International Learning Systems. Blossom was a member of the Blue Mountain Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hamburg.

Blossom was an excellent musician who taught organ and piano lessons. She used her musical talents playing for many churches, and enjoyed singing in church choirs. She also enjoyed traveling. In her years while home raising her family, she operated her own interior decorating business and used her skills as a seamstress.

Survivors, in addition to her husband, include two sons: **Eric L. Engen** (MA '97) and his wife Diana of Hamburg, Pa., and Del Engen of Seattle, Wash.; and two grandchildren: Jared and Kristen Engen.

Blossom was predeceased by a sister, Arlene (Church) Seitz.

Walter M. Booth (MA '53, MA '54, PhD '89), 82, of Berrien Springs, Mich., died Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010, at his home. A memorial service was held at the Eau Claire Seventh-day Adventist Church on Jan. 22, 2011.

Walter was born June 8, 1928, in Trucksville, Pa. One of Walter's passions in life was birds. He moved to Berrien Springs in early 1963 and was soon a major figure in the newly-formed Oronoko Bird Club. He was responsible for discovering many of the birding "hot spots" that are now visited by hundreds of birders annually. For years he served as the club's records compiler, in addition to newsletter contributor. He also co-authored "Birds of Berrien County, Michigan: a 30-year Summary" and authored numerous articles published on birding in Berrien County for state and national publications. In 1982, Walter took a one-year teaching job at Middle East College in Beirut, Lebanon, where he added a few bird species to his life list. While there he was also able to travel to areas of special interest to Bible students.

Walter's other passions were classical music, books and the acquisition of knowledge. He was a scholarly man with a logical mind and an excellent memory. He was an eternal student, always researching and writing. He earned a BA from Washington Missionary College in Takoma Park, Md. Walter subsequently earned a PhD in religious education at Andrews. Additionally, he studied and read Greek. The articles and papers he wrote on theological issues and his membership in the Adventist Theological Society indicate his interest in theology and religion.

While in the U.S. Army stationed at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick in nearby Frederick, Md., Walter voluntarily participated in Operation White Coat. Soldiers were intentionally given infectious diseases so research scientists and medical experts could study the diseases as a defense against chemical warfare rather than the development of substances for use as offensive weapons.

Before moving to Berrien Springs he had been a full-time elementary school teacher in several locations, including Muskegon, Mich. In addition to several other jobs in the Berrien Springs area, for quite a few years he was a substitute teacher for several of the school

systems in Berrien County. Although Walter had no close family, he has a host of friends who love him and will miss him.

James White Library, his "daytime home" for many years, has established a memorial fund in Walter's name. This fund will benefit the library with the addition of appropriate furniture in his memory.

Durward B. Wildman Jr (BA '52) passed away on Nov. 30, 2010, surrounded by family.

Durward worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church for about 44 years, mostly in health care. His career began in 1955 at Faith for Today, after which he served at Union Springs Academy and Hinsdale Hospital. His final position was as president of the Adventist HealthCare Retirement Plan, a retirement plan for many Adventist hospitals and associated entities across the U.S. His wife, **Joan (Lane)** (DIP 2YR '51), also worked at Faith for Today, Union Springs Academy and Hinsdale Hospital, both part- and full-time while raising their family. He remained active in the local church and school as well as doing some volunteer work at Hinsdale Hospital. He will be greatly missed by friends and family. Joan writes, "We look forward to our Lord's soon return to be reunited with all of our loved ones."

He is survived by his wife Joan, three children: **Joni Kay (Wildman) Baker** (att.); **Patti Beth (Wildman) Carlson** (BS '80); and **Greg Wildman** (att.); and five grandchildren.

Winsome Hope (Smith) Clarke (BMus '75, MMus '76) passed away on Dec. 22, 2010, at the age of 69. Born on Jan. 26, 1941, in Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies, Winsome was the first child of Roy and Isabell Thompson, primary school teachers in Lionel Town, Clarendon.

She attended primary schools and high school in Kingston. She continued her education by teaching at preparatory schools, and began her formal training in music at the Jamaica School of Music where she was among the first graduating class at that institution. It was evident that her great love was music and she excelled in piano and voice training.

At the age of 21, she married Eric Leslie Smith, a widower from Port Maria, St. Mary; and had her only child, a daughter, Erica. She also gained two stepsons, Valentine and Colin, from her husband's previous marriage.

She raised her family while teaching at St. Mary High School for a few years, but felt driven to further her education. She returned to the United States where she successfully completed her doctoral studies in Educational Administration at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Winsome was focused on contributing to the educational system in Jamaica, so upon returning to her homeland, she joined the staff of the Ministry of Education. There she worked as a Senior Education Officer in charge of secondary schools for many years. She remarried a few years after her husband's death to Harold Clarke, an engineer from Kingston, who preceded her in death.

In 1997, Winsome received the Jamaican-United States Embassy's prestigious International Visitor Award. This enabled her to tour five states in the U.S. to observe their educational practices. In 2006, she was an honored alumna at Andrews University and has also been included in the *Who's Who* publication in London, England, the U.S., and the Caribbean. Among her other

accomplishments are election as Justice of the Peace in Jamaica and being an active member in the Music Teachers' Association and the Jamaica-America Friendship Foundation.

Winsome was an avid horticulturalist and when not with her students, could often be found in her garden, tending her plants. She had a strong faith which never wavered despite challenges in her life. She had a warm and generous spirit and loved people from all walks of life. After retirement, she built up a successful music studio in her home in Kingston with 30 children during the past few years. This number dwindled significantly last year due to her health issues.

Celebrating her memory are her children Erica Smith-Marshall of Tampa, Fla; Valentine Smith of Buenos Aires, Argentina; son-in-law Michael Marshall, grandchildren Mariela and Felipe Smith, brothers Howard Thompson of Manchester, Jamaica and Barrington Thompson of Kingston; sisters Sonia Yudcovitch of Calgary, Canada, Donna Clarke of Switzerland, and Arlene Thompson of Kingston.

Robert Harvey Habenicht Jr. (BA '55) was born April 26, 1932, in Ionia, Mich. He died on Dec. 22, 2010, as his daughter spoke to him of his blessed hope.

Robert was the founding director of Instituto Adventista Agro-Industrial in Amazonas, Brazil. He worked there from 1964–1973. Robert earned his master's degree in educational administration from La Sierra University in 1977. His thesis topic was an evaluation of vocational training. He promoted practical country living, including natural remedies and growing one's own vegetables and fruits, especially American persimmons, Northern Pawpaws, and Autumn-Olives. In 2001, he authored *Pastor Bob's Confession*.

He was buried in Floral Crest, Ala., where he had lived for 30 years. Robert is survived by his wife Ardis (Benedict), his son Har, and his daughter Cynthia.

Correction: In Ginger Ellison's obituary [fall 2010], her son Eric's wife should have been listed as Tiffani Rockwell Ellison.

Hans K. LaRondelle (att., former faculty), a noted Seventh-day Adventist theologian and scholar, went to rest on March 7, 2011, in Sarasota, Fla., after fighting a two-month battle with anaplastic thyroid cancer. He was 81 years old.

LaRondelle served as a pastor, evangelist, youth leader and teacher for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Netherlands from 1953–1966. He is remembered best for his 25-year teaching career at the Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and for significant contributions made to theology. An avid writer, he authored dozens of articles in church-related publications as well as ten books and chapters in many others. In February 2010, he was honored with the publication of a *Festschrift*, a book of essays noting his scholarship.

LaRondelle was born in the Netherlands in 1929. Although a Roman Catholic, he received a Protestant education from the age of eight and later began an earnest search for God and an understanding of the Bible. At the age of 20, he read himself into the Adventist Church through conviction and the studying of Ellen G. White's *The Great Controversy*. During this time, he was a law student at Leyden State University in Holland.

From then on, LaRondelle began to prepare himself for the ministry. He dropped his law studies and began a theological course at Utrecht State University in Holland and later continued his course work at the Reformed Free University in Amsterdam. It was here that he received a doctor of theology degree in systematic theology in 1971.

LaRondelle began his teaching career at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in 1967, retiring in 1991 with the title of professor of theology, emeritus. Hundreds of Adventist pastors who completed their studies in the 60s, 70s and 80s sat under his teaching.

Colleagues, friends and students of LaRondelle remember him as "a true soldier of the cross," "one of the best systematic theologians in our church," "a wonderful friend and colleague," and someone who "could communicate his work to the everyday church member...."

LaRondelle is survived by his wife, **Barbara** (att.), son **David** (BA '76), daughter-in-law **Antoinette** (att.) and daughter Sonja. A memorial service was held in Sarasota on Sunday, March 27.

