

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Je'sus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

Official Newsletter for the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



# MICHIGAN MEMO

OCTOBER 2017, VOLUME 29, NUMBER 8



## The Legacy of **FAITHFULNESS**

By Chad Bernard

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ASSOCIATE YOUTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

**As I write this article, my grandmother's Bible is open beside me. At 93, she still would highlight promises in her Bible so that she could share them with others. . . One of those texts was Acts 16:31.**

**S**he loved him till the day she died. He was part of her, and you really couldn't talk about one without discussing the other. He was her protector, her provider, and she was the inspiration for his work.

They met during World War II, members of what Tom Brokaw would call "The Greatest Generation," and they forged a life together—through the good times and bad. They believed that as long as they were together, everything would be all right, and it was. However in 2012, after five children, six grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and 70 years of marriage, he left her.

Not because he wanted to, but because he died. The pain was intense and left a huge void in her soul. She found herself looking for him at times, forgetting he was gone, only to remember that he was at rest, and then the pain would return.

This new life would be very different indeed and quite possibly too much to bear if it had not been for the other Man in her life. You see, she gave her heart to another in her youth as well. One who would never leave her, nor forsake her.

At first, her husband wasn't sure if he liked this arrangement. However in time, he soon fell in love with Him too. Jesus Christ became the foundation for their

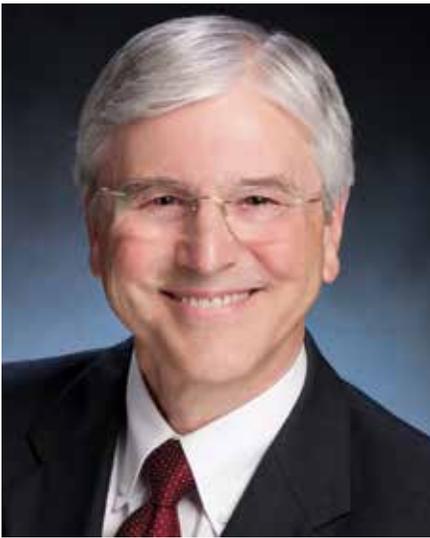
*(continued on page 6)*

- EDITORIAL -

# The Protestant Reformation: Finished or Finishing?

By Jay Gallimore

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



**Here is a secret that most Americans do not understand. Our republic is dependent on the good deeds of its citizens.**

Early Christianity introduced a powerful new element into human civilization. The apostolic church was in possession of the mind of Christ,<sup>1</sup> and they turned the world upside down! The resurrected Jesus, though seated at the right hand of God, was alive in their hearts by means of the Holy Spirit.

For a while the Roman Empire simply considered the Christians another sect of the Jews. But it wasn't long before the Romans began to find Christians everywhere. Like the leaven in dough they permeated the Roman Empire.

The Romans were very religious and would have been willing to add Jesus to their list of gods. But the Christians would have none of it. It was this exclusiveness that threatened the Romans. To surrender their gods, which they believed had made them the envy of the world, was unthinkable. In the end, Christianity prevailed as countless numbers flocked to the selfless message and love of Christians.

But the Apostles predicted that wolves in sheep's clothing would enter among Christians, "not sparing the flock." Eventually, the *man of sin* would arise, transforming a large portion of the church into a "prostitute."

Approximately 300 years after the birth of Christ, the Roman Emperor Constantine declared that he had converted to Christianity. But it was not the same Christianity that had ignited the early church. As the Roman Empire began to crumble, it was a

prostituted form of Christianity that filled the vacuum.

So began the trajectory that would eventually lead to the Dark Ages. There were voices in that dark period such as John Wycliffe, John Hus, and the Waldensians that called the harlot church back to the Bible. But the papacy continued to produce mortifying shame and corruption. The ignorance and scandal of the clergy, plus the sadistic inquisition, only deepened the depravity of Europe. By the time of Luther in 1517, the darkness could hardly have been darker.

The trigger for the Reformation was a priest by the name of Johann Tezel. He was sent by Pope Leo X to Germany to raise money for the building of St. Peter's Cathedral. Tezel's job was to sell indulgences. For a price, the papal indulgences promised forgiveness for past and future sins! But what was the price? It was ducats—gold or silver coins used as currency during the Middle Ages, and not repentance!<sup>2</sup>

Prior to this, a monk by the name of Martin Luther had been studying at the University of Erfurt. There he discovered a Latin Bible. Martin Luther was devoted and fearless to perform the will of God. As he read the entire Bible for the first time he was overwhelmed with reverence and awe. Later, when he was called to teach at the University of Wittenberg, his Bible-based preaching moved hearts in a powerful way. This propelled Luther towards a confrontation with the papacy.<sup>3</sup>

Like thousands of other devout individuals seeking peace, Luther just about ruined his health in a monastery by beating his body, and through other forms of infliction. For many, indulgences were also easier to come by if you had money. But most Germans were poor. In order to purchase indulgences, people often denied themselves and their families the most basic necessities.

Luther had discovered the gospel, and thus Tetzl's worthless indulgences outraged him. Nailing the 95 'Thesis' to the door of the Wittenberg cathedral he unwittingly started the Protestant Reformation, which for many, ended the futile pursuit of salvation through indulgences. Salvation was free! Individuals only had to put their trust in Jesus! As this light and other truths permeated the world, hundreds of years of "intellectual, political, social, economic, and religious stagnation ended."<sup>4</sup>

The Protestant Reformation initiated the principles and foundations of modern European civilization, which ultimately birthed the American Constitution. The resulting civil and religious freedoms produced the greatest civil and economic engines the world has ever known. These engines drove back papal darkness, crushed Nazism, upended atheistic communism, and established human freedom as a fundamental right.

Over the past 500 years Satan has relentlessly attacked the Reformation. We have seen this with the establishment of the Jesuits and can trace Satan's opposition through the course of history.

Currently, influential voices are declaring that the protest of Rome is over. Ecumenical agreements between Protestants and Rome now dominate the headlines. Nevertheless, the book of Revelation predicts that what began with the Reformation would ultimately be completed! A remnant coming out of Protestantism would have a "bitter" experience. But they would be resurrected and *again* preach the everlasting gospel. In turn, Satan

would oppose the remnant and their message and resurrect the might of the papacy that would align with apostate Protestantism.

Here is a secret that most Americans do not understand. Our republic is dependent on the good deeds of its citizens. If you have to put a policeman on every corner, tyranny will follow. In America, until recent times people and property were generally safe. This was largely due to Protestant churches preaching the Bible. This was a Christian nation, not on the basis of legislation, but because of God's transforming power and the moral underpinnings of Scripture.

But over time, mainline Protestant seminaries abandoned their trust in Scripture and traded faithfulness for sentimental love. Consequently, their doors were opened to evolution, sexual abominations, and infidelity. They embraced the methods adopted by the entertainment world, utilizing drama, secular music, and comedians to attract members. Yet their churches are, by and large, empty.

What about our nation? The majority of our young are preoccupied with fame and fortune. Marriage has become irrelevant. Pornography is now an acceptable form of entertainment. Many women are sacrificing their hallowed bodies for profit. Many men are loyal to nothing, except hedonistic pleasure. The nation has moved from faith to feeling, and from feeling to apathy, and from apathy to hopelessness. Cynicism, depression, and confusion are fueling suicides by the thousands.

This condition is the result of Protestants abandoning the principle of *sola scriptura*. They have attempted to embrace a decadent culture instead of rebuking it with the faithful biblical preaching. Protestantism has lost relevance. It has become a Christ-less church.

The Evangelicals have held onto a semblance of *sola scriptura*. They are alarmed at the moral rotting of the nation; but

sadly, they have abandoned their trust in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and have formed an alliance with the papacy.

They believe that such an alliance will prevent the nation from going down the path of moral degradation. But they have gambled and lost. Now the Pope has become the religious leader of the nation, instead of the Billy Graham's of our day.

Nevertheless, the Protestant Reformation's attempt to return to primitive godliness and apostolic love of the apostolic church will not fail! The Bible predicts that a remnant "who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" will lighten the earth with God's glory. They will successfully call God's people to come out of Babylon. Listen to these glorious predictions:

*"Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own."*<sup>5</sup>

*"Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number [will] take their stand upon the Lord's side."*<sup>6</sup>

The rallying cry of the Protestant Reformation has not been lost. The principles of the Reformation embodied in the terms—*sola scriptura, sola grace, and sola faith*—which stand for Scripture, grace, and faith *alone*, respectively, will triumph over all the forces of evil!

Dear reader, let us seize anew that cry and renew our commitment to be part of the remnant; a remnant that will complete what the Reformation started 500 years ago!

<sup>1</sup> Philippians 2:5

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gospelpedlar.com/articles/Church%20History/reformation.html>. Accessed September 13, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> White, Ellen G., *The Great Controversy*, pp. 120-144.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.gospelpedlar.com/articles/Church%20History/reformation.html>. Accessed Sep 13, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> White, Ellen G., *Christ Object Lessons*, p. 69.

<sup>6</sup> White, Ellen G., *The Great Controversy*, p. 612



▲ Sabbath Divine Worship

# Women's Day at the Village

By Laurie Snyman

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR

## 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 2-6

Manistique/McMillen/Sault Ste. Marie  
Pastor Jed Genson

### OCTOBER 9-13

Cedar Lake  
Pastors Mark Howard and  
Daniel Jean-Francois  
Cedar Lake SDA Elementary  
ACS, Betty Lacey

### OCTOBER 16-20

Centreville/Kalamazoo Countryside  
Pastor David Austin  
ACS, Jane Salisbury  
Kalamazoo Junior Academy

### OCTOBER 23-27

Kalkaska/Traverse City  
Pastor Jeff Akenberger  
Traverse City SDA Elementary  
ACS, Andrea Sansonetti,  
Brenda Brown

### OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 3

Port Sanilac  
Pastor Richard Bullock

*Lest we forget those "who labored to lay the foundation of our work."*

—Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*,  
May 25, 1905

Our pioneers in the 1800s shaped the foundations of our denomination with much hardship and sacrifice. It was with this in mind that we planned "Women's Day at the Village," at the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek. We wanted to focus on the pioneer ladies who played a crucial role in our beginnings. It's important to take time and learn their stories and contributions.

Women and men flocked to the Village on August 19, with many wearing clothing reminiscent of the 1800's. We were blessed with perfect weather as over 250 guests filled the Village. Many of the ladies wore long dresses or skirts, with bonnets or hats. A large number of the men wore dark pants and vests, with long-sleeved shirts or bowler hats.

Arlene Campbell and Marjie Shade, both commented on how they had sewed their special pioneer clothing just for this special day! Thirty of the costumed individuals represented pioneers from the 1800's. Guests were encouraged to ask them, "Who are you representing?" or "What are you known for?"

Adults and children learned many exciting stories and facts about those

who had sacrificed so much to forge our denomination. Sharon Ray, who played Lottie Blake, stated, "My day was outstanding. Thanks for putting this day together. Many people enjoyed it greatly!"

Marion Peppers, singer and wife of Wes Peppers (Personal Ministries Director), sang an old-fashioned hymn while her mother, Ginger Blythe, played the pump organ. The church service quickly filled to capacity. Don and Betty Scherencel shared about the Village and told witnessing stories of guests who had been impacted by the Adventist Village.

Each year, people visit from all over the U.S. and from various countries throughout the world. A large number of them are not Adventists, and before they leave the village many receive the book, *The Great Controversy*.

I had the privilege of sharing on the "Power of Influence," and how the growth of Adventism was due, in part, to the pioneers who lived in Battle Creek that lives on to this day. Bonnie Oetman of Lansing remarked, "We certainly do not realize how much influence we have on so many around us!"

Participants toured ten different locations throughout the Village, listening to intriguing stories about Anna Knight, Ellen and James White, the Hewitt's, Dr. Kellogg, the history of our denomination, and many others who served in various capacities.

(continued on page 6)

# Grow Michigan: Reaping A Harvest!

By Wes Peppers

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE PERSONAL MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

**U**nlock Revelation is well underway, and thousands of people are attending at over 100 sites across Michigan, hearing the Three Angels Messages preached by pastors and lay people young and old. Jesus is touching and transforming hearts. Lives are being changed. Church members by the thousands are praying for souls and being revived by the power and joy of the Advent message that never grows old. Christ Our Righteousness: His life, death, resurrection, ascension, intercession, and soon descension are the core of the wonderful truths we believe and proclaim. It is our identity as Seventh-day Adventists and the answer that triumphs all the pain and chaos of our world.

This is why we do personal and public evangelism; to tell it far and near. This is why we have *Unlock Revelation!* I hope you are taking advantage of this personally, both attending and assisting at a site even if your church is not participating this year. There is nothing greater to stir our love for God and our fellow man than to share the Gospel with others. If you haven't had the chance, it is not too late. You can have the opportunity to influence someone for eternity.

Dan Gallant came to *Unlock Revelation* in 2016 from a flier in the mail. His life had reached the lowest place possible. Depressed, addicted, hurting, he came to the church hoping there was a chance God would accept him. There, he heard

Christ being preached each night, and not only did he find hope, he found the reality that Christ loved him. He simultaneously found answers to his questions about what is happening in the world. He saw that current events were foretold in the Bible, and the truth transformed him. A family in the church connected with him and began to invite him over on Sabbaths for lunch. They began Bible studies and mentored him. He found friends that disciplined him. His love for Christ continued to grow, the truth continued to transform him, and he was baptized in August of 2017. The seed had to cultivate and grow to finally sprout into a harvest.

Perhaps your church had people who came last year but haven't made the decision to be baptized yet, but they are still connected and attending. Don't be discouraged! Evangelism is a process and a cycle. Remember, we have to prepare the soil, plant the seed, cultivate, harvest, and preserve. Dan is the perfect example of this. The family continues to disciple him through the *Discipleship Handbook*, and Dan has invited several people to *Unlock Revelation* this year. We want to build strong disciples for Jesus, and that requires an investment from God's people. Invest in God's work as the priority of your life.

It's not too late for you to invite someone to *Unlock Revelation*. Go to your



▲ Dan Gallant

neighbors, family, and co-workers even today and invite them to the remainder of the meetings. It could change their lives and yours forever. Keep praying for, befriending, and laboring with the people coming to your series. A miraculous harvest is coming that God will surely bless.

An upcoming Personal Ministries Weekend will take place on the weekend of November 11 where we will share testimonies and have training for upcoming events next year, so stay tuned. If you have a testimony to share from *Bible Study Offer* or *Unlock Revelation*, please email it to [wpeppers@misda.org](mailto:wpeppers@misda.org). Remember God's promise: "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." - Galatians 6:9



# New Director Personal Ministries & Evangelism

**W**es Peppers is the new director of Personal Ministries and Evangelism for the Michigan Conference. He is taking the place of Jim Howard who is now serving at the General Conference as Associate Director of Personal Ministries and Sabbath School. We are thankful for all that Jim Howard has done to advance the work of evangelism in Michigan and eagerly await what God has in store for the ministry of Wes Peppers. Please keep both of them in your prayers!



## THE LEGACY, *cont'd*

relationship, their family, and everything else.

As a result, their family tree shifted from one that was planted in shifting sand, to one that King David referred to as “firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither.” The pain of losing her husband was strong, but her best friend Jesus took the sting out of death so that it wasn’t goodbye, but see you soon. What a Savior!

What is the foundation of your relationships? Is Christ at the center of them? If He isn’t, do you care enough about that person to “risk” the relationship and talk with them about God? I encapsulated

the word risk to point out the fact that it isn’t really a risk at all. All worldly relationships will end sooner or later, no matter how close you are. However, eternal relationships in Christ will last forever.

As I write this article, my grandmother’s Bible is open beside me. At 93, she still would highlight promises in her Bible so that she could share them with others. Her vision was failing, and she needed a light and a magnifying glass in order to see, but she found joy in underlining texts that brought her hope.

One of those texts was Acts 16:31, and it reads: “And they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be

saved, and thy house.” She took that promise to the grave this August, in the same month her husband, her protector and her provider, died.

It was a happy day when she passed, because we know that she is resting excitedly in the hope of seeing her men soon; the man she married and loved, and the Man who *is* love and made all of this possible.

I praise God for my grandparents’ legacy of faithfulness. I desire that same devotion to Christ for my family as well. I want it to define who I am and the relationships I have on this Earth.

How about you?

## WOMEN’S DAY, *cont'd*

The breakout groups were led by Madlyn Hamblin (Jackson Church), Tami Conway (Cherry Hill and Detroit Northwest churches), Vicki Griffin, and an interactive activity by Julie Woolf and her daughter, Sarah Canada (Belleville Church).

Many men not only visited, but also as-

sisted with parking, transporting potluck dishes, driving golf carts for the handicapped, and making sure there were enough chairs for participants.

For lunch the attendees ate a delicious potluck meal spread out under the trees. Prior to dinner near the end of the eventful day, the guests gathered on

the lawn to sing, “When We All Get to Heaven.”

But it gets even better. The consensus is in. We plan to do something like this every year so keep your eyes and ears open for our next event!

Transitions in

# MISSIONS



**TERESA ALBERTO**

Teresa Alberto is the new biology and Spanish teacher at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. Teresa is a May 2017 graduate from Ouachita Hills College.



**DAVID BALLESTEROS**

David Ballesteros is the new music teacher at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. David is coming back home to Michigan from working in Minnesota at Maplewood Academy.



**MARY PAULSON KERR**

Dr. Mary Paulson Kerr is the new science teacher at Battle Creek Academy and comes to us from North Carolina where she taught part-time at both Fletcher Academy and Mount Pisgah Academy.



**DANIEL RODRIGUEZ**

Daniel Rodriguez is the new pastor of the Escanaba and Riverside churches. He comes to us from Ouachita Hills College and plans to complete his theology degree shortly.



**CARLO SOTOMAYOR**

Carlos Sotomayor is the new assistant pastor of the Battle Creek Church.



**WILLIAM WHITING**

William Whiting is the new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy. William received a Master of Arts in Teaching in August 2016 from Andrews University.



**BRITTNEY WILLIAMS**

Brittney Williams is the new science and Bible teacher at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy. Brittney comes to us from the Illinois Conference.

- Beett Kwon is now serving as pastor of the Troy Korean Company. He also pastors the Detroit Korean Church.
- Kamil Metz and David Pano will be serving as assistant pastors of the Williamston Church. They both serve in the Publishing Department of the Michigan Conference.
- Phil Mills is the new senior pastor of the Lansing Church.
- Ji Yong Park is the new associate pastor of the East Lansing University Church.
- Darryl Bentley is now also pastoring the Farmington Church in addition to the Detroit Metro Church.
- Tom & Renee Coffee have come out of retirement to teach 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades at Gobles Junior Academy.
- Aron Crews, an associate at Metro will also serve as Assistant Pastor in Farmington.
- Roberto Gonzalez is the new pastor of the Buchanan Church. He also pastors the Benton Harbor and Eau Claire churches.
- Lauren Snell is returning home to Niles Adventist School to team-teach grades 5 and 6. Lauren graduated from Andrews University in 2012.
- Sung Um is the new pastor of the Chikaming Church. He also pastors the Berrien Springs Living Word Church.
- David Young is the new pastor of the Williamston Church. He also serves in the Publishing Department as Office Assistant.

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## MONTHLY CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

- 1-3 Fasting and Prayer
- 5-8 LUC Secondary Leadership -  
Camp Au Sable
- 5-11 Annual Council
- 8-12 LIFT - Camp Au Sable
- 13-15 Mother/Daughter Retreat -  
Camp Au Sable
- 19 K-12 Board of Education
- 20-22 Lay Advisory Retreat -  
Camp Au Sable
- 24 MI Executive Committee
- 25 Camp Meeting Directors
- 27-29 Family Life Retreat - Camp  
Au Sable
- 27-29 Pathfinder/Adventurer Director  
Training
- 31 District Superintendents

### NOVEMBER

- 3-5 HI-C Retreat - Camp Au Sable
- 10-12 Crystal Mountain Marriage  
Retreat
- 10-12 Personal Ministries Workshop -  
Camp Au Sable
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday - Office  
Closed

## WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

By Gene Hall

PLANNING AND TRUST SERVICES, MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

In Luke chapter 12, Jesus tells the story of a man whose business was so successful that he didn't have the capacity to store all of his bounty. Therefore, he determined to build bigger warehouses to accumulate all that he had gained.

However, he didn't live long enough to enjoy the riches and the life of ease he coveted. The divine judgment was "This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?"

What was Jesus trying to teach us? In the verse preceding this parable Jesus warned us to "beware of covetousness." In this context we might conclude that the rich man coveted what was already his own. After all, he had earned what he wanted to keep. There is no suggestion that he had defrauded anyone or cheated God in order to gain what he had. So where is the problem?

Some time ago I was blessed by a sermon from one of our Michigan pastors who said: "God doesn't count how much you give; He counts how much you keep." This is the essence of stewardship. God blesses us with means to provide for our own family, but with our abundance

He asks us to consider *others* who are in need. What made the rich man covetous was his unwillingness to share his bounty with those in need.

God doesn't expect us to neglect our own family needs in order to give offer-

ings to support charitable entities. However, He does take an accounting of what we do with the resources he entrusts to us. Of the rich man Jesus said: "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Jesus' counsel is, "Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money in heaven that doesn't fail. . . For where

your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

One way of laying up treasure in heaven while still providing needed income to live on is through a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). This instrument offers you the opportunity to give a gift to God while maintaining a steady income to sustain you. For more information on a CGA, contact the Planned Giving and Trust Services Department at the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. You can reach us at 517-316-1520.

