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Official Newsletter for the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



MICHIGAN MEMO

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Ministry Leaders' RETREAT

By Royce Snyman
MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR

▲ Learning to rightly divide Scripture was a central focus of the retreat.

“This Ministerial Retreat was one of the best I’ve attended. The one thing that I appreciated the most was the much needed study on biblical hermeneutics. Excellent!”
— Attendee

January 22-24, 2017. Our Michigan ministry team made up of pastors and Bible workers, together with conference administrators and department leaders, met at Camp Au Sable for one of our bi-annual ministry retreats. There were about 260 leaders and their family members in attendance. With 120 pastors and Bible workers scattered all over Michigan, these retreats provide opportunity for continuing education, planning, coordination, fellowship, and a little exercise and recreation.

The retreat began on Sunday afternoon with a meeting of conference administrators and district superintendents. Following supper, the opening session commenced with introductions of new pastors and Bible workers, followed by

singing of good-old gospel hymns, and a special presentation by Elder Gallimore. Each of the following mornings began at 7:00 AM with morning worship, which included more singing, a season of prayer, and a devotional by one of our pastors. Pastor David Gotshall of Stevensville remarked that he especially appreciated the time for focused prayer during the morning worships.

Each morning and evening, the continuing-education component was provided by Dr. Clinton Wahlen of the Bible Research Institute of the General Conference. His presentations covered principles of biblical hermeneutics. Wahlen revealed how the Christian world has used several different methods to interpret the Bible. He explained that the historical-grammat-

(continued on page 5)

- GUEST EDITORIAL -

Behind the Scenes Michigan Camp Meeting

By Craig Harris

CAMP MEETING SUPERINTENDENT



“Each year we have seen the Holy Spirit at work—kids, youth, young and seasoned adults—making public confessions and decisions for Christ.”

Our Michigan camp meeting has been a blessing to the constituents of the Michigan Conference from the 1930s. What’s true of camp meeting, held in the early years at Grand Ledge and currently at Cedar Lake, is that a lot goes into the preparation of the 9-day event. The preparation for camp meeting is completed almost entirely by the pastors and Bible workers of the Michigan Conference, along with some laity.

The preparation begins in August, just two months after the previous camp meeting. The directors from the major departments meet nine times throughout the year to review, dream, and plan on how to improve from the last one. In these meetings major decisions are made, which include logistics, the theme, cart assignments, stage décor, safety management, and other important items.

By mid-January, six large tents are ordered, which cost around \$15,000. These tents are the worship locations for Kindergarten 2, Junior 2, Teens, and the Youth. A special tent is set up near the Mobile Kitchen for attendees to eat their tasty food or to simply rest in the shade. The largest tent—the big top—located behind the Fitness Center is home to our departmental and guest exhibit booths. A total of 41 booths are set up to display and encourage people to get involved in all types of ministry. Nothing is sold in our ministry-exhibit tent, but you will find free giveaways that include books, pencils/pens, balloons, squishy-balls, and lemonade, to name a few. We’ve had a few chicks hatched in this tent as well!

Two to three weeks prior to camp

meeting, preparations begin on the grounds in Cedar Lake. First our A/V team moves in to set up the screens, cameras, sound system, projectors, and more. Next our fitness center team moves in to lay the vinyl flooring and properly mark it. Next, Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA) students led by coach Ted Webster set up the staging and chairs for graduation. The collaboration between GLAA and the Michigan Conference pastors is a treat to witness. The result of this early setup allows for an upgrade to GLAA’s graduation with a full screen video projection and the camp meeting A/V setup!

About a week out, the parking team moves in to set the “corner stone” markings of the tent stakes. Remember, these are all pastors leading the teams in the pre-work. Another team moves in to set up the temporary water lines for the campers in the primitive areas. These lines must be cleaned and sanitized, and a water sample is taken and sent to a lab in Grand Rapids to make sure the water quality is perfect. It is not the Water of life, but it is clean water!

The 10 months of planning converges upon the largest part of the implementation process—the Sunday before camp meeting—affectionately named “Camp Pitch” amongst the pastoral force. Pastors, Bible Workers, and lay people arrive Sunday night from all over our great state! The tents go up, trailers are set, screen houses pitched, and many smiles and hugs are shared as everyone greets one another in anticipation of the wonderful two weeks together.

The Monday morning of Camp Pitch is orientation and prayer time. Robust



singing and worship are a daily occurrence for the families in attendance. After worship, each pastor is assigned a task or two to set up the “Adventist town” on the grounds of GLAA. Teams of pastors lay out and mark over 250 camp sites; another team tests and fixes each campground electrical box; another group sets the stage, the curtains, and banners; some clean the dormitories and every building; pastors’ wives take on the task of cleaning the campground restrooms, cabins, and cottages.

The lawn mowing team as you might imagine is also very active. A weed whipping team trims hundreds of trees and electrical posts to make it look crisp. Several teams eyeball the rows of fence stakes to ensure it’s perfectly straight so that when people see the fences and streamers, they understand this is for the people of God. Others deliver chairs, backdrops, screens, stages, and toys, among other items, to the children’s divisions.

If you take the time to observe, you will notice individuals picking up the smallest bits of paper or debris from the grounds so that it looks just right. The trams are cleaned and serviced for their daily duties.

As you can see, there are many moving parts in setting up the campground. But we’re not done yet! On Monday the golf carts come in, and in the evening a Michigan family picnic/softball/soccer game is held. On Tuesday the tents go up and the day ends with a special camp meeting prayer session. On Wednesday the pastors that lead the children’s divisions are released to set up their divisions, and

the day closes with the entire team meeting together for the camp meeting orientation. It is crucial that we all know what’s going on!

By God’s grace and the Spirit’s leading the campground is ready when everyone arrives. The great and anticipated event will have finally arrived!

When it’s all said and done, about 1,148 stakes are pounded; 2.5 miles of streamers are hung; 4,500 feet of fencing are established; 3,000 chairs are set up; 1,200 batteries are utilized for microphones and recorders; 275 hours of seminars are ready to go; 500 hours of children and youth programming are prepared; numerous trees are trimmed; countless blades of grass are cut; 4,100 gallons of chloride are placed on the campground roads; not to mention the thousands of prayers that have gone up seeking God’s blessing and direction.

All this is done for one reason—to create an environment where God can speak to His people. During the week and especially on Sabbath, invitations are made for individuals to commit or recommit their lives to Christ; and if they haven’t already, to seal those decisions in baptism. Each year we have seen the Holy Spirit at work—kids, youth, young and seasoned adults—making public confessions and decisions for Christ. In addition, attendees are equipped for active ministry and the spiritual fellowship strengthens everyone in their dedication to Jesus. When we see this, we know it’s worth all the effort!

This is Pure Michigan. This is GROW Michigan. This is Michigan Camp Meeting!

PRAYER FOCUS

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

MARCH 3-6

Pioneer Memorial
Pastor Dwight Nelson
Andrews Academy
Community Service -
Lailane Legoh
Literature Evangelist -
Imasiku Mubita

MARCH 13-17

Stevensville
Pastor David Gotshall

MARCH 20-24

Clare/Edenville
Pastor Terry Nelson
Edenville Elementary
Community Service -
Linda Klenoski

MARCH 27-31

Oakwood/Detroit Romanian Co.
Oakwood Junior Academy
Community Service - John Ledi



growmichigan

the harvest is great. Luke 10:2



Jay Gallimore is president of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. A graduate of Southern Adventist University and Andrews University, he has served as pastor, evangelist, and administrator. He previously served as conference secretary and ministerial director of the Michigan Conference, and director of the Northwest Ministries Training Center for the Pacific Union. Elder Gallimore's message inaugurates the Cedar Lake Camp Meeting.



Stephen Bohr has spent his life in mission service. He was born of missionary parents, and has dedicated decades in ministry and theological research. He is the President of Secrets Unsealed headquartered in Fresno, California. His love for the Lord is the driving force behind his commitment to spreading the cutting-edge gospel message for these last days with clarity and power.



Wes Peppers currently serves as senior pastor of the Lansing Seventh-day Adventist Church and previously as an evangelist with Amazing Facts. He became a Seventh-day Adventist Christian at the age of 22 after being an atheist/agnostic for several years. He has served globally as a pastor, speaker, and teacher. His greatest desire is to lead people into a deeper, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ to become faithful disciples who share Him with others.



Clinton Wahlen is an associate director of the Biblical Research Institute (BRI) at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Before coming to the BRI in 2008, he taught New Testament and Greek in Russia and in the Philippines. Wahlen received his Ph.D. from Cambridge University and has published numerous articles and several books. He is also the author of forthcoming Adventist commentaries on Matthew and Luke.



John Bradshaw is the speaker/director of It Is Written, an international media evangelism ministry. As a teacher of Bible prophecy, his presentations have blessed thousands of people around the world. He has filmed It Is Written programs on five continents. John is married to Melissa and they have two children.

Week At A Glance

| Time | Friday | Sabbath | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sabbath |
|---------------|--|--|--------------------|--|-----------------|------------------|------------------|--|---|
| 7:00 - 7:50 | Wes Peppers (Sab. through Sab.) | | | | | | | | |
| 7:50 - 8:30 | Breakfast | | | | | | | | |
| 8:30 - 9:00 | Welcome to Michigan Camp Meeting | Sabbath School 9:00 - 10:30 Worship* 10:45 - 12:15 Stephen Bohr | Fit 4 Him 5K | Michigan Conference Staff Meetings (Sun. through Fri.) | | | | | Sabbath School 9:00 - 10:30 Worship* 10:45 - 12:15 John Bradshaw |
| 9:30 - 10:45 | | | | Seminars & Workshops (Sun. through Fri.) | | | | | |
| 11:00 - 12:15 | Clinton Wahlen (Mon. through Fri.) | | | | | | | | |
| 12:15 - 1:15 | Lunch | | | | | | | | |
| 1:30 - 2:00 | Family Time | | | | | | | | |
| 2:00 - 3:15 | Seminars & Workshops (Mon. through Fri.) | | | | | | | | |
| 3:30 - 4:45 | Seminars & Workshops (Sun. through Fri.) | | | | | | | Teacher Commissioning 3:00 Soul Winning Hour 4:30 | |
| 5:30 - 6:30 | Supper | | | | | | | | |
| 7:15 - 9:00 | Musical Program and Evening Meetings | | | | | | | | |
| | Jay Gallimore | Stephen Bohr | Stephen Bohr | Stephen Bohr | Stephen Bohr | John Bradshaw | John Bradshaw | John Bradshaw | John Bradshaw |

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

MINISTRY LEADERS' RETREAT, cont'd

ical method is the only one consistent with correct Biblical understanding. It allows the Bible to be its own interpreter. One pastor stated, "I was thankful for the opportunity to have Clinton Wahlen with us. His presentations were very practical and helpful showing how individuals can come to different conclusions in scripture." Pastor Mike Wise of the Hillsdale and Pittsford churches said, "I especially enjoyed the messages by Dr. Wahlen. Whenever we have a Spirit-led understanding of the hermeneutics of Scripture we are led to . . . God's truth, wherever it takes us."

The rest of the morning was work time. Our conference district superintendents met with their districts for planning and event coordination, and our camp meeting teams gathered to get ready for the next Cedar Lake camp meeting. In addition, our conference departments shared their plans for upcoming events including

Biblestudyoffer.com and our next *Unlock Revelation series*.

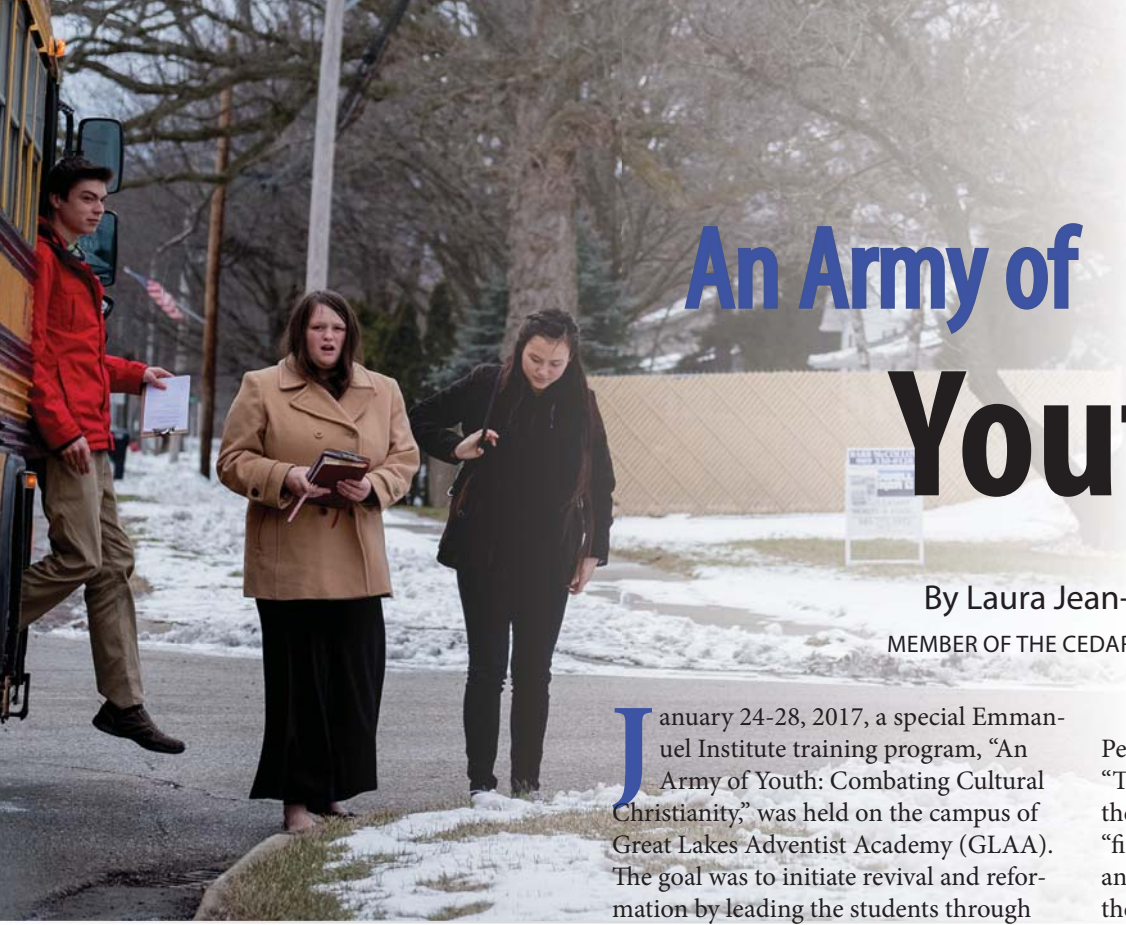
Wives of pastors and Bible workers also had special meetings. These sessions were led by shepherdess president Katie Chitwood and included devotionals, testimonials, and various breakout sessions on studying the Bible, exploring grief from a biblical perspective, and other helpful topics.

Fellowship is an additional goal of the retreat. Pastor Rodlie Ortiz of Berrien Springs shared that many times you can feel isolated in ministry and by getting together with others you realize you're not alone, and you learn that others have similar interests and plans. Pastor Kameron DeVasher of Kalamazoo remarked, "I really appreciate the time of fellowship and camaraderie."

The next ministry team retreat will be held July 31-August 3, 2017.

"The pastor's testimonies and devotionals are inspiring. These have encouraged us to be open with each other and rejoice in the power of the gospel to change hearts."

-Dan Towar



An Army of

Youth!

By Laura Jean-Francios

MEMBER OF THE CEDAR LAKE CHURCH

January 24-28, 2017, a special Emmanuel Institute training program, “An Army of Youth: Combating Cultural Christianity,” was held on the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA). The goal was to initiate revival and reformation by leading the students through the biblical foundations of their faith. Eighty-eight students and staff sacrificed their January home leave to participate in four days of intense Bible instruction.

The session began Tuesday morning as Pastor Mark Howard, director of the



Emmanuel Institute, jump-started the day with the essentials of Christian life, including personal devotional time with God. Throughout the week, the scriptural foundations of many key doc-

trines such as the Sanctuary, the Sabbath, the remnant, the 2300-day prophecy, the three angels messages, and Christian lifestyle were presented by pastors Kameron DeVasher, Daniel Jean-Francois, Taylor Hinkle, Mark Howard, Wes Peppers, and Joe Reeves.

Caleb, a junior at GLAA, reflected on the blessings: “I learned a ton! It was really good to learn about the Great Controversy, [the teachers] went into detail, but it was still super easy to understand.” As the week progressed, students were engaged and convicted.

On Friday evening Pastor Wes Peppers shared his powerful testimony, “The Atheist Who Found God.” During the final appeal, the Holy Spirit prompted “fireworks” as he challenged students to go and bring back items that stood between them and God. In the center of campus, a fire was ablaze in a barrel where students and staff huddled together as smoke billowed from the discarded books, clothing, and even cell phones. Tears were shed as one student watched the pages of her troubled past go up in flames, burning away her journal page by page. The powerful truths of God’s Word had ignited a revival that was made evident in commitment and action.

On Sabbath morning Dr. Clinton Wahlen of the Biblical Research Institute was added to a question and answer panel. Students asked probing questions about Christian lifestyle, interpersonal relationships, God and salvation, and determining God’s will. During the worship service, students and staff shared personal testimonies.

Nakeysha, a sophomore, explained how God revealed that she could not continue to hold on to “earthly things” such as certain books, music, and social media, and still put Him first. That afternoon, the staff and students drove to Mount Pleasant and discovered over 20 people interested in Bible studies. Many students recommitted themselves to God, requesting baptism and rebaptism. Several staff members reported that they had never seen anything like this and that it was the most uplifting spiritual experience that they had ever had.

“With such an army of youth, rightly trained . . . how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!”
(Education, p. 271)

Camp Meeting Opportunities



BLOOD DRIVE

Please come to the Cedar Lake Church Fellowship Hall Sunday, June 18, and donate a life saving pint. The blood drive will begin at 10:00 AM and the last donor will be taken in at 3:30 PM.

Refreshments will be served all day. You will need your picture ID and must know all your medications. All donors must be well-hydrated. Remember to eat your dried fruits and beans, so that you will have sufficient iron in your blood. A deficient blood test may result in the deferral of your donation.

MOBILE KITCHEN

The Mobile Kitchen will once again be available for healthy, homemade lunches and dinners. Lunch specials and other menu items are prepared fresh daily and include vegan options along with several different wraps. Lunch will be served from 11:45 AM to 1:30 PM and supper from 4:45 to 6:30 PM Sunday - Friday. See the Camp Meeting application for menu choices.

SAFETY OFFICER VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

The Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is looking for interested Adventist church members to supplement the Safety Team during this year's Camp Meeting. If you are at least 21 years of age, have an interest in, and would like to be considered for such a position, please contact Joel Nephew at jdnew@misda.org or 517-316-1524.

CAMP MEETING JANITORS NEEDED!

Janitors are needed to clean the men's and women's restrooms during camp meeting, June 16-24.

To be eligible to apply:

- Applicants must be 14 years of age or older.
- Applicants must have confirmed lodging.
- Applicants must complete an Employment Application and mail it to the Camp Meeting Employment/Volunteer Committee at the Conference address shown on the application. Applications are available on www.misda.org.
- **PLEASE NOTE: It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a fully completed application with three references. An incomplete application may affect an applicant's hire.**

All applications will be reviewed by the committee and notification will be sent regarding their decision. Additional required employment documents will be sent to those who are hired.

For detailed requirements and a job description, please visit www.misda.org. When positions are filled, there will be a waiting list. The deadline for applica-

EMMANUEL BOOK CAMP

Have you struggled with knowing the Biblical reasons for your faith? Has the "truth" seemed to you to be just a bunch of hollow doctrines that don't have much to do with Jesus? Have you felt incompetent at sharing your beliefs with others? Join us for six days of intense Bible study designed to revive your personal faith experience! Classes will be held from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM and from 3:30 - 5:30 PM Sunday - Friday.

The cost of \$35 per participant covers class materials provided on site. See Camp Meeting Application to register. Space is limited, so do it today.

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

WHEN: Sunday, June 18, at 7:45 AM

COST: Pre-registration is \$15 for adults and \$13 for kids; on race day \$17 for adults and \$15 for kids

- Medals will be awarded to top finishers.
- All participants receive a memorabilia T-Shirt.

Pre-register on Friday, June 16, between 4:00 and 7:30 PM at the Camp Meeting Auditorium (Fitness Center) or Saturday night after sundown when the evening meeting is completed. For questions call Delwin Garcia at 989-427-2401 or email him at dgarcia@glaa.net.

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MONTHLY CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1-15 | Camp Meeting Registration
- 3-5 | Personal Ministries -
Camp Au Sable
- 4 | Pathfinder Bible Experience -
Conference Level - Cedar Lake
- 5 | Women's Ministries Board
- 8 | ACS Executive Committee
- 10-12 | Marriage Commitment -
Camp Au Sable
- 16-26 | GLAA Home Leave
- 18 | Pathfinder Bible Experience -
Union Level - Pioneer Memorial
- 19 | Lay Advisory Coordinating Com

APRIL

- 2-4 | Prayer and Fasting
- 7-9 | Women's Ministries Retreat I -
Camp Au Sable
- 14-16 | Women's Ministries Retreat II -
Camp Au Sable
- 18 | MI Conference Executive
Committee - Conference
- 19 | Camp Meeting Directors
- 21-23 | Women's Ministries Retreat III -
Camp Au Sable
- 22 | Pathfinder Bible Experience -
Division Level - Grand Rapids
- 28-30 | VBS Workshop - Camp Au Sable

PRAYER MEETING LEADS TO BAPTISMS

They were just finishing up an inspirational prayer meeting when Pastor Genson mentioned, "We're praying for the Holy Spirit 24/7, so don't be surprised to see people walking into the church!" The group had finished prayer and was getting up to leave when there was a knock at the door. Pastor Genson greeted a man who told him, "I need help! I need something and don't know what to do!" Pastor Genson invited him inside the church, and Bob began his story.

Tragedy struck not only his family, but two other families on Thanksgiving Day. Bob and his wife didn't know what to do! Bob had been listening to Strong Tower Radio for several months in search of truth, and he felt that the Seventh-day Adventist church could help. He found a church the following week, and each time he drove by it was empty. But on Wednesday night he drove by the church and saw lights and cars parked in the lot. He wanted

to go inside, but drove past, and then turned around and parked his car and mustered up the courage to go inside.

After he shared what was on his heart, the McMillan members stood up and surrounded him with their arms. The group assured him that he was not alone, and that the church was available to help him. Together they prayed with Bob and cried.



As Bob left that night with some hope and materials to help him in his time of grief, Pastor Genson invited him to church service. Bob, his wife Renee, and Renee's cousin ended up attending church. They found a family to support

and encourage them.

Over the months Bob and Renee prepared for baptism and on August 6, 2016, they consecrated their lives to Jesus and became members of the McMillan/Northwoods Seventh-day Adventist Church.