



METRO CROSS TALK

MARCH 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

The calendar tells us that Spring has arrived, but the temperature of the air tells us that Michigan is a little behind on receiving Spring weather. Oh well, the joys of living here, right?

But of greater importance is the spiritual climate of our homes and lives. We often spend lots of time planning to work around or with the weather, remove snow, or otherwise deal with the seeming endless changes of what's happening outside.

But how much time do you spend planning for the best spiritual climate in your home? Do you plan to have regular worship for yourself or your family? Do you set aside time for prayer? These are of critical importance if we want to thrive spiritually speaking.

There once was a time that we as Adventists were known as the "People of the Book"; meaning that we really knew our Bibles, and we really knew what we believed. The looming question becomes, "Are we still the people of the Book?"

Perhaps the best way to answer the question is to consider why we used to be called that. We were called the "People of the Book" because we as a people embraced Bible study and many of our members were involved with Bible studies with their friends and neighbors. There is no greater way to become familiar with your Bible than to have to use it to teach someone else. Sure, there is great value in studying the Bible for your own edification, but how much greater is the outcome when we are studying to share with others?

In many circles, the Bible studies have been left for the pastors, Bible workers, and a few "hard core" members to give, but I am of the belief that all of us benefit from taking

up the mantle to give a study to someone else.

When I think of the caliber of our Metro membership, we are very blessed with very talented, educated, and dedicated members here, and I truly love serving among you and alongside you. Metro is a pastor's dream--and one from which I do not desire to awaken any time soon--and many a pastor would love to serve here. I praise God for being able to serve here. Truly!

But having said that, I want to challenge you and ask you this: "Are you a person of the Book? With all your training, experience, and talents are you a person of the Book?" If your answer is, "No" then why not choose to change that? Why not let the Lord use you in a way that will bring the deepest happiness to you? I can tell you from personal experience that there is a wonderful, wonderful joy that floods your soul when you see someone you've studied with accept the Lord and His teachings. Perhaps there is no greater joy.

But just like anything worth doing it takes time and effort. And in the midst of demanding lives, we sometimes don't feel we have anything left to give. Work, kids, music lessons, church offices, and many, many other things grasp for our time so we have to learn to be selective about who and what gets our precious minutes.

So all I ask is, "Will you pray about a deeper commitment to Bible study? Will you ask the Lord to help you order your schedule so you can study with someone else? Will you choose to be a person of the Book?"

It is my prayer that all of us who worship at Metro will be "People of the Book."

Pastor Bentley

Where Are You?

"Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

Luke 2:47

May it be said of us that "we are about our Father's Business" as well.

Declaring Freedom – Religious Liberty

By: Joy Hyde

Jesus proclaimed in Luke 4:18, NKJV that He came “To set at liberty those who are oppressed.” The gospel of Jesus is all about freedom; freedom from sin and release from its consequences. It’s about our ability to proclaim this far and wide. In a very real way the gospel is religious liberty in action.

As the Religious Liberty Secretary it is my opportunity to promote the mission of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventist here at the Metropolitan church. That mission is: To proclaim and defend the God-given gift of religious freedom which is integral to our prophetic role as Seventh-day Adventists® and primary evangelistic efforts. As the local representative of the PARL it is my responsibility to make sure our members are aware of what the PARL does to fulfill that mission.

One of the efforts to accomplish this task is the annual campaign to promote the *Liberty* magazine. *Liberty* magazine is the Adventist publication distributed by the PARL to nearly 200,000 mostly non-Adventist thought leaders, who include federal and state legislators, judiciary, lawyers, mayors, and many others identified as having an interest in religious liberty. This bi-monthly periodical is also available to members of the Metropolitan church at a nominal cost of \$6 per year. By subscribing to and reading *Liberty*, members are able to be much more informed of the struggles that many people of faith face in the United States and globally. *Liberty* magazine accomplishes this with its thought provoking articles pertaining to religious liberty and how that right is either being upheld or denied.

Besides *Liberty* magazine, the PARL also has the following ways in which it protects and proclaims the gift of conscience. The PARL:

- * Maintains the **Libertymagazine.org** website which widens the Religious Liberty appeal with online resources, blogs and well-timed videos
- * Keeps a close communication with legislators at the state and federal levels to protect against legislation that might inhibit your free exercise of religion.
- * Provides a weekly “Liberty Insider” television program that is available nationally and internationally via the 3ABN television network
- * Broadcasts the companion radio program “Lifequest Liberty” which increases the PARL public awareness influence
- * Defends Adventist in Sabbath workplace accommodation challenges
- * Mobilizes church members for freedom advocacy by a newly active North American Religious Liberty Association
- * Conducts training seminars and a wide variety of public meetings to heighten religious freedom awareness

The money donated in the loose plate offering this past January 21, 2017 went to support these many efforts of the PARL. Offerings to Religious Liberty are not limited to just one time a year. Please feel free to mark your tithe envelopes for Religious Liberty at any time. These donations will be well spent.



Check out Liberty Magazine Website at
www.libertymagazine.org

Introducing the Stevens' Family

By: Angela Stevens

Angela & Chi-Lan

Azibo, Chi-Lan, Angela

The Stevens family is a family of three; Azibo, Angela, and Chi-Lan. Azibo was born and raised in Michigan. He went to University of Michigan for Film. However, God has called him to a different profession as he was working with juvenile offenders. Therefore, he went on and got his master's degree in social work. He now works with clients with mental disabilities or developmental delay. Azibo became a Christian and SDA member in his early adulthood after a series of Bible studies. He builds his relationship with God through reading His Word. In his leisure time he likes to watch movies and just find solutions for problems :)

Angela was born and raised in Taiwan. She came to Michigan for her graduate study in nursing over 10 years ago. She has worked as a ICU nurse for several years and just recently got certified as an Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. Angela became a Christian in college. One of her friends in nursing school impressed her with her good moral and mild temperament. Later she found out that friend was Christian. So, she asked her friend to take her to church. Angela then decided to be baptized and never ceased to pursue Jesus since. She joined the Adventist church in 2013. It was after she was first introduced to Adventism. This brought Angela's faith to a different level. Angela enjoys praising God and blessing others through music. When she has free time, she likes to watch movies (like her husband), to read an inspiring book, and to travel.

Azibo and Angela met in a statistic class at Eastern Michigan University. After an intense period time of prayer, they decided to pursue a courtship and tied the knot in 2013. A year later, their baby girl, Chi-Lan joined the family. Chi-Lan is a 2 year-old healthy girl, who is always planning her next move. She likes to investigate about how things are done and determines she does it on her the next time. She loves to read her picture books, change diaper for her baby doll named River, and play mommy's drums. Chi-Lan also loves praying for her friends and teachers from daycare and Sabbath school. She is a prayer warrior in training!

Metro Game Night

By: Raquel Arvizu

The whistle blew, Kevin Avery the official referee of the Dodgeball Ball Tournament, kicked off the night with his short and sweet explanation about how to stay safe during an intense dodgeball experience. Then, Social Committee Co-leader Jonathan Janevski, concluded the kick off ceremony, with a word of prayer inviting the Lord into the gymnasium.

The crowd roared, as the teams battled it out on the court to become Metro Dodgeball Champions. The fans went wild when Pastor Sheridan, fought mightily to keep his team in the running for the championship. As the night went on, people were munching on delicious hot dogs, baked beans, chips, and drinks, put together by the lovely Maegan Janevski. The audience enjoyed watching the games, rooting for teams, playing table games, and looking at the unique team uniforms that made all the night more special.

The final was a showcase of great sportsmanship and craft. The undefeated, Lucky Charms opposing the Metro Missiles, was the game of the night. Some chanting for the underdog, while others rooting for the team in green, everyone was watching as the game began. In the end, the Lucky Charms cleaned house and were named Metro Dodgeball Champions!

The Lucky Charms were not only awarded the title of champions, but also won \$5.00 gift cards to various locations. Metro Missiles were granted prizes for second place. Let's not forget, the Doctors of Pain vs. Maniac Marquettes, the wild card game of the night. Doctors of Pain, dashed out their athletic skills for the win. In addition, they were awarded "Best Team Spirit." Not only did this team show great poise and sportsmanship, but their nifty outfits were the hit of the night! The team members sported blue scrubs and white lab coats to go along with their team name.

We will see if any team dares to take on the standing Champions, The Lucky Charms, at next year's Annual Dodgeball Tournament.



Levi & Manoah van der Velde
"Brothers"

Baptism of Manoah and Levi van der Velde

By: Martina van der Velde

Years ago somebody said "The only treasure you can take with you to heaven are your children". I always hoped and prayed that my boys will choose Jesus as their friend and redeemer but I made up my mind to not pressure them into a decision.

About two years ago the children in the age of my boys started Bible studies for baptism and I wondered if Manoah and Levi will show interest for this. You can imagine how excited I was when Manoah came and asked me if he can be baptized. Of course, I said, I will support this, but you know you have to do some Bible studies first. And this he did. He asked Pastor Sheridan to lead him through the lessons, and the few times I could observe this I could sense the Holy Spirit working. Levi asked to be baptized last year at Pathfinder Camporee in Camp au Sable when Mrs. Brezzel made a call. I was actually stunned and kind of overwhelmed because I thought that he is still pretty young - but the wisdom of this experienced lady convinced me very quick that I could be more than happy.

So.... after their preparation time, March 18 was the day. Vesper at 6:30. Stacy Francois led out with singing and a great sharing time of our favorite Bible verses. Everything was so nice and relaxing that Manoah and

Levi could be a little less nervous. Pastor Sheridan conducted his first baptisms, and I have to say, he did an excellent job and was very comforting to the boys. You know our baptism routine so I will not repeat everything. But I want to thank everybody who made this a perfect event: first, everybody who prayed for them and still does; Pastor Sheridan and Pastor Bentley with their wives for loving them, studying with them, praying for and with them and then preparing the certificate and the books, buying gifts, writing cards and making pictures; the deacons for preparing the water, the dresses, and everything else; Margit for buying flowers; David and my husband for streaming the baptism for our relatives and friends in Europe; Ema and Michelle for helping with the cake and with cleaning; everybody who took time to write a note of thoughtfulness into their books; everybody who showed up to make this special; and not to forget the teachers in Metro school, Sabbath school, Pathfinders and the whole church.

All our children are not just special to us but very special to the Lord. He wants to save all of them, and they all need or sincerest prayer - baptized or not. God bless you all.

80 Plus Basketball

By Jon Wennstrom, Principal of Livonia, MI Middle School where Mr. Lane has served year after year as an Election Inspector and Precinct Chairman.

Every election day, we have voters come in from two precincts to vote in our school. Many times we don't have students, but most recently we did. It posed a few logistical challenges, but we were able to keep things running smoothly for those community members doing their civic duty and also kept the students safe with some additional safety precautions. One of the reasons things ran so smoothly was the person in charge of the voting process. His name is Mr. Lane and he always comes in a day early to map out the area that he knows so well. He checks with myself, the custodian, and secretary to make his game plan. He goes over every detail to prepare. He's the kind of guy that I often say I want working on the plane that I fly in. He is sharp as a tack, quick on his feet, and has been running this program for a long time. I just didn't know how long.

This year, as I was talking with Mr. Lane about how long he had been at it, I found out that he was 87 years old! I couldn't believe it. I asked what his secret was to remaining so youthful. He said keeping busy keeps him from slowing down. He then proceeded to tell me that he was getting ready for an upcoming basketball tournament. He was proud to tell me that he was heading to a championship game in the "80 plus" category. I didn't even know there was an 80 plus category, but I didn't have a hard time imagining him giving it his all on the court! This year, I happened to ask him how many voters we had, because it seemed like a higher turnout to me. He said he would let me know. A couple of weeks after the election, I had completely forgotten about my question, but he hadn't. He mailed a letter to the school giving me the numbers for the current election by precinct and also compared it with earlier years. He ended the letter by thanking all of us for making him feel at home each year and for being a "super" principal (noting my Superman gear in the office:).

School is a place of learning, and over the years, I have found that I have learned the most from people like Mr. Lane. People who lead by example with their zest for life, their pursuit of perfection, and most of all their positive attitude! To be honest, some days I don't have that much energy when I leave school. I sometimes feel drained, spent, and for lack of a better word...old. When I think of Mr. Lane and the spring in his step, twinkle in his eye, and out there on the court playing with the 80 plus basketball league, I don't feel quite so old. And that zest for life he brings becomes contagious and spreads to me. We may not all be playing on a basketball league when we are in our eighties, but we can all share that same positive attitude and energy no matter what our age with our students and with the world!



*Metro's very own "Elder Dick Lane"
Can we get a "Woot! Woot!"*

What's Sabbath School??

By: Kelli Marquette

Metropolitan's Sabbath Schools meet every Sabbath from 9:30-10:35 am. Six different classes for adults and six different classes for various ages of children are held throughout the church and school simultaneously. Occasionally I walk around the church and school and just observe what is happening during Sabbath School time in all of these classes, and it is nothing short of awesome. The children's classes are full of singing, Bible, nature, and character building story telling, crafts, games, and great camaraderie. The adult classes offer wonderful in depth discussion of the lessons each week. The common thread through all of the classes is the spirituality and willingness to share, teach, and learn. If you believe church starts at 10:45, you are wrong...come at 9:30, and you'll be blessed!

Another component of our Sabbath School division is our emphasis on missions. Each week we collect an offering specifically for missions, and once a month we have a Closing Sabbath School Program that often emphasizes the mission work that is happening in our church as well as around the world. A final component of our Sabbath School Division is Vacation Bible School. The date has been set for this summer...July 10 – 14 from 6 – 8 pm and Japanese VBS will be Jul 30 – Aug 4 from 9:30-1:30...mark it on your calendars now!

Sabbath School Locations are as follows (All begin at 9:30):

Classes in the West Wing:
CRADLE ROLL ~ Age Birth-3
KINDERGARTEN ~ Age 4-6
PRIMARY ~ Age 7-9
JUNIORS ~ Age 10-12

Classes in the School:
TEENS – Library ~ Age 13-16
YOUNG ADULT – Mrs. Moore's Classroom ~ Age 17+
ADULT JAPANESE – Mr. Morgan's Classroom

Adult Classes in the Church:
ADULT QUARTERLY – Sanctuary
ADULT QUARTERLY – Fellowship Hall
ADULT QUARTERLY – Classroom 6
CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS – Chapel
METRO IGNITE (Discipleship) – Mother's Room

CITY TEMPLE | METROPOLITAN | TROY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCHES

P R E S E N T S

Knowing the TIMES

SCHEDULES:

Friday, April 14th, 7 p.m.

TROY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

2775 Crooks Rd, Troy, MI 48084
(248) 643-6766-CHURCH
(269) 783-6063-PASTOR'S CELL

POINT OF CONTACT: Pr. Travis Smith



April 15th, 9:45 a.m. ; 11:00; 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

CITY TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, SABBATH

8816 Grand River Avenue, Detroit, MI 48204
313.897.0506 - CHURCH
301.730.4002 - PASTOR'S CELL

POINT OF CONTACT: Pr. Samuel Thomas, Jr.

* On site luncheon rooms provided.



Sabbath April 15th, 6 p.m.

METROPOLITAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

15585 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 420-3131-CHURCH
(248) 767-2730-PASTOR'S CELL

POINT OF CONTACT: Pr. Darryl Bentley

*refreshments to be served afterwards,



1WEEKEND 3HOSTCHURCHES 5SERMONSONPROPHECY

"...now it is time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed." **ROMANS 3:11**

THE MASTER'S SERVICE

APRIL 15

KEEP
the FAITH

Pastor Hal Mayer

PRESIDENT



April Birthdays

- 4 – Lindsay Conner
- 5 – Shirley Brezzell; Kayla Mitchell
- 10 – Rose Hewitt
- 12 – Andrew Arvidson
- 13 – Bonnie Tolles
- 16 – Keith Johnson
- 18 – Barry Good
- 19 – Sandy Knapp
- 20 – Alvin Tidalgu
- 22 – Omar Aragonés
- 24 – Emma Schmidt
- 26 – David Toppenberg



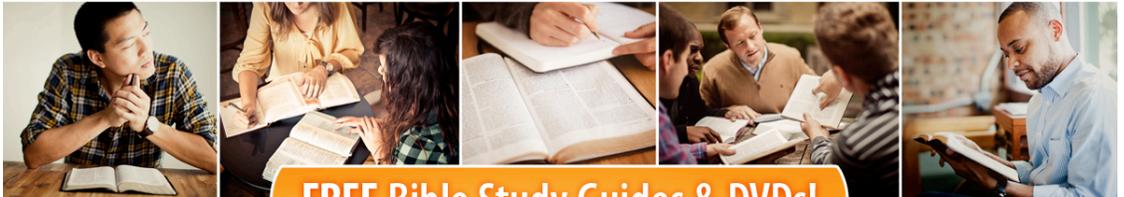
more info

7pm Thursdays March, 30 - May, 25
 20% rebate on materials and membership for attending all sessions
 Metro Family Life Center - 15585 N. Haggerty Rd. Plymouth, MI 48170

Vegetarian Potluck

Join in Fellowship every 2nd Sabbath September – May for a Vegetarian Potluck Lunch following Worship Service. Located in MJA Gym.

Bible Study Offer.com



FREE Bible Study Guides & DVDs!

Request an offer online, or call **866-700-0123**

MARRIAGE BUILDERS

BUILDING CHRIST-CENTERED MARRIAGES THAT WORK

Garden of My Heart
 Register for April 29th – Women's Retreat:
www.metrodachurch.org/events

Personal Ministries

By: *Stephanie Harnos*

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to make disciples of all people (Matthew 28:16-20), communicating the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as their personal Savior and unite with His remnant Church, discipling them to serve Him as Lord and preparing them for His soon return. The Personal Ministries Council is responsible for directing the department's responsibilities and action plans. The council is chaired by the Personal Ministries Leader (Stacey Francois) and consists of the following individuals: Personal Ministries Secretary/Interest Coordinator (Stephanie Harnos), Pastor Bentley, Pastor Sheridan, and committee members-at-large, Leigh Dimond and Herald Paulraj. Anyone who is interested in attending committee meetings is more than welcome. We hold meetings on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 in Classroom 6. The Personal Ministries Council's responsibilities include the following:

- Study and plan missionary outreach activities for the church.
- Provide regular opportunities for group community outreach by members.
- Provide Bible study interests for members through regular mailings and/or door-to-door outreach.
- Aid the church board in arranging territorial assignments, providing every member with a regular outreach field for ministry.
- Encourage every member to become involved in a felt-need ministry such as:
 - Community Services
 - Disaster Relief
 - Neighborhood ministry
 - Community Service Projects

- Ingathering – Hope for Humanity
- Health Ministries (health expo, supper clubs, cooking schools, etc.)
- Nursing Home / Shut-in Ministry
- Encourage every member to become involved in a truth-sharing ministry such as:
 - Literature Distribution
 - Bible Studies (personal, small group, DVD, correspondence, etc.)
 - Door-to-Door Outreach
 - Small Group Outreach Teams
 - Evangelistic Lay Preaching
- Encourage involvement by having members share their personal ministry testimonies during the Personal Ministries Spotlight in the church service.

Our current action plan includes:

- Monthly outreach Sabbaths (Metro Reclaim) where we bring cookies to missing members or interests (people who have attended or signed up for evangelistic meetings);
- Marriage Builders Seminars held the first Friday of each month at 7:00 pm;
- Promoting and being involved in BibleStudyOffer.com;
- Weekly small group Bible Studies (currently led by Stacey Francois at the Conley's home);
- Financial Peace University series coming in March 2017.
- Unlock Revelation series coming in September 2017.

We are also responsible for providing witnessing resources, including GLOW tracts, Bible Studies, sharing books in the foyer, as well as promoting annual devotional books. I want to give a special shout-out to Ann Ferrari and her dad for personally sharing over 20,000 GLOW and health tracts. I am thrilled when Ann lets me know that I need to order more. I'd like to encourage everyone to get involved and share the Good News, Jesus is coming soon!

Classified Ads

Help Wanted

• Stevens Family is Looking for a Nanny: Please contact Azibo Stevens (734)255-0095 or Angela Stevens (734)604-1474 if you are interested in taking care of their 2.5 year old healthy daughter. Previous nanny or babysitting experience preferred. Fluent in Chinese preferred. Looking for someone that is available at least 3 days a week (weekdays); pay negotiable.

Lost & Found

• If you see 3 manila folders stacked up – 2 with hymns and one with different response organ music, please kindly put them in my mailbox! They have been missing since January from the stack of organ music I had in the white cabinet from the foyer adjacent to the organ console. They contain my unique fingerings and registrations and I don't have any other copies of them. Thank you! Ema

• Black & Gold Frame Glasses are missing. Please contact Maria at 734.202.1417 if you have seen them. Thank you.

Testimony Time

By: *Kelli Marquette*

My relationship with God really blossomed as a young adult when I attended Andrews University. As a child, I was raised in a Christian home, and attended Catholic school for 8 years. I attended Ohio University for my undergraduate degree, but I applied to Andrews University for my Master's due to their strong Physical Therapy program. When I enrolled at Andrews I had very little knowledge about the Seventh Day Adventist faith except that Adventists were Christians. I had several interesting experiences getting to know Seventh Day Adventists and their lifestyle: vegetarian cafeteria food, not studying on Saturdays, and the phrase, "Happy Sabbath," which I mis-understood for "Happy Birthday" the first several times I heard it.

Looking back on the experience of attending Andrews University, but having no knowledge of the SDA faith, can only be attributed to God's intervention in my life. I met wonderful friends who, while sitting on our dorm room floor eating graham crackers late one Friday night, explained what the Sabbath was. I met a boy named Sean Marquette who invited me to dinner, but only if I would agree to start reading Steps To Christ with him. I met a brilliant pastor named Dwight Nelson who mentored me with Bible study, and eventually baptized me at Pioneer Memorial Church. By God leading me to Andrews and opening my mind to learn and accept what I was being taught, I welcomed Jesus into my life forever. Since then, my Christian walk has not been without struggle; however, I know that Jesus is beside me with every step.

April

2017

Metro SDA Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Metro Store Hours Sunday – Thursday 10 a – 1p Thursday 3-4p by appointment						1 9 a Breakfast Baptism Choir Practice
2	3	4 6:30 p Personal Ministries Mtg	5 7 p Metro Mid- week	6 7 p Financial Peace Seminar	7 7 p Marriage Builders	8 Fellowship Meal 2 p Adventurers Choir Practice Japanese Min.
9 7:30 a PF TLT 10 a PF & Adv. 6p WM Planning	10	11 7 p MJA Board Mtg	12 7 p Metro Mid- week	13 7 p Financial Peace Seminar	14 Knowing the Times @ Troy 7 p	15 Knowing the Times @ City Temple 11 & 2:30
16 Knowing the Times @ Metro 6 p	17	18 7 p Spiritual Weapons – Men’s Min. Group	19 7 p Metro Mid- week	20 7 p Financial Peace Seminar	21	22 7:30 p Vespers by SS Department
23 10 a PF 12:30 Memorial Service – Mr. Fox	24 6 p Finance Com. 7:15 p Church Board Mtg.	25	26 7 p Metro Mid- week	27 7 p Financial Peace Seminar	28	29 9 a Women’s Retreat Day
30 9 a Bridal Shower – Clarissa Brezell 10 a Adv Mtg.	Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs 3p – 6p Friday 9 a - Noon			More Information go to www.metroisdachurch.org		