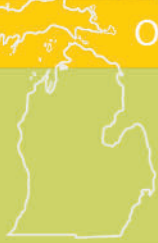




Official Newsletter for the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



MICHIGAN MEMO

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▲ Nicole Braxton and Chef Miguel

Around the **WORLD** in 7 Days!

By Nicole Braxton

MEMBER, PLYMOUTH CHURCH

“I was shocked to learn that the health message is the right hand of the gospel!”

How It All Began

The journey for me and the ministry, *Around the World in 7 Days!* (AW7D!), began years ago with my decision to seek and learn more about God. In college I studied abroad in Hong Kong, and the first thing I asked for was a church family. God answered my prayers, and I was invited to a classmate’s church that met on Saturdays. Without knowing it I began to observe the Sabbath and loved it!

Upon arrival to the United States. I was introduced to my first Adventist friend who shared many Bible studies

with me. Through much prayer and conviction the concept of this ministry, AW7D! was also conceived. During the journey, I was introduced to many inspiring individuals including French Chef, Miguel Larcher (head chef at Camp Au Sable).

Upon graduation I went to train with him in his restaurant in Kansas and later resigned from a corporate position to start this ministry. While training I was shocked to learn that the health message is the right hand of the gospel! I was also given the opportunity to work at Camp Au Sable to complete my training with Chef Miguel (who had since

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- EDITORIAL -

Freedom, Authority, and the Church

By Jay Gallimore

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



“Adventists have an organization that is built on duly constituted authority. It embraces the world through a representative form of church government.”

During the Dark Ages, popes and kings extinguished the lives of tens of millions for following the dictates of their conscience. In more recent times, fascist and communist dictators added millions more to the inconceivable carnage. Today, the freedom and peace of millions around the world continue to be threatened by these kinds of highly organized but despotic powers.

In the West, where freedom has been bought with such a high cost, it is understandable why authority is treated with suspicion. Nevertheless, no society can survive without organization. And organization cannot survive without authority. The God of creation is a God of order for a reason. Life cannot exist without it. That is why law guards it.

Emerging out of the Dark Ages, Protestantism introduced a new concept. It was the notion of the representative form of governance that would operate through a duly constituted authority. The American Declaration of Independence reflected this understanding by declaring that all are created equal with certain unchangeable rights. The Constitution of the United States gives the nation its authority. We call it “duly constituted authority.”

Our freedoms were never conceived to be a license to do as you pleased. While the law was expected to protect freedom of speech, religion, and assembly it was also expected to protect people from people. The government would have constituted authority to enforce laws preventing murder, stealing, etc.

Under that umbrella of authority and protection churches could exist. Some of those churches were not organized on “constituted authority” but on “kingly power.” Nevertheless, they had the right to exist as long as they did not force their views on other organizations or on the government itself.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church came into existence in 1863, a mere 36 years after the last victim of the inquisition was executed in Spain. Along with most Americans, Adventists were suspicious of kingly power. So much so that they were not sure they should organize at all. So, it took the Lord through the prophetic gift, to convince the leadership and members that organization was necessary. So today, Adventists have an organization that is built on duly constituted authority. It embraces the world through a representative form of church government.

One may ask, how does religious freedom relate to all of this? The principle of religious freedom allows people to exercise that freedom as individuals or in organized groups. The latter is termed the “right of association.” One has the freedom to belong or not belong to a church. But a denomination also has the freedom, not only to include those of like faith, but to exclude those who do not share the association’s faith and practice.

How a church expresses or applies that authority is determined by its form of church government. The final word for Catholicism is the Pope. For the Baptists,

it is the local church. For Adventists, it is the General Conference (GC) in session with elected delegates from around the world.

Built on the Protestant principle, the GC in session is a duly constituted authority for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Under that umbrella, the unions (union of conferences), conferences (union of churches), churches (union of members) exercise ecclesiastical authority. But these entities of the GC have no authority to operate contrary to the duly constituted authority of the GC in session.

It goes without saying that churches expect, among other things, that the delegates to a GC session settle disputed matters as they did in Acts 15. This community of faith recognizes that Jesus Himself is the real leader of His church, and that He expresses His will through the Bible and the gift of prophecy.

While nothing is perfect in a sinful world this God-led organization has made the Seventh-day Adventist Church a true world church marvel. We must understand that congregational governance, modeled by our Baptists friends, cannot be a true world church because the individual churches and institutions have no real accountability to each other. A common name does not produce unity. The papal system on the other hand, with its totalitarian Pope, certainly has accountability and unity throughout the world. But that system of church governance would never bear the test of Scripture.

The key to our unity is for members, churches, and institutions to be accountable to the whole. If the GC, through its voted policies, does not have duly constituted authority over its unions, conferences, churches, and members, then we are no longer a world church. If the 139 unions, as some are suggesting, are the entities that determine the practice of the church, then we have 139 churches with the GC as a forum for dialogue.

If such a step were taken to abandon the duly constituted authority of the GC in favor of the unions, what would pre-

vent local conferences or churches from doing the same? Very quickly, we would find ourselves broken up into hundreds of fragments. Our world organization is what gives power and life to the remnant church's global mission of Revelation 14.

In a proper view of religious liberty, an organization such as ours is dependent on voluntary cooperation. And no one would want it any other way! The fact remains that as Adventists we cooperate and work together because we *choose* too. But does the church have a process for change? Yes! And such appeals for change can be made through its duly constituted process. Part of that process is to test such appeals against the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The process works, and this is why changes are made at every GC session to the Church Manual.

But what if the duly constituted process turns down the requested changes? And what if people, churches, or institutions change their mind and refuse to cooperate or be accountable to the whole? What if they are not willing to bring their practice and teaching into conformity? As brothers and sisters in Christ, we must lovingly practice toward that erring member or institution what we call redemptive discipline. According to Jesus, this practice is to restore the unity of the erring one through patience, conversation, and forgiveness but not through indulgence.

Sentimentalism is not love. Principled love does not allow straying members and institutions to subvert the organization. Privately held opinions may be one thing. But if practices are not brought into harmony and the defiance continues, then the organization has a right to ask them to go the separate ways of their own choosing. Ultimately, no church or organization can permit itself to be destabilized and expect to survive.

There is a reason why there was war in Heaven. The principle of unselfishness could not embrace the concept of selfishness. It wasn't that God was unloving and arbitrary. It was that life could not be supported in a selfish environment. Lucifer used his responsible position to foment a

crisis over the principle of self-sacrificing love that serves as the foundation of God's government. His defiance and disruption could not be tolerated in Heaven. To do so would have been to allow chaos to take over the universe. Even though Satan was banished from heaven, God continued to allow him freedom to tempt the rest of the universe with his idea of selfishness. This world fell victim to his charms of so-called freedom.

The methods Satan used in Heaven, he uses more or less on earth. His enchanting temptations are always couched in "moral" arguments of freedom. Of course the duly constituted laws of Heaven serve the ultimate purpose of providing freedom for all. But Satan has no intention of stating that!

Chaos destroys life. Jesus went to the cross because the life and community of Heaven requires accountability just like our communities here. He could not simply forgive sinners without providing accountability to the rest of the universe. So when sinners violated the principles of life they must be held accountable. But sinners cannot pay that price and still live. So in His unselfish love, Jesus paid the price Himself.

Now when God grants us grace, no one in Heaven can say, "the law of life does not exist because God doesn't enforce it." Being accountable to one another is what gives the heavenly community life and freedom. And the heart breaking reality is that only when obstinate sinners are removed can harmony be restored and life made safe.

Thus, in the church we hold each other accountable—not to be mean or arbitrary—but because we value unselfish love and freedom. As a church community we are to imitate Heaven's principles and culture as taught in Scripture. We cannot do that unless we are accountable, first of all to Jesus, and to one other.



Summer Ministry Retreat

By Royce Snyman

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR

▲ Dr. Alberto Treiyer

PRAYER FOCUS

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

SEPTEMBER 5-8

Saginaw/ St. Charles
Pastor Benjamin Garcia
ACS, Van Collins, Saginaw
Marcy Kusin, St. Charles
Bible Worker, Drew Weaver, Saginaw

SEPTEMBER 11-15

Marshall
Pastor Robert Benardo
ACS, Marlyn Anderson

SEPTEMBER 18-22

Ann Arbor/Plymouth
Pastor Bryan Chio
ACS, Sandra Middleton, Ann Arbor
Karen Marsh, Plymouth
Ann Arbor Adventist Elementary
Bible Worker, Paula Prosser

SEPTEMBER 25-29

Buchanan/Chikaming
Pastors Roberto Gonzalez, Sung Um



called “Worker’s Meeting.” Approximately 250 people gathered on Monday, July 31 for four days of prayer, Bible study, instruction, planning, fellowship, and recreation.

This summer’s theme was “The Seven Trumpets of Revelation” and featured Dr. Alberto Treiyer, a retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor and professor of theology. The Adventist church has long held a solid historicist view of this prophecy, understanding it to summarize the history of the Christian church from the time of Christ until His second coming. When Millerite Josiah Litch predicted the fall of the Ottoman Empire on August 11, 1840 the Adventist movement was electrified.

But recently some of our understanding has been questioned, some even denying the historical accuracy of

Two times a year the Michigan pastors and Bible workers and their families meet at Camp Au Sable for what has often been

the dates we have used. Dr. Treiyer’s presentations featured a deep and intricate review of history that strongly corroborates our understanding, showing how historians are now beginning to recognize the authenticity of the dates we have been using. His presentation concluded with a powerful review of current events, which are fulfilling the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

Each morning began with an hour of singing, praying, and a devotional message. Camp Au Sable affords not only a terrific meeting venue, but also a wonderful nature spot for recreation. Our many young ministry families, and our more seasoned workers, took advantage of the afternoon to relax in the great outdoors and enjoy some of the camp’s recreation facilities and activities. The weather was beautiful, except for a little morning rain on one day, allowing for full use of the camp.

One pastor commented, “Thank you for another encouraging ministerial retreat, giving us the opportunity to reconnect with God and our fellow workers.” Our next ministry gathering will be January 21-24, 2018, again at Camp Au Sable.

Thank you for continually remembering your Michigan ministry team members in prayer.

Kids Encountering Jesus



By Diane Barlow

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 6-8, 2017, the Lake Union Education Department under the leadership of Linda Fuchs (former Michigan Conference Superintendent), arranged for Lanelle Cobbin—the principal author of the Bible Encounter Adventist curriculum—to train elementary teachers at the annual Teachers' Convention at Camp Au Sable. The 68 teachers and four principals who attended were thoroughly blessed and energized by Lanelle and the Encounter Adventist curriculum. Each teacher who completed the 16 hours of training received a certificate, endorsing them to use this new curriculum. Without the training and endorsement, teachers are not permitted to use it.

The Encounter curriculum is relational rather than informational. The Bible is the textbook! Encounter will lead students to develop their own personal relationship with Jesus with the desire to live a lifelong, vibrant relationship with

Him; and to be passionate about the salvation of others, rather than merely filling them with head knowledge.

The teachers left the training excited about the new curriculum. Even though this is an optional pilot year, almost every teacher opted to use the Bible Encounter curriculum for the 2017-18 school year.

As a parent of grown children looking back on their schooling, I realize the most important component is for them to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. If our children miss this, we have failed. "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36, NKJV).

The Encounter Adventist curriculum is the most effective tool I have seen in promoting a lifelong relationship with Christ. I encourage parents to enroll their children in an Adventist school and take advantage of its eternal benefits!



AROUND THE WORLD, *cont'd*

moved to Michigan). And praise God, I'm now a baptized and active member of the Seventh-day Adventist church!

The Ministry:

This year on Mother's Day *AW7D!* officially opened. The ministry focuses on providing healthy, plant-based international cuisine through events consisting of 4-course meals, catering,

and cooking classes in the Metro-Detroit area. To kick-off this ministry, Chef Miguel attended with a group of gracious helpers. The first event had approximately 63 attendees. The next event is an Italian candle-light dinner, and it is scheduled for Sunday, September 24 at 4:00 PM. To attend this event you can purchase tickets at: www.aroundtheworldin7days.com.

A portion of the proceeds go to-

wards funding free health workshops and young adult programming in the local Detroit area. It is a blessing and an honor to work beside our board members, Pastor Steven Conway and his wife Tammy, as we prepare for our upcoming diabetes clinic.

To God be the glory!

Transitions in

MISSIONS



JESSICA ASENJO

Jessica Asenjo is a new teacher at Battle Creek Academy. She is teaching grades K-1.



CINDY BERGER

Cindy Berger is now a full-time teacher at Wilson Junior Academy, teaching grades K-4.



BRITTANY BERMINGHAM

Brittney Brmingham is a new teacher at the Village Elementary School in Berrien Springs. She is teaching classes for grades 6-8.



SHARON CLARK

Sharon Clark is the new principal and teacher at Kalamazoo Junior Academy. She teaches grades 4-8.



MISTY FENDER

Misty Fender is the new principal and teacher at the Marquette school. She teaches grades K-8.



ELSY GALLARDO-DIAZ

Elsy Gallardo-Diaz is team-teaching music classes with Hector Flores at both Ruth Murdoch and Andrews Academy.



NICOLE HADLEY

Nicole Hadley is the new principal and teacher at the Ann Arbor School. She teaches grades 1-8.



JASON HASKELL

Jason Haskell is a new teacher at Wilson Junior Academy. He is teaching grades 9-10.



JAMES HUNDERTMARK

Jim Hundertmark is the new principal at Holland Adventist Academy. He is also team-teaching grades 6-10.



COLLENE KELLY

Collene Kelly is a new 4th grade teacher for Ruth Murdoch Elementary. She is coming to us from Indiana.



DENISE MOORE

Denise Moore is the new principal and teacher at Troy Adventist Academy. She teaches grades 5-8.



JENNICA SANTONIM

Jennica Santonim is a new teacher for Ruth Murdoch Elementary. She will be team-teaching grades 7-8.

Transitions in

MISSIONS

Continued



BETHANY STEVENS

Bethany Stevens is the new principal/teacher in grades 1-8 at the Escanaba School.



AMANDA WALTER

Amanda Walter is a new teacher at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy. She is teaching grades 5-6.

- **Chris Ames** now pastors the Boyne City Church, along with his existing ministry to the Gaylord and Central Lake churches.
- **Melissa Boryca** has moved to the Holland Adventist Academy from Escanaba.
- **Cathy Buell** became the new principal at Wilson Junior Academy coming from Marquette.

- **Dick Bullock** is the new pastor of the Bad Axe and Unionville churches, along with his church in Port Sanilac.
- **Patricia Costa** became a new teacher at Oakwood Academy having transferred from Ruth Murdoch.
- **Laura Fray** has transferred to Holland Adventist Academy from Oakwood Academy.
- **Emily Gibbs** is the new principal at Greater Lansing Adventist School having transferred from Wilson Junior Academy.
- **Brenda Mejeur** became the principal/teacher at Northview Adventist School transferring from Grand Rapids Adventist Academy.
- **Nathaniel Oregon** is the pastor of the Belleville and Adrian churches, and now also the Tecumseh Church.
- **Ariel Roldan** is the pastor of the Oakwood Church, and recently also became the pastor of the Monroe Church.
- **Carli Sullivan** has moved from Troy Adventist Academy to Cedar Lake Elementary School.
- **Rod Thompson** is the new pastor of the Midland and Mt. Pleasant churches. He formerly served the Monroe and Tecumseh churches.

News



Lightning Takes Out Wilson Church

By Tom Hubbard

A small but severe thunderstorm moved rapidly through Wilson on Tuesday night, July 25

2017. This storm produced a lightning strike that hit a tall pine tree in the Wilson Church cemetery and also the church roof. It immediately ignited the attic of the church. Four nearby fire departments along with the Mid County Rescue Squad responded quickly to the fire.

Even though the structure is standing, there is extreme damage to the roof, and the sanctuary is unsafe to enter. We will need to demolish and rebuild somewhere on the church grounds.

We are so thankful for the protection that the Lord provided. We have been encouraged by the kindness of many area churches and friends who have given hymnals, Bibles, and donations.

May we remember how God has led in the past and may we advance forward in faith to the purpose to which we have been called, because "we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28, NKJV).

Senior Camp

Live in God's beautiful nature book! Fellowship with Christian friends! Eat delicious food without having to cook! Entertainment and activities! Just "kick back" and relax! These are some of the items waiting for you at the fun and affordable Senior Camp.

Where: Camp Au Sable

When: September 10-13

For reservations call Mona Hickman: 517-316-1520

Sabbath School Workshop

The children's Sabbath School Workshop scheduled for September 29 – October 1 has been cancelled in order to support *Unlock Revelation*, the conference-wide public evangelism initiative. Thank you for your understanding!

MONTHLY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 1-4 Labor Day Weekend -
Office Closed
- 1-4 U.P. Camp Meeting -
Camp Sagola
- 4 Labor Day
- 8-10 Family Ministries Marriage
Retreat - Camp Au Sable
- 8-10 Adventurer Family Camp -
Camp Au Sable
- 10-13 Senior Retreat - Camp Au Sable
- 14-17 Health Professionals Retreat -
Camp Au Sable
- 15-17 Pathfinder Camporee -
Camp Au Sable Northwoods
- 22-24 ACS Fall Workshop -
Camp Au Sable
- 26 MI Executive Committee
- 27 Camp Meeting Directors
- 28 MI Board of Education

OCTOBER

- 1-3 Fasting and Prayer
- 5-8 LUC Secondary Leadership -
Camp Au Sable
- 5-11 Annual Council
- 8-12 LIFT - Camp Au Sable
- 13-15 Mother/Daughter Retreat -
Camp Au Sable

JUST PLANT A SEED!

By Janelle Boothby
MEMBER, GOBLES CHURCH

Are you looking for a program that involves the whole church—the pastor, men, women, teens, and children alike, and reaches out into the community? Consider Vacation Bible School!

Our motivation started during the last weekend in April. A committed group of church members from all over the state converged at beautiful Camp Au Sable to be trained and ready for service. Linda Gallimore and her dedicated team, provided all the ingredients to hold a successful VBS program.

The theme for this year was "A Week on the Farm." The purpose of the program was to integrate Bible stories, songs, crafts, snacks, recreational activities, and animals to learn about Jesus through life on the farm. An additional component was to introduce principles of a healthy lifestyle through engaging activities teaching the eight laws of health.

Full of ideas and encouragement, we chose the last week of June to conduct our VBS. The Lord blessed our efforts abundantly! We had 50 precious boys and girls in attendance—the biggest group since organizing VBS at our church over the last nine years!

The biggest factor in our success was having so much support from our church. We had 25 adult helpers almost every day. We were all blessed just being a part of this outreach. I couldn't have done it without them. It takes a church—the body of Christ!

Maybe we just planted a seed in the young hearts of those who attended. Maybe the teens that helped will want to look for other ways to serve the

Lord. Maybe some of those boys and girls will want to join other programs in our church—Adventurers and Pathfinders, etc.

We know that the Lord will continue to bless our efforts, we just need to continue to look for ways to reach out.

