



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



Michigan Memo

July/August 2016, Volume 28, Number 6

Grow Michigan Initiative

In the following editorial by Jim Howard (Personal Ministries and Evangelism Director) you will receive a report of Unlock Revelation, which is an integral component of the Grow Michigan initiative. I hope you will read the article with interest.

We are so grateful for the hard work of both ministers and lay people. In the weeks and months ahead, we will be sharing plans for the 2016-2017 Grow Michigan endeavor.

We will not know the impact of Unlock Revelation on this year's baptisms until we reach the end of 2016.

As a church we are committed to making disciples, not just members; and understandably this will take some time.

With the closing scenes of earth's history gathering speed, may the Lord use all of us to be instruments in His hands to win souls for the Kingdom of God.

—Jay Gallimore
Conference President





Guest Editorial

Unlock Revelation Praise Report

— Jim Howard
Personal Ministries and Evangelism Director

After holding simultaneous *Unlock Revelation* evangelistic meetings at approximately 200 locations across the Lake Union, it's time to count our blessings, evaluate our experience, and consider how to build on what we've started.

Prayer & Sacrifice

Only the Spirit of God, graciously given in answer to our prayers, can bring true success to our soul-winning labors. In the year prior to *Unlock Revelation*, Michigan Conference Administration called the pastors of the Michigan Conference to join together for fasting and prayer at Camp Au Sable on three separate occasions. Throughout the Michigan Conference, the prayers of church members were also ascending. Days of fasting were called, and prayer bands were organized to pray throughout the evangelistic meetings. The success of *Unlock Revelation*, and many other blessings that have taken place over the last two years, have been in direct answer to all of our prayers.

However, it was not prayer alone, but sacrifice mingled with prayer that made *Unlock Revelation* happen. Many pastors and administrators preached and led out meetings while giving oversight to other churches or responsibilities simultaneously. Over 50 lay speakers spent countless hours preparing and practicing PowerPoint sermons, preaching messages each night, praying, and visiting in between—all while working full-time jobs! The spouses and children of the speakers also sacrificed, supporting the effort with their prayers, patience, and encouragement.



Thousands of church members sacrificially supported *Unlock Revelation* in many other ways. One member drove from his job in Detroit to run the sound system at the meetings in Flushing every night, along with teardown and setup responsibilities.

His wife organized the children's program while balancing her responsibilities as church school principal and teacher. A member in southwest Michigan reduced her tutoring schedule, thereby losing income, in order to be there for *Unlock Revelation*. Still others gave liberally of their means, dedicating money from equipment sales or income tax refunds to help make *Unlock Revelation* a reality. Each series was made possible by the willing sacrifice of Michigan members given out of love for Christ.

It Still Works

The public proclamation of the three angels' messages has always held a significant role in fulfilling the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. When preceded and followed by personal work, public evangelism is still highly effective. A brief review of *Unlock Revelation* appears to support this claim and to answer some common questions:



"Will people still come out to hear about Revelation and prophecy?" Over 3,300 community guests came out to the opening night of *Unlock Revelation* at a Michigan Conference site, and over 5,400 attended at some point during the series.

"Does prophecy only attract people with extreme ideas?" Religious meetings always attract a wide variety of guests. As in the days of Jesus, some only come for the "loaves and fishes" and others see opportunity to promote their religious agendas. Yet overall, relatively few *Unlock Revelation* guests were prophecy "fanatics." The majority of guests were reasonable, searching souls with varying levels of interest in eternal things.

"Will anyone come for 20 nights in such a fast-paced world?" Over 1,400 guests, not including church members, attended the last session of the series—a rate of 43% of opening night. For those

who could not attend every night, personal or group Bible studies continue.

“In a secular society, will anyone really forsake the world to follow Christ?” Over 700 people have shown interest in being baptized and becoming members of the remnant church, and hundreds more are involved in ongoing Bible studies.

Church Member Revival

Unlock Revelation was not only a service to the community—it was good for church members, too! Across the conference, reports have come in of new life springing up in churches that participated in the series. As one pastor put it, “Hope has been rekindled!” Reports of renewed optimism from members who were previously skeptical about evangelism have been common. With the resources and support offered through *Unlock Revelation*, one lay coordinator said of the members, “I believe they feel empowered—kind of a ‘yes, we *can* do this ourselves.’”

Aside from the joy of working for the salvation of others, many members felt their own hearts burn within them as they listened with renewed interest to the powerful messages. The Village Church in Berrien Springs, for instance, had around 250 members attend on opening night with the majority continuing throughout the series! A conservative estimate is that over 5,600 church members attended an *Unlock Revelation* series at a Michigan Conference site. As calls for decision were made, it was not only the guests who were stirred, but members were re-discovering their first love and making practical decisions to re-dedicate their lives to Christ. There is still power in the everlasting gospel and the three angels’ messages—power to save, reclaim, revive, and restore!

Money Well Spent

The concept of holding simultaneous evangelistic meetings across the conference presented a challenge—the multitude of available locations, many within easy driving distance of one another, could have the tendency to lower attendance at each site. The only way to hold so many simultaneous meetings, and at the same time keep attendance where churches were used to seeing it, was to generate more overall interest across the state.

To do this, \$200,000 was invested in a mass advertising campaign that consisted of around 600,000 *Unlock Revelation GLOW* tracts, 100 billboards, radio ads in 6 cities, yard signs, and car magnets. In order for advertising with no location-specific details to work, a single access point (www.UnlockRevelation.com) was used to provide the necessary information about each site—location, speakers, dates, times,



etc. By sharing a common website and phone number, every advertisement benefited every church!

So how did it work? Of the 67 pastors and 50 lay leaders who responded to an *Unlock Revelation* survey, 95% said they experienced average or better than average guest attendance! Almost one in four people surveyed said that the attendance was the best their church had ever experienced for an evangelistic meeting. Not every site had great attendance, but because we were working as a team, we could still rejoice with those who did—like Port Huron and Kalamazoo, each of which saw approximately 100 community guests on opening night! Or the Escanaba Church in the Upper Peninsula which was pleasantly surprised to see 80 community guests!



Even better than the numbers were the stories of how the various methods of advertising made a difference in people’s lives; like the woman who came to the Marquette meetings because she kept seeing billboards on her frequent trips to Lansing, or the guest from Charlotte who pre-registered in February after finding out about the meetings through an *Unlock Revelation GLOW* tract and was baptized in May! Another woman said she had seen multiple yard signs and billboards, but when someone in a restaurant gave her a *GLOW* tract invitation she was finally motivated to come. In northern Michigan, many strong interests heard about the meetings on Strong Tower Radio. One couple from the Lansing area remarked about the yard signs, saying, “Those little signs were everywhere—you couldn’t miss it!” And when a guest from the Flint area was asked how she heard about the meetings, she summed it up in her reply, “Where have I *not* heard about them?!”

TEAM Evangelism

One of the most encouraging results of *Unlock Revelation* was the way it energized and unified Michigan members. One member excitedly reported seeing 17 billboards on a trip across the state. Other members shared the thrill of hearing radio ads or learning that guests attended from seeing the signs in their yards. And many members enjoyed doing their part by personally distributing



hundreds and even thousands of *Unlock Revelation GLOW* tracts. The joint advertising created a common bond between us, and everyone felt the positive synergy of carrying out the mission together.

Another benefit of the team approach was experienced in the cross-state opportunities created by simultaneous meetings—such as the young man who started *Unlock Revelation* in Troy, continued in Jackson while visiting grandparents, and was able to finish in Traverse City where his parents live and where he decided to be baptized! Many members in northern Michigan invited their friends to meetings downstate and vice versa. Guest attendees who enjoyed opening night invited family or friends to check it out in their area of Michigan. One guest visited her brother, a Seventh-day Adventist in Kalkaska, and learned about *Unlock Revelation* while attending church with him. When she returned home to the Detroit area she located the meetings in Wixom and now continues to attend the Lakes Area Church to prepare for baptism!

Things We Learned

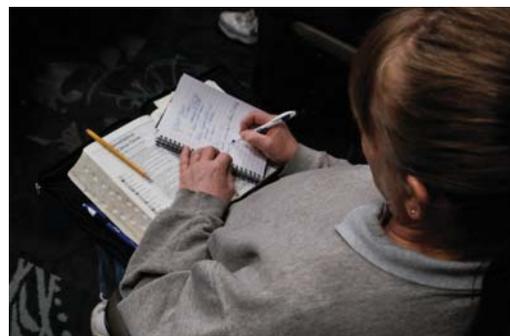
Several areas of *Unlock Revelation* were identified for improvement in the future. We are indebted to *It Is Written* for graciously providing scripted PowerPoint presentations of their *Revelation Today* series. If we choose to use a Revelation focus with scripted presentations in the future, we would like to add a stronger emphasis on the link between Revelation and the various topics. We would also address a few more Revelation-specific prophecies, give an overview of the book of Revelation at the start of the series, and re-evaluate the order of topics.

The back-end website access, as well as the ordering process, could both be simplified. More explicit directions and specific

resources could be given for resource tables, children's programs, baptismal classes, and Phase II meetings. A stronger emphasis would also need to be placed on total church involvement in pre-work, such as Bible studies, as well as the follow-up process of Phase II meetings and personal visitation. Effective evangelistic meetings are not a one-month event, but more like a three-month process. We also need to seek ways of involving more young people in evangelistic outreach, as well as attracting more young families to our meetings. These and other areas will be evaluated for potential improvements.

Building On What We Started

We are so grateful to God for the blessings that accompanied *Unlock Revelation*, and we cannot afford to relax our efforts now. Another conference-wide series is on the calendar for the fall of 2017, with consideration being given to a similar effort being repeated every two years. Before the fall harvest of 2017, a greater emphasis will be placed on finding and giving Bible studies to cultivate spiritual interests. What would happen if the same type of advertising, synergy, and conference-wide effort as occurred with *Unlock Revelation* were implemented in a



Bible study ministry that involved every church? Could we see a Bible study reformation? We're about to find out!

Prayer Focus

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

August 1-5

Lansing Spanish
Pastor David Garcia-Marenko

August 8-12

Brighton, Lakes Area
Pastor Steve Schefka
Bible Worker - Staci Schefka

August 15-19

St. Johns
Pastor Daniel Scarone
Community Services - Fay Denton

August 22-26

East Lansing
Pastor Steven Silva

August 29 - September 2

Holt, Williamston
Pastor Chuck Hanlon

New Sagola Lodge: Phase 1

— Jay Gallimore
Conference President

When Camp Sagola lost Pomeroy Lodge to a fire, it was a real setback for ministry in the Upper Peninsula (U.P.). The building contained meeting rooms, lodging, eating, and shower facilities. With some heroic efforts, they have been able to maintain the youth camps and camp meeting with the assistance of the Disaster Response mobile kitchen.



*Pomeroy Lodge fire
February 17, 2013*

After assessing the insurance funds, the Sagola board, with representation from all the U.P. churches, decided to step out in faith. The old building was inadequate to meet their needs, so they agreed to upgrade the size of the new building to fifteen thousand square feet (previously ten thousand).



Their goal for phase one of the project was to complete the building structure and upstairs facilities (kitchen, dining, and meeting room) with the \$1.5 million from the insurance company. They are close to reaching their goals, but need an additional \$50,000 due to some unforeseen circumstances. I believe their building committee has worked hard to stay within their financial means. The building is beautiful and well built for the tough winters of the U.P. Currently, they are praying and working to raise the rest of the funds to complete phase one.



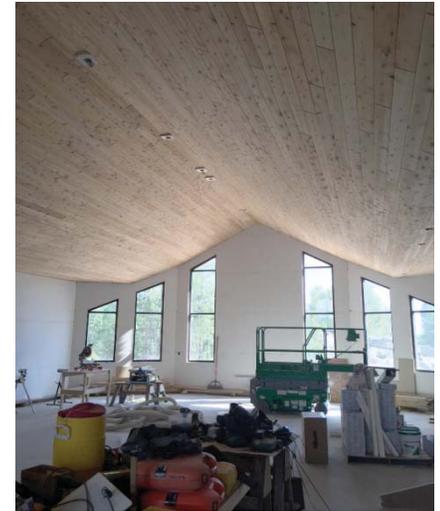
*Range hood in the
new kitchen area.*

Going into the initiative they were aware that funds would need to be raised for the second phase. This phase would complete the basement, which houses the bathrooms, showers, lodging, and meeting rooms. It would also include installing

the air conditioning unit for the various rooms. They will need to raise \$275,000 to complete phase two.

Phase three will entail the landscaping, the excavation and completion of the non-paved parking lot that will be covered with crushed limestone; installation of handicapped parking at the lower level; and the insertion of approximately 20 RV sites with electrical hookups. An additional \$25,000 will be needed to complete phase three.

The new lodge will provide all kinds of ministry opportunities for the churches in the U.P. The youth, especially, are blessed by the summer camps and Pathfinder activities. In addition, many departments of the Michigan Conference—canvassing programs, personal ministries, family life, health, spring/fall retreats, and U.P. camp meeting, to name a few—will have their needs met through the completion of the new lodge! I believe the Lord will impress hearts to raise the funds for this important need!



*Vaulted ceiling in the dining
and meeting room.*



*View of the back of the lodge and
the walkout basement level.*

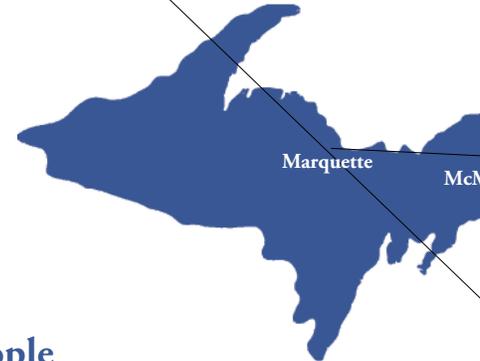
The churches of the U.P. are small and faithful. It would be wonderful if those of us in the lower peninsula would rally to support and help complete this project. If you would like to assist in this endeavor just mark your tithe envelope “Sagola.” If you desire more information, please contact Pastor Tony Ludwig, who is chairing the fundraising committee at: aludwig@misda.org. Also, look for updates on the Michigan Conference Facebook page.

Unlock Revelation: Best Meetings We've Ever Had!

For many churches, the concerted and unified efforts of the Michigan Conference constituency resulted in the best meetings ever experienced.

New Haven by Tony Messer

It's amazing that God can, and will, use faulty people to accomplish His work. As a pastor holding my first set of full meetings, I was incredibly nervous about the attendance. I wondered if we'd get anyone to show up. I wondered if God could use someone like me, someone with very little experience in evangelism. Let's just say my faith wasn't where it needed to be. However, God is a God of amazing love, and He's on a mission to get His message across to as many people as possible. As I saw our little sanctuary fill up on opening night with over 60 guests, I couldn't help but sense a little rebuke. Even on the last day of the series we had 29 guests! As far as I understand, this was the largest meeting ever held in the New Haven church. I learned a valuable lesson from this series. Never underestimate what God can and will do.



Examples of Tremendous Sacrifice From Laypeople

In every church there were laypeople who sacrificed to make Unlock Revelation a success. It's impossible to capture everything here, and only eternity will reveal the dedication and sacrifice of what really took place.



Manistee by Charity Johnston

I was the coordinator and a speaker for our meetings. My husband is a non-Adventist, and I have two children (7 and 13). On meeting days I got the kids ready and on the school bus, cleaned the house, went to work, took my dad home, made dinner for my family, saw my kids for 30 minutes, drove 40 miles to church, held the meetings, drove home and arrived a little after 9 pm, after the bedtimes of my children.

Membership & Church Revival

Non-Adventists weren't the only ones impacted by the meetings. Many church members also grew in their faith, and excitement for personal soul-winning and evangelism became a reality.

Charlotte by Jerry Schmidt

We did the round-table format, and it was huge blessing to the church members who were table leaders. Many of them only committed to coming the first night, but when they saw the turnout of about 40 guests opening night and realized the impact they could have as table leaders, they cleared their calendars and came every night. The members are more excited about evangelism than they have ever been because they have sat at the table with guests during the seminar, built relationships with them, and now are seeing many of them baptized.



ion Testimonies

Impact of Mass Advertising

The mass advertising campaign resulted in numerous souls being won to God's kingdom. Praise God for the various means that have enabled many to hear present truth.



McMillan/Northwoods in Newberry by Jed Genson

Scott and Brandy have been listening to Strong Tower Radio for the past year or so. They joined another church but were confused because what they were taught conflicted with what they were learning through Strong Tower Radio. After receiving a flier in the mail for *Unlock Revelation*, Scott and his wife decided to come with their 12-year-old daughter. They believe that this is the true church and want to join the movement.

Marquette by Aron Crews

A lady attended the majority of the Marquette meetings. She chose to attend the meetings because of her frequent commute to Lansing from the U.P. She kept seeing the billboards over and over again, and she figured she ought to attend. She missed a few meetings because of her work. She missed the antichrist and hell topics, which are two key presentations. I met with her to inform her of the recordings located online where she could get caught up. She told me she already agreed with and understood the topics she missed. I asked her how? She said that while she was traveling down state she had stumbled across Strong Tower Radio, and they just happened to be covering both the antichrist and hell topics! We were both amazed at God's providence in leading her to the station while simply scanning through stations while travelling!



Cross-State Impact

Statewide efforts brought success that wouldn't have happened if the meetings had been conducted only locally.

Lakes Area Churches by Staci Schefka

Loretta Szur was visiting her brother, Tom Lapan, who is a member of the Kalkaska Church. She attended church with him and heard about a series of meetings called *Unlock Revelation*. When Loretta returned to her home in Novi, she contacted Pastor Darryl Bentley of the Metropolitan Church, and he encouraged her to pre-register because the meetings were still months away. She and her adult son, David Strange, attended the Lakes Area meetings, and both made decisions for baptism. They are currently attending our baptismal class as well as church on Sabbath mornings.



Unlock Revelation T

Impact of Mass Advertising

The mass advertising campaign resulted in numerous souls being won to God's kingdom. Praise God for the various means that have enabled many to hear present truth.

Charlotte by Janice Schmidt

One woman said she had seen multiple yard signs and billboards. Then someone in a restaurant gave her a GLOW tract invitation, and that is what finally motivated her to come!



International Impact

Charlotte by Jerry Schmidt

EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM GERMANY

Max is a nominally Catholic exchange student from Germany who is staying with an Adventist family in our congregation this year. He has been attending the meetings even when his host family can't come. After the presentation on the antichrist he has told multiple people, "God brought me to America to hear this seminar." He has requested baptism and plans to return to Germany and tell all his friends and family what he has learned.



Unexpected Letter and Donation!

Edwardsburg by Lisa Sawvel

My husband Don and I received a card from one of our guests today. Her name is Trish. It said: "Don and Lisa, God bless you both for the call to teach this program. It has made clear to me a lot of questions I have had for many years. It has awakened in me the thirst to become more involved in God's work. . . The check enclosed is to continue on with this kind of teaching to help bring as many to God as possible. Bless all of you and your ministry."

Enclosed was a check for \$500! Trish has not missed a meeting, and her daughter is coming as well! They are both on fire, buying every book we put out!



Team Effort

Eau Claire by Tom Shepherd

We had an active evangelism committee with outreach, audiovisual, visitation, and meals all included. Our Pathfinder club was quite active in helping with child care and other responsibilities during the meetings. We also had a wonderful children's program spearheaded by Ryan and Suzi Hayes. Ryan is a chemist in the Andrews University Chemistry Department, and the Hayes' focused the children's program on learning chemical elements. There were experiments, songs, and crafts, a really wonderful program. The church gave Ryan and Suzi a "night out" gift with babysitting for their children and funds for a nice meal out as a thank you.

Testimonies (cont'd)

Unlock Revelation: Best Meetings We've Ever Had!

For many churches, the concerted and unified efforts of the Michigan Conference constituency resulted in the best meetings ever experienced.

First Flint by Jonathan Chitwood

To my knowledge, these meetings were the best attended meetings that First Flint has had (70 guests opening night and 30 for our last meeting). Not only did members of First Flint attend and participate in the meetings, not only did members from two of the nearby regional churches attend and participate, but three of our guests volunteered to do special music for us. Members now see what is possible when we step out in faith, invest sacrificially in advertising and materials, and prayerfully reach out to those who attend our meetings. Hope has been rekindled, and a number of them are stepping up to the plate and taking ownership of personal ministry!

Wyoming Rogers Heights Spanish by Ada Mendez

This was the very best evangelistic series we have ever had as a church, and I believe the key difference was prevailing prayer. Before the meetings we bathed the series in prayer, had prayer meetings, and even fasted together for a day for the series! We had prayer in the prayer room every night that the pastor was speaking. We experienced God's answers to prayer first hand, and it was such a delight to witness that, and we grew closer to each other, rejoicing in what God was doing!

God Also "Advertises"

Orion-Oxford by Victor Vaughn

We had one lady who came and recently told us she had a recurring dream about a decoration on a platform. She didn't know what it meant until she came to the *Unlock Revelation* series in Orion and saw that decoration on the platform there. She said she was sure she was in the right place and that God was leading her. She is on the baptismal track.

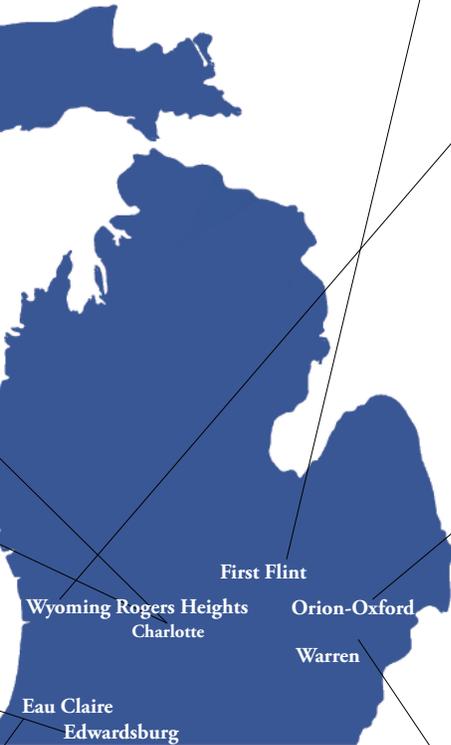


Membership & Church Revival

Non-Adventists weren't the only ones impacted by the meetings. Many church members also grew in their faith, and excitement for personal soul-winning and evangelism became a reality.

Warren by Curtis DeWitt

We had an 18-year-old who had never been involved in anything by way of personal ministry or evangelism. Through lots of prayer the past couple of years and a constant young adult leader reaching out regularly, Aaron took on an integral role in this seminar. He came nearly every night and being one of our table leaders he was unafraid to share his faith for Christ. He has a whole new love for the Lord and can't stop talking about Jesus and witnessing for Him. This series helped revive him to be sure. Just recently after the meetings were over, he threw away his video games so he can focus even more on Christ!



An Opportunity to Support God's Children

— Diane Barlow
Superintendent of Schools

Students and families are praising God for the \$76,500 that was distributed to help students with their tuition for an Adventist education this past school year. Students from kindergarten all the way through college were helped. Many of these students would not have had the privilege of attending an Adventist school without this financial aid. In addition to helping students with tuition, twenty Adventist schools benefited from the funds.

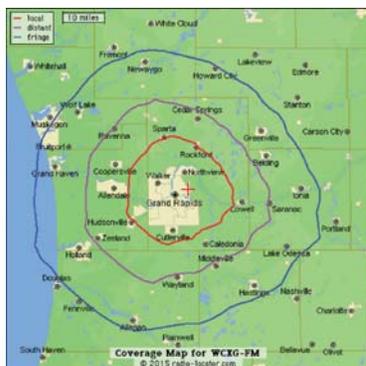
Last year there were 125 applications, with 68 students receiving scholarships. The committee wishes that there were more funds available so that additional scholarships could be given to aid

more students. By making a donation to the Christian Education Endowment Scholarship Fund more students will be able to attend an Adventist school.

“All our youth should be permitted to have the blessings and privileges of an education at our schools, that they may be inspired to become laborers together with God.” *Child Guidance*, pg. 332. Please prayerfully consider making a tax deductible donation to the Christian Education Endowment Scholarship Fund. Your reward will be in heaven when you meet a young person who might not be there if they had not received your financial help.

Mission Accomplished

Strong Tower is now beaming its programming into Grand Rapids and the surrounding communities. By God's grace and the sacrificial giving of saints throughout Michigan, the necessary and final \$1.53 million was raised to purchase the radio station.



As stated on Strong Tower Radio's website: "With so many signs pointing to the soon coming of Jesus, the timing of this purchase is strategic in reaching over one million people in the Greater Grand Rapids Metro Region with the *Three Angels' Messages* found in Revelation 14:6-12. Thank you to... all who have participated in the purchase of this station through your prayers and financial support. God is so good!"

God is truly doing some amazing things to get His word out!

Planned Giving and Trust Services

Durable Financial Power of Attorney

A durable power of attorney for finances is a simple and reliable way to arrange for someone to manage your finances if you become incapacitated (unable to make decisions for yourself).

A financial power of attorney is a good document to make for yourself, but it can also be a great blessing for your family. If you become unable to decide for yourself and you haven't prepared a durable power of attorney, a court proceeding is probably inescapable. Your spouse, closest relatives, or friend will have to ask a court for authority over at least some of your financial affairs.

Your Planned Giving & Trust Services Department can help you *free of charge*, get this important document in place. Call us at (517) 316-1520 for more information.



Michigan Men of Faith

"The Whole Man"

September 24, 2016

Great Lakes
Adventist
Academy

Watch for more
information to come.

Mother Daughter Retreat
October 7 - 9, 2016
Camp Au Sable, Grayling MI

BE YOU TIFUL ...in God

If you or your daughter ever dreamed of being baptized in Lake Shellenbarger at Camp Au Sable, this year's Mother Daughter retreat is the perfect opportunity! Sabbath, October 8, 6:30 pm.
Pastors and family members welcome!
For more information, please call 517.316.1565.

CHICAGO MISSION TRIP
SEPTEMBER 2-5

#compassion10m #1MillionGLOW

GLOWMIDWEST.COM 517.316.1595

Transitions in Mission



Jose Briones was born in Nicaragua and graduated from Southern Adventist University earlier this year. He will be part-time Berrien Springs Spanish Assistant Pastor for youth while he attends the seminary. He has a passion for unexpected ministry opportunities and service based activities. He also loves playing tennis and other sports.



Craig Cleveland is a Michigan native from Niles. From an early age, Craig expressed an interest in sacred music. At the age of 20 he cut an album and started his first choir. Soon after, he accepted a call to British Columbia, Canada, where he served at Fountainview Academy for 23 years. God used him in a special way to expand the ministry of music that included a full orchestra, many CD and DVD productions, and appearances on several television networks. We're excited to have Craig join the Michigan family as Director of Music Ministry. Craig and his wife, Dawna, have four children: James, Ethan, Andrew, and Lynnelle.

Aron Crews grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland, and is a recent theology graduate from Southern Adventist University. Besides his great passion for studying the Bible and expounding Scripture, Aron enjoys photography, and playing basketball. He is currently serving as an interim pastor in Marquette.



Jermaine Gayle was born and raised in Jamaica, and has a degree in theology from Hartland College. He comes to us from Indiana. He has a passion for studying the Bible, young adult ministry, and canvassing. His hobbies include reading, painting, and the outdoors. He is currently serving as an assistant pastor in East Lansing and program director for C.A.M.P.U.S.



Gene Hall is the new associate director for Planned Giving & Trust Services. He served as a literature evangelist for 21 years before entering the ministry. He previously worked in Indiana and returned to Michigan in 2000 to pastor first the Jackson/Bunkerhill churches, then the Holland Church before coming to the office. He and his wife,

Ciliciana, have three children and seven grandchildren.



Josiah Hill grew up in Washington state. He has a passion for literature evangelism and comes to Michigan from Ouachita Hills College where he served as director of literature evangelism after graduating in 2013. He and his wife, Beth, love people and have a strong desire to see the work finished in this generation. He also enjoys organic gardening, spending time in nature, and the creative challenge of organizing logistics. Josiah is serving as pastor of the Tawas City, West Branch, and Glennie churches.

Sean Reed comes to Michigan following nearly ten years of ministry with the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Sean met his wife, Linda, at Southern Adventist University, where he graduated with a degree in theology and she with a degree in nursing. After a few years of pastoral ministry in Georgia, Sean attended the seminary at Andrews. He graduated in 2011. Sean pastored churches in Northeast Tennessee for five years before accepting the call to pastor the Holland Church. Sean and Linda have two children: Gavin and Emily.



Louis Torres is a pastor, evangelist, lecturer, musician, and author. Over the past three decades, he has trained hundreds to become effective soul winners, pastors, Bible workers, and evangelists. Torres previously served as director of training and evangelism for ASI and vice president for *Amazing Facts*. He and his wife, Carol, are co-founders of Mission College of Evangelism. He also served as president of Guam-Micronesia Mission. He is joining the Michigan family as an evangelist for the conference.





July

31-Aug 1 Family Camp III -
 Camp Au Sable

August

1-5 Small School Workshop - LUC
 3-6 ASI - Phoenix
 7 District Superintendents
 7-10 Ministerial Retreat -
 Camp Au Sable
 9-10 New Teacher Orientation -
 Camp Au Sable
 10-12 Teachers Convention -
 Camp Au Sable
 18 School Begins
 19-21 Adventurer Leadership -
 Camp Au Sable
 21 Lay Advisory
 26-28 Pathfinder Leadership -
 Camp Au Sable
 30 MI Conference Executive
 Committee - Conf. Room

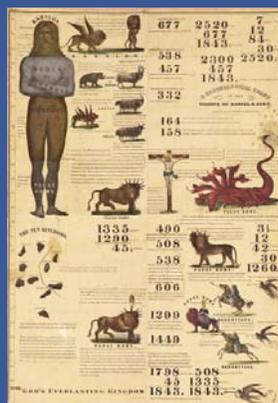
September

1-4 U.P. Camp Meeting
 2-5 Office Closed for Labor Day
 5 Labor Day
 9-11 Family Ministires -
 Camp Au Sable
 9-11 Adventurer Family Camp -
 Northwoods
 11-15 Senior's Retreat -
 Camp Au Sable
 15-18 Lake Union Camporee -
 Berrien Springs Fairgrounds
 23-15 ACS Fall Workshop -
 Camp Au Sable
 24 Michigan Men of Faith -
 GLAA

Role of Prophetic Message Misunderstood

— Andy Im
 Communications Director

It's trendy for some to belittle and even make fun of our prophetic emphasis and mention of horned beasts, 1844, and such. It's implied—sometimes explicit—that our message should be solely about Jesus, meaning only messages on topics related to acceptance, love, and community.



constitute a grand metanarrative of God's "amen" to His Word.

When Jeremiah, Isaiah, and the minor prophets shared prophecy, detailing Israel's approaching demise (and restoration) at the hands of Assyria or Babylon, they were preaching a message of utmost importance to their ancient audience. Theirs was a message from God—from Jesus and for His sake.

The failure to preach prophecy today is to fail—not Adventism—but Jesus. Yes, it should be done within the context of God's love. Even repackaged, no doubt, to fit our post-modern context. Perhaps it could be better framed as God's response to life's most pressing questions regarding our existence in the here and now. But, it shouldn't be discarded.

To preach FOR Jesus & ABOUT Jesus is to preach the Word of God.

All. Of. It.

I agree. We shouldn't forfeit these topics, and with so many struggling with legalism and false notions of God's character, this is imperative and crucial.

But I would also argue prophecy isn't peripheral, but rather central to Scripture.

Read it and see for yourself. Scripture contains a series of interconnected stories of God's fulfillment of His promises, which

The failure to preach prophecy today is to fail—not Adventism—but Jesus.