



Photo by Jason Sliger

Official Newsletter for the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists:



Michigan Memo

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Michigan Youth Impact

—Kamil Metz
Publishing Director

This past summer Michigan Conference hosted their annual student literature evangelism (magabook) program, Michigan Youth Impact, with 60 young people participating from the beginning of June through mid-August. It was another opportunity for the faith of our young people to be strengthened as they witnessed to thousands throughout the state of Michigan, from Detroit to the UP!

They initially went to minister to others, but instead were themselves ministered unto by the prayers of parents, siblings, pastors, teachers, and countless other faithful saints throughout the conference. The homes they visited have had seeds planted in them which will produce a harvest in these last days. Each day that they went out, there was always one more door and one more story. Here are some of our favorites that the students shared with us from their summer experience!

While driving the van, I noted a car following me and decided to pull over. Almost seconds upon stopping, there was a middle-aged woman who asked me if I was with the students going door-to-door. After telling her that we were, she handed me a couple \$20 bills and told me to give it to the student that came to her door and prayed with her. I showed her some of our books and told her she could have

some of them for the money she contributed to the young man, but shaking her head, she told me “no.” She said that she just felt impressed to give. She had given up on God in her life, but when Jorge came to her door and prayed for her, she knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that God hadn’t given up on her.

God continues to amaze me as He reaches us and those around us at just the right place and time in order for His character to be clearly

seen. Then those we labor for and we who labor are mutually encouraged!

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The Grand Rapids group of young people in the annual student literature evangelism (magabook) program, Michigan Youth Impact.



President's Perspective

Are the Nicolaitans Back?

—Jay Gallimore
Conference President

When Jesus finished telling the story of the persistent widow, He ended it with a question from the depths of His heart. “When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?” (Luke 18:8) Like the father of the prodigal son, God longs for His children to trust Him. Why does He yearn for such faith? Here is the answer. Every human bond is built on trust. No exceptions! It is the fabric that gives society its sweetest and most satisfying experience. It is the foundation of all our happiness. To trust God, who gave us life, is at the center of our happiness.

When faith is absent, then we get war, divorce, estrangement, chaos, and death. Life cannot exist without faith! The universe would disappear. That is why God’s anger is directed against those who “suppress the truth.” (Romans 1:18) Why is truth so important? What does it have to do with faith? Just this! Only truth builds and preserves faith! Faith is the glue of relationships. When the truth is suppressed, it is automatically replaced with falsehood. And deceit breaks people’s faith in God.

One of the most beautiful predictions of Christ is found in Isaiah 61. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor... to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives... to comfort all who mourn, to give beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.” This is done by declaring “the year” of God’s mercy and the “day” of His justice.

Isaiah continues to tell us that Christ will produce a people called the “trees of righteousness.” These “trees” sacrifice themselves to “rebuild the old ruins..., raise up the former desolations... of many generations.” Later in the same chapter, God promises to “direct their work in truth.” On this sin-torn, deceived planet earth, He raises up a people who, with the truth, restores the “hearts of the children” to their Heavenly Father.

The Western culture we live in today is often called “postmodernism” or “postchristianity.” It was the Protestant Reformation that gave birth to human freedom after the religious tyranny of the Dark Ages. For them God and His revealed will in the Bible was absolute truth. Today, the greater

part of the Western world believes that there is no such thing as absolute truth. So the door has been thrown open to the paganization of Protestant Christianity. It is no wonder that the Pope is considered a superstar today. For it was papal teaching that oversaw the merging of Christianity with paganism.

Today much of the Evangelical world is rushing to abandon the teachings of Scripture by claiming to express their beliefs in just one word – Jesus. Certainly that is the sweetest name on earth! But it is also a name that has been hijacked to excuse the most flagrant violation of the law of God. We must never forget that Jesus died to save us from the penalty of the law because it was absolute truth.

Jesus warned about the Nicolaitans in His messages to the Seven Churches. This early apostasy is thought to have come from

Nicolas, a convert from Antioch, who was chosen as one of the seven deacons. They used the concept of the “love of Jesus” as the basis of their rebellion against the teaching of the

church not to eat food offered to idols. This prohibition, by the early church, made it hard to shop for groceries in the Gentile culture of the day. But once the followers of Nicolas abandoned this teaching, the next step was inevitable. They believed the “love of Jesus” made the commandments of God less restrictive. It appears that he taught, because of his pagan roots, that there is no absolute truth. The result was gross sexual immorality. Like Balaam and Jezebel who led Israel into immorality, so did Nicolas’s teachings. No wonder Jesus called their deeds “something that I hate.” (Revelation 2:15)

So which Jesus did the Nicolas apostasy follow? It certainly was not the Jesus of the New Testament. It was an imposter who hijacked the name in order to infect the movement of the real Jesus.

Today we are facing again the combining of Christianity with pagan concepts, also known as the “New Age.” These New Age “Christians” and sympathizers have become prominent speakers and leaders in many Evangelical circles. Their influence is huge. Some examples of this are Leonard Sweet, Brian McLaren,

“Today much of the Evangelical world is rushing to abandon the teachings of Scripture by claiming to express their beliefs in just one word – Jesus.”

Tony Campolo, and Rob Bell. Rick Warren, author of the *Purpose Driven Church* and Bill Hybels of the Willow Creek fame don't seem to be far behind. They are acclaimed by many as the most important leaders in Evangelical Christianity. Do all of them teach some truth? Of course! But it is mingled with some things that Jesus hates. Several – not all - have proclaimed their support, in some form or fashion, of gay marriage. Some teach that people who believe in the coming of Jesus are the world's greatest problem. Some are into medieval mysticism. One has recently become a Roman Catholic. And with much sorrow I need to share with you that *some* Adventist groups and institutions have invited *some* of these to be speakers at their meetings and on their campuses. It was these kind of things that Elder Ted Wilson warned the church about in his address at the General Conference Session in 2010.

The hijacking of the name of Jesus is nothing new. Neither is the naivety of Christians who constantly fall for it. In our day, the New Age spiritualism has put on shiny new clothes which they claim they got from Jesus. But God is not mocked. Flash and flares will not fool the earnest student of Scripture. For the Bible is “a lamp for our feet and a light to our path” (Psalms 119:105), and it never goes out!

Every Monday morning, the Michigan Conference staff meet together for worship and prayer. Each week, different churches, schools, literature evangelists, and community service centers are remembered in prayer. Here is the list for the month of November. Please join with us as we pray for these ministries.

- Nov 4-8 Grand Haven/Wright
Pastor Jarod Thomas
Community Service - Keith Shell
- Nov 11-15 Lansing
Pastor Justin Ringstaff
Bible Worker - Staci Osterman
Community Service - Marvin Anderson
Greater Lansing Adventist School
Judy Shull, Principal, Melissa Boryca,
Robert Patterson, Julia Robinson,
David Tripp
- Nov 18-22 Grand Blanc/Holly
Pastor David Salazar
Community Service - Jennene Brill
Adelphian Junior Academy
Ann Barrett, Principal, Gretchen Brown,
Alan Meis, Jill Simon
- Nov 25-27 Fenton/Linden/South Flint
Pastor Chris Ames
Literature Evangelist - Chris Moore

Joy Under Fire: Women's Ministry Weekend at Sagola

—by *Laurie Snyman*
Assistant to the Ministerial Director

Women from all over the Upper Peninsula attended the Women's Ministry Weekend at Camp Sagola themed, “Joy Under Fire.” Of the 75 women attending, some visited the camp for the very first time because a friend had brought them. Ladies enjoyed the heartfelt stories of Renee Grove, member of the Urbandale Church, especially her coping of personal crises and what she has learned from coming out of them.

Women attended breakout sessions on deeper Bible study, hospitality, and friendship. Pastor Szykowski and his helpers cooked for the weekend, using the mobile kitchen until a new lodge takes the place of the Pomeroy Lodge that burned down. One woman shared of the baptism of a friend, whom she had brought to a women's retreat two years back, and of another friend, who had a blessed time at our last women's retreat and died this year. She cherishes the memory of the time that she and her friend spent together at Camp Sagola.

Sharon Szykowski and Jeanne Nephew headed up the weekend that included games, photography walks, inspirational singing, sharing time, and fellowship.



Photo by Shawna Campbell

Called to Lead: Michigan Men of Faith 2013

On September 28, men from various corners of Michigan and some also from beyond the state gathered together at the Great Lakes Adventist Academy for the Michigan Men of Faith convocation. Pastor Ken Micheff, Michigan Conference Men's Ministries Director along with his associate, Pastor Craig Harris, led the main programs of the day.



The theme was "Called to Lead," beckoning all men to take

seriously the roles God has placed at home, church, and society. The main speaker was Dr. Neil Nedley from Weimar College,

who spoke about self-control, temperance, and emotional intelligence. With over 520 men attending, this special Sabbath afternoon's program comprised of 12 breakout sessions, including topics about marriage, intelligence, leadership, media, sexuality, fatherhood, and the family.

The total Sabbath offering was almost \$6,000 which was matched by an anonymous donor. These funds will be donated to Strong Tower Radio in their endeavor to purchase a new station for the Northern Michigan area.

The next Men's Ministry event is the Father/Son/Buddy Retreat at Camp Au Sable scheduled for January 24-26, 2014. Mark your calendars for October 25, 2014 at Great Lakes Adventist Academy for the 2014 Michigan Men of Faith convocation under the theme, "Called to Sacrifice!"

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A man opened the door wearing a cross necklace. I began to canvass him, but in the middle of my canvass, I commented, "Sir, do you mind me asking, are you a Christian? I see your cross right there." He looked at me, then back down at the books with a funny look on his face, and then back up at me and said, "Do you want to come in with my daughter and granddaughter for a moment?"

When I saw the lady inside, I called the house number in to my leader and entered. We sat and talked together. He said that he used to be a Christian only on weekends - looking good at church, but living life his own worldly way every other day of the week. But then God took hold of his life and taught him what it meant to be a full-time Christian. "But," he said, "my family, they don't get it! They are making the very same mistakes that I did!"

Then he added the next part, which gave me chills! He said, "I was just praying, asking, and begging God, saying, 'Lord, I'll do whatever it takes so that my family can come to know you! Anything! Just show me, and I'll do it!' And as I was on my knees praying, you knocked on the door - and I just knew it was my answer!"

He got one of everything I had. We asked his daughter if she would commit to reading these powerful books, since they were such an answer to prayer. She agreed, and we prayed together before leaving!

I couldn't help but be reminded of God's promise, fulfilled before my very eyes: "And it shall come to pass, that before they call I will answer. And while they are yet speaking, I will hear." Isaiah 65:24

In Grand Rapids, I was working on a street with a door-to-door insurance salesman working at the home ahead of me! I waited until he was finished at the home he was at, and then I went over. The lady wasn't interested, but as I went towards the next door, the insurance salesman stopped me and asked what I was doing. I shared my canvass, beginning with the *New Life* cookbook, but he wasn't very interested. I quickly switched to *The Great Controversy*. I also found out he had an 11 year-old sister, so I showed him *Real Heroes*.

Suddenly he became very excited, but didn't have anything to give me. I told him that I would be on the street for a

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The Traverse City group of young people in the annual student literature evangelism (magabook) program, Michigan Youth Impact.

Michigan Constituency Re-elects Officers

—By Justin Kim

Communications Director

CEDAR LAKE, MI - Delegates overwhelmingly re-elected Elders Jay Gallimore, James Micheff, Jr. and Leroy Bruch as conference president, executive secretary, and treasurer, respectively, during the 32nd constituency meeting of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on September 29, 2013 at the Cedar Lake Adventist Church.

The morning started with a solemn message by Dr. C. Raymond Holmes, professor emeritus of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and current pastor of the Bessemer Adventist church. He emphasized the principle of sola scriptura, tracing its references throughout various portions of the New Testament. Dr. Holmes pointed out the particular necessity for leaders today to be committed to the text, as he acutely exegeted 1 Corinthians 4:6, to go no further than what is already written in the biblical text.

Though Elder Gallimore had read a statement suggesting they appoint a younger president, the Nominating Committee recommended his name for the incoming quinquennial term. With the newly introduced electronic voting devices provided

by the Lake Union, delegates voted and demonstrated their appreciation for Elder Gallimore with standing and enthusiastic applause.

Elder Gallimore expressed a tearful gratitude to fellow pastors, administrators, directors, staff, and members for their service. A special “thank you” was mentioned to his wife Linda to whom Elder Don Livesay, president of the Lake Union and chair of the constituency, emphasized the unique sacrifices given by the wife of a conference president.

In addition to the officers, the directors were also re-elected to another successive term with no changes. While waiting for members of the executive committee to be chosen, directors and coordinators presented various reports including the Reach ‘13 Evangelism Initiative in Detroit, developments at Camp Au Sable, Lifestyle Matters, Training Center Churches, and Good News Farm.

A comprehensive financial report was also given by Elder Bruch, explaining the Great Recession and its impact on Michigan. While tithe and offerings declined commensurate with the economy, the Conference has been blessed by the Lord through this administration and continues to be solvent financially.



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while, and he left for an ATM. I continued down the street, and my leader joined me. While we were at a door talking to another lady, he came and said, “I’m sorry, but this young lady owes me a book.” I went down to the yard and talked to him some more. He said, “I can either give you \$20 for a book, or \$60 for a book and a prayer.”

“Ok, let’s pray!” I said. At the end he asked me if I had any devotional books. I showed him what I had. He chose *Christ’s Object Lessons*. Amen!

One day I approached a Catholic parish. I talked to the priest there. I showed him The Great Controversy and The Desire of Ages, which he loved even though it was from a Protestant perspective. He told me that he didn’t have any money, but if I would come back the next day, he would get five copies of each of the two books!

Prayerfully, I decided to leave a copy of The Desire of Ages and The Great Controversy and pray that the next day he would come through.

The following day I was back at the parish. The priest had the check already written for \$200 for the ten books! I asked him why he wanted so many copies. He said that they will be used for the local elementary school library.

Praise the Lord!—or PTL—as we like to say on our two-way radios!

In ten weeks, 60 young people placed a total of over 33,000 pieces of literature and collected \$280,000 in donations, making it possible for many of the students to attend Adventist academies and universities. For more information about the Michigan Youth Impact magabook summer ministry, call 517-316-1515, or visit goyouthimpact.com. To read more stories, go to www.goyouthimpact.com/stories.

Belleville Purchases New Church

—By Dan Woolf
Elder, Belleville Church



On October 5th, when the Belleville Church held the first Sabbath services in their new church building, they already had two interests attending from their *Unlocking Revelation Seminar*. Only one week after receiving an occupancy permit, they were able to move in and host the seminars. One hundred and ten individuals attended the first night! It was the answer to much prayer and dedicated working.

Belleville is one of the oldest Adventist churches in southeast Michigan tracing its roots back to 1891. Its old location in downtown Belleville was not wheelchair accessible and was sold when land was purchased for a new building. Being in Wayne County, storm drainage issues developed because of the dense population which made building impractical. Its membership continued to dwindle as they rented worship space from the Trinity Episcopal Church for many years.

In the spring of this year, Michigan Conference President Jay Gallimore made a surprise visit to Belleville to encourage them to find a new home. The empty lot had continually cost them years of expenses and was sold for only pennies on the dollar. Asking if there were any vacant churches available, they learned that one was available that had been empty for three years. The previous church, in an attempt to recover costs when it closed, had sold nearly everything of value including pews and lights. Taken over by the mortgage holder, they were ready to sell.

It was meant to be and the 26 members voted to purchase the church using a mortgage provided by the Lake Union Revolving Fund. What faith! The sanctuary holds 120 people and it has four classrooms, an office, and adequate parking. It includes an adjacent four-bedroom parsonage.

Even before they were allowed use of the church, members from Ypsilanti, Detroit Oakwood, and Detroit Metropolitan as well as the Michigan Conference came to assist in readying the building. With only one week to go before the start of the meetings, boiler inspection, fire protection, handicap bathroom, kitchen and painting were completed. The complexities of

city regulations and requirements were skillfully completed by Simeon Maycock.

Thousands of GLOW tracts were passed out and personal invitations were made, with members never knowing if the church would be ready in time. The transition from a vacant building to an energetic, unified, and active church has been spiritually rewarding to those who have helped renovate. Now hosting the *Unlocking Revelation Seminar*, its members and those who are attending an Adventist meeting for the first time are being blessed by the Holy Spirit.

Only a few months before, Belleville was not planning to hold a seminar; they had no meeting place. A new unoccupied church was in need of repair; there were limited funds and low membership. The part-time pastor had never led a seminar. But with the encouragement of Michigan Conference Personal Ministries Director Steve Vail, they took up the challenge in faith.

The Michigan Conference appointed Alan Summerfield to be the small congregation's lay pastor while continuing his current employment as an automobile mechanic. Every member is active and their dedication is commendable. And now each evening a group larger than their membership come to learn the great truths revealed in the book of Revelation.

Help has come in many forms. Ministerial Director Royce Snyman works with Pastor Summerfield with presentations. A children's program is led by two experienced elementary teachers and assisted by local church members. Belleville has not only a long history; it is well loved and is being blessed. The new church address is 89 Edgemont, Belleville, Michigan 48111, one block south of Huron River Drive between Belleville and Haggerty Roads, about a mile east of the old church. Come see for yourself how God is blessing the Belleville Church.

Psalms 34:8 *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

Camp Au Sable 2013 Senior Retreat

—by Louise and Robert Moon
Members of the Berrien Springs Pioneer Memorial Church

The staff is so busy... Could you write an article?" A later email said only 250 to 350 words! How can such a fun/helpful/inspirational experience be described so briefly?

For starters: Beautiful - Enjoyable - Great Food - Porcupine - Deer - Squirrels - Chipmunks - Woodlands - Flowers - Lake - Mist - Reflections - Sunshine - A Little Nighttime Rain - Ducks - Geese - Hawks - Eagles - Crows - Songbirds - Go Carts - Canoeing - Pontoon Boats - Morning Worship - Health/Exercise/Talk - Activities - Illustrated Nature Talks - Legal Wisdom Talks - Nature Walks/Hikes - Table Games - Bus Ride - Hayride - Sailing on Grand Traverse Bay - New/Old Friends - Relaxation - Renewal...

The 8:30 AM devotional/Healthful Living talks, exercise activities, recipes, and more by Evelyn Kissinger were exceptionally helpful and interesting. Door prizes on the last day included a rice cooker and several aids to exercise. Evelyn encouraged us to minister in our home areas by using the new program *Fit & Free! Building Brain and Body Health*, or by starting a walking group. More information can be found at lifestylematters.com.



The 9:30 AM breakfasts, 3:30 PM lunches, and 7:30 PM snacks were a delight. Kudos to Zuzana Rachal, the Camp's food service director. Louise's favorites were the breakfast burritos and the made-from-scratch Mediterranean lunch including perfect baklava. Nancy Larsen treated all of us to her traditional homemade ice cream and shared her recipes.

On Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM, we had options for many activities involving the Nature Center, go-carts, horses, pontoon-boat rides, paddle boating, canoeing on the lake or out through the creek and down the Au Sable River. Some couples and several daring men attempted the Au Sable River adventure with varying results! Some couples made it to the pickup site without incident. But some experienced the *oopses* of Au Sable fun. Two men without women to guide them

experienced the beautiful dead-end beaver dam! When they made it to the pickup site, a couple of *old* fisherpersons helped them to dry land. The couple that photographed the backward canoe landing had a hoot!

Tuesday's 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM field trip began with a bus ride to the tall ship *Manitou* for a two-hour sailing/cruise on the Traverse Bay. The ship's crew included volunteer attendees in helping to hoist and bring down the sails. Wandering around Traverse City and choosing your own eatery extended the time beyond the planned schedule.



Each evening at 5:30 PM, there was a very meaningful "shop talk" with attorney, Patti McKinney. She gave practical legal information important to seniors. Individuals and couples also dialogued with her personally.

Dr. Gordon Atkins' evening worship talks focused on the senses, vision, hearing, taste, and smell. He explained and illustrated in fascinating detail how God provided exactly what each creature needed for its specific environment and way of life.

2013 was our third consecutive year of attendance at the Senior Au Sable Retreat. Each year changes have been made that have made it an even better experience. The only unoccupied accommodations were some RV spaces and cabins with outside restrooms. Our room in Deer Lodge was excellent; we would like to go on record with our pre-application for 2014! Congratulations to the Au Sable and Michigan Conference Trust Department staffs for a fantastic job of planning and implementing the wonderful 2013 senior retreat!

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November

- 1-3 Northwoods Romance -
Camp Sagola
- 1-5 NAD Year End Meetings
- 3 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 3 Women's Ministry Board
- 8-10 Hi-C Bible Camp -
Camp Au Sable
- 8-10 Marriage Retreat - Crystal
Mountain
- 28 Thanksgiving Day
- 28-29 Office Closed for Holiday

December

- 3 MI Conference Executive
Committee - Conference Room
- 8 Lay Advisory Coordinating
Committee
- 11-13 Office Staff Planning Retreat -
Camp Au Sable
- 24-26 Christmas Holiday -
Office Closed
- 31-Jan 2 New Year Holiday -
Office Closed

PLANNING AHEAD

CAMP AU SABLE NEEDS TASK FORCE WORKERS

2 Task Force Workers at Nature Center

Assist resident camp naturalist (Dr. Gordon Atkins) with the following:

- Outdoor Education (3-day visits by students in grades 5-6 from the Michigan Conference)
- Hosting weekend visitors of the nature center on Sabbath afternoon and guided nature hikes
- Off campus tours
- Maintaining existing trails and developing new ones
- Maintaining older and developing new exhibits in the nature center
- Maintaining a live animal exhibit of local species
- Visiting schools with nature/science demonstrations

Requirements: 21 years old or older, valid driver's license (commercial drivers license with a P endorsement would be desired, or could acquire at camp) and a passion for biology and natural sciences

Compensation: Practical mission experience, room, board, plus \$400.00 per month for expenses

2 Task Force Workers at Camp

Assist camp staff with the following:

- Horse trail rides, go-cart rides, and canoe trips
- General maintenance, housekeeping, and kitchen
- Summer camp classes and activities

Requirements: 21 years or older

Compensation: Practical mission experience, room, board, plus \$400.00 per month for expenses

Email Pastor Ken Micheff for more details at kmicheff@misda.org

BEFORE MEN AND ANGELS



Register your youth and youth adults at gycweb.org for this year's GYC convention themed "Before Men and Angels" in Orlando, FL on January 1-4, 2014. Speakers include Elder Ted Wilson, Sikhu Hlatshwayo, Jeffrey Rosario, Mark Finley, Kameron Devasher, and more.