

Radio Station Answers Questions

— Gail Macomber Member of the Kalkaska Church

Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was a long awaited day and greatly looked forward to by Jean Lorenz and her

new church family. As Pastor Jeff Akenberger baptized Jean, several others who also want to be baptized soon gathered close to the baptistry.

One year ago, Jean had been searching for Bible truth and found Strong Tower Radio. She found it to answer her questions according to what she was finding in the Bible. Jean began to wonder what church this radio station represented. When she discovered it was the Seventh-day Adventist Church, she quickly located a church in Kalkaska and walked through the doors at 9:30 that Sabbath. She joined the Sabbath School and participated right from the start.

Within a few weeks, she wanted to bring food to fellowship meals and asked to help clean the church, showing up whenever the church doors were open and even sometimes in between!

By camp meeting, she eagerly pitched her tent between two campers full of church family



Left to right, Gail Macomber, Jean Lorenz, Jilane Fenner. Back row, Pastor Jeff Ackenberger, George Corliss.

members, taking in the entire ten days. What fellowship! What spiritual food!

Jean has found new freedom in Jesus and power to leave old habits behind, even standing up for the Sabbath truth in the hours of her new job. She is finding new friends in her church family and is now meeting weekly with me enjoying a journey of staying close to Jesus using the *Discipleship Handbook*. Jean has already been studying with neighbors and family and is praying for the precious light of the Bible truths to find permanent homes in their hearts as well.

Jean says, "I searched and did my homework and the Holy Spirit was there leading me. I needed that little push and Strong Tower Radio was there saying, 'Yes, this is correct.' Now I pray and give loving nudges to others hoping they will discover these things as I did."

For more information on Strong Tower Radio, visit www.strongtowerradio.org. For more information on the *Discipleship Handbook*, contact the ABC.



President's Perspective The Pope. The Nation. The Signs.

— Jay Gallimore Conference President

In September 2015, in Washington, D.C., a pope addressed both houses of Congress for the first time in history. The importance of this to the fulfillment of Bible prophecy cannot be underestimated. In addition, Pope Francis is the first Jesuit pope in history which is very significant in itself. It is significant because this is the greatest Protestant nation on earth and the Jesuit order was created to counter the Protestant Reformation. Without the Reformation, there would be no America as we know it. Yet, here is a Jesuit pope, not only popular, but now handed the influence to unite Congress behind his global agenda. This is astounding!

Here is some additional Jesuit history that should have made Congress think twice about giving such authority to this Pope. "Between 1555 and 1931 they [Jesuits] were expelled from at

least 83 countries, city states, and cities [for] engaging in political intrigue and subversion plots." No Protestant could utter stronger denunciations against the Jesuits than were uttered by the [Catholic] King of Portugal when he expelled them from his kingdom: "It cannot be but that the licentiousness introduced by the Jesuits, of which the three

leading features are falsehood, murder, and perjury..."2

We must remember that the Vatican is a political power, not just a religious one. It exchanges ambassadors with many nations. To examine the tools and objectives that such powers claim is not a lapse in charity or love. While it goes without saying that there are many fine Christians in both Protestant and Catholic communions, that is not the issue here, but rather to trace before our eyes the amazing transformation of public opinion in Protestant America that is fulfilling Bible Prophecy.

For instance, as I write, Southern states and cities are in the process of changing their flags and renaming their streets in order to undo the honor they gave to the Confederate Rebellion and the horrors of slavery. Yet, with all the press coverage about the Pope addressing Congress, nothing was said about the Vatican's past connection to the Confederacy. The Vatican was the only government to give official comfort and some say

recognition to the Confederate States of America. Here is an excerpt from Pope Pius IX's letter to Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.

"We have lately received with all kindness,... the gentlemen sent by your Excellency.... We have received certainly no small pleasure in learning... from your letter the feelings of gratification and of very warm appreciation with which you, illustrious and honorable sir... And we also pray the same most merciful Lord that He will illumine your Excellency with the light of His divine grace and unite you with ourselves in perfect charity."³

Abraham Lincoln was livid about the letter because it was hurtful to the Union struggle. Some believe many Catholics saw this as an endorsement of the Confederates and was the

> reason for high desertions from the Union Army among some Catholic ethic groups.⁴

Abraham Lincoln also stated, '... it is not against the Americans of the South, alone, I am fighting. It is more against the Pope of Rome, his perfidious Jesuits..." Lincoln was not alone in those concerns. General Thomas

Harris, a member of the military jury for those who murdered Lincoln, published a book entitled *Rome's Responsibility for the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*. ⁶

There is no doubt that Pope Pius IX was a revered figure by leaders in the post-war South. General Robert E. Lee kept a portrait of him in his house, and referred to him as the South's only true friend during her time of need... Davis was frequently visited by nuns during his imprisonment, who delivered messages for him and prayed for his release.⁷

But now, here we are in 2015 and this Jesuit Pope is honored, applauded, and empowered by both Houses of Congress to advance his agenda. And if that were not enough, he also addressed the nation from Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the seat of our liberties. To Lincoln, Independence Hall was the most sacred place in America and where he lay in state after his assassination. In addition, the Pope was also allowed to use

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the lectern that President Lincoln used to give the Gettysburg address. A lectern considered so special that it has been used only twice since the mid 1800s.⁸

In 1798 when the pope was taken captive by Napoleon's general and later lost the temporal power of the papal states, many declared that the papacy was finished as a significant power. However, that "deadly wound" was stitched back together when fascist Italy under Mussolini made a treaty with the Papacy restoring the pope as emperor over Vatican City, giving it nation status. This was followed by a treaty with Hitler's Nazi Germany. After the Allies won World War II, the United States refused to recognize the Vatican as a nation. That all changed when Ronald Reagan came to power. The recognition was given as a reward to Pope John Paul II for helping to bring down Soviet communism.

Then in 1998, the world was presented with "Evangelicals and Catholics Together."

A group of well-known evangelicals made peace with the pope for political expediency. Since then, papal power and influence have grown amazingly around the world. At this point, one can honestly say the "deadly wound" has been healed for some years.

"One reason both Protestants and secularists are latching onto the Pope is because they think that Rome has changed."

defends the Inquisition. "Opponents say: 'Precisely; the rigors of the Inquisition violated all humane feelings.' We answer: 'they offend the feelings of later ages in which there is less regard for the purity of faith... Medieval people found no fault with the system...' "10 Really! The Inquisition was a result of a purer faith? So if the Pope and his now Protestant allies lead the nation and world back to a purer faith, will they bring back the Inquisition?

Then they are so brazen to suggest that, medieval people found

Believe it or not, the authoritative Catholic Encyclopedia still

Then they are so brazen to suggest that, medieval people found no fault with the Inquisition? Have they never heard of the Protestant Reformation, the Thirty Years War, or the U.S. Constitution that forbids cruel and unusual punishment? The Bill of Rights enshrined in the American Constitution is a reaction to the cruelty of the Medieval church/state union.

Is the world and nation being seduced by all the pomp and attention given to the Pope as he addressed both Houses of Congress? Babylon, the symbolic woman in Revelation, is predicted to charm the leaders of the world. The end is not pretty!

As Seventh-day Adventists, are

What we are watching now is the next step predicted in the prophecy. The world, led by the United States, is in the process of "making an image" to this medieval power. What does that mean? Rome has never given up the doctrine that it has the right to rule over civil government. The result of this terrible arrangement was the Dark Ages, known as the noon of the papal power.⁹

One reason both Protestants and secularists are latching onto the Pope is because they think that Rome has changed. They think that somehow he has become a freedom loving "Protestant" who is still Catholic. Yet there is evidence to the contrary.

After the recent murder of the cartoonists in France, Pope Francis condemned the violence as he should. But he then gave the criminals a pass by saying, "You cannot provoke. You cannot insult the faith of others... There is a limit." Certainly Christians should never make fun of other people's faith, but to call for "limits" on freedom of speech is dangerous to our liberties. If you lose freedom of speech, you also lose freedom of religion. On CBS's *Face the Nation*, January 18, 2015, David Cameron, Prime Minister of England, understood the seriousness of the Pope's call for limits on freedom of speech. In response to the Pope, he said that, "in a free society there is a right to cause offense about someone's religion..."

¹ (Canadian historian J.E.C. Shepherd, *The Babington Plot*; 1987; Wittenburg Publications, Toronto, Canada; Page 12)

we awake? Or are we still taking our rest?

² The Jesuits In History by Hector McPherson, pp. 104-105, Reproduced in electronic form, 2002, Bank of Wisdom, LLC, PO Box 926 Louisville, KY 40201

³ Given at Rome at St. Peters on the 3d December, 1863, in the eighteenth year of our pontificate.

⁴ [http://www.reformation.org/lincoln.html]; Also see on Pius IX [http://one-evil.org/content/people_19c_pius_ix.htm]; Also see papal influence on ethnic groups in Mexican-American war [https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=6030]

⁵ Fifty Years in the Church of Rome, by Charles Chiniquy. P. 496

⁶ [https://openlibrary.org/books/OL6934184M/Rome's_responsibility_for_the_assassination_of_Abraham_Lincoln]

⁷ [http://catholicknight.blogspot.com/2009/02/pope-pius-ix-and-confederacy.htm] Also see CNN, 25 March 2014

⁸ [http://www.phillyvoice.com/pope-francis-use-gettysburg-address-lectern]

⁹ J. A. Wylie, *The History of Protestantism*, b. 1, ch. 4.

¹⁰ [http://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/heresy#XIII._ INTOLERANCE_AND_CRUELTY] taken from the internet on December 7, 2015.

GLOW-a-thon 2016 I Have to Do Something

— Kamil Metz Publishing Director

The woman took off, running at full speed ahead toward the bus she needed to be on. Would she make it?
Would it wait? Closer and closer she came, and the bus stood still. At last, she arrived, stepped inside, and paid her fare.

do something. I just cannot stand by when there are souls to be saved." These words and her commitment to souls were evidences of the same thing that moved Jesus to come down to this earth: love.

"Thank you for waiting," she said to the driver. "Because you waited, here is a gift!" With that, she handed the driver a GLOW tract entitled, "*The Promise of Peace*." And *that* experience had been the very *purpose* for which Kathy had taken the bus that day.

Some time before at a personal ministries meeting, Kathy had heard about GLOW tracts and learned, for

the first time, what they were really all about. A fire was kindled within her and feeling a burden to share the Gospel, she felt convicted that these little tracts were the way to go! So a little over six months previous to this event, she had an idea.

As someone who owned her own car and had a driver's license, Kathy was accustomed to taking herself from place to place. But she began to think that while driving, she didn't have access to other people. In the privacy and seclusion of her car, she could not meet or interact with anyone. So Kathy decided that for a few days a week, every other week, she would hang up her keys and take the bus instead. Armed with GLOW tracts, Kathy boarded buses, rode through her city for three to four hours, and left tracts in bathrooms and other public places, including sharing some directly with the people she met. That day had been a continued fulfillment of her missionary plan.

The driver let Kathy off at her destination, and there she passed out more tracts as she ran other errands. Hours later, it was time to go home. Her final bus for the evening arrived, and when the doors opened Kathy saw, to her surprise, that it was the same driver who had dropped her off earlier!

"Did you read the pamphlet I gave you?" she asked, smiling.

"Yes, I did," he responded. "This is what my wife and I have been talking about lately. There is a lot of substance to it."

Kathy and the driver chatted for a little while, and then she urged him to call the number on the back of the tract to get more information. The driver glanced at her and said, "My wife and I will take up the challenge."

When asked what motivated her to hang up her car keys and do what she did, she said, "I have to do something. I *have* to



It is the love of Jesus that moves human hearts to put self aside, be creative, and attempt everything for the sake of others. That love, blind to age, race, or creed, has caused some to lay down their lives and others to take up the cause. Today it burns in the hearts of all who answer Jesus' call to go, share, and seek the lost. Will you let it burn in your own heart? Will you take up the challenge?

The Lake Union Gets Involved

We love to be a part of something **big**, something **exciting**, and something that **hasn't been done before**! The Michigan Conference in conjunction with the Lake Union is doing just that! They are doing something that is anything but ordinary. In Michigan, under the evangelistic strategy Grow Michigan, we have been *preparing*, *planting*, *cultivating*, and soon will be *harvesting*. For the harvest phase we will be inviting people to come to the *Unlock Revelation* Bible prophecy series. As the

Lake Union joins together for the harvest phase, 1 million Unlock Revelation GLOW tracts will be distributed, 3 million handbills will be delivered, and billboards, radio stations, and yard signs will promote our meetings! Can you sense the excitement?!

GLOW-a-thon: January 2 – March 28

"A-thon," a suffix, refers to an activity or an event. In our case, the activity of sharing *Unlock Revelation* GLOW tracts for nearly 3 months—from January 2 – March 28, 2016, is the event! During that time we all will hand out tracts to people, leave them in places, and place GLOW racks and GLOW holders (pictured) filled with the Unlock Revelation tracts in various places in our community. Along with the Unlock Revelation tracts, we encourage you also to share standard GLOW tracts.

(Continued on page 5)

We Are the Pathfinders Strong

— Judy Ramos Secretary for the Pathfinder Department

In September, the nearly 60 Pathfinder clubs across the state of Michigan kicked off the new club year by attending the 2015 Michigan Camporee up in the beautiful Northwoods of Camp Au Sable. The theme for this year is "Spot On" - focusing on the fourth Pathfinder Law: *Keep a level eye*. The weekend speaker was the new NAD Associate Youth Director for Club Ministries, Pastor Armando Miranda Jr. He inspired the over 1,100 Pathfinders in attendance to keep our eyes stayed on Jesus and His Word.

Highlights from the weekend include our largest ever, braiding ceremony of first year TLTs, Sabbath afternoon Mission Round Robin, closing the Sabbath together in the Pathfinder Bowl, and last but certainly not least, the beautiful baptisms

of Pathfinders Elena De La Cruz (Lansing) and Katie Gross (Hastings) in Lake Shellenbarger.

There was a photo challenge that encouraged clubs to use teamwork and creativity. Clubs were encouraged to take pictures and post them on social media

using #SpotOn2015. The Pathfinder Area Coordinators judged these photos based on three elements: spiritual emphasis, connection theme, and embracing the Pathfinder spirit. The

runner up club for the photo challenge was the Holland Huskies, and the first place photo and winner of the Deluxe S'more Kit went to the Wilson Wolves from the Upper Peninsula! All of the photo submissions can be found on our Michigan Pathfinders Facebook Page.



The Pathfinder Department wants to thank the hundreds of dedicated Pathfinder directors, staff, and pastors who pour themselves into this ministry with little recognition and no pay. On average, about 85 Pathfinders in Michigan give their lives to Jesus and are baptized each year. These are the jewels that will be on their crowns! Have a great club year, Pathfinders!

You can follow Michigan Pathfinders on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and our website: www.miadventistyouth.com. If your church is interested in starting a Pathfinder Club, contact us at 517-316-1570 or jramos@misda.org.

(Continued from page 4) Ideas for Handing Them Out

- Give one to the cashier at the grocery store
- Give one to the cashier at the fast food window
- Give them out in your community
- Give one to your barber or hairdresser
- Give one to a repair person at your home
- Stores: Leave one in the shopping cart
- Restaurant: Leave it with a tip a *good* tip
- Gas stations: Leave them on gas pumps
- Place a tract rack or holder in local businesses, including Laundromats



Report Your Distribution

For all the **Grow Michigan** resources, go to growmichiganchurches.com. There you will be able to report the number of Unlock Revelation and other GLOW tracts you have distributed.

The Appeal

In 1880, Ellen White wrote: "The living preacher and the silent messenger are both required for the accomplishment of the great work before us." (*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 8) Yes, we believe that a great work is before us. A great and awesome work will be done in the Lake Union by both the living preacher and the silent messengers that went ahead of them—books, magazines, and tracts. We hope that you'll join church members across the Lake Union in distributing one million *Unlock Revelation* tracts. It's all about souls! The GLOW marathon begins on January 2! Let's run this race together!

Giving the Gift of Reading

— Angela McCall Member of the Port Huron Blue Water Church

he Blue Water Seventh-day Adventist Church, in conjunction with HOPE (Helping Others by Providing the Essentials) and Operation Reach Back, sponsors a literacy center for the residents of Marysville and the surrounding areas. This program is a computer-based learning program

facilitated by volunteer tutors. The program is for anyone from age 4 to 104. Each student is expected to attend one two-hour session each week during the semester at the Blue Water Church in Marysville. This method, with reinforcement at home, has been proven to increase each student's reading level by half a grade each semester.

This program is an outreach

that each of the organizations listed above are very passionate about. As we all know, being a good reader opens up worlds of opportunity for young people and adults alike. On a deeper scale, becoming proficient in reading can literally change your pathway in life. Statistics linking illiteracy with incarceration and poverty are astounding.

The Department of Justice states, "The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence, and crime is welded to reading failure."

Begintoread.com states "Twothirds of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of fourth grade will end up in jail or on welfare." It also states these shocking facts:

- By fourth grade, if a student is not reading proficiently, he/she will have a 78% chance of not catching up.
- 85% of all in juvenile court systems are functionally illiterate.
- 60% of all prison inmates are functionally illiterate.
- 90% of welfare recipients are high school dropouts, which is also linked to reading failure.

Literacyprojectfoundation.org says that in the U.S., 50% of adults can't read a book written at an 8th grade level, 44 million adults can't read their children a simple story, and "to determine

how many prison beds will be needed in future years, some states actually base part of their projection on how well current

elementary students are performing on reading tests."

Our literacy program is designed to make reading exciting, fun, and simple. Our volunteer tutors range from homeschool educators to retired teachers and nurses. We create a relaxed and enjoyable environment



for the students. We currently have 14 students (children and adults) enrolled in our program. All students have access to the computer programs that we use through an app or a website. Each student is encouraged to spend at least 15 minutes four days per week on the computer program for optimal benefits of the program in addition to the weekly program provided at the church. Our students are also encouraged to read on their own every day at home.

When a literacy program student comes to our weekly program, the student will enjoy 45 minutes of one-on-one time with one of our trained tutors working on individual reading skills through reading aloud, workbooks, and homework help. They

will also receive at least 15 minutes of computer time to work on their reading program through LexiaCore5 or Lexia Strategies, depending on their skill levels. We also offer the students a healthy snack. game time, and hands-on science and art projects. We are currently experimenting with kitchen chemistry, and we recently had a chance to surprise a few veterans with handmade cards from our students. Best of all, every student leaves with a prize each night for participating in our program!



Our program is growing and our success stories are amazing! Here are a few quotes from parents of our students:

"The program is incredible and worked on his most problematic issues until he got it right. He worked with Mrs. McCall and the

(Continued on page 7)

Transitions in Mission



David Pano, originally hailing from Bolivia, received his theology degree from Ouachita Hills College. He claims Minnesota as his home, conducted Bible work in Battle Creek, and now is the new Assistant Director for Literature Ministries for GLOW. David is passionate about canvassing and the literature ministry and enjoys traveling and photography.

Bryan Choi, pastor of the Buchanan Church, will also pastor the Chikaming Church, as Elder Bill Dudgeon re-retires.

Roberto Gonzalez will be pastoring the Benton Harbor Spanish and Eau Claire Spanish churches.

Daniel McGrath will be pastoring the Rockford and Three Angels Sparta Churches. Frank Lugo has taken a call to the Texas Conference.

Israel Ramos adds the responsibility of being the Lake Union Public Campus Ministries Coordinator.

(Continued from page 6)

program all through the summer, as he also grew into himself with confidence."

The student spoken of below was encouraged to stay in the first grade due to his low reading score levels. He participated in our literacy program from June to August. And the following states the results:

"At the end of first grade, our son was at a Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) level of 10. The current DRA level to begin second grade is a 16. The teacher gave him the level 12 test (levels go by two's) and he passed with a 100%! She was so impressed she skipped the 14 and dove directly into the level 16 test. Our son

walked out of the room with a 94% placing him well into second grade material. He is now a proud Second Grader and we are so very proud of him. We do plan to continue the program as long as it is available; it is truly the perfect fit for our son's



education. I hope that many other families have the opportunity to have similar success stories and we truly believe that this program is a wonderful addition to any student's education."

"She is doing amazing in school now. Thank you for being a positive impact on my daughter's life when she needed it most."

The Blue Water Seventh-day Adventist Church is so thankful to be a part of sharing our time and talents with the community in this capacity. We are sharing Sabbath School reading material with our students as well as inviting them to church-sponsored events. Our volunteers are blessed to be able to share the love of Christ by giving the gift of reading to our students. We pray that all of those involved will truly be blessed and be drawn closer to our Heavenly Father.

If anyone is interested in more details on how to begin and facilitate a literacy program outreach, feel free to contact Angela McCall via email at amccall67@gmail.com

Prayer Focus

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

January 5-8

Berrien Springs Village
Pastors Ron Kelly, Bruce Hayward, Joe Reeves
Bible Worker - Collene Kelly
Village Adventist Elementary School Wendy Baldwin(Principal), + 13 teachers/staff
Community Service - Sharon Miller

January 11-15

Wilson
Pastor Tony Ludwig
Wilson Jr. Academy - Emily Gibbs (Principal),
Darlene Huckabay, Crystal Meador
Community Service - Beverly Postler

January 28-22

Detroit Metropolitan
Pastor Darryl Bentley
Bible Worker - Dale Sheridan
Metropolitan Jr. Academy Craig Morgan (Principal), Raquel Arvizu,
Jeremy Bayer, Marcia Moore
Community Services - Pauline Janevski

January 25-29

Berrien Springs Spanish Pastor Ronald Costa MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS PO Box 24187
Lansing, MI 48909
PHONE 517.316.1500 FAX 517.316.1501
jclark@misda.org
www.misda.org

January

- 1-4 New Year's Day Holiday Office Closed
- 15-17 Teen Snow Outing -Camp Au Sable
- 15-18 Martin Luther King Day -Office Closed
- 19 MI Conference Exceutive Committee Conf. Room
- 20 Camp Meeting Directors
- 22-24 Pathfinder Area Coordintors Retreat - Camp Au Sable
- 24-26 Ministerial Retreat -Camp Au Sable
- 27-31 GLAA Home Leave
- 28 K-12 Board of Education -Conference Office
- 29-31 Father/Son Retreat Camp Au Sable

February

- 7-9 Pastor Prayer/Fasting
- 12-14 CAMPUS Winter Retreat Camp Au Sable
- 12-14 LUC Youth Congress
- 12-15 President's Day Weekend -Office Closed
- 17-21 GLAA Home Leave
- 23 MI Conference Executive Committee Conf. Room
- 24 Camp Meeting Directors
- 25 K-12 Board of Education
- 25-28 Teen Bible Camp -Camp Au Sable

Nature Nugget

Are antlers and horns the same thing?

— Gordon Atkins Camp Au Sable Nature Director

ntlers are made of bone, are usually branched, and are shed every winter. Horns are made of

compacted hair, are not usually branched, and, except for the antelope, are not shed in the winter. For those animals having horns, the older the mammal - the larger the horn! For those mammals having antlers, the size of the antlers are not just affected by age, but more importantly by the health and nutrition of the wearer. The healthiest bull elks, bull moose, and buck deer

will have the largest sets of antlers.

The large antlers are symbols of the strength, fitness, and dominance of

the owner. The large antlers usually determine which males own the territory and mate with the females. Only when

there are close "ties" do two bulls or bucks fight each other for dominance.

The cross of Christ is also a very strong symbol. It reminds all of us that Christ fought the battle for us, and that He is King of the universe! Unlike animals with antlers, which might be tied with their foe, Christ reins supreme and we

never have to worry about the devil's attempts to win, as long as we keep our eyes on the cross!

