



## LITTLE STEPS - BIG RESULTS



*“They took turns choosing which magazine, which neighbor. Benjamin stepped up to the first door, and firmly knocked.”*

**The Problem.** No Sabbath is random, I reflected. Every Sabbath is special—a double blessing promised. I wanted that for my grandchildren. Here I was, entrusted with two precious gems for the weekend, Benjamin, aged 6, and Amelia, aged 4. Long summer day—Sabbath School and church, great conversation, a meal. Then what? There were no children available to come and visit. I wanted a project with a purpose—a memory-making experience for them—and me. Lord, I prayed, what shall we do?

**The Plan.** In a flash I remembered my stash of Balance health magazines downstairs. “Let’s be missionaries today!” I suggested. Amelia: “Yes, Yes!” Benjamin: “Nonna, Don’t we have to be 8?” “Nope, today’s the day.” We bounded downstairs and I laid out 10 magazines on the floor, all colorful, each with a different image on the front. “Okay, I said, take turns and you each can choose until you have

5 magazines each. We will make matching bookmarks and share them with neighbors.” “Yes,” they squealed. “Bookmarks! The neighbors!”

**The Project.** As fast as I could cut the bookmarks and pen the Scripture promises, Benjamin and Amelia embellished them with color, stickers, and creative scenery that they decided illustrated each verse. Then we placed their precious hand-made promises inside the cover of each magazine.

**The Prayer.** Now we were ready to dedicate our work to the Lord. For this they wanted to handle the magazines wearing special gloves. Smile. We knelt and asked the Lord to bless our effort and prepare hearts for our afternoon outreach. Now we were ready! Outside, I discussed our game plan.

**The Change.** “What we can do, I explained, is place the magazines in our

*(continued on page 6)*

JUSTIN RINGSTAFF



*“While called to be watchmen on the walls of Zion and to give the trumpet a certain sound, the temptation is to be less clear, less distinct, less peculiar.”*

## THAT CERTAIN SOUND

With *Jesus on Prophecy* underway, it reminds me how important it is for us to share this message of truth and hope with certainty and clarity. The Apostle Paul warns us with prophetic insight that there will come a time when people “will not endure sound doctrine” and “will turn their ears away from the truth.”<sup>1</sup> Commenting on this passage, Ellen White writes, “That time has fully come.”<sup>2</sup>

Having the courage to stand for biblical principles and values was something that society once respected and maybe even admired. Today however, such stands for personal convictions are fast becoming viewed as something to shun and in some cases to fear. It seems that the popular thing now is to blend in and become more ecumenical when it comes to faith and practice. “Conform,” “adapt,” “integrate” and “assimilate,” is the cry of this generation. The more general, vague and undefined the message, the broader the appeal and acceptance. It wasn’t long ago that theologians labeled our society as “post-modern.” Today the label is quickly becoming “post-truth.” In this new era of relativism, fake news and deep fake videos people are asking today what Pilate asked of Jesus 2000 years ago – “What is Truth?”<sup>3</sup>

In such a climate, there is a growing temptation for us as Seventh-day Adventists. While called to be watchmen on the walls of Zion and to give the trumpet a certain sound,<sup>4</sup> the temptation is to be

less clear, less distinct, less peculiar. The worldly and religious pressure is for us to stop being so singular and just join the crowd already. But let us not forget this earnest charge:

*“The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is to be our work. The world is to be warned, and God’s people are to be true to the trust committed to them.”<sup>5</sup>*

*“We have been raised up and given a special work for these last days of earth’s history. We are not the same as every other denomination.”*

This is talking about the proclamation of the three angels’ messages. We have been raised up and given a special work for these last days of earth’s history. We are not the same as every other denomination. The Message the Lord has given us to proclaim is not only still relevant, it is imperative that we give it with a certain sound. Along with the message of the first and second angel, we must rise up as never before with the warning of the third angel. This is not just a call to flee from the wrath of God. It is an urgent appeal to turn from the brokenness of fallen Babylon to an “uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.”<sup>6</sup> It is to present “justification through faith in the Surety”<sup>7</sup> and to invite “the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God... This is the message that God

commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel’s message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.”<sup>8</sup>

We cannot afford to abandon the distinctive and precious truths that will arrest the attention of the people and lead them out of error. Yes, it will set us apart. Yes, our message will be unpopular. Even so, may we ever be mindful that

“the message we have to bear is not a message that men need cringe to declare. They are not to seek to cover it, to conceal its origin and purpose.... We are not to make less prominent the special truths that have separated us from the world, and made us what we are; for they are fraught with eternal interests. God has given us light in regard to the things that are now taking place in the last remnant of time, and with pen and voice we are to proclaim the truth to the world, not in a tame, spiritless way, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power of God.”<sup>9</sup>

There is greater danger than we can imagine when Adventist pulpits, in many cases, are proclaiming completely contradictory messages. When such a condition exists, the “Trumpet” gives so many different sounds that the message of truth becomes uncertain and difficult to discern within the church, let alone in the world.

That was the difference between the teaching of Jesus and the religious lead-

ers of His day. His work was to present the truth in clear, distinct lines. When Jesus preached, “the people were astonished at His teaching: for He taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.”<sup>10</sup> *The Desire of Ages* tells us that: “This characteristic set His teaching in contrast with that of all others. The rabbis spoke with doubt and hesitancy, as if the Scriptures might be interpreted to mean one thing or exactly the opposite. The hearers were daily involved in greater uncertainty. But Jesus taught the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority. Whatever His subject, it was presented with power, as if His words could not be controverted.”<sup>11</sup>

Let us plead for Jesus to be our teacher and example. Let us plead for the Holy Spirit to work in us so that the pulpits of our churches and the examples in our homes can be united and swell into a distinct and clear loud cry. How quickly would the whole world know the message of our Savior and soon coming King if we would arise and shine with the power of the Holy Spirit to give the trumpet that certain sound.

Our work for the Cause of Christ cannot and must not be constrained by the applause or lack of it from those around us – whether from the world or from the church. With the Word of God in our hands and hidden in our hearts and minds let us be driven by the words of Jesus when He said, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”<sup>12</sup>

When this is our experience, we will no longer be checking to see which way the wind of popular opinion is blowing; rather we will realize we are on Christ’s mission, and will have set our faces towards it like a flint. We will take to heart the plea: “Let not God’s servants act like men walking in their sleep, but like men preparing for the coming of Christ.”<sup>13</sup>

This was the experience of the early

church as they fully surrendered to the working of the Holy Spirit to fulfill their heaven ordained purpose. Their hearts were weighed down with the burden for souls, and they were willing to make any sacrifice for the truth’s sake. They wanted everyone to know the love of Jesus that saves from sin and death. It was this sounding of the trumpet that took the message to the uttermost parts of the inhabited world in the days of the apostles.

Brothers and sisters, may this be the hope that burns within our hearts as we press onward and forward under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel, giving the trumpet that clarion sound that will prepare the way and usher in the second coming of Jesus.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!



<sup>1</sup> 2 Timothy 4:3, 4

<sup>2</sup> *The Great Controversy*, 594

<sup>3</sup> John 18:38

<sup>4</sup> See 1 Corinthians 14:8

<sup>5</sup> *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 9, pg. 19

<sup>6</sup> *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pg. 91

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> *Testimony to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pg. 470

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 7:28, 29

<sup>11</sup> *Desire of Ages*, pg. 253

<sup>12</sup> John 4:34

<sup>13</sup> *Review and Herald*, March 2, 1905 Par.14

## PRAYER FOCUS

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

### OCTOBER 7-11

Ludington & Shelby  
Pastor Ron Mills  
*Jesus on Prophecy*  
Annual Council

### OCTOBER 14-18

Estey/Gladwin/Marion  
Pastor Don Sparks

### OCTOBER 21-25

Chesaning/Owosso/St. Johns  
Pastor Monte Landis  
Chesaning Community Center  
St. Johns Community Center  
TLT Squared

### OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 1

Clio/First Flint  
Pastor Tony Messer  
First Flint Elementary  
First Flint Community Service  
Public HI-C Retreat  
Year End Meetings

***“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayer, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.”***

***–1 Timothy 2:1, NKJV***



## NEW START CREATIVE OUTREACH

In today's world, it is becoming more difficult for us as a church to find meaningful ways to mingle with our community. People are distrusting, and opportunities for spiritual conversations often seem elusive. So, the question we are all asking as gospel ministers is how can we create an environment where our churches can mingle with people who are searching, but have not yet found Jesus.

I had an idea on how to do this one morning while I was having a conversation with one of the newest members of the Brighton church. Mike Kinzel asked me if his company Kintech Inc., could organize a golf outing to raise money to repair the church's stained glass windows. As we discussed the idea, I began to envision a golf outing outreach where those attending could be introduced to Jesus and the health message. I pictured golfers approaching each hole where they would see a sign listing facts about one of the eight laws of health (nutrition, exercise, water, etc.), or a question about a Bible verse. I thought that if each golfer received a quiz sheet to fill out, they could be learning about the eight laws of health and reading from the Bible right

on the golf course! We could also provide them with three delicious, vegetarian meals throughout the day.

After praying and writing up a proposal for how the event might run, Mike and I decided to present it to the Brighton church board. After receiving board approval, Mike's company Kintech Inc. agreed to be our executive sponsor. Mike and I created an organizing committee, which spent several months planning what became the NEWSTART Golf Outing. This included finding 15 corporate sponsors, ranging from local businesses, restaurants, pilots, doctors, and major corporations who supported the event by sponsoring a hole. Invitations to play in the outing were given to co-workers, friends, family members, and church health contacts.



On the morning of Sunday, August 18, a team of Brighton church members arrived early at the Hartland Glen Golf Course to set up for the event. Members from other neighboring churches assisted as well. As each of the 90 golfers arrived, they passed a series of *Jesus on Prophecy* yard signs that were sprinkled throughout the golf course. At the registration table, our members warmly greeted them with a gift bag containing golf balls, health and Bible literature, and an invitation to *Jesus on Prophecy*. A healthy breakfast was also provided. Before heading out onto the course, the golfers learned that because this was a Christian event focused on health, it would be different from other golf outings: no alcohol, no raffles, no prize for best score, and the golfers were encouraged to manifest a Christian attitude. However, fabulous prizes could be won for completing a Bible quiz. Prayer was then offered and the golfers headed out. Church members and pastors golfed alongside non-members, having discussions about the Bible and health throughout the day.

It was blessed and beautiful morning for golf, however, the forecast showed a threatening storm for the early afternoon. As lunchtime rolled around and the golfers were enjoying their vegetarian lunch, the radar showed a massive storm headed our way. While the golf course staff began battening down anything that might blow away, our church members began to pray that God would keep the golfers safe. Miraculously, God split the storm right above us, and it passed us on both sides!

Over 50 of the 90 golfers stayed for a full-course, vegetarian dinner, where Elder Wes Peppers gave a fabulous presentation and invitation to *Jesus on Prophecy*. Participants also learned about our church's plant-based cooking classes. Then came time for the giveaways, which included a grand prize of three days and two nights at Treetops Golf Resort in Gaylord, Michigan. Our guests felt well



## PATHFINDERS AT HISTORICAL ADVENTIST VILLAGE

It's by far not the shortest route to Oshkosh or back from anywhere in the world but it certainly is the most constructive and informative course. What may that way be? Why of course that path is through Historical Adventist Village (HAV) in Battle Creek, Michigan. At least that is what 5,457 global Pathfinders learned. During a three week span, beginning the week before through the week after, Pathfinder clubs from around the world traveled to Battle Creek on their way to the Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Some clubs came from the farthest corners of the world like South Korea, Papua New Guinea, Latvia, Russia, Estonia, Belgium, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, Dominican Republic, England, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Italy, Canada, and more. Others not so far like those from the United States including: California, Florida, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington from sea to shining sea. Beginning as early as 8:00 AM and ending as late as 10:00 PM, the Pathfinders came to hear the many stories of the roots of Adventism that run deep in Battle Creek.

At HAV they learned that in 1855 four men, J. P. Kellogg, Dan Palmer, Cyrenius Smith, and Henry Lyon invited James White to move the publishing work to Battle Creek and provided \$1,250 to purchase a piece of land and erect a building to house the publishing work. Pathfinders were amazed to learn that John Loughborough was only 16 years old when he started preaching the message of a soon coming Savior. In the Hardy House Exhibit, these young Adventists learned that Edson White built the boat "Morning Star" in Allegan, Michigan, so he could do missionary work in the south that led to the establishment of what is now called Oakwood University.

Many Pathfinders attend one of our modern-day Adventist schools. So the stop in the one-room school house informed them that Goodloe Harper Bell was instrumental in the establishment of the Adventist School System in Battle Creek in 1872. Next stop on the tour of the village, Pathfinders visited the actual Parkville Church and heard the exciting story of Ellen White's Civil War vision

and while in that vision she did not breathe for twenty minutes.

David Hewitt, the most honest man in all of Battle Creek, lived in a log cabin very much like the one the Pathfinders walked through at the Village. In that cabin they received the knowledge that Hewitt learned the great Adventist message from Elder Joseph Bates because Bates had had a dream that he should share that message with the most honest man in town.

Sometimes, the young people learned, that folk like to hang onto their old beliefs. Such was the case with Deacon White, the father of James White. It wasn't until he was well along in age and lived in his little cottage across the street from his son and his wife, Ellen, that he accepted the seventh-day Sabbath truth.

The second to last stop of the Village tour is the replica of the Second Meeting House. Many historically important events of the Adventist Church occurred in that Meeting House. Among them was the choosing of the name "Seventh-day Adventist" in October, 1860.

The last stop on the Village trek is the home of Ellen and James White. The Pathfinders were able to walk in the steps of the Whites in their own home and this is the only home where James and Ellen lived with all four of their sons and how their youngest son died in that home in Battle Creek. Yet through their personal pain and heartache they continued to serve the Lord. Though there are many more stories that the Pathfinders heard, these are just some of the highlights of the knowledge the Pathfinders received while at HAV.

This huge Pathfinder tour undertaking was carefully and expertly organized by the HAV caretaker/managers, Betty and Don Scherencel. They requisitioned numerous volunteers from as far away as Arkansas and California. These volunteers performed as docents, shepherds,

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## LANSING SPANISH REPORT

Pastor Steve Silva and the members of the Lansing Spanish Church were faced with many needed repairs in their church sanctuary. As the cold days of November 2018 approached, church services were held when the sanctuary could not be heated above 50° because of many broken pipes, poor insulation, and other problems.

While this church is rich in the Holy Spirit it is not so rich financially. One could say it is barely surviving fiscally. The members, however had faith and they knew that God would help.

Cost estimates and quotes were obtained followed by fund raising for the repairs. This fund raising was a success. Things were ready to begin. It was already getting cold however and hired workers would not likely be able to finish the work before spring.

At this time, members from the Lansing Church gave a mission vespers at the Spanish Church service describing the important work being done in Haiti in Orphans International Helpline (OIH). This was a worthy program to support. But how could a small church that is barely able to sponsor itself make any

difference?

Before the workers were hired for the church repairs. A realization was made that we could do this work ourselves and donate the labor cost to help OIH. If everyone worked hard it could also get done before extreme cold set in. Earnest prayers were made for guidance and God's power to complete the task.

Volunteers from the Lansing Church also came to help. Many new friends were made as workers joined together in this adventure. English and Spanish were learned together. Some did all-nighters to get the repairs completed before the cold weather struck.

This collaboration all paid off. The heating system started working just before the big winter cold blast. While some finishing touches still need to be completed, everyone is delighted that they were used by God to do two beautiful things at one time.

It is the hope that other churches will follow the Spanish Church example and do volunteer mission work right in their own church building or in nearby communities.

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**Stephan Blosser**, member of the Lansing Church

### (LITTLE STEPS)

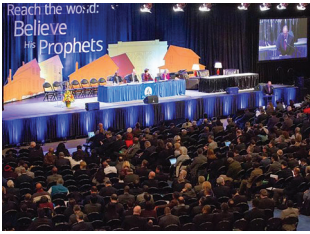
neighbors' newspaper slots at their mailboxes." Amelia: "What? No, Nonna—We need to bring these to the people!" "The people?" I thought it was neighbors. "Uh, I was thinking mailboxes," I coaxed. "No, we need to bring these to the people!" they chorused. Wow, this was not my plan. Me, a "seasoned" public speaker—too nervous to knock on doors? The children weren't afraid. "Let's do it!" I caught the vision. Each clutching their precious treasures, they took turns choosing which magazine, which neighbor. Benjamin stepped up to the first door, and firmly knocked. Amelia and I stood back to introduce ourselves. "Hi! We are your neighbors and are doing a health project today. The children have made something special for you that you will find inside the magazine."

**The Result.** Standing with the magazine stretched out, looking into the face of the curious householder, smiles broke out at the mention of the gift. Amelia and Benjamin in turn chose which topic they thought would fit each household. They ran with joy, with mission, and with determined purpose. My own heart was rebuked for my hesitancy, and also drawn out to these "people," these neighbors who received encouragement, a gift, and a pleasant reminder that God cares and has a plan for their lives. There is nothing random about the Sabbath, God's plan, His purpose, and the blessing of reaching out every day, and in every way we can. Jesus is coming soon. The world needs to know, and outreach helps us grow! Somehow, our evening watermelon tasted extra sweet!

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**Vicki Griffin**, Health Ministries/Lifestyle Matters

## NEWS BRIEF



Please pray for our worldwide and regional church leadership that God would provide wisdom and guidance. The Annual Council of the General Conference will be meeting from October 10-16, and the Year-End Meeting for the North American Division will be held October 31-November 5.



Seventh and eighth graders will gather at Camp Au Sable from October 6-9 for the yearly LIFT event. The event is designed to “inspire young people to make positive choices” in the social, physical, and spiritual realms of life. May God bless our children and our schools.



If you know of any students attending public high schools, universities, and colleges—be sure to let them know about the upcoming Public HI-C Retreat at Camp Au Sable. The event is geared towards equipping and strengthening students to be missionaries on their secular campuses. For more information, please call Cathy at 517-316-1570.

### **(GOLF)**

cared for and commented on how much fun they had and if we were doing it again next year.



So, what drew these 90 golfers to want to participate in such a uniquely Christian and health-focused golf outing? We believe it was because the Lord heard our prayer and spoke to those we invited. This was evidenced by the fact that 41 completed the Bible quiz which is like conducting 41 Bible studies in one day!

Praise God! Please pray that those who attended this event will be moved by the Holy Spirit to attend a Jesus on Prophecy event near them so they too can get to know the Jesus we know. We also praise God that over \$7,000 was raised for our stain-glass window project.

**Stephen Schefka**, pastor, Brighton Church and Lakes Area Company

### **(PATHFINDERS)**

and armband checkers. Some worked tirelessly in registration, as water carriers, or did cleaning and photography.

Tours were provided in both Spanish and English while others were translated by club members in their own native tongue. Besides all of this, the Scheren-



cels arranged for a food truck to be on the premises so that no one would go hungry. All and all this three weeks of bustle with all God's children was really just a little taste of heaven after we all pass through this path on our course to eternity.

**Joy Hyde**, HAV Volunteer, member of the Lakes Area Company, Walled Lake, Michigan

Do you want to receive the weekly e-newsletter of the Michigan Conference for the latest in news and upcoming events? Subscribe now by copying the following link to your browser: <http://bit.ly/MISDA7>.

## MONTHLY CALENDAR

### October

- 4-6 Marriage Retreat - Camp Sagola
- 6-9 LIFT - Camp Au Sable
- 11-13 Mother/Daughter Retreat -  
Camp Au Sable
- 13-17 Camp Work Week
- 21 Teacher In-Service
- 22 Camp Meeting Directors
- 24 MI K-12 Board of Education
- 26 TLT Squared
- 29 MI Executive Committee
- 31 NAD Year End Meetings Begin

### November

- 1-5 NAD Year End Meetings
- 1-3 Public Hi-C Retreat - Camp  
Au Sable
- 3 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 8-9 Crystal Mountain Marriage  
Retreat
- 8-9 Personal Ministries -  
Camp Au Sable
- 10-12 LUC Department Meetings
- 15-17 Office Staff Retreat - Camp  
Au Sable
- 17-19 Prayer and Fasting
- 18 Office Closed
- 20 Camp Meeting Directors
- 27-28 Office Closed for Thanksgiving

## SABBATH SCHOOL ALIVE IN CADILLAC

Michelle Munn, member of the Cadillac Church

It's working! The Cadillac Church's Sabbath Schools are coming to LIFE!

Starting in July of this year, our Sabbath School format has been completely revamped. You might say that we've gone "Old School." All of the divisions (children included) start upstairs in the sanctuary for the first 15 to 20 minutes.

Here's the program: We watch a *Mission Spotlight* video together. Then we have a Local Mission Focus which can include things like "Youth of His Message" (local early-teen outreach), homeless ministry, Strong Tower Radio testimonies, or a special prayer focus.

Each adult member of the Sabbath School agrees to intercede for one particular student in our church and/or school throughout the school year. Every child has a praying adult who prays daily, and also sends encouraging cards to remind the student that someone is praying for him or her.

One Sabbath all of the adults followed their Sabbath School superintendent

down to the children's divisions. They rotated through the different classrooms to see what the young people are doing. It did take a little encouragement to get the adults involved, but the results were wonderful. We actually learned a few things. The young people have found many creative ways to reach out to our community, and to projects farther afield. Some of the adults even put their loose change towards the funds that the children's divisions are saving for outreach!

The young people saw that the adults are interested in, and supportive of what they are doing. The adults gained a much better understanding of what the



children's divisions accomplish. Unity and respect come from teamwork and mutual understanding.

Every week I ask God to transform our Sabbath School program a little more as we focus on fellowship, Bible study, and missions. God is Amazing and He is transforming our Sabbath School in Cadillac. They're ALIVE!!!