



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

Michigan Memo

May 2013, Volume 25, Number 5

General Conference Executive Committee Meets in Battle Creek

—By Israel Ramos
Associate Communication Director

United for Mission” was the theme of this year’s Spring Council session held in Battle Creek, celebrating our denomination’s 150th birthday. Michigan, the birthplace of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, hosted the Church’s Executive Committee which typically meets in Silver Spring, Maryland. “Sometime ago, Jim Nix (director of the Ellen G. White Estate) came to me and talked about the exciting possibility of commemorating the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the General Conference, which took place in Battle Creek, Michigan, to hold Spring Meeting in this historic place.” said Elder Wilson, president of the General Conference. In May 1863, the church met for the first time in Battle Creek.

Elder Wilson said, “We planned to hold these meetings in Battle Creek to give a very special flavor as to how the church began, but also to observe that essentially 150 years is a pretty sad anniversary. We should have been in heaven by now.” Some of the meetings were held on site in the Second Meeting House in the Adventist Historic Village, where the church was officially established. According to Wilson, “All of this was meant to help us know how God has led us in the past and His teaching in our past history.” Meant to act as a foundation to push the church to the future with our mission of sharing the Three Angels’ message to the world and finishing the work through His power, presentations were given on evangelizing even some of the most challenging parts of the world.

Armando Miranda, General Vice President of the World Church, said that the main reason for the Spring Meeting is usually to review and vote the budget for the General Conference. “But apart from that, we had a lot of items that we discussed especially relating to the mission of the church.” *Revival & Reformation* and *Global Mission Initiatives* were among the initiatives that were discussed. Asked how the



Ted Wilson, General Conference President, being interviewed

(Continued from front page)

church is fairing during these difficult financial times, Elder Miranda responded, “Let me tell you that even during this difficult time, the Lord has blessed His church enormously. We have not only enough to reach the goal to function as a church, but we have something extra. So even in a time of crisis, the Lord is showing His mercy on His church.”

With a supplemental budget being voted, the General Conference was able to put additional funds into various initiatives, including special projects. Representatives from the Middle East shared testimonies about what God is doing in countries that currently do not have official Seventh-day Adventist churches. In other Middle Eastern countries, the Church has as little as one worker ministering to the entire region. Pastors in China have recently launched the *Internet Evangelism Initiative*. According to the report, China uses the internet more than any other country in the world. In many parts of the country, there is no Adventist Church, making internet evangelism the most effective way of reaching people.

Wilson concluded, “It has been a distinct privilege to be in the state of Michigan for this meeting. So many people are carrying from Battle Creek a renewed sense of their direction and zeal for the Great Advent Movement. We are using this occasion as a clarion call to push forward, because Jesus is coming soon and we want to do everything possible to spread the message across the world. I want to add my profound thanks to the Michigan Conference. It’s been a great privilege to be here and we will be praying for God’s people in Michigan.”

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

- Apr 29-May 3 Port Sanilac/Vassar -
Pastor Richard Bullock
Community Service Unit- Carole Kuhl
- May 6-10 Eau Claire Spanish/Benton Harbor -
Pastor Jonathan Ardiles
Eau Claire Elementary School -
James Gray, Principal, Ashley Johnson
- May 13-17 Kalamazoo Spanish/Sturgis Spanish -
Pastor David Garcia
- May 20-24 Detroit Spanish Cavalry/Shalom Spanish/
Detroit Spanish Ebenezer -
Pastor Victor Debiase
- May 27-31 Niles Westside/Chikaming -
Pastor Daniel le Roux
Niles Elementary School -
Michael Jakobsons, Principal,
Amanda Boothby, Denise Kidder,
Heidi Beardsley

Get Your Gas First

—By Louise Ernst

Central Lake Adventist Church Member

Our little church in Central Lake had closed its doors for the winter. So my husband and I went to the Traverse City Church for these months, where I heard a sermon about praying for divine appointments. I was so inspired; I went right home and began to pray for my own divine appointments.



I got up one pretty fall day. I mapped out my route to the stores and errands that I would run, ending up with buying my gas on the way out of town. I heard a voice say very clearly, “Go to the gas station and get your gas first.”

I answered, “No. I don’t want to go to the station first.”

The voice said again more firmly, “Go get your gas first.”

I replied, “I need to get my gas after I finish my chores so that I’m not back tracking.”

The voice was more persistent and louder, “Go get your gas now!”

So I turned into the gas station. I tried to pay at the pump but it wouldn’t take my credit card. I was so upset that I had to go inside to pay my bill. I went up to the counter. My grandson’s aunt was working as the gas station attendant that day. She asked me if I had seen my grandson’s football game Friday night. I told her, “No, I don’t go to the games on Friday night as it is my Sabbath.”

A nice looking gentleman standing next to me asked, “Are you a Seventh-day Adventist? I have always wanted to study the Bible with them!”

Our little church had just opened the doors again and I invited him to our Revelation Series. He accepted my invitation and I was so excited. As I left and got in my car, tears were falling from my eyes because I almost missed my divine appointment.

“Ye have not because ye ask not.” The man I met at the gas station has been attending our church now. I pray the Holy Spirit will lead him into all truth. Thank you, Jesus, for answering my prayer.



Guest Editorial

"Called To Lead"

—Ken Micheff

Men's Ministries Director

There is nothing that is more influential to the cause of God and healthy church growth than a loving family that reflects the character of Jesus. Each member of the family has an important purpose and function that should not be underestimated; they're a vital witness to their neighborhood and community.



It only makes sense that God would design someone to lead the members of the family to worship the true God, like Abraham did. Yes, that's right: men have been designed and called to lead! It would also make sense that the enemy of God would try to degrade men so their effectiveness as a leader of the family would be minimized, or worse yet, destroyed.

To a godly man, there is more to the meaning of "family" than having a wife and children; it is a call from God to love people and lead them to Christ (without bias or prejudice) regardless if you are single or married. Men are called to lead in their community, workplace, and in the church, like Paul.

I remember when I worked in construction, each day I would get up one hour before work and spend quiet time with God. I would read, and ask God to come into my life and use me to make a difference for someone that day. I would put books like *Steps to Christ*, *Desire of Ages*, and *The Great Controversy* in my lunch box and wait for God to impress me with whom I should share them. There were times when God would speak and I would make excuses because I felt nervous or, sad to say, sometimes I was embarrassed. But God was and still is kind and forgiving.

The more opportunities God gave me to share, the more my faith began to grow and my understanding of Scripture really started to increase. You see, there were so many questions I could not answer. So I would ask God and dig deeper and deeper in the Word. Before long, I understood doctrines and Bible principles that I never knew growing up as a Christian. I remember inviting one of my co-workers to church. I was so nervous and was hoping that he would see Jesus and not see the faults in our Laodicean church. He indeed did see Jesus! I can't describe the feeling I had when he, his wife, and three daughters were all baptized in the Jefferson Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church. My pregnant wife Tammy and I decided to be re-baptized with them.

Those witnessing experiences God gave me while I was a construction worker have helped me to be the leader that I am today: from construction worker to teacher, then pastor and now youth and men's ministry leader, and all kinds of stuff in between. No, I'm not perfect, but Jesus is! If I continue to let Him be my example and Lord of my life, He will continue to use me to lead others to Him.



Do you know of a man in your church that you would like to encourage to be the leader God intended for him to be? If so, invite them to the annual Michigan Men of Faith event on Sabbath September 28, 2013, at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. Register online at www.campausable.org or call 517.316.1570.

Just think of worshipping with 1000+ men of all ages, encouraging each other to look to Jesus for help and hope. This year our featured speaker is Dr. Walter Veith from South Africa. In the afternoon, Dr. Veith and many others will present seminars that will be inspiring, challenging, and equipping. Can you guess the theme? "Called to Lead!"



Ancient Words, Ever True

—By Jane Harris, Women's Ministries Director
and Kasey McFarland, Women's Ministries Secretary

Women's Ministries began more than 100 years ago, when in 1898, Mrs. Sarepta Henry became the first Women's Ministries director for the General Conference. She was encouraged by Ellen White and worked tirelessly to establish a network and support system for women in the church. When she died in 1900, Women's Ministries quietly faded from activity. However, it was reactivated in 1990, and in 1995, became an official department of the General



Conference once more. It has continued to grow around the world." - *Women's Ministries, What It is, and What It Isn't* brochure, North American Division.

Women's Ministries in Michigan takes very seriously the mission of elevating women's worth as God's creations, deepening the faith of women, building support networks among women, mentoring, addressing global women's issues, bringing the female perspective to church leadership, seeking avenues for holy ministry for women, challenging women to use their God-given gifts to their full potential, and furthering the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In an effort to fulfill this mission, each April there are three weekends of retreats held at Camp Au Sable. This year, the theme was "Ancient Words, Ever True," focusing on the history and trustworthiness of the Scriptures. Cindy Tutsch from the Ellen White estate was the main speaker. Cindy, very eloquently and from her heart, reiterated the absolute foundational need for women to be deepening and expanding their study and prayer time with the Lord. The history of the Scriptures, with the sacrifice and selfless service of those pioneers who protected and provided them, was enthusiastically recalled. The women were challenged to lay aside the distractions, both holy and unholy, in order to prioritize their relationship with Christ and to spend quality *and* quantity time with Him. As the speaker related the power available to women who are daily connected with their Savior, many avenues of faith were reawakened!

These messages made a huge impact in the lives of those who attended. For example, one woman went home and committed to a 30-day media "fast," where she chose to stop spending time on Facebook, Twitter, watching television, and surfing the internet in the evenings. Instead she chose ten books, including the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, to read during those 30 days. In addition, she chose to watch spiritual videos

and devotionals and made plans to spend quality time with her family. In just the first three days, her heart was moved toward God in such a way she had not felt in a very long time. The Bible says that when we seek God with all of our hearts, He will be found of us. This Scripture was fulfilled in many lives as the theory was put into practice.



The breakout sessions offered by Alanna Knapp, Laurie Snyman, Joyce Richardson, Wendy Welch, Diana Inman, Barb Slikkers, and Lisa Sawvel helped women to make a commitment to spend time with God and to keep that commitment no matter the cost. They encouraged women to have all the tools necessary for time with Jesus ready in one spot, offered ways to study the Bible, gave prayer suggestions, encouraged claiming the promises of Christ and praising God, reminded women to keep an attitude of worship throughout the day, shared the importance of choosing holy music, and encouraged the indwelling of the Spirit of Christ and how to recognize His presence. These topics encouraged friendship, small group study and fellowship, and gave natural remedies for common ailments so that women would remain healthy and active. Then, of course, they would need to get out and serve for Jesus!

With nearly 700 women putting these important plans into action, we are trusting and expecting the Lord to do a mighty work in the home, church, workplace, neighborhoods, and communities in the coming months. Women's Ministries is so excited to be a part of the network that God uses to lead these ladies into a committed relationship with Him and His church!

Discipleship Center Inaugurated

—Heidi Magesa
Member of the Michiana Fil-Am Church

At the end of last year, the Michiana Fil-Am Church and the Living Word Fellowship joyfully joined together to dedicated a new 10,000-square-foot Discipleship Center. The Discipleship Center is a joint project between the two churches to be a missionary training center starting this new academic year.



Main speaker Arlyn Drew

The Living Word Fellowship has provided the funds for the building, which will house 32 students, has three offices, a multipurpose room seating 450 people, a large kitchen, and a conference room.

Michiana Fil-Am has provided the land for the building and also is providing additional classrooms and conference rooms that will be needed for the training classes.

At the dedicatory service, leaders from both churches spoke about how this vision became a reality.

Dr. Chil Kang of the Living Word Fellowship shared the original vision: “Initially, the 5,000-square-foot building, was meant to house Korean students who would come from out of town, especially university and high school students who did not have an opportunity to attend Adventist institutions. These students would come here and be trained to go back and work in their local churches.” However, over the last two years this vision grew. Today it is 10,000-square feet and will be a training center for youth and young adults of all ethnicities, to prepare them for mission service home and abroad.

Dr. Arlyn Drew of Living Word addressed the gathered members of both churches, “You are a little crazy because you believed, in this sleepy little village of Berrien Springs, that God wants a school of prophets, to send out young people – an explosion of mission, and to finish the work on Earth! If God’s dream for this center, and all the sons and daughters of the prophets that will be coming here, is insanity, then may God strike us all with some of that!”

In addition to the two churches, the Michigan Conference also partnered in this exciting ministry. Elders Loren Nelson, vice

president for human resources, and Jay Gallimore, president of the Michigan Conference, also spoke at the dedication service. They congratulated the two congregations in this new joint mission. “You had a vision to do something for the next generation. You wanted to stop the loss of your young people from the church,” said Elder Nelson. “I congratulate you, Living Word Fellowship, and you, Michiana Fil-Am, for seeing the potential of this vision and for completing this building where training will take place.”

Pastor Roy Castelbuono of the Michiana Fil-Am Church said, “We are joined together with bonds that cannot be separated. It was not as a result of careful business planning that we are here today. We are here today for the simple reason that a man had a vision. God opened doors as the Holy Spirit moved and two congregations acted in extraordinary ways and moved forward in faith. We go forward on our knees, trusting to the same Spirit that brought us [together].”

Following the service, the audience was invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the Discipleship Center. Leaders and members from both churches, as well as conference officials, cut the ribbon together and opened the building for a grand celebration which included self-guided tours and an abundance of delightful cuisine from both the Filipino-American and Korean-American cultures.



Leaders from various organizations at the ribbon cutting ceremony

Impacting Kalkaska and Traverse City

— By Wes Peppers

Pastor of the Kalkaska and Traverse City churches

It's always wonderful to watch God do amazing things; He has been working overtime in Kalkaska and Traverse City! Traverse City has begun implementing the Training Center Churches Discipleship plan and recently had a training event attended by 30 members. Our young adults have also brought wonderful life to our church. They have planned and performed concerts and fundraisers for mission projects. They also raised funds against many odds to attend Generation of Youth for Christ last year. Some of our members recently attended the Emmanuel Institute ten-day course. They came back more on fire for God than they had ever imagined possible! If you haven't attended, I encourage you to consider it!

Traverse City also launched the Great Controversy Project in an effort to bring one to every home in Traverse City by hand. One man, upon receiving it said he has "been looking for answers like this book gives for a long time and plan to read it." On the first day, in only one hour, 200 copies were given away with a card to mail in for free Bible studies. Some of our newest members, two twin brothers who came from atheistic backgrounds, are among those passing out the books. It is very exciting to see them sharing with others the Jesus that has transformed them!

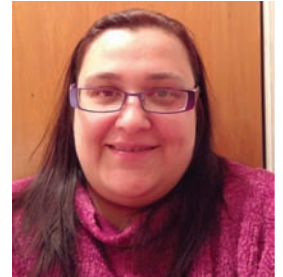
In Kalkaska, God has worked miracles. Last fall, we conducted a five-night evangelistic series that we still continue once a week. About 15 visitors still attend and 12 of them have accepted Jesus as their Savior and made decisions to be baptized into the Adventist church. Six people in four months have stopped smoking without even having a stop smoking class! Each



Sabbath, we have 15-30 kids that come for Sabbath School and church. We are planning a building project this summer to add on to our current facility to meet the need.

One of our newest members, Rhea, attended the church for nine years but never became a member. In our first conversation with me as the new pastor, I asked her how long she had been

a church member. She quickly informed me that she wasn't a member and never planned to become one! I was a little shocked, but joined the church in their prayers for her. She really struggled with a right understanding of the character of God. Over several months, many Bible studies and prayers on her behalf, the Holy Spirit worked on her heart. She approached me and said that she knew that Jesus wanted her to be baptized into the Adventist church and she was ready. She is now leading out in many areas of our church and is "officially" a part of our family after nine years. Praise the Lord!



There are many more stories that could be told, though space here is limited. We have many upcoming plans in the next several months. The Michigan Conference Summer Youth Impact Program will be based in Traverse City this year. We invite your youth and young adults to come and participate in this program and watch it change their lives and inspire them to serve Christ. Go to <http://www.goyouthimpact.com/tcproject> for more information. We will also be planning a full-scale evangelistic series in both churches this fall, so keep us in your prayers.



Though there are always many challenges, the Lord is blessing all across Michigan. It is exciting to see His hand moving in His church as it proclaims His last day message to a broken world.

Dear readers, what is He doing in your life today? What testimony has He given you? Is He moving without you? You are never too old or young to serve God! You don't need great talents or eloquent speech! All you need is a willing heart and simple faith, and God will work miracles in you and through you. His grace is sufficient to help you at every step. He wants to give you a powerful story to tell. I urge you to get involved in your local church today and catch the vision of the Great Commission to share with your community and the world that Jesus is coming soon!

Transitions in Mission



Michael Oxentencko will be the new senior pastor at the Berrien Springs Village Church. He is replacing Larry Lichtenwalter, who has taken a call to be the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology at Middle East University, Lebanon. Mike comes from Spencerville, Maryland. While there he had a radio ministry called Reaching Your Heart.

Roberto Gonzalez, originally from Spain, having ministered also in Argentina, comes from his last post in Newbury Park, California. He is fluent in English, Spanish, and French. He will be working with the Berrien Springs Spanish Church, replacing Michael Campos, who has transferred to the Rogers



Originally from Brazil and raised in Chicago, Peter Iwankiw has two kids Josiah and Leilani with his wife Eileen. Before finishing at Andrews, he was a Bible worker at Cedar Lake. He will be pastoring the Burlington and Coldwater churches.

Jeff Dowell is transferring to the Hastings and Kentwood churches replacing Michael Wise, who is transferring to the Prattsville and Hillsdale churches.

David Gotshall is transferring to the Stevensville Church, replacing Stan Hickerson who was called to the Ellen G. White Estate at Andrews University.

Christien Hodet is transferring to the Ann Arbor Church replacing Danny Velez who was called by the Montana Conference.

Willie Iwankiw will pastor the Buchanan Church while continuing his studies at the Theological Seminary.

Michael Taylor is transferring to the Paw Paw and Otsego churches, replacing Ben Orian who called called by the Rocky Mountain Conference.

2013 Camp Meeting Seminar Titles

Adult Sabbath School Teacher's Training – *Tom Mejeur*
 The Art of Health Ministry: Following in Jesus' Footsteps –
Chris VanDenburgh
 Biblical Hermeneutics – *Daniel Scarone*
 Birding Class
 Blood Drive – All Day Sunday
 Children's SS and Evangelism Seminars – *Renee Grove &*
Judy Shull
 Church Treasurers Training Modules – *Michelle Ancel &*
Karen Fellows
 Come and See – Children's SS and Evangelism Seminars
 Contagious Adventism – *Esther Knott*
 Daniel & Revelation Small Group Modules – *Joe Skrobowski*
 Disaster Relief Training – *Joe Watts*
 Don't Read Your Bible – Study It!: A Women's ONLY Bible
 Study – *Renee Coffee*
 Elder Training I & II
 Endangered Minds – *Cinda Osterman*
 Essentials to Elder Care – *Michael Hamblin*
 Forging a Godly Marriage – *Bob and Elsen Benson*
 Fortifying your Adolescent Child's Success – *Laurie Snyman*
 How in the World Do I Have a Devotional Life with Kids?!? –
Amie Hubbard
 How to Use the Get Disciples Software – *Thomas Biehl*

Ins and Outs of Camp Meeting – *Jody Murphy*
 Introduction to Photoshop – *Michael Nickless*
 Knowing the Love Languages of Your Children – *Laurie Snyman*
 Living Off the Grid – *Nick and Lisa Meissner*
 Living Thrifty to the Glory of God – *Monica Ames*
 Media and the Brain – *Scott Ritsema*
 Muslim Relations – *Rodney MacCallum and Gaby Phillips*
 Pathfinder Leader Training
 Raising the Remnant – *Scott Ritsema*
 Religious Freedom – *Jerry Finneman*
 Run and Not Be Weary – *Fred Hardinge*
 Seven Stupid Things Smart People Do to Mess Up their
 Finances – *Gordon Botting*
 Smith's Gardening Class – *Byron and Janice Smith*
 Studies in Daniel – *Mike Oxentencko*
 The Sabbath, God's Love Gift for Us – *Linda Johnson*
 'Taste and See' Supper Club Cookouts
 Training Center Churches Training
 Trends in the Seventh-day Adventist Church – *Daniel Scarone*
 Unshackling the Laity
 Wild Flower Class
 Women's Ministry Leadership Seminars – *Janie Harris &*
Tami Milligan
 And more....!

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May

- 1 CAMPUS Board
- 3-5 Andrews University Graduation
- 5-7 LE Training School
- 5-9 Camp Au Sable Work Week
- 5-10 Birding Trip to Point Pelee
- 11 Praise & Report District 1 - Camp Sagola
- 12 Mother's Day
- 14 District Superintendents
- 15 Camp Meeting Leadership - GLAA
- 17-19 Pathfinder Fair - Camp Au Sable Northwoods
- 20-22 Office Staff Planning Retreat - Camp Au Sable
- 24-26 Hispanic Camp Meeting - Camp Au Sable
- 24-26 Graduations at Battle Creek Academy, Grand Rapids Adventist Academy & Great Lakes Adventist Academy
- 27 Memorial Day - Office Closed
- 28 MI Conference Executive Committee - Conference Office

June

- 6 K-12 Board of Education
- 9-13 Camp Pitch - Cedar Lake
- 9-14 Adventure Camp - Camp Au Sable
- 9-26 ABC Closed for Camp Meeting
- 14-22 Camp Meeting - Cedar Lake
- 16-22 Junior Camp - Camp Au Sable
- 23-29 Tween Camp - Camp Au Sable
- 24 Office Closed

WHAT'S UP



The Michigan Conference is now on **Facebook**. For more ancillary updates, connections to other local church social media, ministry related videos, photos of events, and

incoming immediate news. Visit the site at www.facebook.com/miconf, **LIKE** us, and help us make it known!

Camp Au Sable needs YOU! We are gearing up for the summer crowd, and we have lots of big and small projects that need to be done. Come be a part of Camp Au Sable Family Volunteers May 5-10 and October 13-18, 2013. We have all kinds of projects, and needs for skilled professionals too. Come be a "missionary" for a week, right here in your own state. Bed, food, fun and work will be provided, all you need is your personal stuff and a willing spirit. Thank you for spending your time serving God at His camp... Call Julia at 989-344-1450 to register.



To download the Michigan Memo, flip through digitized pages, or read on phone or tablet, visit <http://issuu.com/miconf> for the current issue as well as the 2013 archives.

Young people from 14 years of age and older are needed at camp meeting to help with the Janitor work. You will be asked to help clean all the restrooms during camp meeting June 14-23, 2013. All janitors will be paid for their work. Mrs. Kim DeWitt will oversee this department and schedule workers.

Please go to www.misda.org and click on Department Resources, Click on Camp Meeting, then click on Volunteer Application. Print the application, fill it out, and mail to address on the bottom of the application. Applications need to be sent in as soon as possible.

2013 Offering Schedule Corrections

MAY 11	World Budget/Disaster & Famine Relief Emphasis
JUN 08	NAD/World Budget/Multilingual/Chaplaincy Ministries
AUG 10	World Budget/Oakwood/Andrews/Loma Linda Universities
SEP 14	World Budget/Fall Mission Appeal
OCT 12	NAD/World Budget/Voice of Prophecy
NOV 09	World Budget/Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission Emphasis)
DEC 14	NAD/World Budget/Adventist Community Services