



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

Michigan Memo

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Witnessing to Refugees

— Written by Rebecca Cing as told to Debra Barr
Members of the Wyoming Church

When Zam Khup (Khup) and Cing Niang (Niang) left Burma/Myanmar in 2007, they did not know the Adventist message. Their journey over the next seven years would bring them not only to Grand Rapids, but also to the Adventist truth.

Before leaving their homeland, Khup and Niang operated a farm that grew vegetables. High government taxation made it difficult to earn a living, so Khup and Niang had to decide whether to continue barely surviving or to leave their country for a better life. They decided to go to nearby Malaysia without proper documentation. While they were able to secure jobs, they were in constant fear of being caught by Malaysian police, who were unsympathetic to refugees. If someone could afford to bribe the authorities, they were left alone; if not, they could easily be thrown into jail. The conditions in prison were unspeakable, and they were not allowed to contact anyone to let them know they were there.

In September 2010, the couple came to Grand Rapids as Burmese refugees from the Chin state, speaking the Zomi dialect. Would they be able to find anyone who could speak

Zomi? They soon learned that new Burmese refugees were embraced by an entire community from Burma. Many spoke Zomi. They also found this Burmese community would become like family regardless of their particular dialect or religion.



Khup and Niang

A month later when my family arrived from Burma/Myanmar by way of Malaysia, we met Khup and Niang at a meet-and-greet party for Chin refugees who had recently arrived in the area. We all spoke the same Zomi dialect. My parents recognized the opportunity for an Adventist Zomi evangelistic effort. They wanted their new friends to know the truth they had learned while in Burma many years before.

Pastor Lian Pau agreed to come from Oklahoma for a series on Daniel and Revelation. Khup and Niang attended the meetings and started a search for truth on their own. They studied their Bibles and were convicted regarding the Sabbath. Pastor Sawm Sang from Adventist World Radio had Zomi sermons on YouTube.

Khup was working with two Adventists, my father Vung Thang and S.B. Cin. They often had religious discussions about a

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Guest Perspective Join the Reformation!

— Jim Howard
Personal Ministries Director

I'll never forget the first Bible study I ever gave someone. I was a new Christian and only 24 years old. A friend of a friend had shared a powerful study with my family and me on a Sabbath afternoon. He used a white board with colorful dry erase markers, the Bible, and the book *Patriarchs and Prophets* by Ellen White. Certain friends and family members weren't present to hear it the first time it was given, so we eagerly asked our new friend to share again when others could be there. I must have watched him share that study three or four times, and I was more deeply impressed every time I heard it!

Later when visiting with some other friends, I couldn't help but share what I had learned. I just knew that my friends would be excited about it. So out came the white board, the colored markers, the Bible, and *Patriarchs and Prophets*. It was a copycat study if there ever was one! And I was right. My friends loved it. I experienced just as much joy sharing it as I did when hearing it for the first time.

Not long after that day, I learned about the *Amazing Facts* Bible study guides. They were so powerful and yet so simple. I didn't need to write them myself and I didn't need a white board!

I began to invite people into my home to study through the lessons together, and let me tell you that Jesus was present at those meetings. I can think of several souls who were baptized as a result of those simple Bible studies given in my pre-pastor days. How thankful I am to God for raising up Adventist pioneer Stephen Haskell, the man credited with first using the question-and-answer method of Bible study in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

It was 1883. At that time, the truth was spread primarily by tracts and literature or by preaching to crowds. Elder Haskell was delivering a sermon to a large audience in a tent in southern California. As he preached, a severe storm arose that was quite uncommon for that area. The clashing of the thunder and the downpour of rain led to considerations of canceling the meeting, since the preaching could barely be heard. Just then, however,

Elder Haskell was moved by the Holy Spirit to step down to the middle of the tent and gather the people close around him.

Rather than using the customary mode of preaching, he called out texts of Scripture to be read by different people in the audience in response to specific questions. For example, he may have said, "Who gave the Scriptures?" To which someone would stand up and read from 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." To the question, "Why were the Scriptures given?" another would answer, "For doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Back and forth it went. The people were engaged and deeply moved by the way the Scriptures themselves answered every question.

W. C. White, son of Ellen White, reported to his mother the tremendous blessing gained by all who attended the meeting. The next day, Elder Haskell and other ministers were called together to meet with Mrs. White. There she told them about a vision God had shown her of a coming reformation in the church. "In visions of the

night representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people... Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest" (*Christian Service*, p. 42). She told Elder Haskell that the simple question and answer format that he used in his stormy preaching service would be used during this reformation by multitudes of Seventh-day Adventists to carry the truth to the world.

A recommendation soon passed at a camp meeting in California that would solidify future plans for the use of Bible studies in the Adventist Church. "Resolved, (2) That we recommend that as far as practicable, the various churches and little companies of Sabbath-keepers hold Bible readings similar to those conducted on the campground, for the purpose of better informing

themselves in the Scriptures, and also of interesting their neighbors in the special truths of these last days" (*Signs of the Times*, Sept. 27, 1883).

And so it is that the method of studying and sharing truth in a question-and-answer format, today known as "Bible studies" but formerly called "Bible readings," was born. Ellen White would later write, "The plan of holding Bible-readings was a heaven-born idea" (*Gospel Workers*, p. 191).

So why did this new method of sharing the Bible generate such excitement in the young Adventist Church? The answer can be found in an advertisement for a Bible study training session published in the *Signs of the Times* on October 18, 1883. "Not only young men and women are wanted, but men of mature years; even if their heads are sprinkled with gray hairs, they are none too old to visit families and tell what God has done for them, and read the Scriptures."

Notice who was being recruited to give Bible studies: old, young, men, women – anyone who could tell what God had done for them, and read the Scriptures. Here was the genius, the "heaven-born" wisdom, of the Bible study method. Here was the secret to the excitement it generated in the church! No longer was the church dependent upon the traditional preaching of the ministers to spread the truth. Bible studies would present the truth in a way that was simple, personal, and powerful. Here was a method specially designed by God that would empower thousands of laypeople and be an important means of finishing the work.

You don't have to be a scholar, have a good memory, have long experience, or be eloquent in speaking in order to give an effective Bible study. So what are you waiting for? Join the hundreds and thousands of other Seventh-day Adventists that God showed Ellen White in vision. Decide now that you will be part of the Bible Study Reformation. You don't have to create your own lessons because there are multiple sets from which

to choose. Or, you could simply invite someone to join you in watching an evangelistic series on DVD, many of which have study lessons to accompany them. The tools and resources are abundant. You only need to be willing.

Before we can expect an abundant harvest of baptisms in our churches, we need to dramatically

increase the number of regular Bible studies being given to those seeking truth. It is time that we align ourselves with the reformation vision given by God through Ellen White. It is time for the Bible Study Reformation.

The Bible Study Reformation is focused on strengthening the cultivation phase of the agricultural model of evangelism given to us by Jesus. Come to an inspiring Grow Michigan Rally to learn how you and your church can be part of a state-wide effort to prepare, plant, cultivate, harvest, and preserve in order to Grow Michigan Churches. For Bible study training, support, and resources, talk to your pastor or local Personal Ministries leader or call the Personal Ministries Department of the Michigan Conference at 517-316-1563. Helpful resources and training will also soon be available at GrowMichiganChurches.com.



Prepare



Plant



Cultivate



Harvest



Preserve

Don't Miss the *Grow Michigan Rally* Near You!

- o Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit.
- o Hear inspiring baptism testimonies.
- o Learn the benefits of conference-wide team evangelism.
- o Discover how to identify the barriers to growth in your local church.

February 7 – Cedar Lake Church at 3:30 PM (District 5)

February 7 – Lansing Church at 3:30 PM (District 7)

February 21 – Urbandale Church at 3:30 PM (District 11)

February 28 – Edenville Church at 3:30 PM (District 6)

March 7 – Traverse City Church at 3:30 PM (District 2)

March 28 – Troy Church at 3:30 PM (District 12)

May 9 – Camp Sagola at 3:30 PM (District 1)

The Sound of the Trumpet

— Laurie Snyman
Assistant to the Ministerial Director

Who but God would have known that Carlot Dorve, born in the impoverished city of Port Au Prince, Haiti, would grow up to be a beloved, professional trumpet player.

A single mother raised Carlot in a two-room home with his five siblings. His mother struggled to educate her children.

While staying with his grandmother one day, five-year-old Carlot slipped on a plantain tree, severely injuring his right arm. His grandmother feared the reaction of his mother. She tried for a time to conceal the injury from his mother. The injury became worse as his arm became infected. His grandmother brought him to a healer with no results and the infection continued to spread. Carlot's arm would have to be amputated to save his life. His mother feared for her son's future. Being right-handed, losing his arm would make everything a difficult challenge. His arm was removed all the way up to his shoulder, making things like dressing and writing difficult challenges.

Disabled children were banned from attending public schools in Haiti. Carlot's mother brought him to St. Vincent's Handicap Center, where he was taught to function using his remaining left arm and hand. Kids teased Carlot about his disability, but this only made him want to work harder. Carlot excelled as a student. He became proficient in speaking French, English, and Creole. It was difficult, but he continued to excel despite the civil unrest, hunger, and fear he experienced. There were days he attended school hungry, and others, when he saw wounded people and even bodies in the street.

His mother married a Seventh-day Adventist when he was age seven, and he began to go to church. It was not until he was 16 that he fully gave his heart to Christ. By then, his stepfather left his pregnant mother, but he kept his religious vows nevertheless.

Carlot loved music. Sometimes he spent his scarce food money to purchase music tapes from street vendors. On one tape, he heard trumpet music. It resonated with him and he became immediately enthralled with the sound of the trumpet. "There was something about the trumpet, I just loved it," Carlot said. More than anything, Carlot wanted to play music, especially the trumpet. He watched kids going to music class, and "when I heard them play, I felt it, I loved it. But they wouldn't allow me to play. They said I couldn't. But I was persistent." Carlot asked the music teacher if he could play the trumpet at his school. Day after day, year after year, his teacher told him, "No, you can't play with only one hand." Carlot continued to ask his teacher, over and over, but the teacher denied Carlot permission to play. For four years, Carlot asked. He kept hearing the same answer of "no." But he didn't quit.

One day when Carlot was begging the teacher to let him try to play a trumpet, another teacher was in the room. The teacher

intervened for Carlot, convincing his teacher that it wouldn't hurt to let Carlot try out a trumpet. This young man was so determined to play music that without anyone to help and



mentor him, he practiced how to manage a trumpet with only his left hand. By using his pinkie finger and thumb to hold the trumpet up, he could

use his three middle fingers to play the valves on the trumpet. With stubborn determination, he pushed himself to practice everyday, until he became the best trumpeter in his class.

Carlot gained respect at school, earning a scholarship to high school. He became the youngest member in Haiti's largest orchestra. He played in the Philharmonic orchestra of Saint Trinity at the Holy Trinity School of Music. Carlot was so talented that he was asked to teach music to other students.

Carlot signed up for a foreign exchange program and moved to Flint, Michigan as an exchange student. One week later, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti. Carlot lamented that many of his friends, fellow students, and teachers were killed or injured, some in the music school where he had spent so much of his time. Carlot struggled to understand, "Why not me?" Carlot grieved when he learned of the earthquake and deaths of so many people. Later he said, "I couldn't play. I couldn't even eat. I just cried." Carlot scoured the internet and Facebook pages looking for news about people. But eventually, music provided a way to heal again. His incredible faith in God sustained him. And God had a plan for Carlot.

There were other tragedies that Carlot had to experience. His mother disappeared. "Things like that can happen in Haiti," Carlot tells me. There is no doubt she was murdered even though there is "no confirmation of her death." Carlot underlines the importance of having a mother, "I would give millions and millions to have one, but God knows why things happen. It is unfortunate that I really did not understand her when I had her. I think having a mother is more precious than anything in this world."

Carlot has performed throughout Michigan, New York, Connecticut, Washington, D.C., Florida, and Illinois. Money he made from these performances was often sent to his siblings to support their schooling back home. As he traveled and played, people saw Carlot's remarkable talent. He inspired those with

disabilities to put their trust in God, work diligently, and believe God will provide a future.

While an exchange student in Flint, an Adventist who met Carlot arranged an interview with Michigan State University (MSU). MSU trumpet professor Richard Illman said, "I got an anonymous phone call from a woman who said 'I have a trumpet player you need to hear.'" Illman, who has since performed duets with Carlot, said the faculty was so impressed with Carlot. MSU offered Carlot a full music scholarship. Though the scholarship covered Carlot's tuition, how would he find money to pay for his room and board? He trusted God to take care of that.

Carlot spent five months studying music with national trumpet master Wilmer Wise of the International Trumpet Guild. Wise introduced him to renowned trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, for whom he was able to play privately. Marsalis saw such potential in Carlot that he decided to send him a check each semester, to cover Carlot's personal expenses. Carlot knows God has been watching over him.

Presently Carlot is a junior at MSU. He has gone to Haiti to inspire students to play music. He also plans to teach trumpet to disadvantaged students next summer.

Listening to Carlot play his trumpet rivets your attention to him, hearing that quality of trumpet music coming from a person with just one arm. He displays an incredible determination to play despite his disability. Recently I brought him to Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA). As I waited to pick him up, there he came, down the sidewalk in freezing weather, steering a bike with his one arm and heavily laden with book bags. It takes endurance and perseverance to function like other students and get an education. The students at GLAA were amazed when they heard Carlot play his trumpet that evening for worship. "I can live my experiences through music. It is the thing that makes me most happy in my life."

Carlot is an avid Adventist Christian. He says, "I was offered an opportunity to perform in Carnegie Hall in New York City" at a prestigious performance. When Carlot found out that the orchestra would be practicing for half an hour on Sabbath, he turned down the offer, choosing to stay loyal to the Sabbath despite how the performance might have propelled his future. He has been having issues with a conductor because he has refused to play at other Saturday performances coming up in the new year.

"It gives me a chance to stand up for God. I believe it is a privilege. One of the sponsors cancelled my scholarship money last year because I would not play for them. They were of another religion and took issue with my not playing on Sabbath. I clearly stated that I am a Christian that keeps God's Sabbath

according to the Bible and that I cannot do it. However if they would change it to any other day, then I will do it." He is praying God will solve this for him. When he declines for these reasons, conductors and professors remind him there have been other Adventists who have willingly performed on Sabbath. Carlot said he prayed God would give him an answer about why others do this and he is convicted not to. He says, "God told me, I want to have a date with you each Sabbath." He says that helped him make up his mind firmly to serve God and keep the Sabbath.

Carlot knows God can open doors for him when He wills it. "Last year I had a performance in Washington, D.C. on Sabbath. When I found out the date, I said, 'I will not be there.'" Amazingly, "they changed the time of the concert just a few weeks before the performance, just because of me. God is so good."

Carlot credits God with all his talent and opportunities and waits to hear what the future will be.

Wanting to be a better soul winner, he attended Michigan's Emmanuel Institute of Evangelism. Trained rightly by them and inspired, Carlot has shared his faith with multiple students at MSU. Five students have been baptized, and he is praying that three other students he studies the Bible with will join them soon.

Carlot's goal is to simply become a better trumpet player, hopefully "one of the greatest" and a witness for God. "There were times I thought, 'how much better I'd be, if I had two arms,' but I don't really think of myself as handicapped. I can do everything anyone else could do," Carlot said. "Everything happens for a reason. Miracles have happened all through my life."

Every Monday morning, the Michigan Conference staff meet together for worship and prayer. Here is the list for February. Please join with us as we pray for these ministries.

February 2-6

**Berrien Springs Living Word
Pastor Peter Ahn**

February 9-13

**Benton Harbor New Plant
Pastor Taurus Montgomery**

February 17-21

**Ann Arbor Korean
Pastor Ji Young Park
Bible Worker - Sadako Tokuno**

February 23-28

**Eau Claire Spanish
Pastor Jonathan Flores-Ardiles**

For They Shall Return

— Michael Fracker
Communication Secretary for the Ionia Church

Bob Reed was a third generation Adventist, but his mother never took him to church. But she let Nadine Campbell take him to church as a youth. He attended church school in Ionia for one year. Carole Reed, his wife, became an Adventist several years after they were married. She remembers that she didn't even know Bob was an Adventist until one day his mother was coming to the house and Bob hid the bacon in the stove so his mother wouldn't see it.

Bob and Carole joined the Ionia Seventh-day Adventist Church and Bob became an elder and Sabbath School teacher. But with lots of things going on in their lives like family challenges, work issues, financial difficulties, and lots of stress, Bob and Carole left the church in 1987.

Bob became very busy, working different jobs, going to school to earn an associate degree, and farming. He worked in the prison system as a corrections officer while working his farm, which he expanded by buying up his neighbor's 80 acres. He then had a mortgage and a land contract to pay off.

Bob went up the ranks in the prison system and became a sergeant. He then took a job as an Assistant Resident Unit Manager. While not an officer anymore, in 2009 Bob was involved in trying to break up a prison fight, where an inmate had punched three officers in the face and was fighting them off. Bob jumped into the fray to help and ended up tearing his rotator cuff. He continued to work on the farm with corn, hay, and twenty-seven cows.

In March of 2013, Bob had a detached retina surgery. All this time he had been a workaholic and keeping busy. But with the retina surgery he stated, "I had a lot of time to think. I couldn't do anything but think because I couldn't see well enough to do anything. I knew there was more to life. You work or party - but what else is there? I was seeing people sick; my neighbors were dying; bad things were happening in the world. I thought this must be the end-times."

"Over the last twenty-seven years since we left the church, we hadn't thought about the church much because so much was going on in our lives and we were keeping busy," Bob continued. "We did have contact with some of the church members. I remember going fishing with Mike Fracker, Mike Martin, and Gary Emelander on Lake Michigan. Billy and Sharon Ray stopped over at times. I had contact with Don Emelander for farm supplies." Carole added, "And Gary Emelander called a lot to see how we were doing."

"We had struggles with family members. It brought up some concerns for me. It reminded me of what I had learned. I knew there was something better, and that things were going to happen that we should prepare for."

Bob stated, "We had talked about being with people with the same faith. I knew things weren't right in our lives. Our daughter was having problems and making bad decisions. So because of all these things, we decided to come to church in Ionia. We found out Mike was having a Revelation Seminar. I thought, 'I don't have time for that stuff, but I went to the first meeting and heard Mike present new stuff that wasn't the same old stuff I was used to hearing.' There were just enough things that I was learning that it kept me coming back."

Carole added, "I knew it was the right thing to do. We didn't have contact with anybody. I knew we needed to be with the people of the same faith."

"After the seminar, Pastor Landis and Mike Fracker came to our house to talk about baptism and go through the pre-baptismal

vows. Mike had a call at the meetings, and we had come forward."

"But when we decided to do this, the stress just got worse. A few days before we were to be baptized, I had a load of corn and got a flat tire. I jacked up the wagon, took the tire off, and got it fixed. I had let the wagon down on a railroad tie. I jacked it back up, but I didn't get it quite high enough. I squatted down under the wagon to get the tire on. It almost fit, but not quite. Something told me to get up, take a step back, and look at it. I did, and two seconds later, four or five tons of corn went over on the spot I was squatting. If I had been there, it would have killed me."

Carole stated, "We have a lot of stress, but when I got baptized, I felt wonderful. I still have stress, but we have peace."

"Mike Fracker asked me to teach his Sabbath School class a week ago because he was going to be at Camp Au Sable for a Sabbath School workshop. I told him I didn't know if I could do it, but he reminded me that I had taught him in Sabbath School before. I said, 'Yeah, but that was 27 years ago!' It forced me to study every day, even though I was very busy."

Carol added, "It was the most peaceful and stress-free day we've had in a long time. God really blessed."

Bob said, "We had planned to visit all the Adventist churches in the area, but that didn't happen." Carole concluded, "We love coming to Ionia." Robert and Carole Reed were baptized in December 2013. Robert now has a Teacher's Quarterly and Mike plans to use him regularly in teaching Sabbath School.



Rob Benardo comes from California where he did urban multi-cultural ministry. A Florida native and an Andrews graduate, he and Olga his wife have two children, Amaris and Alexia. He is the new pastor of the Battle Creek Tabernacle and Delton churches, where retiring Bruce Moore pastored.



Steve Scheffka has been the assistant pastor at the Lasnsing Church. He is a former businessman who will be pastoring the South Lyon Company and Lakes Area Group. Raised a Catholic, he has done active evangelism since he became an Adventist in 2001. He was also mentored by Louis Torres when he attended the Black Hills Mission College of Evangelism. Steve is engaged to Staci Osterman, the Michigan Conference Bible worker coordinator.



Taylor Hinkle was born and raised near Chicago until his family moved to New Mexico. He has conducted evangelism in six countries as well as having been the assistant literature ministries director of Arizona Conference. He studied theology at Weimar College and Southwestern Adventist University. The newly wedded Taylor and his wife Ariel will serve the Ithaca and Frost churches.



Sabine Vatel returns to Michigan as associate pastor of discipleship/GROW groups for Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC). Having a doctoral degree in ministry as well as a nursing degree, she has served churches and universities in Florida, Maryland, and Alberta. She replaces Esther Knott, a former associate pastor of PMC, who now serves as associate director in the NAD Ministerial Department and as director of the InMinistry Center at the Seminary.



Sonja Howard was born and raised in Ohio, coming to Michigan seven years ago. She has secretarial experience and has been previously involved with real estate. She now serves as secretary for the Human Resources and Personal Ministries departments. She and her husband Jim have two daughters, Kayla and Lindsey.

(Continued from front page)

variety of topics including the state of the dead. Pastor Dan Rachor of the Wyoming and Bauer churches soon had Bible studies with Khup and Niang as well as with Suan Khai (a student of Grand Rapids Adventist Academy) and Mung No. Soon the couple started secretly keeping the Sabbath because they didn't know how the others would receive what they were learning.

While Khup did not have conflicts with the Sabbath, Niang did. When she accepted the Sabbath truth, she asked for her Sabbaths off. Her request was denied and she was told she would be fired if she did not work Saturdays. Pastor Dan talked to the company and was told that if she had been an Adventist when she started working for them, they would have honored her request. But after working for them for some time, the request did not seem real. Pastor Dan

was able to convince them that it was a real request, and she now gets her Saturdays off.



Photo by Rebecca Cing

Pictured from left to right: SB, Khup and Niang studying the Bible.

Khup and Niang continued to study and on January 4, 2014, they were baptized into the Wyoming Seventh-day Adventist Church. Lun Ngai and Biak Thank, two Zomi Adventist youth, were also baptized on that same day.

Refugees from Burma/ Myanmar are a very close-knit group of people who come to America for a better life. We have a real witnessing opportunity to reach out to them and show them the way

to Christ. Does your church have an active ministry to reach refugees that come to America, not only from Burma but also from other countries? Plan now to expand your church's ministry into this under-developed area.



February

- 7 Praise/Report Dist 5 - Cedar Lake
- 7 Praise/Report Dist 7 - Lansing
- 7 Pathfinder Bible Experience - Area Level
- 13-15 CAMPUS Winter Retreat - Camp Au Sable
- 13 Office Closed
- 16 Presidents Day - Office Closed
- 18-22 GLAA Home Leave
- 21 Praise/Report Dist 11 - Urbandale
- 24 MI Executive Committee
- 25 Camp Meeting Leaders
- 26 K-12 Board of Education
- 26-Mar 1 Teen Bible Camp - Camp Au Sable
- 28 Praise/Report Dist 6 - Edenville

March

- 1 Women's Ministry Board
- 7 Praise/Report Dist 2 - Traverse City
- 7 Pathfinder Bible Experience - Conference Level
- 10-12 New in Ministry - Lansing
- 12-22 GLAA Home Leave
- 13-15 Marriage Commitment - Camp Au Sable
- 21 Pathfinder Bible Experience - Union Level
- 24 MI Executive Committee
- 25 Camp Meeting Directors
- 26 K-12 Board of Education
- 28 Praise/Report Dist 12 - Troy

Old Time Radio Christmas Program

— Don Ervick
 Member of the Midland Church

The Midland Seventh-day Adventist Church at 2420 East Ashman St. in Midland hosted the taping of the Strong Tower Radio's (STR) "Old Time Radio Christmas Variety Hour," Saturday evening on December 6th.

George Corliss of STR was the announcer assisted by Pastor Darryl Bentley, pastor of the Clare and Edenville churches. The program featured comedy, drama, and a large variety of Christmas musical performers from the Midland Church and other Adventist

churches around the state, headlined by the STR Quartet. The program was open to the public and about 200-225 people attended. The taping was conducted in two parts, each lasting approximately an hour. Part one was aired on Monday, December 15, on all the STR stations, while Part II was aired the following Monday on December 22.

STR daily broadcasts provide listeners with a unique blend of thought-provoking

speakers, programs, stirring inspirational messages, and heart-warming music that restores a true knowledge of God's character and that stirs the soul to yearn for a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior.

After hearing the spiritual messages broadcasted by STR, several people

requested Bible lessons. After studying with Pastor Cory Herthel and/or lay Bible ministers, they were subsequently baptized and are now members of the Midland Church. Pastor

Herthel of the Midland Church has remarked that this radio ministry has proven to be a wonderful outreach tool.

STR broadcasts can be heard 24 hours long and seven days a week on the following stations: 91.9FM Cadillac, 90.7FM Midland/Mt Pleasant, 93.9FM Gaylord, 90.9FM Escanaba, 97.9FM Newberry and 107.3FM West Branch. For more broadcast information, visit the website: strongtowerradio.org.



Photo by Christine Rickel

Pastor Darryl Bentley and Goerge Corliss