



JUNE 18-26 | 2021

HOW MUCH **MORE**

Michigan Conference Campmeeting



Applesauce Outreach: Every Bit Counts

During the last 12 months as we have been practicing social distancing, isolation, discouragement, and depression having been growing all around us. We are living through a season of life when people are hurting and lonely, and it is extremely important that we make every effort to stay connected with those around us and help one another, especially those who need support.

Throughout this pandemic our family has been making an effort to reach out

to our neighbors, church members, and community friends, and in doing so, we have started to build trust and friendship with those around us. We find that looking beyond our own needs is the best antidote for processing our own worries, concerns, and challenges.



We had not lived in our community very long when the pandemic hit last March, so we took that opportunity to reach out to our neighbors with a letter of

introduction, encouragement, and support. We just wanted to let people know that we were available to help if they needed groceries, care of any kind, or prayer. It was exciting to pray with people as a result of this letter.

When Easter rolled around

"We are thankful that despite the pandemic, there are still safe and fun ways to connect with the people the Lord has placed around us."

and life was still not back to normal, we decided to take a little bit of Easter to our neighbors. Our plan was to fill bags with neighborly, fun, and spiritual material to put on the doors of each home on our street. Since we were not supposed to be within six feet of anyone, this seemed like a good plan to reach everyone without getting too close. We wrote a newsletter and filled it with spiritual encouragement, resources to fill their day, and a kids' corner. We also included a "He is Risen" sharing book and a Hope Awakens event card. For the kids, we added fun bouncy balls and age-appropriate GLOW tracts. The Friday before Easter our family walked up and down the street hanging our package,



The Austin family making a difference in their neighborhood and community.

(continued on page 7)

By Justin Ringstaff,
Executive Secretary



What priorities do we need to rearrange so that Jesus is first and foremost in our thoughts and lives? Are there strings to cut, schedules to change, habits to surrender?"

PREPARING NOW FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD

A few years ago, after a heavy snowstorm, I stepped outside and noticed that our neighbor's car was stuck in their front yard. They had tried to pull into what they thought was their driveway, but with the blustering snow and winds they had become confused and missed it altogether. The way which, under normal conditions would have been so easy to find, was suddenly not so easy at all.

My dear brothers and sisters, the storm clouds are gathering and the days of preparation are quickly slipping away. As members of the remnant church how can we believe that the Second Coming is a far-off event and that we can slumber? When the final storm comes it may be too late to find our way.

If we would stand up in this our day and take notice, we would see clearly that we are living in the time of the end and that the coming of Jesus is "even at the doors!"¹ So, lift up the trumpet and loud let it ring: Jesus is coming again!

Now is the time to be filling our lamps to let them shine ever brighter for Jesus. Now is the time to be praying for the Holy Spirit to fill us, mold us and use us to the glory of heaven.

We must not forget that the remnant church of Bible prophecy has a mission, both corporately and individually. Our mission is that of heralding the message of the Three Angels to every ear that will hear the call to come out of the false teachings of Babylon into the beautiful truth as it is in Jesus.

Let us not be deceived into thinking that we can go along just fine while the signs of the times all around us are declaring the end – that we can fill our lamps at some last signal moment and be found faithful to our calling. It's before the storm that our work must begin.

God's messenger warns us about this very issue. She says,

"I was shown God's people waiting for some change to take place—a compelling power to take hold of them. But they will be disappointed, for they are wrong. They must act, they must take hold of the work themselves and earnestly cry to God for a true knowledge of themselves. The scenes which are passing before us are of sufficient magnitude to cause us to arouse and urge the truth home to the hearts of all who will listen. The harvest of the earth is nearly ripe."²

If only we could fully realize that time will soon be no longer, how we might be stirred out of our sleep to entreat heaven for every promise provided for this hour.³ How we might be fitted to arise to the challenge before us in the power and might of the Holy Spirit.

During the days of Pentecost, after Jesus went back to heaven... those who were gathered in the upper room prayed for the promise of the Holy Spirit and the help of heaven in no casual way. Notice their earnestness as recounted in the book *Acts of the Apostles*:

"These days of preparation were days of deep heart searching. The disciples felt their spiritual need and cried to the Lord for the holy unction that was to fit them for the work of soul saving. They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely. They were weighted with the burden of the salvation of souls. They realized that the gospel was to be carried to the world, and they claimed the power that Christ had promised."⁴

Dear Lord, may we cry for that holy unction. Weigh us down with the burden of the salvation of souls. Open our vision to the work before us that we may realize how great is our need of the power of the Holy Spirit that Christ has promised.

With the promise secured, they witnessed what the power of God can do. On that single day, when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them, thousands accepted the Lord Jesus Christ and were baptized into the truth.

The apostles were accused of drunkenness, but they exclaimed: "Not so, we are merely fulfilling the prophecy of Joel: And it shall come to pass in the last days that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh."⁵

They were not drunk or out of their minds. They were witnessing the power of God working in them for the fulfillment of Bible Prophecy. The wonderful works that day were accomplished only because the power of the Holy Spirit was manifested in the lives of those faithful servants of God who went forward in earnest to do battle for God. "And the Lord was adding to the church daily those being saved."⁶

This day will come again. It will come to this church, for we, too, are called to fulfill Bible prophecy as we give ourselves unreservedly to the will of God.

Notice how the Lord encourages us again through His servant,

"Those who place themselves under God's control, to be led and guided by Him, will catch the steady tread of the

Note Regarding Camp Meeting:

It is our hope to have camp meeting this June and we are moving forward with the essential preparations. We are planning to have proper safety measures in place for our campers and attendees. However, our plans may be necessary to adjust or change altogether depending on the developments with the current pandemic. If limitations on numbers are required, we will plan to operate camp meeting with a reduced capacity and if necessary, transition to a virtual camp meeting with a limited local live audience. We are trusting this to the Lord's leading and care and will communicate any changes should they arise. Please check our camp meeting webpage (<http://bit.ly/micm-info>) for the most current plans and updates.

*events ordained by Him to take place. Inspired with the Spirit of Him who gave His life for the life of the world, they will no longer stand still in impotency, pointing to what they cannot do. Putting on the armor of heaven, they will go forth to the warfare, willing to do and dare for God, knowing that His omnipotence will supply their need.*⁷⁷

What an incredible promise for those living in the last days of earth's history! This is just what the early disciples of Jesus experienced as they surrendered themselves completely to the will and working of God – and it can be our experience too. As the storm clouds are gathering and we are seeing the beginning of sorrows that will continue to intensify to the very end, let us choose now to take our firm stand under the banner of the Lord.

If there could be a positive attribute to this ongoing pandemic, maybe it has provided the opportunity for many of us to think about our priorities. It seems as if we are often too busy living in this life to spend time preparing and living for the life to come.

What priorities do we need to re-

arrange so that Jesus is first and foremost in our thoughts and lives? Are there strings to cut, schedules to change, habits to surrender? Maybe it's a change of attitude or the letting go of bitterness or envy? Whatever it may be in your life, Jesus has promised to set us free. What courage and hope He brings – what spiritual power and joy are ours in Him! As we place ourselves under the control of heaven, we will recognize what is taking place in the world, be clothed in the righteousness and full armor of God and press into the battle on the side of the Lord. To Him be glory in the church both now and forever. Amen.

“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”⁷⁸

1 Matthew 24:33

2 Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, p. 261.

3 See Romans 4:20-22, 2 Corinthians 1:20, 2 Peter 1:2-4

4 Ellen G. White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 37.

5 See Acts 2:13-21

6 Acts 2:47

7 Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 7, p. 14.

8 Romans 13:11, 12

Every Monday morning,

the Michigan Conference staff meets for worship and prayer. Here is the list for the following dates. Please join us as we pray for these churches and ministries.



MARCH 1

Detroit Spanish Cavalry/Detroit Spanish Ebenezer/Pontiac Spanish Co.
Pastor Marriano Arrua

MARCH 8

Ann Arbor Spanish/Detroit Shalom Spanish
Pastor Ronald Costa

Wyoming Rogers Heights Spanish

Benton Harbor Spanish/Eau Claire Spanish
Pastor Jorge Diaz

MARCH 15

Elk Rapids Spanish
Pastor Ben Garcia

Battle Creek Spanish/Kalamazoo Spanish
Pastor Jonathan Flores-Ardiles

Battle Creek Spanish Food Pantry

MARCH 22

Berrien Springs Spanish
Pastor Nilton Garcia

Lansing Spanish
Pastor Jermaine Gayle

Grand Rapids Maranatha Spanish
Pastor Carlos Sotomayor

MARCH 29

Grand Rapids Northwest Spanish Co/Holland Spanish/Pearl Spanish
Pastor Jorge Mata

POSSIBLE



Cadillac Church:

The Grateful Gallop 5K

By Judy Klein

The 13th Street Adventist Church in Cadillac has developed a unique ministry to give back to their community. For the past two years, the congregation has hosted the Grateful Gallop 5K on Thanksgiving, an event that not only generates contacts and raises health awareness, but also raises money for local charities. With 29 runners last year, the race raised \$875, which was donated to assist in the construction of a homeless shelter.

When event planners met to discuss this year's race, there were several questions to consider. First, COVID-19 had to be factored in. Was holding the race a good idea? And what about people who wouldn't want to come in-person—would there be a virtual option? Pastor Bob Benson and his team decided to go ahead, creating what he and Dan Carlson, the race director, describe as “their own opportunity.” They talked to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Health and Human Services and by God's grace, they were given the permission to go forward with their plans.

Unfortunately, because of the uncertainty about COVID-19 regulations, the team had a late start advertising. They already had a personal web page,

so they advertised the race on that site, as well as on Facebook, and a runners' web-page. Carlson says that the advertisements were showcased on many different platforms so that plenty of people would be informed.

Despite the late advertising, God's hand moved, and the race grew! The Traverse City Running Club registered to run since, because of COVID-19 precautions in Traverse, there was no typical 5K there. The Running Club loved the course so much that they mentioned coming back next year, and advertising the race on their own personal website!

This year, nearly 35 runners participated, including two virtual racers who chose their own course, clocked it, then sent their times to the Grateful Gallop organizers who mailed them a finishers t-shirt.

The 2020 Grateful Gallop 5K event raised \$1,350 to be used for two local charities. First, the congregation is planning to start a youth program in the local high schools once COVID-19 regulations are lifted. For now, the program is on hold. Benson explained that the program will provide food for students who attend, and provide Bible studies on topics applicable to teens—such as homosexuality or abstinence

“The 13th Street church didn't let COVID-19 stop them. Rather, they accepted the challenges and 'created their own opportunity.' Heaven responded by pouring out blessings.”

from drugs. Second, the church is planning to open a food pantry. They have already talked to Feeding America, a nationwide non-profit network of food banks, and are just waiting for a few technicalities to be cleared before they can open!

The 13th Street church didn't let COVID-19 stop them. Rather, they accepted the challenges and “created their own opportunity.” Heaven responded by pouring out blessings. One of the virtual runners signed up for cooking classes. Benson now has the personal cell phone number of one of the city judges and is getting involved with the Rotary Club because of her. She has also been given her own personal copy of *The Great Controversy*.

“Give and it will be given to you, a good measure, pressed down, and running over” (Luke 6:38). So step out, give of yourself, and create your own opportunity; heaven is waiting to cooperate with you and pour out blessings upon your efforts.



Pastor Ryan Counsell, with McKenzie Meyers and Michael Fracker.

“In the midst of a global crisis, the church stepped forward in faith and God blessed abundantly.”

Ionia Evangelism

Sow. Weep. Pray. Reap. Repeat. The Ionia, Belgreen and Portland churches, pastored by Ryan Counsell, recently collaborated to hold an evangelistic series in the Ionia church. As a result of the coordinated effort, 14 new members joined the church through baptism in November and December 2020.

Michael Fracker, an elder in the Ionia church, spoke for the 26-night series which was also broadcast virtually on Facebook and YouTube. On average, 36 people attended the meetings in person, while online views ranged from 122 to 500.

Visitor McKenzie Meyers attended about half of the meetings Fracker conducted last year in Belgreen. Not wanting to miss any information, she asked for CD recordings of the rest of the series, which led to personal Bible studies with Ionia school teacher Tammi Hasty. Unfortunately, COVID restrictions halted their studies but Meyers watched the Ionia series this year on Facebook. She told Fracker that all her questions were finally answered. Meyers was baptized on November 20, 2020.

Darcie Erickson was Gary Emelander’s mailperson. Over the years, he gave her many books to read, which piqued her spiritual interest. Erickson attended the evangelistic meetings in Ionia last year but didn’t make a decision for baptism at that time. After watching the series on Facebook this year, she chose to follow Jesus all the way. Erickson was baptized on December 5, 2020.

Jessie, Amanda and Lalanah Prill attended Fracker’s meetings in Belgreen a year ago. They had no prior contact with the Adventist church. Counsell and Fracker studied with them after the meetings, and they attended Belgreen church regularly. This year, they came to all the meetings in Ionia, overcame tobacco and work challenges, and were baptized on December 5, 2020.

Alan Bauer attended Pathfinders and church years ago when member Nadine Campbell brought him to church. Bauer remembered that Fracker had given his grandfather Bible studies. Bauer and his wife, Nicole, came every night and were washed in the waters of baptism on November 20, 2020.

James Emelander and his twin brother were baptized when they were 12 after receiving Bible studies from Fracker. After being out of the church for many years, James asked Fracker if he would study with him and his two daughters: Madison (15) and Alyssa (21). He said it was time to get right with the Lord and be ready for His return. They attended the meetings and were baptized on December 5, 2020. James’ father, Gary, chose to be rebaptized with them.

Sandy Peterson brought her mother to church for nine years after her father died. She stopped coming after her mother passed away, although she kept in contact with many of the members and attended women’s ministry meetings regularly. Fracker knew she was watching the Revelation meetings

on Facebook and asked her to meet with him and the Pastor. When asked if she wanted to recommit her life to Jesus through baptism, she said, “Yes.” In an email, she told Fracker how surprised her father will be to see her in heaven. “I feel like I’m coming home for once!” she said.

Jeff and Katie walked into the Ionia church in September, 2020—their first time in an Adventist church. They had been listening to Strong Tower Radio out of Grand Rapids and were leaders in a non-denominational church. Jeff asked his pastor about the Sabbath continuously, but the pastor replied, “Don’t bring this subject up anymore. It has been done away with.” The couple has been attending church for about eight weeks and studying the Bible with Gary and Caroline Rose and Aaron and Sheryl Rose on Sabbath afternoons. After attending the Revelation meetings every night, Jeff stated that he wanted to be baptized in the Grand River in the near future. He and Katie want to continue studies, as this is a big decision. Counsell said he might have to wear waders because the water will be very cold!

In the midst of a global crisis, the church stepped forward in faith and God blessed abundantly. It truly was a team effort and will continue to be as we reach out to our community and share the everlasting gospel and present truth.

By Melojeane Zawilinski,
Member, Bay City



Camp Meeting Speakers

Jim Micheff, Jr.



JUNE 18-26 | 2021

HOW MUCH MORE

Michigan Conference Campmeeting



Dave Fiedler is a Seventh-day Adventist educator from British Columbia, Canada, who has authored several books including *Hindsight: Seventh-day Adventist History in Essays and Extracts* and *D'Sozo: Reversing the Worst Evil*. *D'Sozo* came as a result of his appreciation for the lessons of Adventist denominational history, and he seeks to apply those lessons for the final completion of God's work on earth.



Jëan Ross serves as the Vice-President of Evangelism for Amazing Facts. Along with Doug Batchelor, he co-hosts the popular radio program *Bible Answers Live*. Ross created the Empowered Church Program, a dynamic resource that helps local churches prepare for public evangelism events. His insightful and Spirit-filled presentations on church health, evangelism, Bible prophecy, and practical godliness are both inspiring and engaging.



Gem Castor is an itinerant missionary whose passion is to share Christ everywhere, anywhere, in every way possible. He has led united prayer sessions for the General Conference, various Divisions, Unions and Conferences of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He has also coordinated prayer sessions at a number of Adventist gatherings that include ASI, GYC and various youth conferences in Asia. His vibrant friendliness reflects the all-encompassing love of Christ towards His children.



Doug Batchelor is the senior pastor of the Granite Bay Church in California and the president of Amazing Facts and is known and loved by many for his engaging style, spontaneous humor, and clear teaching of Bible prophecy. His Amazing Facts TV programs are seen weekly on satellite and cable networks. Through the weekly national *Bible Answers Live* radio broadcast, he has helped countless people around the world understand the Scriptures for themselves.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Time	Friday	Sabbath	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath
7:00 - 7:45	Gem Castor (Sab through Sab)								
7:45 - 8:30	Breakfast								
8:30 - 9:00	Welcome to Michigan Camp Meeting	Sabbath School 9:00 - 10:30 Worship* 10:45 - 12:15 Doug Batchelor	Michigan Conference Staff Meetings (Sun through Fri)						Sabbath School 9:00 - 10:30 Worship* 10:45 - 12:15 Jëan Ross
9:30 - 10:30			Seminars & Workshops (Mon through Fri)						
10:45 - 12:00			10:15 To 3:45 Blood Drive	10:30 Path-finder Parade	Dave Fiedler (Mon through Fri)				
12:15 - 1:15	Lunch								
1:30 - 2:00	Family Time								
2:15 - 3:15			Seminars & Workshops (Sun through Fri)						Teacher Commissioning 3:00
3:30 - 4:30	Ministerial Ordination 3:00 Soul Winning Hour 4:30	Seminars & Workshops (Sun through Fri)						Soul Winning Hour 4:30	
5:15 - 6:00	Supper								
7:00 - 8:45	Musical Program and Evening Meetings (Final Sabbath evening meetings will close at sunset)								
	Jim Micheff	Doug Batchelor	Doug Batchelor	Doug Batchelor	Doug Batchelor	Jëan Ross	Jëan Ross	Jëan Ross	Jëan Ross

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

(Subject to change)

TRANSITIONS



Sara Garcia recently accepted the role to assist with Hispanic women's ministries for the Michigan Conference. She will help coordinate various events, provide training, and implement other aspects of women's ministry. She is married to Pastor Nilton Garcia who oversees Hispanic Ministries.

NEWS BRIEF

Camp Meeting Janitors Needed!



Janitors are needed to clean the men's and women's restrooms during camp meeting, June 18-26, 2021.

To be eligible to apply, an applicant must:

- Be 14 years of age or older.
- Have confirmed lodging.
- Complete an employment application. The application can be scanned and emailed to lim@misda.org or mailed to the HR Dept. at the MI Conference address.

- 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 applicant's hire.

All applications will be reviewed by the committee. Additional required employment documents will be sent to those who are hired.

For detailed requirements and a job description, please visit www.misda.org. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2021.

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, and would like to be considered for such a position, please contact **Joel Nephew** at jdnew@misda.org or 517-316-1524.

(Applesauce Outreach: Every Bit Counts)

along with a prayer for each recipient, on each door.

As the Christmas holiday approached, we again started thinking about what we could do to connect with each family on our street. We live on a long country road with lots of woods and set back houses. There are neighbors we have met and made connections with and there are others we have never even seen.

Taking into consideration religious preferences and dietary concerns, we decided that we would take no-sugar-added home canned applesauce to our neighbors as a way of saying, "Happy New Year." We dressed up the jars with festive ribbon and colorful tags and set out to interact with our neighbors.

As people opened their doors, we greeted them with "Happy New Year" and great big smiles. We let them know exactly which house we lived in and that we hoped that they would be very blessed in this coming new year. Usually the conversations lingered and we were able to make deeper

connections with people than we had in the past.

We learned that most people knew who we were because they see our family taking walks down the road all the time. Further, some remembered the letter that we had sent at the beginning of the pandemic and were very grateful for neighbors who care. Our experiences that day were all extremely positive. We are thankful that despite the pandemic, there are still safe and fun ways to connect with the people the Lord has placed around us.

Helping and connecting with neighbors doesn't have to take much time or money. The resulting gratitude, however, is priceless! I encourage you to find ways to build relationships in your neighborhood and community. In the end you will be making connections for Jesus.

For more outreach ideas, visit www.findingjoy4eternity.com.

By Amy Austin,
Church Member

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

5801 W Michigan Ave

Lansing, MI 48917

PHONE 517.316.1500 FAX 517.316.1501

communication@misda.org

www.misda.org

www.facebook.com/miconf

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Due to COVID-19, events on the schedule are subject to change.

MARCH

- 1-15 Camp Meeting Registration
- 6 PBE Conference Level
- 7 Women's Ministries Board Meeting – Conference Office
- 15-18 New in Ministry
- 18-28 GLAA Home Leave
- 27 IMPACT – Literature Distribution Day
- 27 PBE – Union Level

APRIL

- 4-6 Prayer and Fasting
- 16-18 Women's Ministries Event
- 23-25 VBS Workshop
- 25-26 GLAA Academy Days
- 26-30 GLAA Home Leave
- 30-May 2 Marriage Commitment Retreat

MICHIGAN MEMO is a monthly publication of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for its constituents. Andy Im, editor; Beth Thomas, acting assistant editor; **Seminars Unlimited**, layout, design, and print. Comments may be submitted by emailing communication@misda.org.

NATURE NUGGET

Ring-necked Pheasants

An Introduced Species

By Dr. Gordon Atkins,
Camp Au Sable Naturalist



Photo: Dr. Gordon Atkins

On a recent birding trip to central Michigan, I came across a flock of 18 Ring-necked Pheasants out in an open snow-covered field. What a sight! Pheasants can be recognized by their long, pointed tails. The male's body is colored with reds, oranges and gold, and its head is an iridescent bluish-green with a red patch. Around its neck is a distinct white ring, which gives this bird its name.

These birds are especially striking in the sunshine. Like many ground nesting birds, the females are a sandy brown color with darker speckles. They lay up to 15 olive or gray-colored eggs, which are light blue on the inside! Pigmented shells on the inside of an egg is unusual in birds.

These amazing birds are not native to North America. They were introduced from Asia as a game bird

and have established themselves in many states and provinces with grassland habitats, so much so in North Dakota, that the Ring-necked pheasant is their state bird! Pheasant numbers fluctuate based on the severity of the winter months and spring flooding during the nesting season.

This magnificent introduced species reminds me that God wants to introduce something magnificent into our lives. Just like when an introduced species can become established in a new habitat if the conditions are right, the Holy Spirit is a part of the Godhead that is intended to not just be "introduced" to us, but to be "established" in our hearts and minds. Romans 5:5 says "...God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (NIV).