



MAN CAMP

“It was exciting to see fathers and sons growing closer to each other and God”



Father and son are bonding.

More than 200 fathers and sons gathered at Camp Au Sable for Man Camp, otherwise known as Father-Son Retreat. Facial hair, flannel, toolbox gadgets, and a healthy dose of masculinity were on full display over the packed weekend, up from about 160 registered attendees the previous year.

Steven Conway, pastor of the Detroit Northwest and Cherry Hill churches, delivered probing messages that hit home and challenged the male audience to live fully for Jesus and to be intentional about strengthening relationships. In a climate where fathers and sons are too busy to spend quality time with each other, the messages were a timely reminder to never forget that relationships are two-way streets.

The weekend schedule facilitated the harmonious blending and growth of the physical, mental, and spiritual faculties. Fathers and sons collectively engaged in treasure hunts and other chal-

lenges that tested whether the attendees were boys or men. One such activity challenged the participants to successfully strike campfires with only two cotton balls and several matches on a small strip of sandpaper in the blistering cold snow. Under conditions that hit minus 38 degrees Fahrenheit on Sabbath, that was quite a feat.

The treasure hunts also inspired groups of men to trek across camp in the snow, wind, and cold. Not everyone won a prize, but the true value in the activity was in spending time with each other as the groups braved bone-chilling conditions.

The physical activities also generated intense hunger pangs, and Chef Miguel did not disappoint. In typical fashion, the meals were both hearty and tasty as chef and his team managed to satisfy the grizzly appetites.

With this year's Man Camp booked

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JUSTIN RINGSTAFF



“I believe camp meeting is as important as it has ever been, if not more so.”

CAMP MEETING: ARE WE STILL DOING IT RIGHT?

It began in the summer of 1842 in Hatley, Quebec with a small gathering of believers eager for the Second Coming of Jesus. The very next camp meeting held in East Kingston, New Hampshire drew crowds of upwards of ten thousand to hear the advent message. It caught like wildfire. By the fall of 1844 there had been 125 camp meetings and around half a million people that had pressed together.¹

It seems that from the very birth of the Advent movement the “camp meeting” has had a special part to play in the lives of God’s remnant people. In fact, the very first official general Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting was held right here in Wright, Michigan 150 years ago, in September of 1868. And so, in the Michigan Conference we have held the tradition of camp meeting very dear to our hearts. But as we approach this year’s Michigan Camp Meeting – the question is raised, are we are still doing camp meeting the way it should be done?

This question comes up because some have honestly wondered if we are doing camp meeting in harmony with the instruction given in the *Spirit of Prophecy*. This statement, found in *Testimonies for the Church*, can make one pause to question if indeed we are in line with such counsel. It states, “A mistake has been made in holding camp meetings in

*out-of-the-way places and in continuing in the same place year after year.”*² It also goes on to say that the meetings should continue for two or three weeks and be held in our large cities and towns so the message of truth can be shared with those who have not yet heard it.

Like others, I have personally wrestled over this question after reading quotes like the one above. After coming to my own studied conclusion that we are in harmony with the guidance the Lord has given to us as a people, I ran across a very good letter written by Arthur L. White, Ellen White’s grandson and former secretary of the White Estate.³ In his letter, he addresses this very question. I will include a link below to access the complete article.⁴ But as a summary, Elder White carefully outlines why he too believed camp meeting as we know it today is in harmony with the counsel given.

Elder White points to a statement made where Sister White writes, “Regarding the Testimonies nothing is ignored, nothing is cast aside, but time and place must be considered.”⁵ Arthur White then shares a few examples applying this counsel. Among the examples he gave was the counsel to not invest money in buying a bicycle.⁶ When this testimony was given, bicycles were very expensive. The stir was weaning the affections of

God’s people from living sacrificially to advance the work. In its place there was breeding a spirit of selfish indulgence and strife. Another example given is the counsel that our sanitariums (i.e. hospitals) should be built from wood and not brick.⁷ Again there was a concern over unnecessary expense. But also, at this time, there where health concerns of the quality of air and moisture buildup with brick buildings. With these examples and others that could be mentioned, we recognize that circumstances can change. Bicycles may become inexpensive, building codes may be added and health concerns may be addressed, but the underlying principles should be carefully guarded. We should ever cling to the principles of good stewardship, health and humility, while also fostering a spirit of sacrifice for the cause of Christ.

So, what about camp meeting? As Elder White points out, in the early days, “These meetings were called mainly for the edification of the church, but they proved to be an evangelistic agency.”⁸ People came and heard soul stirring sermons from the Bible about the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels’ Messages and the soon coming of Jesus. And not wanting to lose this evangelistic focus and reach, counsel was given that the meetings shouldn’t stay in one place or where those not of our faith

couldn't hear about the meetings and easily attend. With the advancement of time, the ability to travel and advertise have drastically changed. New regulations, city codes, and rising expense have also made the gathering of large crowds numbering in the thousands much more difficult.

But while circumstances have changed, we have not wanted to lose the evangelistic focus and reach that we have been raised up to give. So as a movement, we have prayerfully enlarged the footprint of our meetings. We have shifted from one larger meeting a year to nearly a hundred or more smaller meetings each year. We are taking the message, in harmony with the testimony given, to the people in the cities and towns all across our territory. We are broadcasting the last-day truth in the highways and byways through radio, television, and internet. We are raising the banner high from billboards, bumper stickers, and GLOW tracts, ever wanting to increase our reach for souls. Indeed, the Lord has blessed us as we have held to the counsel given for His work!

Along with our evangelistic efforts though, we have still sensed our need to press together, as a people, for the upbuilding of the church. In fact, we are encouraged to hold, as it were, a modern-day feast of tabernacles. Ellen White writes, *"Well would it be for us to have a feast of tabernacles, a joyous commemoration of the blessings of God to us as a people. As the children of Israel celebrated the deliverance that God wrought for their fathers, and his miraculous preservation of them during their journeyings from Egypt to the promised land, so should the people of God at the present time gratefully call to mind the various ways he has devised to bring them out from the world, out from the darkness of error, into the precious light of truth. We should often*

*bring to remembrance the dependence upon God of those who first led out in this work. We should gratefully regard the old way-marks, and refresh our souls with memories of the loving-kindness of our gracious Benefactor."*⁹

The apostle Paul also reminds us in Hebrews 10:24, 25 to *"consider one another to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much more as you see the day approaching."* As we see Bible prophecy being fulfilled all around us, I believe camp meeting is as important as it has ever been, if not more so. Jesus is coming again soon! Let us press together and encourage one another to be faithful, to keep our eyes on Jesus, to live in earnest and sacrificially for the cause of Christ.

From these spiritual times of refreshing it is our hope and prayer that we as a conference church family will go back into the fields of harvest with greater love and fervor to labor "As a Witness" for Him!

¹ Emma E. Howell, *The Great Advent Movement*, pg. 126.

² *Testimonies for the Church* volume 6, pg. 34.

³ Arthur L. White was the son of William C. White, who was the third son of James and Ellen White. He served as secretary to the White Estate from 1937 – 1978.

⁴ Arthur L. White, in letter addressed to John L. Hayward, June 9, 1978. Accessible at <http://bit.ly/2tmFq1Q>.

⁵ *Selected Messages*, Book 1, pg. 57.

⁶ *Testimonies for the Church* volume 8, pgs. 51, 52.

⁷ *Testimonies for the Church* volume 7, pgs. 83, 84.

⁸ Arthur L. White, in letter addressed to John L. Hayward, June 9, 1978. Accessible at <http://bit.ly/2tmFq1Q>.

⁹ *Review and Herald*, November 17, 1885.

Executive Secretary



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 4-8

Escanaba/Riverside/Munising
Pastor Daniel Rodriguez
Escanaba Elementary
Marriage Commitment Retreat

MARCH 11-15

Cadillac/Lake City
Pastor Pat Milligan
Northview SDA Christian School
Cadillac Community Services
Lakeview Community Services
District Superintendents
Pathfinder Bible Experience - Union
Level

MARCH 18-22

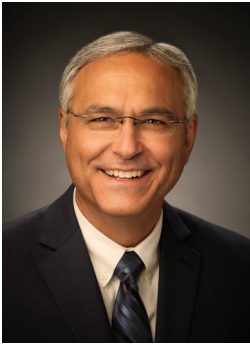
Lansing Spanish
Pastor Steve Silva
Greater Lansing Adventist School
Lansing Community Services
Lake Union Pathfinder Bible
Experience

MARCH 25-29

Lowell
Pastor Bob Stewart
Grand Rapids Adventist Academy
Camp Meeting Directors

***"Be careful for nothing;
but in every thing by
prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let
your requests be made
known unto God."***

—Philippians 4:6, KJV



Jim Micheff, Jr.



John Bradshaw is the speaker/director of *It Is Written*, an international media evangelism ministry based in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Bradshaw's daily *Every Word* devotional and other *It Is Written* programs can be seen at www.itiswritten.tv.



Mark Finley serves as Assistant to the President of the General Conference. He and his wife Teenie have been involved in the Living Hope Church Growth and Evangelism Training Center in Virginia since 2016, where he is actively involved in evangelism training and outreach to the local community.



David Shin resides in Anchorage, Alaska. He is the pastor of the Hillside O'Malley Church and his passion is that all may come to know and experience the wonders of God's grace—"Christ Our Righteousness."



Jason Sliger has dedicated his life to making Bible truths relevant to people of all faiths and backgrounds. After spending several years on the road as a public evangelist with *Amazing Facts*, he now serves the Michigan Conference as a pastor at the Muskegon and Fremont churches.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

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

(Subject to change)



CAMP MEETING JANITORS NEEDED!

Janitors are needed to clean the men's and women's restrooms during camp meeting, June 14-22.

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, 2019.

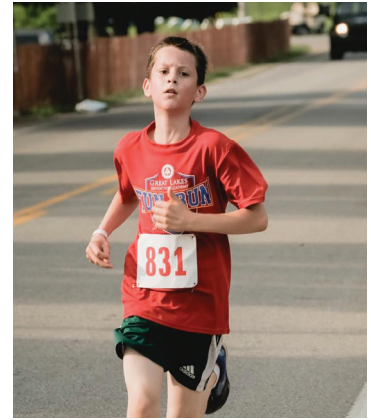


CAMP MEETING BLOOD DRIVE

We look forward to seeing you at the Cedar Lake Church Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 16 for our annual Blood Drive! The Blood Drive starts at 10:00 AM and ends with the last donor taken at 3:30 PM. Bring your picture ID and a list of your medications. Make sure that you are well hydrated and have eaten before you come or join us for breakfast BEFORE you donate! Remember your donation could save up to 3 lives!!

NEW MOBILE KITCHEN!!

Come and eat at our NEW MOBILE KITCHEN! As in past years, we are located between the exhibit tent and the gym entrance. We have wonderful homemade vegan and vegetarian meals for both lunch and supper as well as sweet treats at the snack bar. Be on the lookout for the new menu options along with your favorites. Meal times have changed, lunch will be served Monday through Friday from 11:45 AM-1:30 PM and supper is from 4:45 PM-6:30 PM Sunday through Thursday. On Friday, supper will be 4:45 PM-6:00 PM. Remember all monies go to supporting Disaster Response - a delicious way you can be a blessing and support those in our communities in a time of crisis!



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

WHEN: Sunday, June 16, 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 14, 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. Proceeds go to the Great Lakes Adventist Academy Worthy Student Fund. 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 jdnew@misda.org or 517-316-1524.

“Our annual camp meetings are of great importance, and all who possibly can should attend them. They should feel that the Lord requires this of them. . . The object of these holy convocation meetings is that the brethren may be separated from business cares and burdens, and devote a few days exclusively to seeking the Lord.” –Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, August 15, 1882



A MEMORABLE WINTER!

This winter will be a memorable one due to the icy cold temperatures that impacted several events at Camp Au Sable. At Ministerial Retreat, which took place January 28-31, not all the pastors were able to attend due to the freezing rain, snow, and resulting road closures. The speaker for the retreat, Pastor Steve Wohlberg, arrived without his luggage and shared his initial message wearing his travel clothes.



In spite of these challenges, the Lord spoke through Wohlberg as he lifted up Christ and the message of righteousness by faith. The meetings were also live-streamed so pastors that were unable to attend watched from the safety of their homes.

During Michigan's winters, the only thing we can be certain of, is the unpredictability of weather. But praise God that no matter what is thrown our way, we continue to work and advance God's kingdom. Michiganders are simply not going to allow a little cold and ice to get in the way!

Communication Team



Raymond Torres is introduced as the pastor of the Jackson, Bunker Hill, and Marshall churches.



Tyler Drumm is welcomed as the new Bible worker for the Vassar Church.



The beauty of snow at Camp Au Sable.

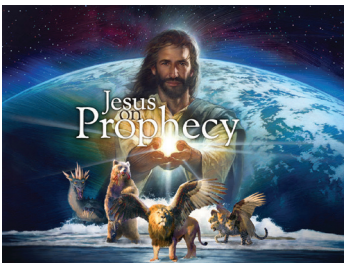


Pathfinders from all around the state were tested at the Area Level on their knowledge of the book of Luke recently. Congratulations to all Pathfinders that have participated in PBE this year. Everyone is a winner!

The first and second place teams are invited to the Conference Level on March 2, 2019 at the Cedar Lake Church. We have 24 teams that are qualified for this next level!



The new conference sign is officially up at the conference office. You will notice that the Adventist logo is no longer green and yellow. The church has decided to move away from the two color scheme. Expect to see these changes reflected across Michigan.



We invite you to attend a special training and resource weekend at Camp Au Sable March 15-17 that will give you the tools to prepare your church for an inspiring harvest. The cost is \$60 per person, which includes housing and meals. Please contact the Evangelism Department or Mari-on Peppers at 256-452-2612, mpeppers@misda.org.

(continued from front page)

to the max, expect next year to fill up quickly, especially as word gets around that this event is one you don't want to miss. "We were truly blessed by the Holy Spirit and it was exciting to see fathers and sons growing closer to each other and God," remarked Chad Bernard, associate youth director. One father, as he was leaving camp, stated, "Praise God for Man Camp! I feel closer to my son than I ever have!"

That's an experience money simply can't buy.

Andy Im, Communication Director

Save The Date!
ACADEMY DAYS
April 21-22

Sunday	1:00 - 2:30 PM..... Administration Building.....	Check-In
Monday	7:15 - 8:00 AM..... Cafeteria	Breakfast
	2:00 PM..... Chapel.....	Farewell

Register online at glaa.net or call the school office at (989) 427-4444

Overnight housing will be available at the dorms.
Travel reimbursement available upon request.

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>.

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MONTHLY CALENDAR

March

- 1-15 Camp Meeting Registration
- 1-3 Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Workshop - Camp Au Sable
- 2 Pathfinder Bible Experience
- 5-7 New in Ministry
- 8-10 Marriage Commitment Retreat - Camp Au Sable
- 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 12 District Superintendents
- 14-24 Great Lakes Adventist Academy Spring Break
- 15-17 Jesus on Prophecy Speaker/Coordinator - Camp Au Sable
- 16 Union Pathfinder Bible Experience
- 27 Camp Meeting Directors

April

- 2 MI Conference Executive Committee
- 5-7 Women's Ministries Retreat 1 - Camp Au Sable
- 9 District Superintendents
- 12-14 Women's Ministries Retreat 2 - Camp Au Sable
- 19-21 Women's Ministries Retreat 3 - Camp Au Sable

TEEN SNOW OUTING: LIVING LIFE "HALF-FULL"

Kayle Marie Matlock, Owosso Church Member

I was reminded about how God is always with us. I was lead to want to build a relationship with Jesus and get to know Him for myself."

These are the words of 17-year-old Molly Woods after an amazing Pathfinder weekend at Teen Snow Outing (TSO).

I've always gained a blessing simply from being in Pathfinders, but there's something about TSO that has encouraged me and countless other Pathfinders to get serious about living for Christ.

This year, with the theme "half-full," we had the pleasure of listening to Pastor Tom Hubbard as our speaker. He never failed to keep us on the edge of our seats with stories of his unforgettable canoeing adventures.

Intertwined with his fascinating experiences, Pastor Tom not only examined the power of prayer, but also taught us that, even though life will have it's share of difficulty, Jesus can and will get us through. All we have to do is let Him!

Along with the powerful meetings, Camp Au Sable's Youth Department put togeth-

er a clever Sabbath activity. The "Fill-it-up-athon" presented each Pathfinder group with challenges and opportunities, enabling us to dive deep into Scripture and grow closer as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Classes, including Patriarchs, Hymns, and Cold Weather Survival were also available, giving the Pathfinders a chance to earn whichever honor they found exciting and impactful.

Now, TSO wouldn't be complete without a trip to Hanson Hills for some skiing and tubing down the giant hill. This activity is definitely among the favorites of Pathfinders!

Though TSO was filled with fun activities and good food, what made the biggest difference was the amazing staff and their willingness to display the love of Christ to each and every Pathfinder.

Life isn't always easy, but with the strength of Christ, we can focus on the positive. We can live "half-full!"