

EDITORIAL
"With All Boldness"

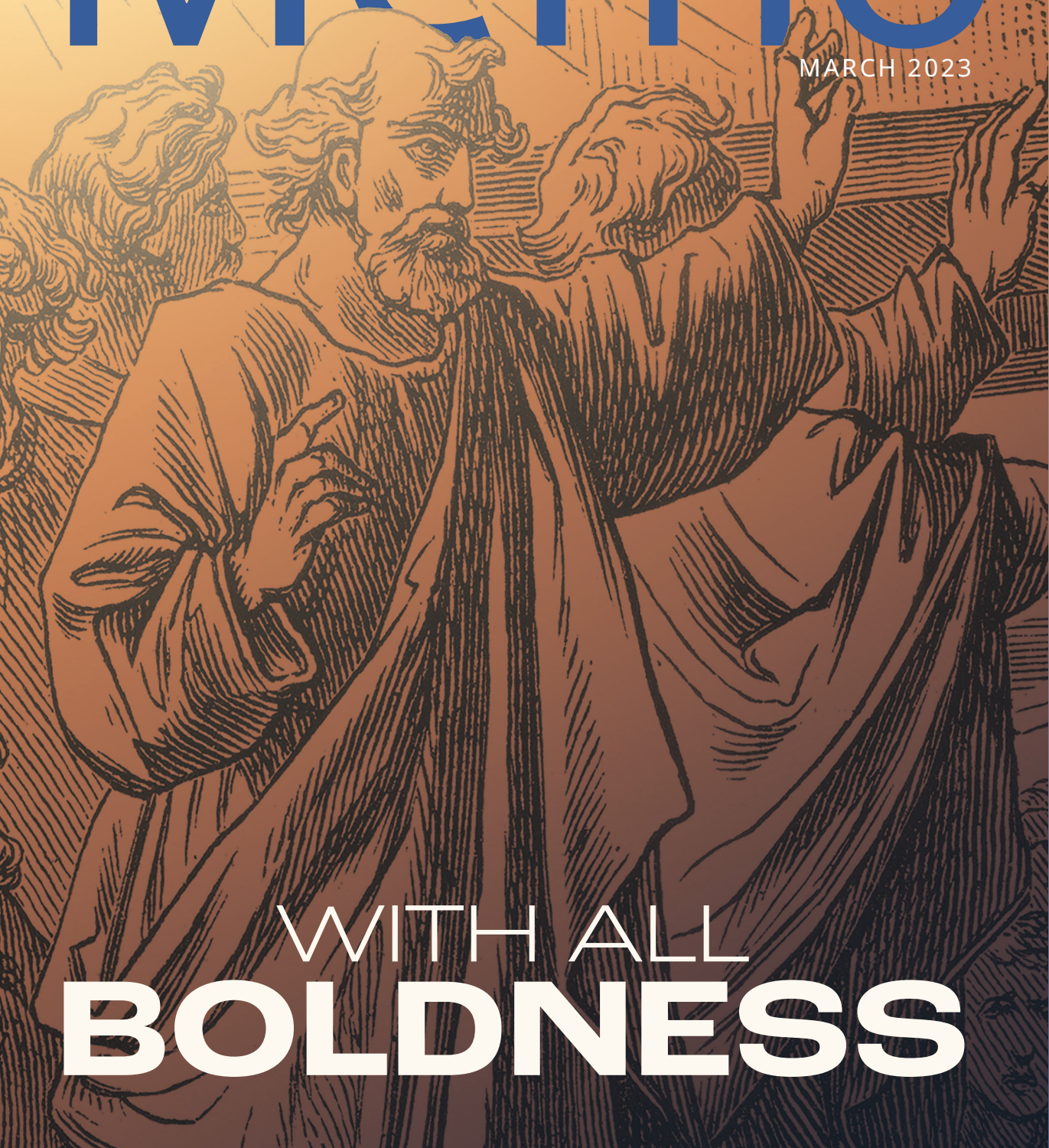
FEATURE
"Treasures"

NEWS
"Camp Meeting"

INFORMING MEMBERS SINCE 1988

Memo

MARCH 2023



WITH ALL
BOLDNESS

SPECIAL CAMP MEETING EDITION

INSIDE: TREASURES ON EARTH, OR TREASURES IN HEAVEN



With All Boldness

"Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word." Acts 4:29, NKJV

All three of our children have had the amazing, yet challenging privilege of canvassing with the Michigan Conference Youth Rush magabook initiative. One of those summers several years ago, our second son, Enoch, was canvassing a neighborhood in an area the conference had already cleared with the township to enter.

As he was going from one house to another a police car raced up beside him. The officer jumped out and aggressively questioned Enoch, "What do you think you are doing in this neighborhood?" Enoch tried to explain the situation: that he had dedicated the summer to sharing Christian message and health books with the community.

Obviously angered by his answer, the officer began to berate him and asked what kind of parents would allow their child to waste a summer with such nonsense. Then pushing him up against the police car, the officer threatened that he had the power to arrest him if he continued. Thankfully the conference magabook leaders know how to handle these

types of situations. And although Enoch was shaken up by the encounter, he had a renewed determination to keep pressing forward in his work for God.

It is in these times that our hearts are lifted in prayer for the Holy Spirit to cast away the fear of man and give a holy zeal that we may keep sharing the message of truth with all boldness.

This was the disciples' prayer in Acts 4. They had already been arrested and severely threatened. In the face of trial they boldly proclaimed, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."¹ And, being released with further threats, they gathered among the believers. They earnestly prayed that, in spite of the threats, they would continue to speak the word of God with all boldness.

When It Gets Tough

It can be relatively easy to speak when we are preaching to the choir. We can quickly speak with passion and boldness when we know that we can get a hearty amen and a warm pat on the shoulder. But when the crowd is



Elder Justin Ringstaff

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Editor: Andy Im.....aim@misda.org
Copy Editor: Beth Thomas.....thomaseditorial@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant: Judy Ringstaff.....jkringstaff@misda.org
Layout/Design: Samuel Girven.....samuelgirven@gmail.com
Printing: Seminars Unlimited.....

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MICHIGAN
Memo

"The boldness to speak the truth and for God's glory must come from above. We must seek and pray for a holy boldness. We can manufacture a self-confidence and develop a misdirected zeal."

against us—when there will be consequences—it can be much harder to speak up.

The world can be bold in espousing its maxims and philosophies because as Jesus said...."the world loves its own."² The enemy of souls wants to pressure the followers of Jesus to be timid and keep silent. Satan doesn't want us to speak of what we have seen and heard, whether the pressure is subtle or threatens life itself. Nevertheless, the Lord can give us a peculiar courage to stand up and speak with all boldness for what the Bible reveals as holy and true.

The Lord gave Daniel boldness as he purposed in his heart to not bow to prevailing social pressure to defile himself. It was not an easy stand to take. I am sure in the moment of temptation he was praying fervently for boldness to speak up and not keep silent.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego must have praying for all boldness as the music played across the plain of Dura. God helped them to stand tall and to speak plainly to a king who threatened their lives.

May our prayer be for the Lord to give us such courage and all boldness to stand for Him in whatever situation we may be confronted.

A Word of Caution

We know that, according to Bible prophecy, the religious freedoms we currently enjoy will be eventually stripped away. There will be the threat of loss of possessions, loss of reputation and the threat of death. Pressures will come from within and without—from family, friends, and colleagues.

Many will be brought before the authorities to give an answer. But

at such an hour Jesus says not to... "worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."³

What an amazing promise! Not only will our Lord give us the boldness to speak but He will also put the very words in our mouths.

Now a word of caution. The boldness to speak the truth and for God's glory must come from above. We must seek and pray for a holy boldness. We can manufacture a self-confidence and develop a misdirected zeal. Like the Sons of Thunder, if not careful, we could be motivated by the wrong spirit, falsely believing it is for God's glory.⁴

We can even bring unnecessary times of trouble upon ourselves, mistakenly thinking we are being persecuted for righteousness's sake. With our own boldness we can hinder and hurt the work of God and unnecessarily close up our way. Like Peter's rash claim, a boldness of our own making can be a projection of personal pride. How quick Peter was to declare that even if all would fall away, he would never fall away.⁵ Again, our boldness must come from above with earnest prayer that only God may be glorified.

The disciples were praying for all boldness because they had been commanded to not speak in the name of Jesus. Even though they had demonstrated such boldness thus far they shrank back from trusting in their own strength. They knew that only the Lord could continue to sustain and strengthen them with the boldness of the Holy Spirit. The disciples had learned from their recent experience, that while the Spirit is willing, the flesh is weak. They would

Prayer Focus

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

MARCH 7

Pastor Marriano Arrua

Detroit Spanish Cavalry
Detroit Spanish Ebenezer
Pontiac Spanish Co
(No pastor currently)
Ann Arbor Spanish
Detroit Shalom Spanish

MARCH 14

Pastor Jorge Mata

Benton Harbor Spanish
Eau Claire Spanish

Pastor Ben Garcia

Elk Rapids Spanish

Pastor Bruno Menezes

St. Joseph On The Way

MARCH 21

Pastor Jonathan Flores-Ardiles

Battle Creek Spanish

Kalamazoo Spanish

Battle Creek Spanish Food Pantry

Pastors Nilton Garcia, Edgar Luna

Berrien Springs Spanish

Pastor Jermaine Gayle

Lansing Spanish

MARCH 28

Pastor Carlos Sotomayor

Grand Rapids Maranatha Spanish

(No pastor currently)

Holland Spanish

Pearl Spanish

Sparta Spanish

(continued on page 7)

Treasures on Earth, or Treasures in Heaven

One day while Jesus was teaching the people someone in the crowd called out; "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus took the opportunity to teach an important lesson. "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Then Jesus related a parable to illustrate His point. There was a certain rich man who, because of his prosperity, determined to sit back and enjoy life. He built bigger barns to accommodate all his assets, intending to live off the income they would produce. Notice the word Jesus used to describe this man, and the consequences of his actions. "Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?"

We often think of this story as indicating our responsibility for our possessions even after we die, and rightly so. In order to determine who will take possession of our assets after death we must give direction for this while we are living. We can do that through a Will, Trust, or beneficiary designations. There is no doubt we all need to do this. Some people believe if they don't have a Will the State will get everything, but that is not the case. In fact, they won't get anything. There are laws of intestate (dying without a Will) that govern where assets go. They may go to a spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, nieces and nephews, or cousins, depending on the dynamics of the deceased person's family. However, one place they will never go intestate is to a church or charity. Therefore, if we would remember God's work with the assets of our estate, we need to make that determination before we die.

Ellen White wrote about our responsibility to be faithful to God with the resources He has blessed us with. "Many are not exercised upon the subject of making their wills while they are in apparent health. But this precaution should be taken by our brethren. They should know their financial standing and should

not allow their business to become entangled. They should arrange their property in such a manner that they may leave it at any time."ⁱ

She also stated that "Wills should be made in a manner to stand the test of law." This is why it is better to have competent attorneys draft the document. She also noted that "death will not come one day sooner, because you have made your will." She recognized that the needs of one's family should be considered, but to "be sure that you do not forget God's cause," because "it is the Lord's property which you are handling."ⁱⁱ

As important as it is to make this determination before we die, we should also consider what we are doing with our assets while we are living. Clearly, we should do our best to provide for our own living so, if possible, we do not need to rely on family or other individuals to provide for our care. Social Security, pensions, and other investment income may provide the needed capital to accomplish this goal. However, a word of caution is appropriate here. How much do we need to accumulate in order to provide for our needs? Notice once again the counsel God gives through the pen of inspiration:

"Many people selfishly retain their means, and soothe their conscience with a plan for doing some great thing for the cause of God after their death. They make a will donating a large sum to the church and its various interests, and then settle down with a feeling that they have done all that is required of them. Wherein have they denied self by this act? They have, on the contrary, exhibited the true essence of selfishness. When they have no longer any use for their money they propose to give it to God. But they will retain it as long as they can, till they are

"In order to determine who will take possession of our assets after death we must give direction for this while we are living. We can do that through a Will, Trust, or beneficiary designations."

compelled to relinquish it by a messenger that cannot be turned aside."

"Such a will is often an evidence of real covetousness If we leave others to accomplish that which God has left for us to do, we wrong ourselves and Him who gave us all we have. How can others do our work of benevolence any better than we can do it ourselves? God would have every man, during his lifetime, the executor of his own will in this matter."ⁱⁱⁱ

It is easy for us to conclude that we have earned what we own and it is ours to use as we please. However, the Bible counsels us to "remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."^{iv} I challenge you to give careful consideration to your plans for using the resources God has blessed you with. By all means, be sure you have documents in place for the distribution of your estate after you die. In addition to that, sit down and prayerfully calculate how much is required to sustain your family's needs. Then, by faith, give the rest to the work of spreading the good news of Jesus and His soon return. 🙏

Gene Hall, Associate Director, Planned Giving & Trust Services

ⁱTestimonies Volume 4, pg. 482

ⁱⁱTestimony Treasures Volume 1, pg. 560

ⁱⁱⁱTestimonies Volume 4, pg. 81

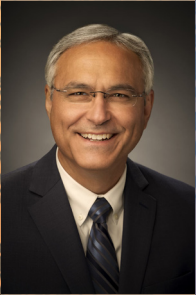
^{iv}Deuteronomy 8:18

The Michigan Conference Planned Giving and Trust Services Department can assist you with a Will, Trust, Charitable Gift Annuity or other gift instrument. All documents are created by licensed attorneys. Call 517-316-1520 for an appointment.



WITH ALL BOLDNESS

Speakers



Jim Micheff Jr. accepted a call to pastor for the Michigan Conference in 1996. He now serves as the President of the Michigan Conference.



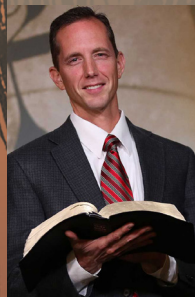
Stephen P. Bohr has spent his life in mission service. Born of missionary parents, he has dedicated decades in ministry and theological research. He is the President of Secrets Unsealed headquartered in Fresno, CA. His love for the Lord is the driving force behind his commitment to spreading the cutting-edge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



Randy Skeete is a graduate of Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) where he received a degree in theology. He also attended the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, where he received his M.Div. He travels broadly as an international evangelist, preaching and teaching the Adventist message. He is originally from the island country of Barbados and currently lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His two primary interests comprise the study of Scripture and the writings of Ellen White.



Shawn Boonstra is speaker/director for the Voice of Prophecy ministry. His broadcasts, live seminars, and books have been a source of inspiration around the globe, and over the years, his live events have been presented on every continent except Antarctica.



Tim Rumsey taught music for twelve years before answering the call to full-time ministry. He has conducted evangelistic campaigns and revival seminars across the United States, New Zealand and Australia. He is the author of several books and is host of the radio program, "Pictures of the End." He lives with his wife Stacey and their four children in the state of Missouri.



Dwain Neilson Esmond, Ph.D. (Student), is a writer, editor, and ordained minister. He is a graduate of Oakwood University and Pittsburg State University and accepted the call to ministry nearly 30 years ago. From 2010 to 2014, Dwain served as Vice-President of Editorial Services for the Review and Herald Publishing Association before joining the Ellen G. White Estate as Associate Director/Editor in 2015.



MICHIGAN
Camp Meeting

June 9-17, 2023 | Cedar Lake
Registration opens March 1

(continued from page 2)

now obey the admonition of their Savior to watch and pray lest they fall into temptation. Temptation can come ever so swiftly to steal our confidence in the promise and providence of the Lord. Remember Peter. Remember Elijah just coming down from Mount Carmel. How quickly boldness and courage can fade away if we trust in our own strength.

But the disciples of Jesus had been doing the very work that the Lord Jesus asked them to do... they were following His command. It wasn't their own boldness. "And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness."⁶

My dear brothers and sisters, I believe that we are again in a time when we need to watch and pray earnestly that the Lord would grant us all boldness that we may speak His word. We need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives that we may have courage to speak about Jesus' wonderful truth for these last days. We need His boldness in the paths of our daily lives that we may honor and glorify Him in all our ways.

When the pressure mounts, and the temptation comes to keep silent, may His Word be in us like it was in the prophet Jeremiah. While pressed on every side, Jeremiah was tempted to no longer make mention or speak in name the name of the Lord. Under such pressure the prophet declared, "But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up

in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not."⁷

May the Word of the Lord our God be as a burning fire in our bones that we cannot help but speak what we have seen and heard! And may we have this joy that burns in our hearts, that as we confess our Lord Jesus before the world, He is also confessing us before our loving Father in Heaven.⁸

Elder Justin Ringstaff is the Executive Secretary of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

- ¹ Acts 4:20
- ² John 15:19
- ³ Matthew 10:19-20
- ⁴ See Luke 9:51-55
- ⁵ See Mark 14:29
- ⁶ Acts 4:31
- ⁷ Jeremiah 20:9
- ⁸ See Matthew 10:32

Schedule

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Time	Friday	Sabbath	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath
7:00 - 7:45	Tim Rumsey (<i>Sab through Sab</i>)								
7:45 - 8:30	Breakfast								
8:30 - 9:00	Welcome to Michigan	Sabbath School 9:00 - 10:30 Worship* 10:45 - 12:15 Stephen Bohr	Michigan Conference Staff Meetings (<i>Sun through Fri</i>)						Sabbath School 9:00 - 10:30 Worship* 10:45 - 12:15 Shawn Boonstra
9:30 - 10:30			Seminars & Workshops (<i>Mon through Fri</i>)						
10:45 - 12:00	Camp Meeting	4:00 Blood Drive	Dwain Esmond (<i>Mon through Fri</i>)						Seminars & Workshops (<i>Sun through Fri</i>)
12:15 - 1:15			Lunch						
1:30 - 2:00	Family Time						Seminars & Workshops (<i>Sun through Fri</i>)		
2:15 - 3:15	Seminars & Workshops (<i>Sun through Fri</i>)						Teacher Commissioning 3:00		
3:30 - 4:30	Seminars & Workshops (<i>Sun through Fri</i>)						Soul Winning Hour 4:30		
5:15 - 6:00	Supper								
7:00 - 8:45	Musical Program and Evening Meetings (<i>Final Sabbath evening meetings will close at sunset</i>)								
	Jim Micheff	Stephen Bohr	Stephen Bohr	Stephen Bohr	Stephen Bohr	Randy Skeete	Randy Skeete	Randy Skeete	Shawn Boonstra

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

(Subject to change)



Seventh-day Adventist® Church

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

P.O. Box 24187

Lansing, MI 48909

517-316-1500 | Fax: 517-316-1501

communication@misda.org

www.misda.org

www.facebook.com/miconf

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NEWS BRIEFS



Camp Meeting Workers Needed!

Are you interested in gaining a blessing, being a blessing, AND earning some cash all at the same time? We might have just the job for you! The MI Conference HR Department is looking for children's ministry workers and janitors during camp meeting, June 9-17, 2023.

To be eligible to apply, an applicant must:

- Be 14 years of age or older
- Have confirmed lodging

To apply, please email the HR Dept. at lim@misda.org.

For detailed requirements and job descriptions, please visit the following URL: <https://www.misda.org/CM-WorkForms>.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Safety Officer Volunteer Application



The Michigan Conference 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 jdnephew@misda.org or 517-316-1524.

**There's more! Visit
www.misda.org for
other news and inspira-
tional stories from this
month's *Memo*.**

MONTHLY CALENDAR

March

1-15 Camp Meeting registration

3-5 Health Ministries Training (CAS)

4 PBE Conference Level

6-9 New in Ministry

10-12 MI Tribe Training (CAS)

16-26 GLAA Spring Break

18 PBE Union Level

19 Faith Identity Trip (Israel)

24-26 Youth Rush Summit (CAS)

29-April 2 Sab School/Personal Ministries Speaker-Coordinator Training (CAS)

31-April 2 Statewide Youth Conference (Troy SDA Church)

April

1 Pathfinder Impact Day

7-9 Hispanic Marriage Retreat (CAS)

14-16 Women's Ministry (CAS)

21-23 Women's Ministry (CAS)

21-22 PBE Division Level

24-30 GLAA Home Leave

28-30 Church Leaders Workshop (CAS)

*CAS = Camp Au Sable