

# Conference Connection

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## I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*While the intimate details of their daily lives were not passed down, storytellers have led us to believe that the Biblical Magi studied Scripture in their small groups. Their faith grew stronger as they showed the starry light to those they came in contact with.*

*Through their active stewardship of the Gospel, they spread the Good News to peoples as numerous as the sands their desert-worn sandals journeyed over. Grounded in The Word, and then bound together through the months and trials of their voyage, these friends built trust in one another and formed a resolute infrastructure. As they followed the light of their life, no length of time, tyrant king, or intimidating religious figures could derail the faith and loyalty of this tight-knit group that was, no doubt, closer than family.*

Sweeping South America 2,000 years after Christ's birth, the small group phenomenon has made its way through North America and has landed in the Indiana Conference. Some American churches view small groups as a foreign concept, but at the Elders' Training on September 17, attendees were ready to learn the art of this ministry.

Many Hispanic churches in the Indiana Conference have already embraced small group ministry. Statistics at the Indiana Conference Headquarters show the Hispanic percentage of growth in the last year is 8.51%—nearly three times higher than the growth experienced in other parts of the conference.

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps" (NIV, 1 Peter 2:21).

People are looking for human touch, not religion. When we shadow the structure Christ practiced

as He ministered on Earth, small groups are key to church happiness, involvement, personalized care, ministry and accountability. Can you imagine your church blessed by modeling Christ's example?

"Postmodern people are looking for relationships," says Antonio Rosario, Indiana Conference Hispanic Coordinator. "They want to feel ownership in their church. Small groups offer this, which is why it reaches them."

"We were only expecting 30, and had 66 in attendance," said Elder Steve Poenitz, Indiana Conference Ministerial Director. "It was our intention to

challenge our Anglo elders to consider small groups for church growth. The seminar was basically our brethren saying, 'We found something that works. Let us show you how so you can grow with us.'"

Antonio Rosario and Orlando Vasquez, retired Hispanic coordinator/pastor, presented the small group concept to the group of elders. They gave testimonies about how their companies and churches have grown from small groups. A pastor from Peru also shared how the small group sensation is growing South American churches. In the Indianapolis metro area alone, there are 26 Hispanic small groups.

Today, wise men and women still strengthen one another in intimate communities they hold close like family. The beauty of their genuine love shines steadfast through the shadow of a sorrow-sick world, attracting others to the Light, which is Jesus.

Kortnye V. Hurst  
Communication Secretary



Hispanic pastors and lay leaders who assisted in the elders' training event.



**Van G. Hurst**

## WEEKEND APPOINTMENTS

- Dec 3 Jeffersonville
- 10 Plymouth
- 17 Terre Haute
  
- Jan 7 Elkhart
- 21 Northwest
- 28 Richmond / Connersville
  
- Feb 11 Lafayette
- 18 Cicero
- 25 Angola
  
- Mar 17 Muncie
- 24 Lewis

To request speaking appointments contact Sheri DeWitt at 317-844-6201 or [sdewitt@indysda.org](mailto:sdewitt@indysda.org)

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## The Modern Magi

To any pilgrim or onlooker, Jesus was in a dysfunctional home: helpless, deprived, dirty and destitute. In 4 BC, His precious mother schlepped her pregnant body over the ravines of Palestine. Already exhausted, she gave birth in a stable—unable to provide a suitable place for the baby King. The accommodations were not merely a notch below the Bethlehem Hilton Inn. If “Googled,” the stable would have been listed last place of any cut-rate motel... below the Judean homeless shelter!

How could Christ’s family—His church—survive without money, food or a home? Would God care for His people? Does He care for you? God sent the resources for Jesus’ ministry long before Joseph knew of his family’s emergency need to evade Herod’s slaughter. He anticipated their need.

Magi from the East trudged over allegorical sand dunes of time and the craggy mountains of doubt to be faithful stewards. These scholars of love had studied Balaam’s writings. Under the inspiration of God, they followed His guiding star to bring frankincense, gold and myrrh. Their attitudes of generous giving did not run dry, for their gifts were returned to them as by a divine fountain of never-ending blessing. This is the divine concept of benevolence, “by giving we receive.” The little family church of Jesus was supplied by these gifts, which were rich symbols of Christ’s righteousness. These funds paid the bills of church growth.

Whether studied at a theological seminary, or told as a Christmas bedtime story, the impact made by their selfless service embedded their footprints in the grit of history. As with all Magi footprints, they are eroded by the gusts of need unless frequently replenished by new pilgrims who walk in their place.

Today, as Modern Magi, we leave our footprints in the sand. We approach Jesus with three gifts:

1. **We come following God’s Star with obedience.** It is our privilege to follow the Star of Bethlehem. By love, we are drawn to His hope, His grace, His beneficence and His glory.
2. **We bring the sacrifice of praise.** Approach Him not with cheap verbal affirmation, but with tokens of gratitude. Offerings of time, donations of service, and financial contributions for church are placed in His storehouse of ministry.
3. **God desires our fragrant attitudes**—humility, unity, patience, generosity and, most of all, a vision for the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. Exotic fragrances were used to embalm Christ’s body. The Church is embalmed, not to be a dead church, but to be a living fragrance of holiness, purity and kindness throughout our neighborhoods and community.

God gives to every man a measure of faith. We have no gift to give. It is something He places in our hand and we give back to Him like a child at Christmas . . . excitedly watching a parent open the present the child purchased with their parent’s money. Our Lord faithfully and prayerfully recreates in us His righteousness by faith, even as the Magi were rewarded by looking on the face of Jesus.

From the caustic business world where “winner takes all,” to casual onlookers, the church appears to be a dysfunctional cauldron of people who aimlessly walk through the desert. But once they grasp His mission, they are attracted to Jesus as the star of their lives and add their footprints to the sands of stewardship. God asks Modern Magi for total submission to Jesus, to prefer one another above ourselves, give of our means to help strangers and look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

## Healthy Choices in the Heartland

Let the poor have the gospel of health preached unto them from a practical point of view, that they may know how to care properly for the body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit (CH 480.2).

ANDERSON—Over 200 attended the fourth annual Heartland Health and Wellness Conference (HHWC) September 15-16, 2011. Ninety-five percent of attendees were estimated to be Buddhist, non-denominational, Baptist, or to claim a spiritual influence other than the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Indiana Healthy Choices, the Indiana Conference's health ministry, often able to serve an audience extending beyond Adventist members, is led by founder Susan Landess.

"We applied for funding from the Adventist Health System (AHS) six years ago," Landess said.

"The job description given me was, 'Go promote health.' We began by starting CHIP Express programs across Indiana. With the soon addition of a program in New Albany, Indiana Healthy Choices will have started nine CHIP Express programs since receiving the AHS funding."



The CHIP program is celebrated for reversing the effects of acid reflux, obesity, high cholesterol, hypertension, and heart disease.

Chef AJ, a presenter at the HHWC who has made television appearances on The View, Ellen, and

The Tonight Show in regard to whole food eating said, "Genetics only account for 5%—7% of disease. The other 95% are due to lifestyle; meaning, the majority of today's poor health can be improved or completely reversed." The key lifestyle areas are: sleep, stress, drink, and exercise.

"Diet is still of the utmost importance even if people do not have perfect

habits like exercising. In his heart disease reversal study, Dr. Esselstyn did not have his patients exercise, and yet, he was still able to completely reverse advanced heart disease," Chef AJ said.

"I came last year," Loretta Sawaski said. "In just four weeks my cholesterol went from 178 to 115. I lost 15 lbs. This year, I brought a girlfriend. I'm ready to get back into it."

Hans Diehl, DrHSc, Chairman of Lifestyle Medicine Institute, burst The Calcium and Protein Myth during his Thursday morning presentation at the HHWC. "In contrast to many American doctors who advise menopausal women consume at least 1500mg of calcium per day, the World Health Organization recommends 500 mg per day," Diehl said. Diehl showed that overconsumption of protein, especially the protein found in animal products such as cheese, yogurt, and milk, may lead to kidney stones, arthritis and tumor growth. Calcium loss, a symptom

many medical professionals seek to halt by recommending a greater intake of animal protein, is sustained as a body releases calcium stored in its bones to restore the body's pH balance which was upset by the calcium overdose, animal protein, or both. "Excess spells I-N-J-U-R-Y," Diehl said.

"When health care people don't know what is best, how are we supposed

to?" Susan Long, a conference attendee said.

*"I came last year," Loretta Sawaski said. "In just four weeks my cholesterol went from 178 to 115. I lost 15 lbs. This year, I brought a girlfriend. I'm ready to get back into it."*



Stewarding our bodies through the holiday season can be a little tricky. Here are a few facts and tips to keep in mind as we weather winter cuisine.

- Certain nutrients are better absorbed in the presence of fat. You need fat.
- Eat the fat in its whole food form. Try seeking omega three fatty acids in the form of nuts, avocado and olives rather than olive oil.
- Casomorphin is an addictive chemical in cheese. "That's why it's hard for people to give it up," Chef AJ said. In contrast "You will begin to crave greens once your body gets flooded by all the nutrients."
- Seventy percent of the world is lactose intolerant.
- Mothers should eat nuts and seeds while breastfeeding to prevent allergies in their children.
- When making popcorn for that satisfying Saturday night snack, try air popping it as you add a mixture of half oil and half water (rather than drowning it in margarine or butter). This reduces the amount of bad fat that you add, and seasonings, such as nutritional yeast, will stick!

*"Do your best and bless the rest."*  
- Chef AJ

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## here & THERE

### Summer Camp . . . Timber Ridge

Camp had over 500 campers this summer. Each week was blessed with young people giving their lives to Jesus.

"There are lots of activities; too many to list," Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference Youth Director, said. "We are excited that we have a new climbing wall in the gym, and thanks to gifts received through camp meeting Tag Day funds, we have new kayaks!"



### Sanctuary Booth at State Fair . . .

From August 5-23, adults and children alike turned their attention to the beautiful display of God's plan for their salvation at the Indiana State Fair.

A two-thirds scale model of the Holy Place and Most Holy Place was meticulously crafted by members of the Cicero church. Members from many of the churches in the Indiana Conference took turns tending the booth and answering the questions of curious onlookers.

When the fair was over the response was tallied; the many requests included:

- 28 - studies about the sanctuary
- 29 - studies on prophecy
- 21 - small group Bible studies
- 19 - depression recovery
- 24 - cooking classes
- 12 - stop smoking



### Hispanic Camp Meeting . . .

The Hispanic Camp Meeting, September 2-5 at Timber Ridge Camp, celebrated the theme "En El Portal De La Eternidad" (On the Threshold of Eternity) with nearly 850 saints on Sabbath morning.

Guests Speakers included Elder Carlos Camacho, from Pacific Press; Elder Daniel Velez, West Puerto Rico Conference; and Professor Enrique Baez, Andrews University.



### Operation Downpour . . . Sabbath, September 24, Indianapolis, Indiana: over 400 missionaries participated in Operation Downpour as they hit the streets to blanket three zip codes with the Good News.

According to Paula Polzer, Project Manager at Chapel West's Mission Control, "We pre-packaged boxes, each with fifty bags to be distributed to the homes we visited. Each bag held information about the following week's prophecy seminar, a Steps to Christ, and a flyer about upcoming events at Chapel West including Financial Peace University, the Five Day Plan to Quit Smoking, and Love and Respect, a marriage seminar."



### The Indianapolis Outreach Coalition (IOC) . . . is an intentional effort to fulfill the guidance of the Holy Spirit to reach the big cities for Christ. The committee is composed of lay persons, some administrators, and a pastor from each church in the Indy area—each of whom share the desire to reach people in metroplex areas.

"For us, that city is Indianapolis," said Ron Kelly, pastor of the Cicero church and member of the coalition. "The out-of-the-box mentality of this group enables anybody who wants to participate to be involved in a way that is a fit for them," Kelly said.

"Leading the charge are Adventist laity," Van Hurst, Indiana Conference President said. "Such an audacious goal as systematically covering the zip codes in the Indianapolis metro area has not been accomplished in recorded conference annuals. With God, success is expected," Hurst said.

The Indianapolis Outreach Coalition met Sunday, November 6, to lay future plans and to debrief after their first two actions, the two-thirds scale model of the Sanctuary presented at the Indiana State Fair, and Operation Downpour. The next Operation Downpour is being planned for April 14, 2012 in Carmel.

## Project 58

Have you ever wished for lots of extra money to help the needy? Just turn on the TV, read the newspaper or go to your mailbox and you will be inundated with pleas for financial help. Wouldn't it be fun to have the time and wealth of the Biblical Magi and go on an adventure to help someone?

This school year, the students at Indiana Academy have the opportunity to give something more than gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They are giving their time, their energy, and their encouragement in a monthly program called Project 58. Following the guidance found in Isaiah 58 and Matthew 25:40, the students are impacting their community with God's love.

### **Kindness Lifts a Burden**

If you had driven by the academy on a recent Tuesday afternoon, you might have seen some students with grease on their hands and jeans. They were part of a POD providing free oil changes for single mothers. While waiting for her car to be serviced, one mother told this story:

"Mom, I can do it for you if we can find the cash to buy the oil and filter," her son said.



"Honey," she gave a shrug as she shook her head and admitted, "I can't." Even this small expense was impossible with the recent loss of her job and home.

Later, she saw a poster in town advertising the free oil change. What a blessing this was for her!

### **In Prison You Visited Me.**

Other students in the Prison Ministry POD spent the afternoon making cards and writing encouraging notes to prisoners whom they thought they would never meet. Spending four hours to complete this project seemed tedious,



but later IA students were richly rewarded. Through a special invitation they were allowed to visit one of the local prisons the following month.

Though somewhat shocked to be inside a jail and to see real prisoners in real shackles, the students were able to witness to the inmates who lived there.

Many stood up and gave testimonies for Jesus. One student, Ricky, had strongly resisted the Holy Spirit's prompting to attend Indiana Academy this year. From his personal experience he was able to encourage the prisoners to pray and challenge God.

The prison management was impressed with the IA students. They said, "Normally these inmates are rude and noisy when visitors arrive, but they were respectful and quiet while the students spoke."

One cell block guard said, "We've never seen these prisoners be this calm."

**Following the guidance found in Isaiah 58 and Matthew 25:40, the students are impacting their community with God's love.**

### **Giving Comfort in Prayer Quilts**

Another POD of students sewed baby blankets for an organization that provides support for teens and women experiencing unplanned pregnancies. During a tour of the facility the director of the center told the students, "Some mothers reconsider an abortion when they hear that the blankets are prayed over as they are being hand-crafted for their babies."

In her recent testimony, Paola, a freshman, said "As I sat at the sewing machine making a baby blanket, I thought how this blanket could be life-saving!"

### **As you have given to the least of these. . .**

Did you ever think you were getting something for nothing, but then, there was a catch? This is how some people felt as they went through the free car wash, or accepted a loaf of fresh baked bread, or had students bring them lunch. But there was no catch—just Indiana Academy students being the hands and feet and voice of Jesus.

One lady wrote a note that said, "What a wonderful surprise—receiving a loaf of bread today while my mother and I were out walking. What a beautiful act of kindness. God bless you!"

### **. . . you have given unto Me.**

The students at Indiana Academy are learning that it is not how much you give from your wallet, but how much you give from your heart that truly matters. You too can do something unexpected for someone today and be a Modern Magi.

Allan Smith,  
Marketing and Recruiting Director,  
Indiana Academy

## Managing Our Gifts for His Honor

*Eight Modern Magi share how they can use their talents, hobbies, and passions for God in the New Year.*

*I'd like to do a better job of "taking Jesus to work with me." As a traveling nurse, I enjoy being the sunshine in other people's lives and want to focus on being Christ's hands and feet as I take care of my patients.*

-Amy Jacobs (Visiting family in Indiana as she traveled to her new post of duty in California)

*The year 2012 marks the end of my career as a Court Reporter for the Marion County Court system in Indiana. I will be retiring after 35 years of public service. Through the years, I have been fortunate to see the importance of law and order in society and why God, in his infinite wisdom, designed the judicial system early on with Moses and Aaron. I have learned to appreciate not only God's mercy but also His justice in dealing with His creation.*

*Now I am moving to an area in my life that is not so fixed and certain—retirement. I also have to consider, realistically, that this is the final chapter of my life and so, the question I ask God daily is: "What do You want me to do for You now?"*

*I currently use my gifts for Him as discussion facilitator for the women's Sabbath school class at Chapel West and by hosting a Thursday night study with some ladies in my home. Does God want me to continue or does He have something else in mind? I know I can trust His Word when He says: "I already know the plans I have for you, a future and a hope. You will call on me and I will answer. You will talk to me and I will listen." Jer. 29:11,12*

-Rosemary Ryan, Chapel West SDA

*I want to start a greeting card ministry for people who don't make it to church regularly and for lost Adventists.*

-Cindi Culp, Irvington SDA

*I'm taking violin lessons. I'm going to play at church so Jesus can use my music.*

-Sofia Hall, age 7, Cicero SDA

*I want to bring people to Christ. God has given me the gift of compassion and love in my heart for others and I pray that He will continue to put people in my path so I can give my gifts back to Him. This new year, I pray to at least light a spark in people so that when we get to Heaven they can say, "We are here because you prayed for us. You studied with us and showed us the way to Jesus."*

-Bill Monk (He and his wife, Edna, reside in Decatur, Illinois and visited the Indiana Conference to help with Operation Downpour.)

*I like to write short character building stories. I've collected a few and hope to add more and put them all together. I want to use my writing for God and share the collection with others.*

-Olivia Hall, age 10, Cicero SDA

**New Year's Resolution:**

- To rely on Him more
- To see and respond to the opportunities that God has prepared for me
- To commune more with Him
- To depend more on the Holy Spirit's guidance
- To live the life of a follower of Christ

-Barbara Livesay, Lake Union Conference

**Betty** and her husband love planting summer tomatoes. Each year they look forward to the succulent, sweet taste of red, ripe juice that runs down their arms when taking those first tempting bites of seasonal bliss.

"Honey, we have too many tomatoes, they just go to waste!"

"I know, Betty. Each summer they multiply like rabbits."

"What if we put the extras on the porch? I could put a sign out and ask a dollar for them. People might stop by and take them off our hands."

That's just what she did. In 1995, Betty planted more tomato plants around her house. She originally had

three plants, and found creative spaces to grow a whopping 72 tomato plants around her garage and along the fence row; her home has a fresh produce, summertime décor.

Betty's porch is often decked with the happy company of neighbors who come to buy a \$1 bowl of tomatoes. One day there was a conversation that went something like this:

"We love your tomatoes. We didn't get any planted this year."

"Glad you like them. Besides, it gives us an excuse to meet you," Betty might respond with her genuine smile.

"How'd you get this idea anyway? It's like the vegetable version of a lemonade stand."

"Well, I wanted to do something to help others. Hopefully, I'll get to give back by contributing to my church's investment project," Betty could say with a laugh and a gesture toward the Eden-like fruits planted everywhere in sight.

"Oh! You're not charging enough. You should ask three dollars a bowl!"

"You think people would pay that?"

"Sure! They'd pay more for tomatoes at the store. You could tell them what you're raising money for on your sign. People would love to help!"

Betty raised the price to three dollars a bowl and her neighbors continue to visit her tomato-stand porch. She found a way to reach out to those around her. They, in turn, bless Betty by growing her investment offering each summer.

Betty looks forward to starting up her tomato stand in the spring, and also to growing sweet friendships with the neighbors God sends to her front porch.

**What is your  
Modern Magi  
New Year's Resolution?**

**AMY**



**ROSEMARY**



**CINDY**



**SOFIA**



**BILL & EDNA**



**OLIVIA**



**BETTY**



**BARBARA**



THE THREE WISE MEN were some of the first stewards mentioned in the Gospels. They brought gifts with them, gifts of great value. Their gifts were both spiritual and tangible. The Three Stewards blessed the Christ Child and His family with gold, frankincense and myrrh, strengthening them spiritually and supporting them with palpable means to survive childhood, and later, to begin His ministry. These faithful few also blessed others as they encouraged them to follow the Star.

One idea rarely combined with stewardship is the concept of “stewarding our leaders” with the intention of giving gifts to those who serve as leaders. When reflecting on this guardianship, Barnabas comes to my mind.

In Acts, Barnabas is mentioned as “an encourager.” This is a gift that does not require extra talent, no advanced degrees, no wealth—just the desire to uplift and nurture others in Christ.

Leaders today, just as in the Early Church, need to be encouraged and supported in their ministry. Here is a simple list of gifts we can bring to the leadership in our churches:

- Bring kindness and respect
- Bring empathy, compassion and appreciation
- Bring comfort
- Bring a Christ-like attitude
- Bring aid and assistance
- Bring support
- Bring our leaders to Jesus in prayer
- Bring kindness in word and action
- Bring counsel in the Spirit of His Holiness

God wants us to be His voice, His feet and His hands. We want to demonstrate our longing to have the “heart” of Jesus for everyone. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless us as we look for ways to be a blessing to others.

Barbara Livesay, Lake Union Conference Assoc Director for Early Childhood Education, Risk Management/HR, Shepherdess Advisor

## Healthy Choices

continued from page 3

Ronin St. James, 34, a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Nurse at Riley Hospital said, “It’s hard to find good research, or any research at all, on health. Health and nutritional education are missing from the medical field. As a nurse, my primary role is to educate my patients and their parents. Being here makes a difference in the care I can give them.”

Over six hundred people have gone through the CHIP Express programs and probably another 800 have attended the one or two-day conferences.

It’s no surprise that one of Indiana’s strongest CHIP programs is in Anderson where Landess and many of the HHWC volunteers attend the Anderson Seventh-day Adventist Church. “The CHIP program has invariably helped us build relationships with the community,” Terry Nennich, pastor at the Anderson church, said. “Community outreach has been easier with churches of other denominations knowing us and knowing that we are a community-driven church. Many of them have even asked us to offer CHIP programs at their churches.”

The body is the temple of the Holy Ghost . . . .He requires all who bear His image to take care of their bodies “Ye are not your own,” says the inspired apostle, “ye are bought with a price;” wherefore “glorify God in your body. . . .” It is a duty to know how to preserve the body in the very best condition of health,” (TSDF 185.3).

Kortnye V. Hurst  
Communication Secretary

The Indiana Conference is pleased to announce that the 61st quinquennial session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana in July, 2020 at Lucas Oil Stadium.

## Imágenes de un pueblo que...



... adora con sus niños



... se envuelve en la misión



... marcha con su club



... promueve la salud y participa en el Let's Move Day



... acampa en familia



... apoya y canta con sus jóvenes



... ama a la familia pastoral



## Jose and Sarah Monzon Welcome Miracle Baby

*Babies are big miracles in small packages, but the new addition to the Monzon family would not be here without an extra dose of the Creator's life-giving breath.*

Almost two weeks post due-date, followed by 37 hours of natural labor, Elijah David Monzon was born on August 16, 2011, and measured 6 lbs., 9 oz., 19 in.

Pastor Jose looked at his baby boy with concern and said, "He's very pale."

"That's because he's not breathing," answered the doctor.

Nurses did CPR and started Elijah on oxygen. "He tried to take a breath," Sarah said, remembering the day's events, "but he had inhaled meconium, a sticky, tar-like substance, in the womb."

Sarah had given birth at 9:30 a.m. and was not released from the hospital to accompany the ambulance that rushed Elijah to a larger hospital in South Bend, Indiana. At 2:00 p.m. the doctor called and reported that feverous Elijah had air bubbles in his lungs and showed signs of seizures and meningitis.

"My husband has a pastor-friend in Virginia with four churches. Jose called him and asked him to pray for our son. Members from all of his churches started praying for us."

Friends and church members changed their Facebook status to calls for prayer. "We saw friends of friends—complete strangers from around the



world—commenting on these posts and saying they were praying for Elijah."

The following morning, Sarah was allowed to go to the hospital in South Bend.

"His fever is down and the tests for meningitis are negative. He can even breathe on his own," the doctor said. "We've monitored Elijah's brain waves for seizures. They show normal function. You have a completely different baby."

It was important to Jose and Sarah to have Elijah home for his first Sabbath, but the doctor said, "We don't know when he will be able to go home, so don't ask."

The Monzons kept praying.

"Elijah's recovery rate was more rapid than the doctor thought," Sarah said. "Elijah was released Sabbath morning, with just enough time to take him to church for his first Sabbath."

Elijah has gained 2 lbs. and 2 inches in his first three months. Elijah is a miracle baby.

Jose Monzon is a student at the Seminary at Andrews University. He serves as a stipend pastor for the Rochester Church.

## Indiana Remembers ELDER JOHN MORRISON



I can still hear him laughing down the hall. Whatever was happening at the time was put aside as I smiled at the sound.

John Morrison had a way with people. He spoke with them in an encouraging and loving manner that opened the door for him to talk about his friend, Jesus.

Elder Morrison served as Ministerial Director for the Indiana Conference from 1993 until his retirement in the fall of 2002. Since retiring he and Sharon have pastored four churches in Minnesota on a volunteer basis. John and Sharon, married for 52 years, devoted their lives to the Lord's work.

John developed a radio program, Message For Today, while working for the Iowa-Missouri Conference. He came to Indiana, bringing the radio program and free Bible-studies-by-mail with him. The Bible study program continues today with interests from around the state being processed by local volunteers.

John passed away on September 6, 2011 at age 74 after a short illness. His wife, children, grandchildren, extended family and many, many friends will miss this great warrior!

Julie Loucks, Admin Asst  
Indiana Conference

If you would like to contact the family:

Sharon Morrison  
1205 Brook Street  
Brainard, MN 56401

Elder Wayne Morrison  
833 Texas Court NW  
Hutchinson, MN 55350



We also welcome

**GEORGE NATHAN MANOUKIAN**

Born August 23, 2011

7 lbs. 2 oz. & 21 in.

Proud Parents are

Pastor Steve and Jill Manoukian  
Brownsburg / Chapel West Churches

## Stewarding Our Love

For over nine years we have had a single mom's retreat at Timber Ridge Camp. This is an important retreat for our single moms. They are in need of time for themselves to have fun, rest, and just to recharge, both spiritually and physically. For me one special story comes to mind.

The first year that we had this retreat, there was a mom who brought a severely handicapped baby boy with her. The child did not seem to be aware of anything that went on around him. He had to be fed with a feeding tube. She told us that the doctors had no hope that he would develop beyond his vegetative state.

With a fierce determination she informed us, "I don't care what the doctors said. He's my boy and I love him! I won't give up on him."

Over the years, the mom and her son have returned to our single mom's camp. Slowly, we've all noticed small changes

in this boy. It started with him focusing his eyes on you when you spoke to him. Later, he began to actually eat solid food, and eventually, to sit up and feed himself. One year, to our astonishment, the once incapacitated human being was able to stand.

Last summer we witnessed the most remarkable change—he was walking!

"He's even in school," his mom informed us.

During the week, he showed obvious enjoyment for camp counsel and campfire. But Friday night, we witnessed what a mother's love can really achieve.

Campfire was almost over as I closed my sermon with a call.

"Any camper who wants to give their heart to Jesus—now is the time. He loves you. Come forward if you would like Him to come into your heart."

There was a moment of silence as the

campers, in their hearts, listened to hear Jesus speaking to them. In the midst of the quiet, this young boy stood from the front row. He carefully walked forward to give his heart to Jesus! As the first to come forward, he wasn't swayed by choices made by other campers. He knew what he wanted and where he was going . . . to Jesus.

The boy stood by me and there was not a dry eye among the camper moms, or our staff. His mother was wracked with joy that her son had made a decision on his own to give his heart to Jesus.

That night we saw the miracle of a mother's love at Timber Ridge Camp. That night we saw the miracle of our Savior's love. Praise God for His love and healing power.

Charlie Thompson  
Youth & Sabbath School Director  
Indiana conference



	Sept 2011	Sept 2010
YTD Gross Tithes Income:	\$5,854,131	\$5,879,879
YTD Indiana Advance Income:	\$119,353	\$108,084

**GROSS TITHE INCOME:** We have a tithe decrease for 2011 of (.44%). This is comparing 39 Sabbaths between the two years and is adjusted for churches outstanding. The reason for the decrease is the result of a significant one-time tithe donation that was given during 2010.

**INDIANA ADVANCE INCOME:**

Each dollar received as Indiana Advance stays in Indiana and is distributed as follows:

- >Elementary Education: 35%
- >Indiana Academy: 20%
- >Evangelism: 20%
- >Youth Camp: 5%
- >Church/School Capital Subsidies: 6.67%
- >Church Ministries: 13.33%

### A CALL TO PRAYER *an invitation from Elder Hurst . . .*

America is rapidly changing. On all fronts we see those who are plunging us into anarchy both within the church and without. We must be in prayer for our church, for our nation and for our families and ourselves that our hearts will be open to follow the Holy Spirit's leading and work to save the world. Please join me the first week of the new year, January 1-7, in a week of semi-fasting and prayer. Satan is raising walls to prevent the church from accomplishing her mission. It is not safe to start the new year without focused prayer. "No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer." GC 530

### Town Hall Meetings

The Indiana Conference Quadrennial Session will be held on Sunday, September 30, 2012. In preparation, conference administration will hold a series of Town Hall Meetings. Plan to attend a meeting at a church near you.

- April 16     Evansville
- April 17     New Albany
- April 19     Glendale
- April 30     Lafayette
- May 2        South Bend
- May 3        Fort Wayne
- May 7        Cicero
- May 14        Bloomington

## Two Young Ladies Join the Indiana Conference Office Team

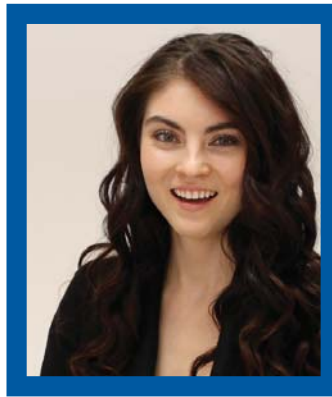
**Teresa Schaezka** came to the Indiana Conference from Green Bay, Wisconsin, where she was raised in a Seventh-day Adventist home. Teresa has attended Adventist schools since the first grade. She graduated high school from Wisconsin Academy and recently received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources Management from Southern Adventist University.



Teresa loves children. Her fond memories of Adventist schools have made her an advocate for Adventist Christian education. This passion has led her to Indiana, where she works as the Administrative Assistant for the Education and Membership departments. This position was previously held by Stacy Stocks who is now a work-at-home mom who teaches for Forest Lake Distance Learning Academy and Griggs University.

Teresa has worked in several offices at Southwestern Adventist University and has spent many summers at Camp Wakonda in Wisconsin as a camper and staff member. In Teresa's free time, she enjoys cooking and baking and occasionally likes to golf.

**Kortnye Hurst's** unique insight in public relations and strategic marketing have brought her numerous commissions, including work with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, a marketing internship with Adventist Health West, and as a reporter for the 2010 quinquennial legislative session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Atlanta, Georgia.



Kortnye finds zest in healthful living. Having placed as the runner-up in a 2009 sprint-distance triathlon, Kortnye says, "My body is the greatest instrument I will ever own."

Last year, Kortnye worked as the Marketing and PR Assistant for LearningRx in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she helped boost that location's enrollment into the 20th percentile among other LearningRx locations nationally. She supplemented her activities by teaching violin, voice, and introductory piano lessons.

Kortnye now serves as the associate VP of Recruitment for the Society of Adventist Communicators and, most recently, as the Communication Secretary for the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. She steps into this position for Judy Yeoman who retired and is moving to California with her husband, Paul, to be near their children and their families.

### *Next All Night Prayer Meeting—*

Elder Hurst extends a special invitation to those who would like to join him in prayer, as the early Christians prayed in the book of Acts. Participants are invited to set aside time for focused prayer at the Indiana Conference Office Saturday night, December 10 at 10:00 p.m. The phone lines (317-844-6201) will open for one hour, beginning at 12:00 midnight.

"This way members can have a live, Adventist person who loves them lift their burden to the One who loves us all," Hurst said. Please pre-register by calling Sheri DeWitt at 317-844-6201 or by e-mail, [sdewitt@indysda.org](mailto:sdewitt@indysda.org).

### *Indiana Is Looking for a Retired Worker*

The Indiana Conference is looking for a retired pastor, Bible worker, literature evangelist or teacher who would be interested in nurturing a small congregation on a part-time basis. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact Sheri DeWitt at the conference office: phone: 317-844-6201 or email: [sdewitt@indysda.org](mailto:sdewitt@indysda.org)

### *Camp Meeting June 10-16, 2012*

Our weekend speaker will be Elder Dan Jackson, North American Division president; our evening speaker Sunday through Thursday will be Elder Don Schneider.

Look for more camp meeting info in the next *Conference Connection*.

Indiana Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists  
P.O. Box 1950  
Carmel, IN 46082-1950

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

2011 4th Quarter

# Conference Calendar and Events

## DECEMBER

- 02-04 Teen Caving Weekend – TRC
- 10 All Night Prayer Meeting – Conference Office
- 10 Christmas Music Program – IA

## JANUARY

- 08-11 Pastors Meetings – TRC
- 15-18 Adventist Ministries Convention

## FEBRUARY

- 04 Pathfinder Bible Achievement – Area Level
- 10-12 Winter Ski Fest & Polar Bear Campout – TRC
- 17-18 Indiana Youth Rally – IA & IJA
- 26 Pathfinder Bible Achievement – State Level – IA

## MARCH

- 25 Academy Days – IA
- 29-31 Music Festival – IA
- 31 Sabbath Celebration
- 31 Pathfinder Bible Achievement – Union Level

## APRIL

- 20-21 Lay Member Retreat – TRC

## MAY

- 25-26 Graduation Weekend – IA

## JUNE

- 10-16 Camp Meeting

To include your church events in the Conference Connection call Kortnye Hurst at 317-844-6201 or e-mail information to: [kortnyep@live.com](mailto:kortnyep@live.com)

**Dec. 10: All Night Prayer Meeting—** Will meet at the Conference Office at 10:00 p.m. The phone lines (317-844-6201) will open for one hour, beginning at 12:00 midnight. If you plan to attend please pre-register by calling Sheri DeWitt at 317-844-6201 or by e-mail, [sdewitt@indysda.org](mailto:sdewitt@indysda.org).

**Jan. 15-18: Adventist Ministries Convention—**“Tools of the Master” is the NAD Adventist Ministries Convention theme. To learn more, or to register for this event, visit: [www.AdventistMinistriesConvention.com](http://www.AdventistMinistriesConvention.com).

**Feb. 10-12: Winter Ski Fest & Polar Bear Campout—**has something for everyone! “If camping on Pathfinder Hill in February sends shivers up your spine, then we have warm cabins for you to stay in,” says Trish Thompson, Conference Youth Secretary. “In addition to a spectacular spiritual program throughout the weekend, you can ski and snowboard all day Friday and Sunday,” Thompson said. Contact Trish Thompson for more information at [youth@indysda.org](mailto:youth@indysda.org) or (317) 844-6201.

**Feb. 17-18: Indiana Youth Rally—**This annual event features guest speaker Willy Ramos, known as the “ghetto preacher,” Sabbath afternoon breakout sessions, singing, a Saturday night gymnastic program, and time to meet old and new friends. Friday night program-

ing will be held at Indiana Academy. Sabbath programing will be held at Indianapolis Junior Academy. Contact Trish Thompson for more information at [youth@indysda.org](mailto:youth@indysda.org) or (317) 844-6201.

**Feb. 25: Pathfinder Bible Achievement-State Level—**Held at the Indiana Academy Chapel, Bible Achievement is an opportunity for Pathfinders from around the state to dig deep into the Bible. Contact Trish Thompson for more information at [youth@indysda.org](mailto:youth@indysda.org) or (317) 844-6201.

**March 25: Academy Days—** Please contact Allan Smith, the recruiter for Indiana Academy, for more details: cell phone (317) 517-0543; email: [alsmith317@gmail.com](mailto:alsmith317@gmail.com).

**March 29-31: Indiana Academy Music Festival—**For information, contact Philip Byrd, IA Music teacher, at (317) 984-3575 ext. 236 or [byrd@srcq.org](mailto:byrd@srcq.org).

**March 31: Sabbath Celebration—** Dr. Dick Tibbits, author of *Forgive to Live*, will be our speaker. Recent research has indicated a direct link between forgiveness and good health. This includes physical health, mental health and spiritual health. Dr. Tibbits has worked in the field of pastoral care and behavioral health for more than thirty years. He has dedicated his life to whole person health and is the author of four books on the healing power of forgiveness. He will share with us the value of forgiveness and teach us how to forgive.