



LITERATURE MINISTRY IMPACTING COMMUNITIES IN MICHIGAN



Literature evangelists in prayer before knocking on doors.

Over a decade ago, church administrators across the North American Division were faced with a dilemma regarding the publishing work. While they knew this work was ordained by God and was destined to go to the very end, the publishing work had lost its evangelistic vision. For this reason and other challenges which the work faced, it resulted in the steady demise of the publishing work in support, both financial and otherwise.

However, a good church leader is not only able to spot problems, he will look for an acceptable solution. Many church leaders did just that. Among them was the leadership of the Michigan Conference. They knew that the problem was not with the work, it was with its focus and direction. This work was important. It played a crucial role in the evangelistic cycle—which was the sowing of the

gospel seed in homes throughout their territory. The law of nature that you cannot harvest unless you have planted first, caused the Michigan Conference to give strong support to the literature ministry.

Aside from the literature work done by our career literature evangelists, the Literature Ministries Department also encourages every member to share books and tracts, making these items both affordable and attractive. *GLOW* tracts have become a very popular means of sharing our faith with others.

In addition to the *GLOW* tract ministry, a large group of youth and young adults dedicate their summers to going door-to-door throughout our communities in Michigan each year on our behalf.

Here are some of the benefits of engaging youth and young adults in the literature ministry:

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CRAIG HARRIS



“Our Seventh-day Adventist church has three strong leadership programs that we call Club Ministries. These are Adventurers, Pathfinders and Master Guide.”

CLUB MINISTRIES: MORE THAN JUST A KID’S PROGRAM

Many of you are familiar with Adventurers and Pathfinders. Many of you were part of these important training programs as you grew up! You can still remember getting invested by Elders Merrill Fleming, Bill Edsel or Terry Dodge. You still remember the smell of camping with your friends. You remember pushing that potato at the end of a yard stick at Adventurer Fun Day. Most importantly, many of you remember how your club leader talked about Jesus and intentionally shared Him with you. We have great news. Those ministries are stronger than ever today!

Here are a few unsolicited statements from parents and leaders involved in Adventurer and Pathfinder ministries in Michigan.

“I’m in the church today because of Pathfinders. I saw Jesus as He is and what He wants me to do with my life.”

“You can send our daughter to church school. I never saw pastors care so much about kids in my life. Any church that spends money, time and has a weekend like this for the benefit of the family must be ok.”

“Thanks for all that you do for our young people. We had nine Pathfinders baptized this year, within 60 days! I believe this was because of the camporee experience. The Holy Spirit is moving!”

“Our family is now a spiritual family

again, thanks to Adventurer ministries! We have memorized the Bible texts from the Builder’s lessons as a family for family worship. Thanks for having this wonderful program for the families!”

Our Seventh-day Adventist church has three strong leadership programs that we call Club Ministries. These are Adventurers, Pathfinders and Master Guide.

So, what is the big deal about these three ministries?

We Are Adventurers

The first of the club ministries is the Adventures. The purpose of Michigan’s Adventurer is to strengthen families with children from pre-school through the fourth grade. As you can see from the quotes at the beginning of the article, Adventurers is a family ministry. Families from 44 different local churches around Michigan meet twice a month and have a great time. Adventurer families do crafts, learn Bible verses, visit farms, museums, apple orchards, go swimming, go on picnics, learn from the Bible, earn awards, learn about their family, about God and the world they live in, and about themselves. This is a tremendous program! The big deal is families are drawing closer to Jesus, and each other, as a result of Adventurers!

Pathfinder Strong

Our second ministry is Pathfinders. Pathfinders is a program developed from the first eight chapters of the book

Education. Praise God, that this model has not been abandoned over the years. I believe the success of Pathfinder ministries is because of this firm foundation! Pathfinders is a leadership/mentorship program for young people grades 5-10. It is dedicated to meeting the social, physical, mental, and spiritual developmental needs of junior and teen youth by challenging the Pathfinder to experience a personal relationship with Christ, having a sense of achievement and responsibility, and developing respect for God’s creation including his fellowman.

Each month, 62 Michigan Pathfinder Clubs meet at least three times in their local churches. Pathfinders utilize the outdoors, classroom, gymnasium, local church, and home as the training ground for their leadership!

Master Guide

The purpose of the Master Guide program is to develop leaders for the cause of Christ. We have around 120 people in the Master Guide program in Michigan. They range from ages 16 to 90. This program is the highest level of youth leadership in the world church. I would venture to say that it is the highest level of any church leadership program besides seminary training. Requirements are stringent, and it takes at least two years to complete the training. They read, instruct, teach, camp, play, hike, pray, and lead, just to name a few of the requirements!

PRAYER FOCUS

Every Monday morning, the Michigan Conference staff meets for worship and prayer. Here is the list for May. Please join with us as we pray for these churches and ministries.

MAY 6-10

Centreville/Kalamazoo Countryside
Pastor David Austin
Kalamazoo Junior Academy
Kalamazoo Community Services

MAY 13-17

Adrian Co/Hillsdale/Pittsford
Pastor Mario Reqtegui
Pittsford Elementary
Pathfinder Fair

MAY 20-24

Belleville/Tecumseh
Pastor Nathaniel Oregon
Hispanic Camp Meeting

MAY 27-31

Bessemer/Greenland/Houghton
Pastor Ray Holmes/Sean Brizendine
Bluff View Christian School

“Let my prayer come before you; Incline Your ear to my cry.”

—Psalm 88:2, NKJV

Local Church leadership

In order for these ministries to function, the local church elects high quality leaders to direct these programs. We are so thankful for these servants of God that devote hours, sweat and tears for the salvation of our young people! These leaders have invested so much time, love and effort into these young people, that in many cases, they will contact and talk to their Pathfinder/Adventurer director when encountering a rough time in life.

A few important foundational principles

The three ministries listed above are all designed to develop a balanced physical, mental, social and spiritual life. We have all read in Luke 2:52 where it says, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” Ellen White follows that statement with, “True education is the preparation of the physical, mental, and moral powers for the performance of every duty; it is the training of body, mind, and soul for divine service. This is the education that will endure unto eternal life.” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 330)

The study of scripture and nature are at the forefront of all programming. The young people, and their parents, can get their hands dirty in planting gardens, building campfires, pitching tents, raking leaves, gluing items, welding steel, and building a dog house. Many great spiritual lessons are learned in the outdoors.

“In order for children and youth to have health, cheerfulness, vivacity, and well-developed muscles and brains, they should be much in the open air, and have well-regulated employment and amusement.” (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 83)

Some interesting facts

- Four hundred and forty-six people were baptized in the Michigan Conference in 2018. One hundred and seven were Pathfinders. That is 24% of all baptisms!

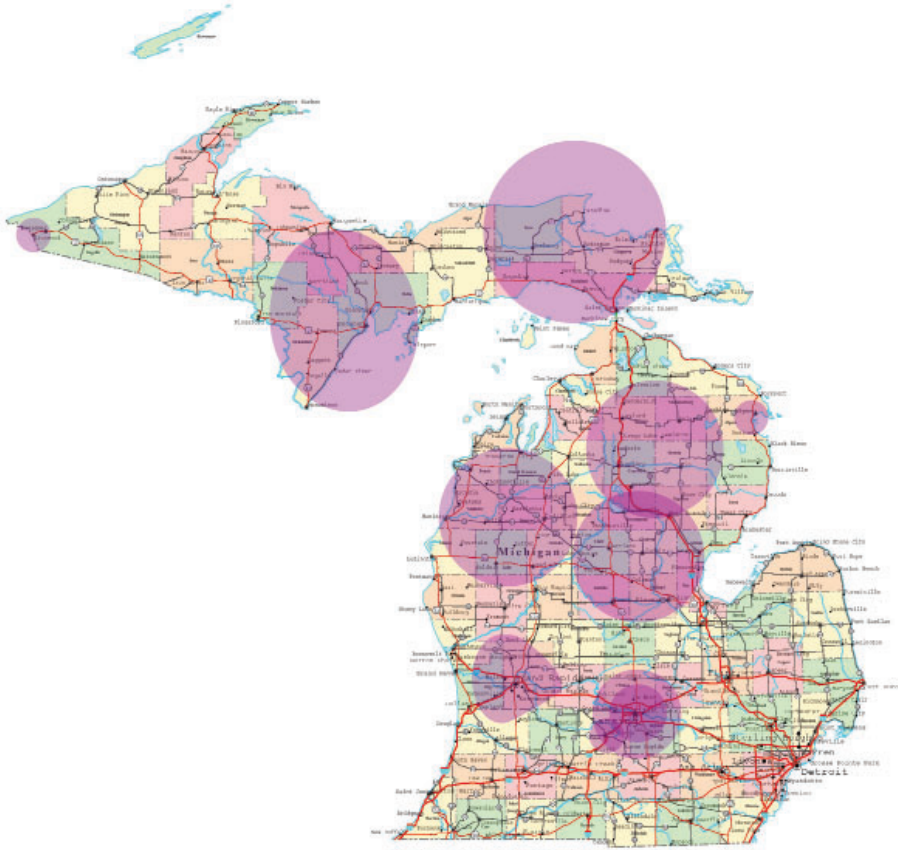
- Michigan Pathfinder leaders will spend approximately 13,357 hours in mentoring our youth this year.
- Michigan Adventurer leaders will spend approximately 7,322 hours in strengthening local church families this year.
- Pathfinders began in 1927; Adventurers in 1979.
- In 2017-18 Michigan had the largest Adventurer club in the North American Division (Pioneer Memorial Church had 150 kids and their families).
- Pathfinders and Adventurers do fieldwork every month to witness to the local community.
- You can earn the Master Guide in Adventurers, Pathfinders and Sabbath School Ministry. Yes, Sabbath School Ministries too!
- You can start an Adventurer or Pathfinder Club by contacting the Youth Department.
- Of those that remain in the church into their twenties and thirties, 65% of the young people were in a solid Pathfinder program.
- A “Wear the Yellow Scarf” program is forthcoming!

Investiture

Club Ministries celebrates the accomplishments of the young people and their leaders each spring with 62 local conference-wide Investiture services! A representative of the Youth Department travels all around our great state to personally greet and celebrate this accomplishment. If the local church knew what the young people are getting rewarded for, the churches would be packed full in celebration.

I encourage each of you to attend your local club ministries Investiture this year. Your presence is very much wanted and needed by the young people. Some churches are filled during this celebration. The kids are genuinely encouraged.

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STRONG TOWER RADIO: GOD CREATED SOMETHING FROM NOTHING

When my wife and I moved to Cadillac, Michigan, we were following God's providences to start a radio station. Like the seventy disciples that Jesus sent out, we had very few resources. But like those disciples, we have seen the mighty works of God. Gathering others around us, who also wanted to win souls through radio, we moved forward in faith. That is how the Lord brought the Strong Tower Radio (STR) network into existence. We have learned that faith in God makes it possible for Him to create something from nothing! Now there are eleven stations in Michigan, plus one in Decatur, Illinois, including Charlotte, MI, which just opened and enlarged the Lansing Metro coverage.

Because STR is a lay-led supporting ministry it does not receive funds directly

from the conference budget. We have been so very grateful for Elder Micheff and his leadership team. They, along with their pastors, have been wonderfully supportive and encouraging. They have opened doors for us to raise funds and share the mission of STR with the churches of Michigan.

STR is not about religious entertainment. We want this ministry to win souls! If you get our newsletter you will read the stories of people who are walking into our churches and asking for baptism because they were listening to STR. Just the other week a construction project manager called STR. He told us that he had been listening to for over a year. Then he said, "I haven't attended an Adventist Church yet." How many more are like him? God is not only sending people to our churches

now, but is building a reservoir of people, who will respond when the time is right!

Over and over STR has had its faith tested. When the Lansing opportunity came, we didn't have the money to buy that \$300,000 station, but in faith we put down a deposit. And the Lord marvelously provided the funding through His people. The same was true when the \$1.5 million station became available in Grand Rapids. Again, all we had was the deposit, which would have been lost if the funding didn't materialize. But the Lord Jesus impressed His people with the vision and worked through them to make it possible. The old studio we were operating out of was totally inadequate. We prayed. An existing TV studio came up for sale. Believing that the Lord was leading, we stepped out in faith. At the very last minute, the funds arrived to finish the amount because the Lord impressed hearts to give the money. We cannot express what a blessing this studio has been!

When we purchase a radio station, that is only the beginning of the cost. Not only is the electric bill for running these stations astounding but we also have to rent tower space in many instances. Then there are the constant engineering and maintenance costs. Sometimes weather or electronics messes things up. Sometimes we have to buy new equipment to replace the old or outdated. Engineering never goes away when you run radio stations. Of course, we must maintain and heat our studio. The few people who are on the payroll are receiving missionary wages - if the funding is there.

Sometimes, people wisely suggest, "You should have live streaming. Your web-site needs to have a library of pod-cast programming available. Then people could listen through their computer anywhere." Believe me, we would love to follow that advice! But we need funding to develop the web site for these and other things. We also wish we had the funding to post billboards all over the listening area to draw people to the stations.

When God called us into this ministry, we weren't qualified. But the Lord has helped us! We are still growing, with our staff and volunteers, in skill and understanding about what God wants done. Right now, STR is covering about half of the population of Michigan. We are praying for stations to cover the rest of Michigan in areas like Kalamazoo, Jackson, Ann Arbor, Saginaw, Benton Harbor, and Detroit.

We are convicted that we are living in a time when God wants to finish His work. He is ready to do the impossible if we will cooperate with Him! We are seeing His mighty hand, through His people, helping us! Through STR, the Three Angels' Messages are speaking powerfully. But we want those messages speaking not to just half, but to all of the ten million citizens of Michigan!

Even though the Lord Jesus spoke to crowds numbering into the thousands, yet He said, "The harvest is ripe but the labors are few." We understand what He meant. We could surely use more volunteers and supporters to help us expand and improve the reach of STR.

Our theme this year is "The Harvest is Ripe but the Laborers are Few." We need your help, even if you don't live in a listening area, because you know people that are traveling or living there. We can also use volunteers for all kinds of things. Let people know about STR through your social media contacts, yard signs, promotion cards and bumper stickers. For supplies, contact us at 231-468-2087 or email Jilane@StrongTowerRadio.org. Also look for our booth at Camp Meeting! We'll have lots of supplies for you to pass out!! Together, help us support the work of the local churches to save souls, through the voice of Strong Tower Radio, "Where God's Character is proclaimed."

David Bolduc, President of Strong Tower Radio



PASTOR COVELL GOING STRONG AT 100

How do you live for 100 years?" I asked Pastor Covell through a little microphone connected to headphones he wears. Sitting in his favorite chair in the warmth of his living room, he paused for a moment with a slight smile upon his face before responding. "You live for 100 years the same way you do 10 or 20 or 65 years. You live them one day at a time. So make your days count," he said with a chuckle.

Jesus said, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Matthew 6:34 NKJV). Regarding this text the book *Desire of Ages* states: "We are to follow Christ day by day. God does not bestow help for tomorrow. He does not give His children all the directions for their life journey at once, lest they should become confused. He tells them just as much as they can remember and perform." (*Desire of Ages*, page 313)

Pastor Covell served several churches in Michigan during his regular ministry

including: Coldwater, Jackson, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Lansing. He later served as Personal Ministries Director for the Michigan Conference before his retirement. As a retiree he has continued to serve as elder emeritus in the Traverse City Church of which he has been a member since 1984. He has treated the talent of time as precious, taking each day as given in trust, something he will be called by God to give an account for.

"Yes, Pastor Covell, one day at a time. But what does that really mean?" I inquired. Again, with that same charming smile, he quoted from the *Spirit of Prophecy* as if the thoughts were his very own: "We need to trust in Jesus daily, hourly. He has promised that as our day is, our strength shall be." (*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, page 200)

"You see," he continued to quote, "if you are right with God today, you are ready if Christ should come today. What we need is Christ formed within, the hope of glory. You should have a deep and earnest longing for the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Your old, tattered garments

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(PASTOR COVELL)

of self-righteousness will not give you an entrance into the kingdom of God, but the garment that is woven in the loom of heaven—the righteousness of Jesus Christ—will.” (*In Heavenly Places*, page 7)

“That’s the key,” he said, “Christ in the heart today, and everyday, until that day when He comes to get His own.”

In response to the many cards and messages Covell received surrounding this milestone, he has written: “I want to thank my dear friends for making my 100th birthday celebration a memorable event. The Sabbath services were a foretaste of what I believe Heaven must be like: our Sanctuary overflowing with welcomed guests which I will always remember. The spiritual emphasis that highlighted our day’s festivities will be a treasure long to be remembered. Your many cards, well wishes, gifts, and remembrances are much appreciated and they are tokens of your love. The accolades that were showered upon me have been translated into spiritual blessings.”

Covell has been a blessing to us and God’s church for so long that no one can remember him being anything else. He has sought to live for his Savior each day, and his Christ-centered ministry has touched the hearts and lives of many generations. His life is a testament to the love and care that Christ has for His church.

Covell’s desire is that you too might take the key that brought him to 100 years: Christ in the heart today, and every day, until that day when He comes to get His own. Will you take it?

*The Traverse City Church celebrated this milestone with Pastor Covell on February 16.

Jeff Akenberger, Traverse City Pastor

(LITERATURE MINISTRY)

Youth-lead Youth Ministry:

This ministry follows the model outlined by the youth ministry pioneers of the Adventist church in which young people lead other young people to support the mission of the church. Today, mission-minded young adults lead, train, disciple, and inspire other young people as they engage in a meaningful form of evangelistic work. These young people are there for one another, build Christian community, embrace a lifestyle of sharing their faith on a daily basis, and are maintain friendships well beyond the summer canvassing experience.

Evangelistic Work:

This ministry makes a powerful impact on people in Michigan communities. As youth meet people in neighborhoods around the state, they pray with them, offer Bible studies and other ministry services promoted by the local church, and saturate communities with Adventist books and tracts. Ellen White reminds us how essential this is: “Many who are hungry for the bread of life have not the privilege of hearing the word from God’s delegated preachers. For this reason it is essential that our publications be widely circulated.” (*Colporteur Ministry*, page 6)

Strongly Supports Christian Education:

Our young people are able to earn scholarships to attend Adventist academies and universities based on their summer canvassing earnings. In addition, sixty-five percent of all donations collected during the summer is used by young people to pay for their schooling. The great blessing that this ministry provides our church financially is the opportunity for monies supporting Adventist education to come from outside the church, our local communities, and not from within, thus serving to relieve the financial strain Adventist members and institutions already carry.

Training of Denominational Workers:

Ellen White noted that canvassing is the best preparation for other lines of ministry (*Testimonies, Vol 6*, page 330). A number of our young people who have been trained during the summer in the literature ministry complete degrees and are hired as pastors and teachers in the Michigan Conference. They have



learned how to interact with people of various worldviews, how to communicate our message in different contexts, and ultimately have learned how to labor for souls.

This summer about eighty young people will serve as colporteurs. They will spend much time in prayer and Bible study. They will see the great needs in communities throughout the state, they will see their prayers answered, they will distribute tens of thousands of books and hundreds of thousands of tracts, and they will never be the same!

You can impact this ministry by praying daily for our young people.

You can also watch their testimonies by searching the key words “Michigan Youth Rush” on YouTube.com or Facebook.com.

Thank you for your support!

Kamil Metz, Literature Ministries Director



The annual Pathfinder Fair will be held May 17-19 in the north woods of Camp Au Sable. The theme for this year is, "Half Full." Andrews University chemistry professor, Dr. Ryan Hayes, will be the guest speaker for the weekend.



On Sunday, March 31 the Wilson church family gathered together for the groundbreaking celebration to begin the building of their new church. The church was struck by lightning on July 25, 2017 and damaged beyond repair. We praise God in the hope that the new church building will better facilitate the needs of the members and community.



Camp meeting will take place from June 14-22. For the latest information and updates, you may visit the following link: <http://bit.ly/CMInfo19>. See you there!

Hispanic camp meeting will take place May 24-26 at Camp Au Sable. For more information please call 334-590-8008.



(CLUB MINISTRIES)

Many churches have very few in attendance, leaving the young people wondering why.

Get involved

If you are interested in starting or joining one of our many clubs or wanting to begin the journey of being a Master Guide, please send an email to charris@misda.org. We will be happy to get you started!

One last testimony

“By the way, I’m doing a week of prayer at one of our schools this week, and just today a teacher came up to me to share some feedback from a student. He hadn’t been to a camporee before, so he was nervous about the experience. She encouraged him to go, and when he came back, he said it was the best experience of his life. She asked, was it the camping, making new friends, what? He said, that was really nice, but it was the speaker that made it life-changing. He’s an 8th grader.

He said to her, “I’ve struggled with a few things in my life that have been hurting me, and I’ve tried to get rid of them but with no success. The speaker reminded us that if I invite Jesus into my life, He will take care of that, so I’m being more intentional about getting to know Him more and focus less on my issues.”

He’s doing Bible studies. THANK YOU!”

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MONTHLY CALENDAR

May

- 1 Camp Meeting Directors and Leaders
- 3-5 *Jesus on Prophecy* UP Rally/ Training (Camp Au Sable)
- 5-9 Camp Au Sable Work Week
- 14 District Superintendent
- 17-19 Pathfinder Fair - Camp Au Sable
- 23 Prayer and Fasting
- 24-26 AA, BCA, and GLAA Graduations
- 24-26 Hispanic Camp Meeting - Camp Au Sable
- 26-31 Certification Week - Camp Au Sable
- 27 Memorial Day - Office Closed
- 29-June 8 Camp Orientation - Camp Au Sable

June

- 1-30 Lansing ABC Closed
- 4 Magabook Program Starts
- 9-13 Camp Meeting Camp Pitch
- 9-15 Adventure Camp - Camp Au Sable
- 14-22 Camp Meeting - Cedar Lake
- 16-22 Junior Camp - Camp Au Sable
- 23 Camp Strike
- 24-25 Office Closed
- 23-29 Tween Camp - Camp Au Sable
- 30-July 4 Father - Son Canoe Trip - Camp Au Sable

CAST DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED

Communication Team

A youth rally organized by young people for young people was held at the Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church in Grand Rapids from May 29-30. The impetus for the event was the numerous requests from young people to provide an avenue where they could witness to their friends. Pastor Leeroy Hernandez has taken many of the youth in the area to the well-known conference, Generation. Youth. Christ. (GYC), and many expressed a burden to start something similar in Grand Rapids.

So, they actively did something about it. The young people gathered together, began to pray, and discuss possibilities under the guidance and leadership of local pastors and leaders.

"Many of them . . . tears in their eyes wanted to have a youth event different from anything else they had experienced," reflects Hernandez. "An event where a vision would be passed on to other young people detailing what it means to be a true Christian that is completely sold out for Christ."

Hernandez continues, "What made this event so special, is that it was completely organized and lead by youth. We simply provided some training where it was needed, and encouragement. It's amazing what

they did for the Lord!"

The gathering was attended by over 115 young people on Sabbath, and about 65 youth attended the Friday vespers program.

For Sabbath afternoon outreach, they took two busloads into the downtown area to minister to the homeless. One team sang songs, prayed with people, and shared literature and warm drinks to those who

needed it most. The other team knocked on 400 plus doors and distributed *GLOW* tracts, the book *Story of Hope*, and also conducted surveys, which generated multiple Bible study contacts.



Young people attended from every church in the Grand Rapids area and included students from Andrews University and others who weren't Adventist.

They also had 12 young people make decisions for baptism or rebaptism.

The keynote speaker for the weekend was Pastor Taylor Hinkle, who pastors the Vassar and Bay City churches. Elder Jay Gallimore also presented two seminars on the subject of righteousness by faith.

Plans are underway to make this a yearly event in the spirit of global GYC, that is lead and organized by young Adventists from around the world.