



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

Michigan Memo

October 2016, Volume 28, Number 8

A Delightful Weekend

— Emily Gibbs

Principal, Wilson Junior Academy

For the widespread members of the 15 Upper Peninsula churches—normally separated by geography and by their respective loyalties to the Michigan or Wisconsin camp meetings during the month of June—the Upper Peninsula Camp Meeting provides a wonderful opportunity to join together at Camp Sagola.

Although the Upper Peninsula Camp Meeting usually takes place at the end of July, this year it was held over Labor Day weekend. Despite the concern that the date change might affect turnout, the event was well attended by Yoopers, pastors and their families from the Lower Peninsula, and visitors from Wisconsin, Missouri, Oregon, and even California!

Campers gathered together from Thursday evening through Monday morning for seminars, worships, and joint meetings by speakers Jay Gallimore, Jed and Jodi Genson, Evelyn Kissinger, and Louis and Carol Torres. The young people were also



provided for by the children's divisions dispersed throughout camp. Happy, youthful voices could be heard emanating from tents in the ballfield, from rooms in the caretaker's house, and from the campfire bowl where an enormous tarp had been spread out to provide shade for the teens and youth.

On Sabbath, the Nelson Auditorium was packed with more than 200 campers, weekend attendees, and the Advent Herald

(Continued on page 4)





President's Perceptive

The One Heavenly Trio

— Jay Gallimore
Conference President

Seventh-day Adventists believe that the one and only God is a Godhead of three co-eternal beings who always have been and who always will be. We believe the biblical revelation that they are one and yet three. The Bible is both plain and mysterious regarding this teaching. Plain in that Scripture clearly teaches they are one and three. Mysterious in that we wonder how they can be one and three at the same time. For some, their faith struggles to accept what they cannot explain. The result is to attempt to explain what cannot be explained. And at times, the consequence is to deny the plainest revelations of Scripture.

Some have attempted to resolve these quandaries by giving Jesus a beginning; and by making the Holy Spirit a force or energy from the Father and not His own person. Yet, Jesus Himself teaches just the opposite.

In John 14 Jesus startled the disciples when He told them He was about to leave them and go to His Father. Then Philip asked Jesus to “show us the Father.” But Jesus mysteriously answered him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me...? He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (Jn 14:9). Here He declares His oneness with the Father. Yet, they are two distinct individuals because He just finished saying He was going to the Father.

A few verses later He does something similar with the Holy Spirit. Note John 14:16 and count the number of persons in this verse. “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper.” “I,” referring to Jesus is one. The “Father” is two. And the “Another” is three. “Another” assumes someone else like Jesus and His Father. That’s the context! The “Another” cannot be made to mean anything else!

Obviously, the Another cannot be the Father or Jesus otherwise He wouldn’t be referred to as “Another.” The “Another” cannot

be made to mean an unintelligent force because Jesus and the Father are intelligent personalities! And the “Another,” by its very definition is assumed to be like Them. If I say I am going to send you another from the office, I am not talking about a sheep or goat or an energy or force. I am talking about someone like me. Jesus also assigns a name to the “Another” in verse 17 as being the “Spirit of Truth.”

Even though Jesus is leaving the disciples to go to His Father He promises to send the “Another,” the Spirit of Truth to take His place with them. And then He adds, “I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you.” (Jn 14:18).

How can Jesus declare to the disciples that if they have seen

Him they have seen the Father? How can Jesus tell His disciples that He is leaving but will not leave them orphans? Because all three, the Father, the Son and the Spirit of Truth are One! If you have one you have the others.

When God “gave His only begotten Son” does that mean that God gave birth to Jesus? Some would have you believe that. Yet the word begotten can mean “unique, or one of a kind.” In Psalms “begotten” is used for the inauguration of a

king (Ps 2:7). In the New Testament Paul says of his converts, “I have begotten you through the gospel” (1 Cor 4:15). In his letter to Philemon, Paul speaking of Onesimus says, “whom I have begotten in my bonds” (Philemon 1:10). Peter says, “according to His abundant mercy [He] has begotten us again to a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus” (1 Pet 1:3). John in the book of Revelation calls Jesus “the first begotten of the dead” (Rev 1:5). In all of these examples, those who were begotten pre-existed when they were begotten. To insist that begotten always has to be a physical birth is to ignore the testimony of Scripture itself.

The Holy Spirit sits on no throne as do the Father and Son. It is impossible for us to visualize Him. Perhaps that is why some say

"Some have attempted to resolve these quandaries by giving Jesus a beginning; and by making the Holy Spirit a force or energy from the Father and not His own person. Yet, Jesus Himself teaches just the opposite."

He is only a force and not an intelligent being. Yet Romans 8:26 states “the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words.” Does a force intercede? Does energy groan?

The use of the words the “Spirit *Himself*” is a common way of emphasizing the personality of the person. Paul also refers to Jesus as the “Lord Himself” and “God Himself the Father.” So Paul underlines the personality of all three by using the word “*Himself*” after their names.¹

When the Bible speaks of angels it calls them ministering spirits (Heb 1:14). Everyone who reads the Bible knows that angels are real beings with personalities and not merely a force or energy.

It is true that *some* of the early pioneers did not believe in the Triune Godhead. People sometimes forget that early Adventists came from all kinds of Protestant backgrounds. It took time for the body of Adventists to fully develop their fundamental beliefs. For instance, when the Sabbath came to their attention, many kept it from 6 PM to 6 PM. It wasn't until later that the full truth of sunset to sunset became clear.

William Miller (1782-1849), the Baptist preacher who influenced the message of the Adventist pioneers believed in the eternal Godhead. He wrote, “I believe in one living and true God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead. . . . The three persons of the Triune God are connected.”²

Ellen White's statements are clear and unequivocally support Scripture on the Godhead.

In 1898, Ellen White in her book *Desire of the Ages* wrote: “In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived.”³

In 1905 she wrote: “There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.”⁴

In the same article she states, “The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fulness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour.”⁵

In 1913, two years before Ellen G. White's death, the Review and Herald published the earliest statement of our Adventist beliefs and at the beginning it states:

“For. . . those who may desire to know more particularly the cardinal features of the faith held by this denomination, we shall state that the Seventh-day Adventists believe. . . In the divine Trinity. This Trinity consists of the eternal Father, a personal, spiritual being, omnipotent, omniscient, infinite in power, wisdom, and love; of the Lord Jesus Christ, the

Son of the eternal Father, through whom all things were created, and through whom the salvation of the redeemed host will be accomplished; the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, the one regenerating agency in the word of redemption.”⁶

Our Fundamental Beliefs today simply reflect this clarity.⁷

On this understanding of the Godhead rests the entire plan of salvation.

After His resurrection and His return to the Heavenly Sanctuary Jesus was now encumbered with our human body. It was necessary for Him to have an intelligent and powerful Agent who could be everywhere at all times in order duplicate His victory in our lives. That Agent was the Spirit of Truth. His very name assumes His intelligence. So when the Holy Spirit comes to us, He brings the living Christ. And because they are One, the Spirit of Truth can apply the atoning sacrifice of Jesus to our sin-sick souls.

If you would like more information on this subject I would recommend reading Dr. Daniel Scarone's book entitled, *The God We Worship*. You can get it at our local Adventist Book Center.

"It is true that some of the early pioneers did not believe in the triune Godhead. People sometimes forget that early Adventists came from all kinds of Protestant backgrounds. It took time for the body of Adventists to fully develop their fundamental beliefs."

¹ See 2 Thess. 2:16; 1 Thess. 3:11; Rom. 8:26.

² Sylvester Bliss, *Memoirs of William Miller* (Boston: Joshua V. Himes, 1853), 77-78.

³ Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages* (Washington, Review and Herald, 1898), 530.

⁴ Ellen G. White, “Special Testimonies,” Series B, No. 7 (1905), 62, 63.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Francis M. Wilcox, “The Message for Today,” *Review and Herald*, October 9, 1913, 21.

⁷ See *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual* under heading “Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists,” numbers 2-5.

African Camp Meeting

— Daniel Scarone
Associate Ministerial Director

The African churches held their annual African Camp Meeting at the New Hope Baptist Church. The event took place over the weekend and was conducted alongside a health expo that offered dental services, massages, and hair-cuts for various ethnic communities in the Grand Rapids area.

For Sabbath, they celebrated with the Maranatha Grand Rapids Company and the Umuhuza SDA Group. The total attendance was approximately

675 individuals that included visitors from states outside of Michigan (Idaho, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and others).



Elder Robert Stewart coordinated the event with the assistance of Pastor Leroy Hernandez, Pastor Cin, Pastor Martin Habimana, and other volunteers within the district.

It is our prayer and hope to continue such events as the Lord leads.

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 3-7

Centerville, Kalamazoo Countryside
Pastor David Austin

October 10-14

Midland, Mount Pleasant
Pastor Cory Herthel
Literature Evangelist - Drew Weaver
Mount Pleasant Elementary - Tamara Draves
Community Service Center - Gerri Kohtz

October 17-21

Port Sanilac, Vassar
Pastor Richard Bullock
Community Service Center - Carole Kuhl

October 24-28

Cedar Lake, Edmore
Pastors Mark Howard, Daniel Jean-Francois
Bible Worker - Feiner Benjamin
Great Lakes Adventist Academy - Delwin Garcia
+ 30 Teachers and Staff
Community Service Center - Betty Lacey

(Continued from front page)

Singers, Advent Herald Symphony Orchestra, and Wind Symphony from GLAA. In addition to a concert held by the musicians Sabbath afternoon, campers and visitors took advantage of the opportunity to experience the beauties of the Upper Peninsula and to attend the baptism of Calvin Richards, a 9th grader from Wilson Junior Academy.



Sunday and Monday wrapped up with several seminars, worships, and more Christian camaraderie. After a Sunday afternoon choice of a canoe trip down the Michigamme River or an excursion with the youth to

Canyon River Falls—the impressive “Grand Canyon of the Upper Peninsula”—campers finally pulled away on Monday morning feeling spiritually refreshed, energized, and challenged.

More importantly, the 15 churches of the Upper Peninsula are already looking forward to another weekend of fellowship, spiritual rejuvenation, and Bible Study Reformation at Camp Sagola on the last weekend of October—to which you, also, are invited!

An Awesome God!

— Jodi Genson
Sault Ste Marie Member

When Scott Miller first walked up to the booth at the state fair in 2015, little did he know that God was leading him. Scott and his family were visiting the various vendors when he noticed a booth offering free water. Alyssa greeted the family and when asked what church she attended, she told them about her church in McMillan, Michigan, and invited them to visit. Scott replied, “I live in Germfask, and that’s not far from where your church is located; perhaps I will.”

A few weeks later the Miller family visited the McMillan SDA Church on Sabbath. That visit led to more visits and eventually through listening to Strong Tower Radio and watching 3ABN, the Millers came to understand precious truth.

Scott received an invitation to attend *Unlock Revelation* and after the meetings, informed Pastor Jed Genson that he and his family desired to be baptized. The date was set for August 20, 2016; the place—Lake Superior at Grand Marais.

It had been a stormy week and the forecast for Sabbath was more rain and wind. The greatly anticipated day arrived but due to the weather and repeated warnings by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association to “STAY OUT OF THE WATER,” and the fact that Pastor Genson had been

sick the week previous, the baptism was postponed until further notice. However, the Millers just would not be swayed by the poor weather report. The group at McMillan gathered for prayer to entreat the Lord for a blessing—please hold the rain for us!

After a potluck lunch a caravan of hopeful McMillan members made the hour trip to Grand Marais, in the pouring rain. The wind was blowing so hard that trees were bending toward the ground. “Lord, please work a miracle for us!” we silently prayed.



Once at the site, everyone stood on the shore holding umbrellas and watching the waves beat on the shore. In faith, the baptismal candidates changed into their robes. As curious onlookers from the road watched from inside their vehicles, miraculously the rain stopped! The Miller family and Pastor Genson quickly walked into the cold water of Lake Superior and one by one were baptized into the body of Christ! As he came up out of the water Scott exclaimed, “I’m clean!”

It was a most memorable baptism, where we watched the God of the universe command the wind and the waves, and yes, even the rain to be still so a family of four could be baptized in Lake Superior.

We serve an awesome God!

Bible Study Reformation Kickoff Sabbath

— Jim Howard
Personal Ministries Director

The reformation is coming! Join us October 22 from 9:45 AM to 3:45 PM in the Great Lakes Adventist Academy auditorium for the Bible Study Reformation Kickoff Sabbath. The Sabbath School and afternoon services will convey important information, so plan to come for the entire program. Attendees will receive a free BibleStudyOffer.com t-shirt and bumper sticker while supplies last. Elder

Duane McKey, General Conference Assistant to the President for Total Member Involvement, will give us a mission report of this world church initiative and help us kickoff our own exciting initiative—BibleStudyOffer.com! You will hear an encouraging

word from Elder Don Livesay, Lake Union President, and the morning message will be brought to us by Michigan Conference President Jay Gallimore. All members are encouraged to attend. No lunch will be provided, so bring your own. We’ll see you there!

Bible Study Offer.com



FREE Study Guides & DVDs!

866-700-0123

A Heavenly Citizenship

—Andy Im
Communications Director

It's election time, and things are heating up between the presidential candidates. As Seventh-day Adventists, we've historically held a firm stance on the separation of church and state, and rightly so. We have also been very intentional not to immerse ourselves in the ugliness of politics, where the various parties and the plethora of interests groups often utilize unbiblical principles to obtain their objectives.

In the United States we're also witnessing intensifying movements towards nationalism, defined by one dictionary as "patriotic feelings, principles, or efforts marked by feelings of superiority over other countries." Nationalism, in its extreme form, led Nazi Germany to consider themselves greater than other nations, a doctrine that contributed, in part, to the Second World War.

Nationalism, the notion that we're better than others because of the country or race we belong to must be rejected because it's frankly, unbiblical. In addition, nationalism finds its impetus in the intrinsic desire of human beings to regard themselves as superior to others. This, the Bible unequivocally condemns as wrong.

As Christians we must be ever careful not to get caught up in the blind patriotism of the day. We must be mindful that our citizenship—in the truest sense—does not belong to the United States or any country for that matter. Even the race we're born into shouldn't constitute our *primary* identity—or the basis of our ego and pride.

Christians are urged by the apostle Paul not to put "confidence in the flesh" (Phil 3:3) and to esteem others "more significant than [ourselves]" (Phil 2:3). The apostle had reason to boast

of his upbringing, his cultural heritage, national identity, and racial makeup (3:4-6), but he made an intentional decision to forsake those things and "suffer loss," because for him those things were "rubbish" (vs. 8).



And let's not forget why Lucifer became the devil. He succumbed to pride because he had *reasons* to be proud; his wisdom became corrupted because he had splendor worth boasting about (Ezek 28:17). He allowed his talents, abilities, and status—to get to his head, much like we allow our looks, status, and pedigrees to inflate our own.

As sinful, fallen human beings our affiliations to certain national identities, socio-economic status, education, and race will continue to serve as stumbling blocks to our moral character and Christendom in general. I'm not saying these things are inherently evil; however, our constructed categories and affiliations are often manipulated by our sinful

natures by the religious and secular alike. This is especially dangerous for Christians because we justify this phenomenon on the basis of our status as Christians.

In closing, Seventh-day Adventists should make a concerted effort to refrain from the current exceptionalistic attitudes that are taking place at the individual, national, and international levels. We may have been born with much to boast about, but let us follow the example of Jesus. Though He was "in the form of God" and "did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped. . . [He] made Himself nothing," and "humbled Himself. . . to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:6-8).

Having a Sabbath Issue at Work?

Here's what you can do:

1. Provide your employer a notice that you're in need of a religious accommodation.
2. If a problem ensues, inform your pastor and/or contact your Michigan Conference Religious Liberty director (Laura Im). Don't wait until the last minute to resolve Sabbath issues!
3. Don't give up. You're protected under law, so allow the process to work itself out.
4. If your employer makes requests you're unsure of, inform them that you will need to check on the issue and get back to them. Then, call Laura Im.
5. Continue to pray and trust in God.

"There are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light... When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God." —Ellen G. White

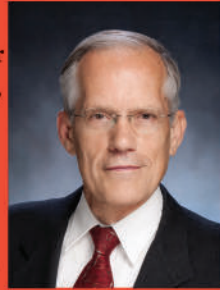
Transitions in Mission



Jean Dickerson is no stranger to the Michigan family. She came to the conference office in 1974 and has worked as secretary for many departments including Lay Activities, Community Services, Church Ministries, Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, and for Elder Gallimore (since 1992). She served in the conference office for 42 years. She will be

missed, and certainly not forgotten. May God bless her in her retirement!

Elder Paul Larsen recently retired from his post as an associate with Trust Services. Prior to Michigan he pastored churches in Illinois, Minnesota, and Colorado. In Michigan he pastored the Warren SDA Church for about nine years, and served the Michigan Conference for a total of 43 years. The Michigan family will certainly miss him and his years of dedicated service.



Jim Gray is retiring after teaching in Michigan for 36 years. He taught at Twin Cities (2 yrs), Metropolitan Jr. Academy (6 yrs), Eau Claire (25 yrs), and Kalamazoo Jr. Academy (3 yrs). We thank God for his years of service to our young peoples.



Robert Patterson taught in Wisconsin prior to teaching here in Michigan at Gobles Jr. Academy (26 yrs) and Greater Lansing Adventist School (5 yrs), his last teaching post. The Michigan family certainly appreciates him for his many years of dedicated service.

Sally Smith recently joined the Education Department as Associate Superintendent of Schools. She previously served as a principal/teacher at the Ann Arbor Adventist Elementary School (8 yrs), and also at Mount Pleasant SDA Elementary, Hastings SDA Elementary, and at Oakwood Academy. Sally also serves on the NAD's REACH Committee. She holds a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Andrews University. She and her husband Lloyd have three children, and the Michigan Conference is blessed to have her join the team.



Bobon, Philippines

— *Dannilla Sherwood*
Boyne City Communion Director

A few years ago the Boyne City Church adopted the Bobon, Philippines Church as their sister church. Over the years, church members have helped to raise funds for an improved church building and have provided school supplies and toys during Christmas for the children.

When the village was devastated by a typhoon, Boyne City members donated money for rice to be delivered to the mountain village. Not only were members able to have nourishment, but it became known throughout the area that Adventists are a people that share generously.

The most recent pressing need was a well to deliver fresh water to the villagers. The only source of water was the river which was used by villages upstream for bathing, etc. The contamination was the cause of illness, and contributed to a shorter lifespan of the villagers.



The Boyne City members began to collect funds for a new well. This past winter the fund suddenly had a boost from two sources. Then Leonard Sherwood, Jr. offered to perform a benefit to raise additional funds. The community responded and the concert raised even more than needed to reach the goal.

Brad Houle, of the Boyne City Church, was in constant contact with the villagers as the plans for the well proceeded. Recently, a hand pump was installed and fresh water is finally flowing to the village of Bobon. Recent pictures in the last few weeks show pails of crystal clear water and the smiling faces of village children.

Church members continue to pray that their sister church will not only have drinking water to share, but as they meet the needs of other villages they will have the opportunity of witnessing to the power of the living Water.

October

- 1-2 LU Secondary Leadership -
Camp Au Sable
- 2-5 LIFT - Camp Au Sable
- 6-12 Annual Counsel
- 7-9 Mother/Daughter Retreat -
Camp Au Sable
- 8-9 Disaster Response Training -
Camp Sagola
- 9-14 Camp Au Sable Work Week
- 14-16 Lay Advisory Retreat -
Camp Au Sable
- 20 K-12 Board of Education -
GLAA
- 21-23 LU Area Coordinator Training
- 21-23 Family Life Retreat -
Camp Au Sable
- 26-30 GLAA Home Leave
- 27-Nov 1 NAD Year End Meetings
- 28-30 Children's Ministries
Workshop - Camp Au Sable

November

- 1-3 New in Ministry
- 4-6 HI-C Bible Camp -
Camp Au Sable
- 9 Camp Meeting Directors
- 11-13 Personal Ministries Weekend -
Camp Au Sable
- 11-13 Crystal Mountain Marriage
Retreat
- 17 K-12 Board of Education -
Andrews Academy
- 20-27 GLAA Home Leave
- 23-27 Thanksgiving Holiday

Our Elder Brother

— Marjie Shade
Kalamazoo Church Member

Growing up, I had an older brother. He was special in a number of ways. First, he was special, because he was part of the family. He was also special, because he had encountered a difficult birth and was left with mental and emotional challenges. He attended special classes in school. He required more love than most could give, but he also gave more love than most can give.

In some ways, I wish I could have been more like him. He was accepting of everyone, was always there to help those in need, and loved others with his whole heart, unconditionally. He considered nearly everyone “family.” He forgave those who ridiculed him and had a simple childlike trust that couldn’t be shaken. He believed in the goodness and love of God and mankind, and though he was far from perfect, he lived a life of honesty and simplicity.

Jesus, our elder Brother, loves us unconditionally. He is our Savior and friend. He willingly gave up ALL to rescue us from the hands of an evil foe and has promised to return to take us home (John 14:1-3). He lived His life showing others how much the Father loves His children and taught them by example how to love God.

In the book, Steps to Christ, p. 79, we learn the secret to a close relationship with God: “He [God] has granted men the privilege of becoming partakers of the divine nature and, in their turn, of diffusing blessings to their fellow men. This is the highest honor, the greatest joy, that it is possible for God to bestow upon men. Those who thus become participants in labors of love are brought nearest to their Creator.”

To diffuse blessings to our fellow men is to share the good news! To tell what good things God has done for us! This is the highest honor and greatest joy God can give. This is how to develop a close relationship with the Creator of the universe—to share the message that Jesus left all of heaven to redeem and rescue His children and that one day soon He will take us home to be with the rest of the “family.”

In His infinite love, God has made us co-workers with Himself, Christ, and the angels that we might share this good news with those around us. Sharing our faith with others isn’t hard when we consider all that Jesus has done for us. Simply tell what you have experienced.

Share. It’s that simple.