



Official Newsletter for the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists:

# Michigan Memo

April 2013, Volume 25, Number 4

## Rogers Heights: A Surprising Event

—Pastors Daniel Scarone, Eric del Valle, and Michael Campos

**O**n March 2, 2013, Pastor Arnaldo Cruz, from the Southeastern Conference, held week of prayer meetings at the newly formed Wyoming Rogers Heights Spanish Church. Normally, a week of prayer would have been a week where general biblical topics would be discussed. Topics would usually consider the wonderful things that the Lord performed in Old and New Testament times. But this special week was different. The messages went further, expanding and widening in its range. It covered not only the wrong actions, but the details of bad decisions in biblical history.

Every evening, each message delved the congregation into diverse biblical topics and applied them to today. For example the preacher spoke about the effect of television soap operas and programs on Hispanic Americans. He lamented that they were paying a high price by disobeying the voice of God in His Word. The sermons were straightforward and relevant.

Although the older attendees were listening to a younger preacher, they accepted such humorous innuendos as, “Well, you are here and not listening to the Don Francisco TV show.” The tone hit like a direct message from God to His people of these last days on entertainment and media. What is amazing is that the attendance started to grow! The day of lowest attendance at the Rogers Heights Spanish Church had about 200. But the concluding Sabbath attendance went so high as nearly 400.

Just as that Sabbath started the new month of March, 38 people also made commitments to start a new life with the Lord.

Pastors Eric del Valle and Michael Campos are following up with the new members to reinforce the distinctive messages of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and training them to become disciples of new disciples that will result by their ministry.



*Pastors Michael Campos and Eric del Valle baptized José Omar Díaz, a 7th grader, and Joel Estrada, a 6th grader, at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy. These were just two of the 38 people baptized on Sabbath, March 9, 2013.*



## Editorial

# Glocal Wings Vs. Glocal Warts

—Justin Kim  
Director of Communications

There used to be a time when everything was local. Food, appliances, news, and events were locally familiar. You actually knew what you were eating, who grew it, and their grandmother's favorite pair of glasses. Friends were real, actual people who lived next door. Through the decades America, along with the rest of the world, shifted into a globalized society. Now our food is coming from South America, appliances from Asia manufactured by the third world, news from places unpronounceable in English, and events are multinational and unfamiliar. Friends became digital and geographically distant, while next-door neighbors became strangers and socially distanced. The Walmarts killed the mom and pop shops; blogs threatened newspapers; video and music shops went bankrupt because of the internet; and friends were now moving photos on screens.

Many have reacted against this globalization with resurrected local movements, but they are struggling. Small, local entities are cost inefficient, ineffective, sometimes myopic, and unable to compete. However, globalized entities aren't doing any better. People are discouraged with impersonal corporations, cheaper materials, unhealthier options, and overwhelmed with the bulky unwieldiness of it all.

One could get stuck between the war of locals vs. globals or extract the best from both, partaking in a movement called *glocalization*: to think globally; to act locally. The internet and the world have already moved in this direction: global encyclopedias are being corrected on the local level; global orchestras are recorded from individual video submissions compiled together; and, regimes are being overthrown in the Middle East by locals, for a few examples. Global success can be achieved when local entities contribute the global principles to their local principalities.

What is remarkable is the Seventh-day Adventist Church has already been working on a *glocalized* model. Some could accuse it of being too distant, large, authoritarian, and full of bureaucracy (ecclesiological hierarchialism). Or others could charge it with not enough doctrinal censure, being too noninterventionist, inefficient, and full of confusion (ecclesiological congregationalism). But in reality, the Adventist church, functioning as described in the Church Manual, is a *glocalized* biblical movement. From our church governance structure to Sabbath School and from Pathfinders to our

evangelistic strategies, the Adventist church is fulfilling God's plans to be local in spirit and global in character.

The world is currently in a state where *glocalized* movements can potentially explode! For example, in just over a couple of months, one particular frivolous video was viewed more than a billion times (an unexaggerated estimate), the first in internet history! But what made this video exceptionally popular are the grassroots parodies that followed. Currently, other flippant videos are following this model, becoming global thanks to the local spoof interpretations that are taking place. If the world is harnessing the power of social media and *glocalization* for profit, self-aggrandizement, sensuality, and eye-candy (1 John 2:15-17), how much more should God's people be working for the furthering of the Gospel, preaching and teaching of Jesus, and the glory of God?

We are living in the *glocal* battle of the Great Controversy. The greatest *glocal* agent, Jesus Christ, never traveled more than a hundred miles, never held political office over the masses, never attended a cosmopolitan university, never published an international book, never visited a metropolitan city (Jerusalem was hardly one of the cities we would consider today), and died homeless and poor. But Jesus is also the most internationally-known figure on earth, with the most number of songs, artwork, and books produced about Him! Big things can happen from small, faithful, sacrificial efforts.





What would happen if instead of parodies of foolishness were more reproductions of Christ in the mind and heart? What would happen if local, grassroots individuals took on the mantle and call of Christ personally in their life? A “billion times” type of result is bound to happen! The question remains which local manifestation of a *global* movement are you going to partake in?

Revelation depicts two *glocal* campaigns. One consists of three frogs coming out of the mouths of the dragon, beast, and false prophet, going to deceive and gather all the kings of the earth and the whole world (Rev 16:13-16). Another movement consists of messages coming out of the mouths of the three angels, gathering and calling out all the nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples (Rev 14:6; 18:4). The former is one set of devils seeking to counterfeit globally (cf. the frogs that were the last counterfeit during Moses’ day); the latter is another set of angels seeking to warn globally (cf. the three angels that visited and warned during Abraham’s day).

If simple YouTube videos can be viewed a billion times, minimal Tweets can change societies, Facebook updates can demolish Arab regimes, then they also can be used to further the kingdom of God on this earth through the Gospel message. Combined with an arsenal of paper, leaflets of books, touchscreen applications, discs, streaming videos, blogs, and all forms of digital, analogue, and social media, each individual must be employed for the global war of the Wings against the Warts.

Each Monday morning the Michigan Conference staff meet together for worship and prayer. Each week a different church, schools, literature evangelist, and community service center are remembered in prayer. Here is the list for the month of April. Please join with us as we pray for these ministries.

- April 1-5 Bunker Hill/Jackson - Pastor Kevin Scott  
Literature Evangelist - Ron Newcomber  
Community Service Center - Leola Goodin
- April 8-12 Midland/Mt. Pleasant - Pastor Cory Herthel  
Literature Evangelist - Drew & Emily Weaver  
Mt. Pleasant Elementary School -  
Tamara Draves, Teacher  
Tri-City Elementary School -  
Connie Hickman, Teacher  
Community Service Center - Reid Tait
- April 15-19 Michiana Fil Am/St. Joseph -  
Pastor Roy Castelbuono
- April 22-26 Kalamazoo/Kalamazoo County/Kalamazoo  
Filipino - Daniel Ferraz, Michael Taylor  
Bible Worker - Michael Steffic-Taylor  
Kalamazoo Junior Academy -  
William Crawford, Principal, Rebecca Wade,  
Anndrea Taylor, Linda Ritzenthaler  
Community Service Center - Jane Salisbury

## Fire at Camp Sagola



A fire occurred at Pomeroy Lodge at Camp Sagola, one of the two Michigan campgrounds, on February 17. Mitchell Graham, the camp caretaker, called 911 with the Crystal Falls fire departments responding, along with the Sagola and Alpha fire departments. Though normally occupied, thankfully no injuries occurred. The damages incurred were a total loss, however the full value will be recovered. All events and camp programs will continue as planned. More information will follow on plans and ways to assist. Keep this wonderful place for ministry in prayer.



# REACH '13 Rally

## Collaboration and Cooperation in District 12

—by Joy Hyde

*Detroit Metropolitan Communications Secretary*

**D**istrict 12 pastors inspired more than 500 of their church members at the REACH '13 RALLY at the Troy Seventh-day Adventist church on Sabbath afternoon, February 16. Clad in custom designed REACH '13 T-shirts, the pastors along with the Michigan Conference “brethren” enthusiastically presented the district-wide 2012 efforts and future plans for ensuring the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Attendees thrilled to hear the personal testimony of an individual whose life was saved as the result of responding to a handbill she received in the mail. Another person told his story of finding and accepting the truth of the Seventh-day Adventist message while stationed in South Korea in the Army through the internet without ever even meeting a Seventh-day Adventist. These stories only whet the appetite and attendees were eager to hear more on how more souls could be brought to Bible truth and to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.



Statistics for 2012 for District 12's eleven pastors serving 18 congregations showed 2,512 members with an average weekly Sabbath attendance of 1,455. There were 61 baptisms and professions of faith and there were 230 active Bible studies. What all attendees agreed was that 61 baptisms was not enough. The crowd enthusiastically accepted Michigan Conference President Jay Gallimore's challenge of 610 baptisms for 2013. The plan for the year showed how that could be accomplished. Following is the detail of that plan:

**Public Evangelism** – On September 30, 2013, thirteen churches in District 12 will simultaneously begin a total of 11 public prophecy seminars entitled “Unlocking Revelation”. Using the same seminar and handbill design, every meeting site will benefit from shared advertising around Metro Detroit. This advertising will include billboards, radio, internet and mass mailing of about 600,000 handbills.

**Internet** – Work is currently underway to improve and increase the use of internet and social media for advertising and evangelism in District 12.

1. [www.unlockrevelation.com](http://www.unlockrevelation.com): This is a dedicated website for the fall evangelism. It will list locations, speakers, dates and times, and other important information regarding the multiple fall meetings.
2. Ministry Hub Website: This “hub” website will serve as a ministry for the Adventist Church in southeaster

Michigan. The domain name will correspond to the name of the new Adventist radio program and will therefore be the site where listeners are directed from the radio broadcast. Visitors will learn about major community events being conducted by Adventist churches, explore Bible topics, sign up for Bible studies, watch video clips, listen to sermons, donate to the radio program or find the nearest Seventh-day Adventist church. Information will cover all churches in the area including Spanish, Lake Region and Michigan Conference District 12 churches.

District 12 has been approved through Google to be part of a non-profit program they are currently offering. Each church in District 12 has the ability to live stream their worship services online for free. With this non-profit status, District 12 will receive from Google roughly \$1.5 million in online advertising in 2013.

**Radio** – Beginning March 3, the churches in District 12 will be going on the air with a weekly 1-hour radio program, called “Receive the Word.” The station call letters are WMUZ Christian Radio at 103.5 FM; Sundays from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This is a 50,000 watt station with a reach beyond Ann Arbor to the west, Oxford to the north, well into Canada to the east, and Monroe to the south.

**Church Plant** – In 2013, plans are underway to begin a new congregation in the Walled Lake/West Bloomfield area. This new group is being sponsored by the Detroit Metropolitan Church but various surrounding churches and conference departments will have a part in developing an Adventist presence in this area.



*District 12 Superintendent Pastor Jim Howard leads out in the rally.*

**Bridge Youth Ministry** – In 2012, headed-up by Pastor Joe Reeves, associate pastor of the Metropolitan Church, the area-wide Bridge Youth Ministry was established encompassing





both Michigan and Lake Region Conferences. Beginning in November and every month since there has been a monthly Friday night vespers. These vespers occurred in one of the area's churches. Attendance ranged in the beginning with 80 and in February it grew to 120 area youth. The Bridge teams will be involved in:

- helping CAMPUS ministries promote Bible studies and seminars for students at the U of M Ann Arbor campus,
- linking up with Motor City Youth Federation of the Lake Region Conference to clean up city neighborhoods and invite families to "Countdown to Eternity" a Lake Region evangelistic series,
- hitting the streets around Walled Lake and West Bloomfield with invitations to the September 30 District 12-wide Unlocking Revelation evangelism.

For more information on future Bridge youth events, subscribe to e-mail updates at [www.reach13.com/bridge](http://www.reach13.com/bridge).

**GLOW** – (Giving Light to Our World). With the help of Kamil Metz, Michigan Conference Publishing Director, a customized GLOW tract was developed for REACH '13. This tract has the content of the previously existing GLOW tract entitled "The End of the World" but has been customized.

**REACH 13 in 2013** – The most important ingredient to the success of REACH '13 are the church members. The goal stressed by the District 12 pastors was that every member strive to REACH 13 individuals for Christ in 2013.

**Training to REACH 13** – The pastors and Michigan Conference officials will be providing tools to accomplish this task to REACH 13 in '13. On Sabbath, April 13, training will be conducted at the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church. There are two kinds of training that will be provided. They are:

- Personal Witnessing Training which will give attendees ways they can REACH 13 through their own personal ministry to friends, family, co-workers, church visitors and other spiritual interests.
- Church Ministry training provided by Michigan Conference directors. They will share ways to REACH 13 through church ministries and departments. Department leaders from Personal Ministries, Youth, Pathfinders, Sabbath School, Health & Temperance and more

will provide helpful tools for this endeavor.



**Prayer Focus** – Unless everyone prays for the Spirit of God, all of these efforts to reach souls for Christ will be in vain.

Join us as we pray for District 12 and the city of Detroit, the largest urban mission field in Michigan.

**In connection with the proclamation of the message in large cities, there are many kinds of work to be done by laborers with varied gifts. Some are to labor in one way, some in another. The Lord desires that the cities shall be worked by the united efforts of laborers of different capabilities. All are to look to Jesus for direction...**

— Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 109

# Farmington Pathfinder Club Induction Service

—by Barry Carter

*Farmington Communications Secretary*

The Farmington Church, located in Farmington Hills, Michigan, introduced its first Pathfinder Chapter on Sabbath, January 12, 2013. The plan to have a Pathfinder Club at Farmington was initiated by Charles and Pharez Goode in the summer of 2012. With tireless commitment, the Goodes; assisted by Elder Lee Parkinson, Elder Jun Aviles, Ginger Bentley, Otuoma Nwakanma, and Jamie Stahlheber, put together a plan to offer the youth of the Farmington Church a Pathfinder Club. Using the guidelines on the General Conference website, the plan was initiated following “How to Organize a Pathfinder Club” instructions. In addition, funds in the amount of \$900 were approved by the church board for



*There were six inductees into Pathfinders: Dickson Mogaka, Angela Shakespeare, Justin Ama, Julian Ama, Crystal Ama, and Abigail Goode. The officers are: Director – Charles Goode, Assistants: Lee Parkinson, Jun Aviles, Jamie Stahlheber, and Pharez Goode.*

Pathfinder uniforms and equipment.

Each Sabbath after church services, the organizers communed with the children to learn and practice the Pathfinder Aim, Motto, Pledge, and Law. With the assistance of Metropolitan Church Pathfinder Director, Joe Mucha, the flags, flag holders, and ceremony candle holders were borrowed for the Induction Service.

Plans for the Farmington Pathfinder Group include Bible Studies, Evangelism, First Aid, Cooking, Drill Instruction, and camping activities.

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## "Summer Camp:" An Answer to Prayer

—by Bethany Cobb

*Member of the Frost Church*

Have you ever thought because of your financial situation attending a summer camp would be out of the question? “With God all things are possible!” (Matt. 19:26). Ever since I was younger, little brochures and pamphlets would come in the mail advertising Camp Au Sable. I would think, “My, it looks like those kids are having lots of fun. I would love to go, but it’s too expensive.”

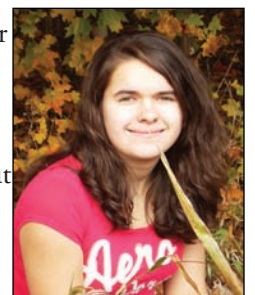
This year I decided to approach the situation in a whole new way: I would ask for jobs to earn funds in order to spend a week at camp. So I put a note in the church bulletin asking for jobs or small donations (for those who didn’t have any jobs, but wanted to help me). Next I wrote a more detailed letter explaining my reasons and purpose for wanting to attend camp this summer and asking for jobs, small donations, and/or prayers. I sent this letter to at least 15 people in the area I thought would be interested.

Then I waited to see what would happen. I didn’t have much faith, but I kept on praying. One day I received a call

from a church member asking me to help them haul wood. I was completely shocked!

Within the next couple of weeks, it was amazing to see how God worked on people’s hearts to support me with jobs, donations, and prayers. They just kept coming until exactly three and a half weeks later, when I had the total amount I needed for summer camp! Because the Lord has blessed me so much, I decided to continue my jobs and sponsor someone else as well.

Nothing is too big for God! No matter your financial situation, if you are willing to work, then there are people willing to support you. So don’t ever give up! God is amazing and He is waiting to help you, but you must “trust in the Lord with all your heart”. Then He will “show you great and mighty things which you do not know!” (Prov. 3:5 and Jer. 33:3).



Bethany Cobb

For more information, visit [campausable.org](http://campausable.org).



# Transitions in Mission



Elder Justin Kim has been appointed the Director of the Communications and Sabbath School Departments with Elder Israel Ramos as his associate. Both have been pioneers of GYC and will bring a lot of experience in organization and social media to the departments. He replaces Ron du Preez who accepted a call to the Oregon Conference.

Elder Israel Ramos has been appointed CAMPUS Director with Elder Justin Kim as his associate. Having worked with CAMPUS together they believe Communication and Sabbath School will integrate nicely with CAMPUS.



Victor Debiase is the new pastor at Detroit Ebenezer and Cavalry Spanish churches replacing Luis Eguiluz who took a call to the Illinois Conference. Victor and his family come to us from Manassas Park, Virginia.

Young Deug Kim is serving as the pastor of the Grand Rapids Korean Group as a part-time pastor. Welcome to him and his family.

Wonoh Lee is serving as the pastor for the Battle Creek Korean Company on a part-time basis.

Moise Ratsara is pastoring the Hartford Church and will be attending the seminary beginning in the fall.

Ernest Toppenberg came out of retirement to be interim pastor for the Stevensville Church.

## Youth Evangelism Congress Update

—by Jonathan Penrod

Battle Creek Tabernacle Church Member

*The Tabernacle Church Board asked about a dozen of their young people to take part in a Youth Evangelism Training Congress that was sponsored by the Lake Union Conference in February.*

**Y**outh Evangelism is a powerful tool in the hand of God. Many young people today have a vision of how they may evangelize and serve our Savior. There are many resources in our Lake Union that will help young people achieve the personal goals of service and evangelism that they have.

The Lake Union Youth Evangelism Congress was an event that brought about 450 young leaders from all over the Lake Union together under the name of Jesus Christ. This Youth Congress was a time to network with other young people and youth directors from Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Illinois. The event took place from Friday, February 8, through Sunday, February 10. Powerful Seventh-day Adventist speakers from all over the United States came to speak to our group of young people on the topic of youth evangelism and how we can get involved. Every day we heard from four new speakers and had group discussions at our regional tables. We spent the weekend planning different missions of evangelism that we would carry out when we got home.

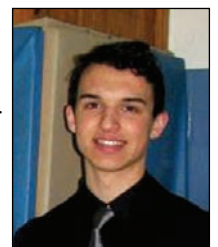
Sabbath evening, all of the individual state conference leaders met with their youth representatives and discussed the

individual mission ideas that were taking shape. The Michigan Conference youth were full of new ideas including a literature distribution game for young people, a community garden, a vegan community potluck, undercover church greeters, GLOW track distribution at local public high schools, development of a special-needs kid's center in northern Michigan, and a foster kids Bible study group in Battle Creek.

The public education system is an exceptional example of a promising area for ministry. A large percentage of Adventist youth and young adults nationwide are obtaining their education in a public setting. A new Campus Ministries team at Kellogg Community College was one of the ideas we will be seriously looking into.

There is a work to be done and this generation is open to God's leading. Since the Youth Evangelism Congress, the youth group from the Tabernacle has met for further development of plans and goals for moving forward with ministry in our community.

As we proceed, we are grateful for your prayers and support.



Jonathan Penrod

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## April

- 5-15 Camp Meeting Second Round  
Selection Online Registration
- 9 District Superintendents
- 12-13 Women's Ministries Retreat II -  
Camp Au Sable
- 18 K-12 Board of Education
- 19-21 Women's Ministries Retreat III -  
Camp Au Sable
- 19-21 Pathfinder Bible Experience -  
Lincoln, Nebraska
- 19-21 LUC ASI Spring Fellowship
- 21 Camp Au Sable Long Range  
Planning
- 21-24 Outdoor Education - Camp  
Au Sable
- 22-28 GLAA Home Leave
- 23 MI Conference Executive  
Committee - Conference Office
- 24 Camp Meeting Directors -  
Conference Office
- 26-28 VBS Workshop - Camp Au Sable
- 28 Adventurer Fun Day - GLAA

## May

- 1 CAMPUS Board
- 3-5 Andrews University Graduation
- 5-9 Camp Au Sable Work Week
- 11 Praise & Report District 1 -  
Camp Sagola
- 12 Mother's Day
- 14 District Superintendents
- 15 Camp Meeting Leadership -  
GLAA
- 17-19 Pathfinder Fair - Camp Au Sable  
Northwoods

## PLANNING AHEAD

### Better Living Seminars Health Camp

May 12-19, 2013

Better Living Seminars is a non-profit Adventist supporting ministry. The annual Health Camp at Camp Au Sable has proven to afford an ideal opportunity for permanent lifestyle change. All of the volunteer professional instructors donate their skills to help you enjoy an educational, fun, and affordable, health promoting vacation. In the northern Michigan woods one will enjoy life-enhancing seminars, recreation, crafts, and the company of others with similar goals of healthy living. Here many "hard core" smokers have been able to kick the habit in this live-in program with 24 hour support. Most campers will doubtless choose to participate in the nutrition, cooking, exercise, weight control, and stress management seminars. For an application brochure and or additional information call the Weavers at (248) 349-5683.

### Did you know....?

The Adventist Education logo is an important symbol of our faith. The logo uses the initials "A" and "E" in a spiritual arrangement. The upward road within the block "A" illustrates that Adventist education points students heavenward, ever aspiring to more true knowledge and understanding. Adventist Education is a journey to eternity through knowledge and the miracle of grace in the heart. It is an active learning system that emphasizes excellence and a Christ-centered life. As the Three Angels' Message is central to Seventh-day Adventist doctrine, it is also at the core of Adventist education.



Statistics have shown that in an Adventist school, an 8th grader who has just entered an Adventist school will typically score in the 50th percentile versus an 8th grader that has finished all previous seven years in an Adventist school will score in the 73rd percentile! A child's education is a building block on which one builds their life. Wouldn't it be best to give them every advantage possible?

Try holding an Education Sabbath at your local church. It is an opportunity for members of the school and church to bring people who would be interested in enrolling in Adventist education. If you know any potential students or those interested in enrolling their child, bring them to on Education Sabbath. They will be blessed!

- Parker Huff,  
Greater Lansing Adventist Academy, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade