



# #ADULTING



Official Newsletter for the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

# MICHIGAN MEMO

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▲ Presenter Cassandra McNulty

## Young Adults Discover **SECRETS** to Success

By Rachel Cabose

LANSING YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY LEADER

**“The young adult ministry team caught a vision for creating an evangelistic event that would attract our fellow young adults.”**

**A**mazing!” “This was awesome!” Those are a few of the enthusiastic reactions from attendees at #Adulting: Succeeding in the Real World, an outreach event for young adults organized by the Lansing Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“Great event—keep going,” wrote one participant. “Everything was excellent,” commented another.

The #Adulting concept was born last fall, when the young adult ministry team caught a vision for creating an evangelistic event that would attract our fellow young adults by meeting their practical, emotional, and spiritual needs. The title comes from a social media hashtag used

wryly by young adults to describe the novelty of performing grown-up tasks.

Held at a local library, the three-night series attracted 45 participants, primarily ages 20-35. A quarter of them had no previous contact with our church, while several others were young adults who attend church but are not active members.

Each session featured 10-minute talks on five topics: careers, finances, relationships, health, and hope (spirituality). After the program, attendees eagerly lined up to talk with the presenters at booths offering free materials on their topics. The format and the pertinent subjects made it easy to connect and build

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- EDITORIAL -

# Grow Michigan Progress Report!

By Jay Gallimore

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



**“Our passion for the lost must be supreme in our life and the life of the church. If any other passion is sovereign, it will be the death knell to the spiritual life of the church and its members.”**

What a wonderful year we had in 2016! The billboards, handbills, bumper stickers, yard signs, *GLOW* tracts, Bible studies, community outreach, and your enthusiasm was used by the Holy Spirit to bring 3,400 people out to the opening night of *Unlock Revelation* in 2016. We saw a 62% increase in baptisms and professions of faith from the previous year. Even when we factor out the immigrant professions of faith, it was still about a 50% increase!

This year we are engaged in *Bible-StudyOffer.com* to be followed up with another statewide *Unlock Revelation* in the fall. Once again we are committed to working together with similar advertisement initiatives. And once again the Lord is blessing our efforts. We are close to 2,800 requests for Bible studies. By camp meeting, we believe we will be approaching 3,000 requests. Members and pastors are busy following up!

The Seventh-day Adventist Church exists for one reason and one reason alone—“to call all people to become disciples of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the everlasting gospel embraced by the three angels’ messages, and to prepare the world for Christ’s soon return.”<sup>1</sup>

The “in” thing for churches today is to be engaged in meeting people’s physical needs. While Jesus cared about people’s temporal needs, His greatest compassion was for their lost condition. Adventists are busily engaged in relieving

suffering and should be. However, if these other good things become more important than winning souls, then Satan wins by extinguishing the life of the church with its own good deeds. Our passion for the lost must be supreme in our life and the life of the church. If any other passion is sovereign, it will be the death knell to the spiritual life of the church and its members.

I once had a head elder whose passion was winning souls. After I left his church for another assignment, he, some years later, told me this story. It so happened that on a Sabbath morning, the new pastor casually remarked that the growth of the church during my tenure had been transfer growth.

The head elder told me that he then opened his Bible and showed the dear pastor a list he had kept of roughly 140 baptisms and professions of faith during my time there. The fact that the elder kept such a list was unknown to me or long forgotten. But it illustrates the fact that he was passionate about soul winning and so was the church!

Here are essential fundamental strategies that work if a church wants God’s work to move!

1. The minister and elders must be passionate about winning souls. Their enthusiasm will produce a culture of soul winning. That culture will be found in the prayer meeting. The foyer on Sabbath will be vibrant

with love as it watches for souls. Then the members will come to church expecting a soul winning culture. Sabbath School teachers will join in and teach that culture. And the Holy Spirit will fill the baptistry.

2. Every year—yes every year—the pastor and elders will hold training sessions teaching the members how to find Bible study contacts and how to give Bible studies. Every member should be encouraged to give someone a Bible study.
3. Every year—yes every year—a reaping evangelistic meeting of some kind should be held! An evangelistic church never gets tired of hearing the message or seeing souls won!
4. Every Sabbath—yes every Sabbath with rare exception—the preacher should make it his business to offer a call for baptism. Whether there is a response or not is God's business. It is the business of the preacher to make the call. In the same church referred to earlier, the choir wanted to do a resurrection cantata for the divine service. However, they told me they would do it on one condition—if I would make a call at the end of the service. I did. Eleven adults walked down that aisle for baptism. That's how strong the culture of soul winning was at that church. Whenever I initiated the baptismal call, I would watch as the elders bowed their heads, one by one, and began praying for souls. Sometimes they

would get out of their seat and offer to walk down the aisle with someone.

5. Soul winning plans must be the centerpiece of the board meetings and budget planning. When a church makes the Lord's priority its priority, it wins souls! That priority must be organized.

Many churches make excuses as to why they are not winning souls. However, we should ask the question: Is it possible for a church to be serious about winning souls if they are not focused on giving Bible studies and holding evangelistic meetings? After all, those are the only two ways people are prepared for baptism. If you want an indicator of whether a church is healthy, listen to the prayer requests. Are there more prayer requests for the sick than for the lost? Both the sick and the lost need to be prayed for earnestly. But too often we only hear about the sick, and nothing about praying for "my" Bible study contact or someone who needs the Lord. Great churches are ones that are passionate about saving the lost.

This year the Michigan Conference needs to raise \$350,000 for evangelism! This money will go towards the following: (1) to local churches by helping them do mail-outs for *BibleStudyOffer.com* and seed money for *Unlock Revelation*; (2) it will fund the websites for *Biblestudyoffer.com* and *Unlock Revelation*; (3) it will supply billboards, advertising materials, and other essentials.

In short, the money will be spent directly to help churches win souls. We get a lot more "bang for the buck" when we work together instead of independently!

Can any of us out-give the Lord? Has God put means into your hands? Then use it liberally to win souls. The Lord would love to have you partner with Him! Perhaps you can sacrifice some things that aren't good for you anyway. How about a walkathon or a lose weight program? Perhaps an investment idea and sacrifice the proceeds? Maybe you should sell a boat, car, or a "toy" that you don't really need. Or what about a bake sale or yard sale? Ask the Lord for some ideas. The Holy Spirit knows of a thousand ways to raise funds, and He will help you. Satan hates it, but the Lord loves it when we work and give to win souls!

On the tithe envelope under the heading "Michigan Conference" is a line marked "other." Write in the donated amount and write "Evangelism" on that line. You can choose to give in one lump sum or monthly.

Let's give in a way that will praise the Lord for His goodness to all of us. And there is nothing that pleases Him more than winning souls!

<sup>1</sup><https://www.adventist.org/en/information/official-statements/statements/article/go/-/mission-statement-of-the-seventh-day-adventist-church/>

**"Has God put means into your hands? Then use it liberally to win souls. The Lord would love to have you partner with Him! Perhaps you can sacrifice some things that aren't good for you anyway."**



# Health Ministries Opens Doors

By Jodi Genson

MEMBER OF THE MANISTIQUE CHURCH

## PRAYER FOCUS

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

### MAY 1-5

Clio, First Flint  
Pastor Jonathan Chitwood  
First Flint Elementary  
First Flint Community Service Center

### MAY 8-12

Bessemer/Greenland  
Pastors Ray Holmes/Sean Brizendine  
Bluff View Christian School

### MAY 15-19

L'Anse/Marquette  
Pastor Tony Ludwig  
Marquette SDA School

### MAY 22-26

Glennie/Tawas/West Branch  
Tawas Community Services

### MAY 30-JUNE 2

Rockford/Sparta  
Pastor Daniel McGrath

What can we do in the community to let folks know that we are a caring church?" was the question raised at a recent outreach planning meeting at the Manistique Seventh-day Adventist Church. After a season of prayer, the committee began to pencil in outreach ideas onto a 2017 calendar.

Health ministry is the right arm of the Gospel, and we intend to make good use of this method to come close to people, sympathize with them, and do what we can to help them with their health needs, and eventually know the Savior.

The first event was a three-day Stress Management Seminar, conducted at the Comfort Inn in Manistique. An average of 12 attended each night. When the classes were over, "Is this it? We want some more!" was heard by some of the attendees.

We heard their request and told them that we would be hosting the Healthy Options Vegetarian Food Fair on Thursday, February 23 in the Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Several tables were laden with healthy, attractive, and tasty vegetarian foods with vegan, and gluten-free options, that included soups, healthy snacks, dips and sauces, entrees, breakfast foods, smoothies, and desserts. Recipes were collected for each item and compiled into a book and given to each attendee.

Over 20 community folk, including the Mayor, came and sampled the food. Mingling with the people at each table,

they were asked if they were trying something totally new, for the first time. One gentleman indicated that he was totally surprised that vegetarian food could taste so good, and that the vegan options were surprisingly delicious! Here is a comment from the Mayor:

"Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed the vegetarian meal at the Baptist church. The people with whom I ate talked about the difference it made in their lives. I hope you do another dinner sometime. The food was great, and it was a wonderful community service."

Feeding the people physical food was not our only goal. We prayed for opportunities to minister to the soul, as well. There was an opportunity to pray with a woman who was going through chemotherapy and had to make radical changes in her lifestyle. Giving her an ear and sympathizing shoulder, she was encouraged to look to the Savior for strength for each coming day.

Another woman shared that she recently suffered a heart attack and stroke and was very interested in how to eat healthfully. A church member was able to talk with her about God's natural doctors—the eight laws of health and encourage her to come to our follow-up Vegetarian Cooking Classes, planned for the near future. She said that she would indeed attend.

By making friends and winning their confidence, we let people know that God cares for them, personally, and so do we.

# Bible Study Offer.com



**FREE** Study Guides & DVDs!

**866-700-0123**

By Rodney Thompson

PASTOR OF THE MONROE AND TECUMSEH CHURCHES

**W**e currently have 60 Bible studies going. There are 100 members on the church books but only about 30 attend regularly. Of those that regularly attend about 90% of them are involved with biblestudyoffer.com. Some have one study, and others have many.

Here is a snippet of what's taking place at the Tecumseh church.

**Julia Morrone:** My new bible study is a lady in Adrian. When I delivered her first *Landmarks of Prophecy* Bible study she was pleased and surprised that it was being hand delivered. I explained how she was to view the DVD and answer the questions on the study guides. We started a conversation, and she informed me that she was attending several churches. I asked why so many, and she shrugged her shoulders and said she was looking.

I told her that we offered a full meal and fellowship on the first Sabbath of the month, but that it was on God's Sabbath, which was on Saturday. She was very surprised. I explained a little, telling her that it was established by God in the Garden of Eden. I stated it would be explained in a future study in the series. She said she was looking forward to this study.

We decided that Monday would be the best day to drop off the study of each week. Since this was on a Thursday, I asked if she would like to wait a full week and a few days before I delivered the next study. She said no, she wanted it delivered the following Monday.

I delivered the second Bible study on Monday; she apologized that she had not been able to answer all of the questions, and I told her that was fine. She then indicated that she wanted to attend the first Sabbath service in April, and asked if I could pick her up. I said that I would. She said we were the only church she found not to be pushy.

**Sabrina Thompson:** We have been blessed with our bible studies that we have been giving to Brian and Mary. When we first came to their door, Mary was so excited to receive the *Landmarks of Prophecy* study DVD's. She introduced us to her husband, Brian, who has been doing the studies with her. We have developed a friendship with them. The following week we dropped off another study and Mary said, "I didn't know these studies were by Pastor Doug." They were already familiar with Pastor Doug Bachelor. In fact, the pastor of their church made a comment to Brian that he was a Seventh-day Adventist. We are looking forward to our continued connection with this wonderful couple.



▲ Members at the Tecumseh church involved in *BibleStudyOffer.com*

**"There should be one hundred earnest, faithful laborers in home and foreign mission fields where now there is one. . . Urgent inducements should be held out to those who ought now to be engaged in missionary work for the Master." -- *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 488.**



# Men's Ministry Event

**O**n Sabbath, April 1, the Upper Peninsula men of faith gathered at the Escanaba church for a time of deep reflection and strategic planning. The evening started with a rousing song service followed by a Spirit filled prayer session and a thought-provoking message presented by Elder Joel Nephew, Men's Ministry director for our conference. Nephew challenged the men to move our thinking from "What to do?" to "What 2 can do!" As we looked at the story of Jonathan and his armor bearer recorded in 1 Samuel 14 the appeal rang out to come back to the high calling of Christ to be godly men of faith and to come out of hiding and get into the fight. The goal of the event was to inspire and gather the men of the Upper Peninsula to lay the under girding for Men's Ministry in the churches of the Upper Peninsula. As the event transitioned to the fellowship hall, the men were placed into smaller groups to discuss the issues that face men in the home, church and community and how to help other men on the journey. As the men gathered for closing prayer the sense that God was starting something was evident and all determined to do their part and indeed see what 2 courageous, loyal, dedicated, faith filled men can do for their Lord and Master. So, men of Michigan, come out of your hiding places and join the fight, be part of this last great push to prepare a world for the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## YOUNG ADULTS, cont'd

**"Using Christ's method of showing concern for people's needs has given us the opportunity to invite them to a deeper spiritual commitment."**

friendships with participants.

"We had their confidence from the very first night," observed Pastor Wes Peppers, who spoke for the hope track on the importance of forgiveness and community in mental and emotional health.

To recruit speakers, we drew on the professional and ministry expertise of church members. For instance, our church treasurer, a CPA, spoke on "How Much Does Your Loan Really Cost You?" while our health ministries leaders presented a series on the "why," "what," and "how" of good nutrition and exercise. Other young adults shared from their personal experience and research in various areas.

Knowing that the initial series would only scratch the surface, we followed up with #Adulting In-Depth, a six-week series at the church, with longer presentations in each of the subject areas. Topics ranged from "Avoiding Common Interview Mistakes" to "If God Is Good, Why Is There So Much Suffering?"

#Adulting participants have already attended young adult Sabbath school and other events. Using "Christ's method" of showing concern for people's needs has given us the opportunity to invite them to a deeper spiritual commitment.

The young adults who helped with the event loved it as much as the community attendees. "We should do this every year, just like VBS!" exclaimed Paul Wehrmeyer.

One exciting possibility is holding future programs at local schools. Team members spoke to teachers and counselors at public high schools and Lansing Community College about the series, with an enthusiastic reception.

I believe any church can hold an event like this, even if they don't have many young people. Topics could depend on the expertise of your members.

If you would like to know more about the #Adulting series, visit [adultinglansing.org](http://adultinglansing.org) or contact [rachelcabose@gmail.com](mailto:rachelcabose@gmail.com).

# Spring Marriage Retreat

By Brenda Mejeur

MEMBER OF THE FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE

The spring marriage retreat at Camp Au Sable began Friday night, March 10, with a rousing song service and invitation for all attending to receive a rich blessing. Pastor and Mrs. Sung Um were the presenters. Their message was given in five parts: Better Connectedness, Communication, Intimacy, Companionship, and Commitment. Dr. Sung and wife Jewel Um came with much insight and knowledge that is needed in this unconnected world. The speakers were especially able to engage the audience in the topics, and even had couples willingly sharing their experiences and thoughts in front of the group. Um's humor and rich thoughts made it especially enjoyable and satisfying. As he shared the differences in the male and female brain, it helped every spouse to get clear insights into how to approach problems, and communicate effectively.

Various exercises were used to get couples talking to each other and putting into practice what was being taught.

The weekend ended with a foot washing service and couples renewing their vows and signing a marriage recommitment to take home with them. God's Spirit was there, and all were richly blessed.



Below is a small sample of the typical reactions from the retreat!

“Learning how to better communicate and become closer as a couple with God first in our lives. . . The speakers were great! Very helpful! Humorous! Great time!”

“The meetings were good but the time together with my wife was priceless!!!”

Pastor Sung and Jewel Um has been conducting ‘marriage and family’ related seminars and workshops for the past 25 years. Together, they have had started a young adult church called ‘Upper Room Fellowship.’ Dr. Sung Um received his Ph.D. in Marriage and Family studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in the field of Graduate School of Psychology. Jewel Um received her MS in nursing from the graduate school of nursing from Andrews University. They both have three grown children: Crystal, Michael, and Katherine. Pastor Um is the senior pastor of Living Word Fellowship and the director of the Advent Discipleship Center.

Transitions in

## MISSIONS

- **Garhett Morgan**, formerly a Bible worker for the Lansing church, will now be serving as assistant pastor to Pastor Wes Peppers.
- **Aron Crews** is the assistant pastor of the Detroit Metropolitan church. His previous ministry was to the Lansing church.
- **Bayani Pastrana**, former pastor of the Delton church and associate pastor of the Battle Creek Tabernacle, is now the pastor of the Burlington and Coldwater churches.

# MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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## MONTHLY CALENDAR

### MAY

- 18 MI Board of Education
- 19-21 Pathfinder Fair -  
Au Sable Northwoods
- 23 MI Conference Executive  
Committee - Conf. Room
- 24 Camp Meeting Directors -  
GLAA
- 26-29 Memorial Day Weekend -  
Office Closed
- 26-29 Hispanic Camp Meeting

### June

- 4-10 Camp Orientation - Camp  
Au Sable
- 11-15 Camp Meeting Camp Pitch
- 11-17 Adventurer Camp - Camp  
Au Sable
- 16-24 Camp Meeting - Cedar Lake
- 18-24 Junior Camp - Camp Au Sable
- 24-30 Tween Camp - Camp Au Sable
- 26-27 Office Closed

### JULY

- 3-4 Fourth of July Holiday -  
Office Closed
- 2-8 Teen/High School Camp -  
Camp Au Sable

## MOBILE KITCHEN NEEDS

**A**lmost everybody attending camp meeting has had at least one meal from the mobile kitchen. The mobile kitchen trailer is used several times a year and the demand for the ministry and service it provides is only growing.

The problem is we have outgrown our present trailer. We now have to rent or borrow smaller trailers to carry additional equipment. Transporting these additional trailers to each event costs extra time and money.

In addition, during camp meeting last year the staff worked hard to provide daily meals under stressful circumstances. The air conditioners do very little when the stove is on to maintain a bearable temperature, and the space is awfully tight.



The conditions are such that having our volunteer staff work in these conditions isn't really an option.

The estimates for improving upon the old trailer is about \$40,000; but the disaster response board felt strongly that we

needed to purchase a new trailer, instead of putting all that money into the old trailer. The challenge is we don't have the funds to repair the old trailer, and purchasing a new one costs about \$100,000. That doesn't include a much needed freezer trailer

that sells for about \$30,000.

We have looked into options for a new longer trailer.

The one we're considering is about 34 feet, and comes

with a nice air-conditioning unit. The best feature is the 16 foot slide out room, which will afford a larger work space, flooring that will protect from water damage, and an auto leveling system which will improve set-up and service. It also comes with LED lighting. It will have a hitch and wiring for pulling and operating a freezer trailer. Once we transfer the equipment from the previous trailer, the price will come down to about \$93,000.

So far we have been able to raise about \$50,000. We have also started an online fundraising drive that you can access at <https://www.gofundme.com/acsd-mo-bile-kitchen-replacement>. Through this endeavor we hope that individual donations can make up the extra \$43,000 needed for the mobile kitchen and the \$31,000 needed for the freezer trailer.

If you feel impressed to help, please do so, and certainly keep this much needed ministry in your prayers!