



Official Newsletter for the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

MICHIGAN MEMO

MARCH 2018, VOLUME 30, NUMBER 3



▲ A student volunteer in Texas for his senior class trip.

“Instead of making class trip an inherently selfish venture, I wanted to reach the unreached and touch the untouched.”

Just ONE

By Michelle Stark
BATTLE CREEK ACADEMY TEACHER

On a cold January morning, eight seniors and two sponsors from Battle Creek Academy started a trek to Houston, Texas. This group of students has always wanted a senior trip that was mission minded. Several class meetings were spent debating where to go, and then Hurricane Harvey made the choice for them. According to senior, Joel Williams, “The opportunity to help people, *really* help people was compelling. Instead of making class trip an inherently selfish venture, I wanted to reach the unreached and touch the untouched. Rebuilding Little Cambodia was exactly that.”

The project, based in Rosharon, Texas, came about after a conversation with

Pastor Chad Bernard and with the help of Michigan’s Adventist Community Services department. Our hosts in Texas were the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Missouri City, Texas. These kind folks shared their homes with us, and cooked several delicious meals.

After we arrived in Texas, our project manager, Shane Perry (Rebuild South Texas Ministries) met with us to brief us on our mission. He told the story of the little boy wandering on the beach filled with thousands of stranded starfish. He picked up one at a time and tossed them back into the ocean. An older man just laughed at the boy, taunting him saying he couldn’t really make a difference. The boy picked up another and tossed it into

(continued on page 5)

- EDITORIAL -

As A Witness

By Jim Micheff

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



“Our special focus at camp meeting will be on equipping and training members to become successful soul-winners.”

I love listening to Strong Tower Radio, whether at home or while driving down the road. They have such uplifting and inspiring programs. One of my favorites begins with . . . “Hey, Mom, Dad, come on, Your Story Hour’s on!” Every time I hear those familiar words, fond memories take me back to when I was a child. My family would gather around the tape recorder, eagerly listening to every word of these exciting stories. Years later, my wife and I carried on this tradition with our own children, and they too listened intently to each character-building story. We were never disappointed, as each program spoke to our hearts and challenged us to grow closer to Jesus.

I have those same emotions when I think about camp meeting. Years of wonderful memories flood my mind as I recall the expectation of the first meeting, the sermons, the seminars, and the special sense of God’s presence at the ordination and commissioning services. There was also the joy of reconnecting with friends, meeting the speakers, early morning worship, and so much more. Camp meeting is also the time when conference leaders prayerfully cast the vision for the upcoming year and share goals with members from around the conference.

Several years ago, we embraced a method of proclaiming the everlasting gospel based on Jesus’ parable of the

sower. Sharing the gospel is not a one-time event but rather a lifestyle of both witness and profession - we call it *Grow Michigan*.

At last year’s camp meeting, we announced and promoted the statewide Bible study initiative that would enhance our efforts to win souls to Christ within Michigan. *BibleStudyOffer.com* has been a tremendous blessing as thousands have requested Bible studies through this platform. These interests have been channeled to the local churches.

We see members increasingly more engaged and active in their soul-winning efforts, and God is certainly blessing through not only *BibleStudyOffer.com* but our public evangelism initiative, *Unlock Revelation*, as well.

Currently, we have received close to 5,300 Bible study requests through *BibleStudyOffer.com*. And approximately 2,750 of those requests are actively receiving Bible studies through church members. As a result of this amazing evangelistic outreach, 56 individuals have been baptized so far.

God also continues to bless through the *Unlock Revelation* series. Over 2,500 non-Adventists attended this statewide public evangelistic series, with 8,108 total attendees, including local members, who also benefit from hearing the message again. Approximately 460 attendees

have responded to a call for baptism, with many more who are still attending church services or follow-up meetings.

We praise God for each interest. In the past, there was a great need to generate Bible study contacts. Now, we are encountering a new challenge. We need more members who are prepared and willing to follow up each new interest that comes in. Today, we have over 700 individuals who are waiting to be contacted, and that number continues to grow daily.

This great need for member participation was the inspiration behind choosing our camp meeting theme, “As a Witness.” In the words of Jesus: “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world *as a witness*, and *then* the end will come” (Matthew 24:14). Each and every one of us are called to be witnesses for Christ. This is the ultimate purpose for every Seventh-day Adventist.

As a result of this great need, our special focus at camp meeting will be on equipping and training members to become successful soul-winners. We have invited *Amazing Facts* and their college of evangelism (AFCOE) to partner with our Personal Ministries Department and Emmanuel Institute to provide training for church and personal ministries leaders. Once trained, they can then reproduce this training at the local church level. We pray this will be a blessing because not only will church leaders receive training, but they will also reinforce the principles they learn by teaching members in their local churches. Although the training will be directed toward the local leaders, we are encouraging everyone who is willing to attend the sessions and receive training. Normally there is a \$25 charge for materials but the Michigan Conference is willing to invest that cost in all those who preregister. All are encouraged to attend these training sessions but only

those who preregister will receive materials at no cost. We invite you to preregister through the forms included in this Memo, or online beginning March 1 at misda.org.

In addition to camp meeting, we have many other exciting training and evangelistic events designed to complete the work here in Michigan. The Personal Ministries Department, in partnership with Emmanuel Institute, has already held several training sessions and has scheduled additional district-wide training in Grand Rapids (April 20-28), Berrien Springs (September 21-29), and Saginaw (October 5-13). A *Grow Michigan* training weekend is also scheduled at Camp Au Sable (November 9-11).

“It is no coincidence that the doctrine of the Holy Spirit has come under attack at the very time we need Him most.”

You will be pleased with the list of seminars our department directors have put together to inspire, train, and encourage all of us. There will be a seminar on parenting presented by Tom and Elaine Waters, a seminar on marriage by John and Angela Lomacang, and one on music by Christian Berdahl. Adventist-Layman Services and Industries (ASI) will address witnessing in the work place. Adventist Risk Management will speak about a very important topic that has not been addressed before: keeping our churches safe, and will answer the question, are guns an option? These are only a few of the many seminars that are planned and will address a wide range of topics. Keep checking our website to

review the full list of seminars after it is posted.

Our main speaker for the first Sabbath morning through Tuesday night is Ron Kelly, the Senior Pastor of the Village SDA church in Berrien Springs. Last summer he spoke at the Upper Peninsula camp meeting and his message was so relevant and timely that we invited him to come and share the same message at our Cedar Lake camp meeting. Mark Howard will have an early morning worship focused on strengthening our personal relationship with Jesus. In the mid-morning meetings, John Lomacang will share a special series on “Unclean Spirits.” And Doug Batchelor will begin speaking on Wednesday night and continue through the last Sabbath. He will also join in teaching the special training session with AFCOE that I referred to earlier.

We recognize that not everyone will be able to stay on the campgrounds due to limited accommodations. We invite all those who are not able to join us in person to join us by way of live streaming as we broadcast these inspiring messages. Our Audio Visual department will also make recordings available through the ABC.

In the parting words of Jesus found in Acts 1:8, He stated that we would “receive power” with the reception of the Holy Spirit. The call is then made for us to “be witnesses . . . to the end of the earth.”

It is no coincidence that the doctrine of the Holy Spirit has come under attack at the very time we need Him most. Without the Spirit, we are devoid of the very power necessary to be witnesses in taking the everlasting gospel to the world.

We pray that camp meeting will be a spiritual blessing to all of us and I invite everyone to prayerfully consider participating in this evangelistic training outreach by responding with these words: “Here am I Lord, send me.”

Camp Meeting Speakers

as a
WITNESS
And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations and then the end will come.
matthew 24:14



Jim Micheff is president of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. A graduate of Southwestern Adventist University, he has served as pastor, youth/family ministries director, and secretariat. He began his ministerial career in the Rocky Mountain Conference where he served as pastor before coming to the Michigan Conference. Elder Micheff's message inaugurates the Cedar Lake Camp Meeting.



Pastor Ron Kelly was not raised a Christian, but his mother required him to attend Peoria Junior Academy as a young teenager. Through Adventist education, God gave him his life calling, a wonderful friendship in his wife, Collene, and the joy of being a part of the family of God. He is eternally grateful to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the myriad of dedicated members who believe that everybody ought to know who Jesus is. He believes in a cross-generational approach to ministry, the power of the outdoors to shape lives, and the freedom of obedience to God's law.



Mark Howard is the pastor of the Cedar Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church and the director of the Emmanuel Institute of Evangelism, a school that specializes in training lay people for sharing the gospel. He is married to Stephanie and they have two children: Caleb and Annie.



John Lomacang is a native New Yorker and a California resident since 1984. Life dealt John a harsh blow when, at the tender age of 3 months, he was abandoned by his parents. The babysitters where John's parents had left him became a surrogate family and raised him. It was in that home that music became a part of John's life. John Lomacang's many gifts were presented on the world stage during the Net '99 satellite series, where he sang nightly for evangelist Doug Batchelor. As a result of this series, John has been receiving calls from all over the world to share his musical gift.



Doug Batchelor has experienced a long and winding journey from anti-social drug user to the president of the worldwide ministry of *Amazing Facts*. He is the senior pastor of Granite Bay Church in California and the host of the weekly television program *Amazing Facts Presents* and the *Bible Answers Live* radio broadcast. Elder Batchelor and his wife Karen have five children. Currently living in Sacramento, his hobbies include playing his guitar, scuba diving, racquetball, and aviation. Elder Batchelor will be the speaker from Wednesday evening to the second weekend.

Week At A Glance

Time	Friday	Sabbath	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath
7:00 - 7:45	Mark Howard (Sab. through Sab.)								
7:45 - 8:30	Breakfast								
8:30 - 9:00	Welcome	Sabbath School 9:00 - 10:30 Worship*	10:00 To	10:30 Him 5K	Michigan Conference Staff Meetings (Sun. through Fri.)				Sabbath School 9:00 - 10:30 Worship*
9:30 - 10:45					Seminars & Workshops (Sun. through Fri.)				
11:00 - 12:15	Michigan	10:45 - 12:15 Ron Kelly	4:00	10:30 12:00 Path- finder Parade	John Lomacang (Mon. through Fri.)				
12:15 - 1:15					Lunch				
1:30 - 2:00	Camp	Blood Drive	1:30 2:30 ABC Sale	Family Time					
2:00 - 3:15				Seminars & Workshops (Mon. through Fri.)					
3:30 - 4:45	Meeting	Ministerial Ordination 3:00	Seminars & Workshops (Sun. through Fri.)				Teacher Commissioning 3:00 Soul Winning Hour 4:30		
5:30 - 6:15			Supper						
7:15 - 9:00	Musical Program and Evening Meetings (Sabbath evening meetings will close at sunset)								
	Jim Micheff	Ron Kelly	Ron Kelly	Ron Kelly	Ron Kelly	Doug Batchelor	Doug Batchelor	Doug Batchelor	Doug Batchelor

* Sabbath overflow site will be the (1) Cafeteria; and when it is full, (2) the Administration Chapel. (Subject to change)

JUST ONE, CONT'D

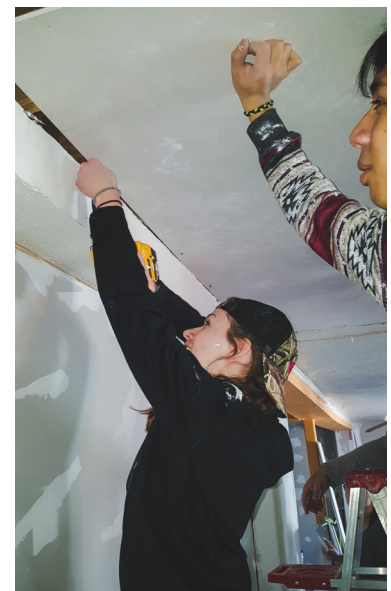
the ocean responding, “For that ONE I made a difference.”

That was our purpose—to make a difference for one person. Class president Logan Bateman stated, “After the trip, I felt that I, along with my classmates, had made a difference in the area that we served. No lesson would have been learned if we had just gone to have fun.”

Our project was based in the Cambodian community in Rosharon, a Buddhist community that was hit hard by Harvey. The community survives on the crops it grows and sells locally. A number of their greenhouses were left more tattered than the houses. After Harvey the community worked to rebuild the structures into livable conditions. One house was used for cooking, one for bathing—and with the bathtub actually outside—and one toilet for the entire community.

The students worked hard to rehab a fairly large home that will be used to house volunteers over the coming months. This will help with the goal of rebuilding the entire community. Over 3000 volunteers are expected to reside there in the months ahead. Our students worked to bring this house together by hanging sheetrock, learning to mud and tape, sand, trim out windows, and to hang trim. A couple of them worked with another volunteer who was an electrician to restore safe, consistent power to the building.

One student summarized the trip in this way, “Seeing the people on the site that we were helping really made the work worth it. I would in a heartbeat do it again, and this trip in reality has created a desire to go on more mission trips!”



Updated Office Hours Michigan Conference

In our efforts to be more efficient and fiscally responsible, the conference has elected to go with a four-day work week. Prior to this change, the schedule included a half-day on Fridays. In order to compensate for those hours, the office staff will add time to their schedules Monday through Thursday.

In the past, the support staff was also on a flex schedule, where some could come in earlier and leave earlier, or ar-

rive later and work later. We are standardizing the office hours so you can expect the office to be open from 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM (Monday – Thursday).

This move will save the hourly employees the time and expense of coming to work for a half-day on Fridays. It will also bring the Michigan Conference into line with the other conferences of the Lake Union.

Also, please note that department directors are available beyond the stated

office hours to best serve the needs of the Michigan family. You may call them directly or leave a message at their office number, which can be accessed remotely.

The ABC will remain open on Fridays from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Their hours from Monday through Thursday are identical to the regular office hours stated above.

Registration Opens March 5, 2018 at 9:00 AM

CAMP AU SABLE SUMMER 2018



ADVENTURE CAMP
(AGES 7-10) JUNE 10-17

JUNIOR CAMP
(AGES 10-12) JUNE 17-24

TWEEN CAMP
(AGES 12-14) JUNE 24 - JULY 1

TEEN CAMP (HIGH SCHOOL) JULY 1-8

FAMILY CAMP I : JULY 8-15

FAMILY CAMP II : JULY 15-22

FAMILY CAMP III : JULY 22-29

Disaster Preparedness Certification

“... See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” –Matthew 24:2

April 20-22(Fri-Sun)

Neighbor To Neighbor
9147 US 31, Berrien Springs
misa.org, member services, DR

Phone: 517 316-1567
Email: dbruch@misa.org



Disaster Response—Overview & Future
Crisis Counseling
Church Safety
Disaster Assessment—Forklift—Chain Saw

Training to Become a Certified
Adventist Community Services
Disaster Response Volunteer



It is now time to DO something!

PRAYER FOCUS

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

MARCH 5-9

Chesaning, Owosso, St. Johns
Pastor Monte Landis
Community Service -
St. Johns - Fay Denton

MARCH 12-16

Allegan, Gobles
Pastor Alex Rybachek

Community Service -

Allegan - Nellie Tripp
Gobles Jr. Academy

MARCH 29-23

Battle Creek Tabernacle
Pastor Bob Benardo
Community Service -
Shirley Finneman

Battle Creek Academy

MARCH 26-30

Detroit Metropolitan
Pastor Darryl Bentley
Community Service -
Paulina Janevski
Metropolitan Jr. Academy

Camp Meeting Opportunities



BLOOD DRIVE

Please come to the Cedar Lake Church Fellowship Hall Sunday, June 17, and donate a life saving pint. The blood drive will begin at 10:00 AM and the last donor will be taken in at 3:30 PM. You will need your picture ID and must know all your medications.

All donors must be well-hydrated and have eaten breakfast so please come and join us for breakfast **before** you donate. American Red Cross is sending more nurses so wait times have decreased.

GREAT LAKES ADVENTIST ACADEMY CAMP MEETING 5K FUN RUN/WALK

WHEN: Sunday, June 17, at 7:45 AM

COST: Pre-registration is \$15 for adults and \$13 for kids; on race day \$17 for adults and \$15 for kids

- Medals will be awarded to top finishers.

- All participants receive a memorabilia T-Shirt.

Pre-register on Friday, June 15, between 4:00 and 7:30 PM at the Camp Meeting Auditorium (Fitness Center) or Saturday night after sundown when the evening meeting is completed. For questions call Delwin Garcia at 989-427-2401 or email him at dgarcia@glaa.net.

SAFETY OFFICER VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

The Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is looking for interested Adventist church members to supplement the Safety Team during this year's Camp Meeting. If you are at least 21 years of age, have an interest in, and would like to be considered for such a position, please contact Joel Nephew at jdnephew@misda.org or 517-316-1524.

CAMP MEETING JANITORS NEEDED!

Janitors are needed to clean the men's and women's restrooms during camp meeting, June 15-23.

To be eligible to apply:

- Applicants must be 14 years of age or older.
- Applicants must have confirmed lodging.
- Applicants must complete an Employment Application and mail it to the Camp Meeting Employment/Volunteer Committee at the Conference address shown on the application. Applications are available on www.misda.org.
- **PLEASE NOTE: It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a fully completed application with three references. An incomplete application may affect an applicant's hire.**

All applications will be reviewed by the committee and notification will be sent regarding their decision. Additional required employment documents will be sent to those who are hired.

For detailed requirements and a job description, please visit www.misda.org. When positions are filled, there will be a waiting list. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2018.

AMAZING DISCIPLES

Jesus said "Go into all the world and make disciples." But how? Would you like to know? Then plan to join us June 17-22 at Camp Meeting as Emmanuel Institute teams up with *Amazing Facts* to present *Amazing Disciples*, a fresh, innovative approach to evangelism training as you've never seen it before. Each registered participant will receive a copy of the brand new *Amazing Disciples* lesson book, gaining new insights on how to practically apply your new soul-winning skills in your community and turn it upside-down for Christ!

Classes will be held from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM and from 3:30 - 5:30 PM Sunday - Friday.

Normally there is a \$25 charge for materials but the Michigan Conference is willing to invest that cost in all those who preregister. All are encouraged to attend these training sessions but only those who preregister will receive materials at no cost. We invite you to preregister through the forms included in this Memo, or online beginning March 1 at misda.org.

MOBILE KITCHEN

The Mobile Kitchen will once again be available for healthy, homemade lunches and dinners. Lunch specials and other menu items are prepared fresh daily and include vegan options along with several different wraps. Lunch will be served from 11:45 AM to 1:30 PM and supper from 4:45 to 6:30 PM Sunday - Friday.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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MONTHLY CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 Camp Meeting Registration Begins
- 2-4 Personal Ministries - Camp Au Sable
- 3 Pathfinder Bible Experience - Conference Level - GLAA
- 4 Women's Ministry Board
- 6-8 New In Ministry
- 7 ACS Executive Committee
- 9-11 Marriage Commitment - Camp Au Sable
- 17 Pathfinder Bible Experience - Lake Union Level - Berrien Springs
- 18 Lay Advisory Coordinating Committee
- 20 District Superintendents
- 27 MI Executive Committee
- 28 Camp Meeting Directors
- 29 K-12 Board of Education
- 31 Youth Rally @ Great Lakes Adventist Academy

APRIL

- 6-8 Women's Ministries Retreat I - Camp Au Sable
- 8 Lay Advisory Coordinating Committee

EDUCATED IN A FELLER BUNCHER

By George Corliss

Bob Jennings worked in the forestry business for over 20 years. He currently works harvesting trees with a huge machine called a "Feller Buncher." This unbelievable machine cuts the tree down, delimits the tree, cuts the tree into logs, and then stacks them.

Bob always listened to talk radio while working, yet wasn't satisfied with listening to the political and social discussions like he used to. His heart began to yearn for something else, and God led him to Strong Tower Radio (STR). Bob listened and was soon drawn to a relationship with the Savior.

After a short period of time, Bob began sharing with his wife Kris, and stated that they should begin attending church again. Apparently, they had attended church and had been baptized over 20 years ago; however, they never really developed a relationship with Jesus, and gradually fell away. Yet God's hand is not shortened that He cannot save, and He's not willing for any to perish!

They began attending churches, trying to find the one that could help them in their new journey. While attending the 13th Street SDA Church in Cadillac one Sabbath, Bob met an old friend—George

Corliss and his wife Joy.

After church service, George asked Bob and Kris if they would like to join them in their home for a Bible study on Thursday evenings.

Bob and Kris considered the invitation and decided to accept. That Thursday they joined a few others at George and Joy's

home and began to learn vital truths about God's love. They began attending both Sabbath School and worship service on a regular basis and also never missed a Thursday night study at George and Joy's home.

They soon accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior and were growing in

their faith, thoroughly enjoying their new church family. Not long after, they attended *Unlock Revelation*, a prophecy seminar at the 13th Street Church, and Praise God! They were baptized on November 4.

Bob, Kris, and their granddaughter Emma, live in Tustin and continue to attend the 13th Street SDA Church, the Bible studies; and most of all, they continue to listen to STR at home, at work, and in their car.

Thank you for your investment in STR. Glory Street in New Jerusalem now has another reservation. This time, a mansion for three!

