In This Issue:

After the Flames

REACHing Out

Harbor of Hope
AU’s mission and service in Benton Harbor, Michigan
Nearly 37 years

The period between major riots in Benton Harbor, Michigan, closed in June 2003, when the most recent disturbances drew national attention to our local community. God willing, those riots of just over a year ago will be the city’s last.

At the time, I was in Colorado for a cousin’s wedding, and many of my relatives asked me what happened to cause the alarming violence near my home (I live in St. Joseph, Benton Harbor’s “twin” city, an ironic pairing whose relationship had come under increasing scrutiny long before last year’s riots—see Alex Kotlowitz’s *The Other Side of the River* [1999]).

I had few answers. Although I arrived in southwestern Michigan as a ten-year-old in the summer of 1977, and had an awareness of the difficulties Benton Harbor has faced and continues to face, trying to describe for outsiders what may have ignited the rioting proved difficult without resorting to familiar stereotypes—a cycle of poverty, racism, and community unrest.

My more thoughtful relatives pushed further, wondering how a little town like Benton Harbor could find itself in the same predicament as a big city ghetto. I had no satisfying answers.

I’d been around for many of those 37 years, and I know there have been repeated attempts to rejuvenate and revitalize the city. It is proving a monumental task. There are a lot of factors to blame (institutions and individuals) for the city’s problems, and depending on whom you ask, you’re likely to hear explanations emphasizing either the shortcomings within the mostly Black community or the inequities imposed from outside it. Unfortunately, with Benton Harbor, there are good reasons to hold all sides in the equation accountable.

In this issue, *FOCUS* examines Andrews University’s involvement and work in Benton Harbor. From one of the university’s first efforts, which Meredith Jones Gray recounts in *Timepieces*, to the current AU out-REACH program, the subject of Beverly Stout’s feature article, Andrews has offered the Benton Harbor community hope and assistance.

But more needs to be done. In two additional articles addressing the city’s future, Professors Joseph Warren (English) and Desmond Murray (chemistry) propose further strategies in which Andrews can partner with Benton Harbor as the city attempts to overcome its own legacy. Additionally, with an eye toward spiritual nurturing, Karen Pearson looks at an upcoming evangelistic series Campus Chaplain Tim Nixon will hold in the city this September.

As just about everyone in and around Benton Harbor knows, the city’s plight will not be easily resolved. It continues to demand perseverance and patience. And renewed commitment begins with the realization Barack Obama championed recently: “For alongside our famous individualism, there’s another ingredient in the American saga. A belief that we are all connected as one people.”

It is a Christian principle as well.
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ON THE COVER: The “New Benton Harbor” city limits sign, located near the bridge between Benton Harbor and St. Joseph, speaks to the hopeful changes now underway. Photograph by Ivan Davis.
**Focus** wants to know...about you!

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...about your family

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Feel free to submit a snapshot or family portrait for publication. Either black and white or color is acceptable; prints will be returned upon request. Thank you for keeping us informed.

Have you also remembered your voluntary subscription support for Focus this year? Your $10 gift is much appreciated. Mail to Office of Alumni Services, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0950.
Enjoying Focus

The present issue of Focus is outstanding! Both my wife and I attended Andrews vicariously via the seminary which was located at Washington D.C. while I received a MDiv.

Barbara Jean was allowed to attend three hours a quarter free, a privilege she has mentioned with delight for many years.

Eldon E. Stratton (MDiv ’56)

Enjoyed the spring issue of Focus. It is great to keep connected in this way. Keep up the good journalism.

Martha Myers (BS ’70)

Just wanted to congratulate you on the Spring issue of Focus. The graphics are excellent; the newsy stuff (campus updates) is simple and easy to connect photos with captions, while feature articles (The Passion) are bold and attention grabbing.

Thanks for an excellent magazine. I know it consumes a lot of effort but it definitely appears to be a labor of love.

Paul Stokstad (Board of Trustees)

Correction: In the Homecoming Weekend Photo Essay (Spring 2004, page 19), Chris Randall was incorrectly identified as Adam Rose.
Class is in session!

With anticipation, four fresh faces gather on the set of Sabbath School University with host Casey Wolverton. Suddenly, the lights go up, the music starts, Casey introduces the program, and the discussion begins. In the next room, a small army of full-time staff and student interns work to make each second go as smoothly as possible. Even amid the good-natured banter in the control room, you can tell that each person takes their job very seriously. This is Sabbath School University.

Nearly 80 students, campus and community members volunteered an entire day to shooting four segments and filming “noddies.” The day began at 7:30 a.m. with the staff convening to make sure everything was ready to go when the participants arrived at 8:00 a.m. Preparation and make-up preceded the forty minutes of filming for each 28-minute segment, and then five minutes were devoted at the end to “noddies.” Each person was filmed smiling and nodding in total silence, which will be edited in later. According to Sibusiso Zvandasara, a pre-med major from Zimbabwe, the noddies are the hardest part. “It’s so hard to sit there nodding at nothing while trying not to laugh,” she said with a smile.

Sibusiso was one of four panelists for the day, including Naomi Best, Lydia Mutune, and Sarah Hillebert. All four expressed how nervous they were about appearing on TV, but were excited about the opportunity to present new ideas for discussion. “You have to say what you think, but you also have to be guarded about it,” said Naomi. “You want what is coming out of your mouth to be intelligent as well as truthful.”

Begun in 2000, Sabbath School University (SSU) studies the Collegiate Quarterly, or CQ, and airs on the Hope Channel, produced by Adventist Television Network (ATN), six to seven times in the week prior to Sabbath’s lesson. It is not a lesson discussion, but is geared toward teachers and how to make the lesson come alive for a collegiate audience.

As the editor of CQ, Gary Swanson inherited the job of executive producer of SSU, and it was his decision to bring filming to campus. “Andrews University was the next obvious choice and we have been extremely happy with the facilities and the participants.”

Casey Wolverton, founding pastor of the Newcastle Youth Church and chaplain at the University of Newcastle in New South Wales, Australia, began hosting SSU during its second season in Australia. At AU, Wolverton met a new group each day and was able to establish a rapport not
only on-camera, but off the set as well. “The diversity at Andrews University is amazing,” he said. “I don’t think we could find the same group of people in one place anywhere else in the world.”

Neal Boger, director of the Distance Learning Center for the School of Education, was the contact for Gary Swanson when ATN decided to film at Andrews. Acting as the administrative program director for SSU, he worked closely with Larry Bothe, director of Andrews University’s International Learning Systems (ILS) and SSU technical director. The ILS studios underwent a complete reconfiguration to ready themselves for this project. “We bought a lot of professional equipment on eBay, such as lights, cameras, and even a teleprompter, which helped us to save a lot of money,” Bothe commented. In addition, ILS also built a new set for SSU.

Boger is excited about the program and sees it as an excellent opportunity for students to get invaluable experience through internships with SSU. According to him, “Aside from NET ‘98, this is the most important broadcast ever recorded at Andrews.” Twelve full-time students and staff worked tirelessly for one month before shooting began on July 12. Andrews University will complete the final edits and SSU will begin airing in January 2005. “We hope SSU will decide to come back to Andrews for their fifth season,” Boger commented.

SSU can be viewed all around the world and is translated into 11 different languages including Spanish, German, French, Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese, Swahili, and Russian. SSU programs can be downloaded from ATN’s website by logging on to http://adventist.tv.

**Touring down under**

As part of the Australia/Fiji study tour, Jane Sabes, professor of political science, and a group of 27 students departed for Australia on May 3, intent on examining that country’s relationship with its indigenous population.

The idea for the tour grew out of a comparative politics class Sabes offered during the spring semester. That class studied the histories of various countries and regions—from Canada to Australia to Central and South America—and the relationships that colonists evolved with indigenous peoples. According to Sabes, the area of study “may seem to be a matter of small consequence when looking at Indians who constitute only two percent of the U.S., Canadian, and Australian census. But, given that first-nation people constitute as much as 46% of many South American countries, along with their political activism, the issue of indigenous populations is yet a long way from being fairly resolved.”

The three-week tour gave students an opportunity to meet with aboriginal guides, historians, government officials, and professors from the Australia National University. The tour of Australia also included a visit to the Australian national senate while it was in session.

According to Richard Sylvester, a student in the class, “a large part of this trip was looking for a different perspective, something more current and more rounded than what the books say.” Dr. Sabes concurs, explaining that such study tours “expand the classroom, moving students beyond secondary sources and connecting them with first-hand accounts of issues of prime importance in this world of ours.”

While in Fiji at the Vatuvonu School, students spent their time performing mission work that entailed painting houses, planting flowers, and constructing tables and other teaching imple-
Physics hosts second annual SmartLabs

The Department of Physics at Andrews University conducted its second annual SmartLabs workshops for high school teachers and students from June 14-18. The workshops were cosponsored by Andrews University, the Berrien County Intermediate School District, and the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Teachers and students from Eau Claire and Berrien Springs high schools, Countryside Charter School in Benton Township, and five Seventh-day Adventist academies from around the United States, came for five days of intense physics training.

Nine teachers and eleven students attended the program in order to enrich their physics classes. The students were handpicked by their teachers for their scientific potential and with the anticipation that they would function as laboratory assistants when they returned to school. As a team, the teacher-student pairs participated in demonstrations and lectures, and worked on projects that helped to expand their knowledge in areas such as rotational motion, forces and equilibrium, electricity and magnetism, wave mechanics, and nuclear physics.

SmartLabs began when a growing need was recognized. “Technology moves so fast and oftentimes teachers just can’t keep up with it. They need help to learn what’s new in the area of physics and they need assistance to present it to their class,” explained Dr. Margarita Mattingly, Physics Department chair, and director of SmartLabs. “SmartLabs expands the horizon of teachers and gives them more options. Bringing a student with them makes it possible to have help when they are ready to teach to the whole class,” she said.

While in their labs, participants also got a taste of what it was like to use the more high-tech equipment that they otherwise might not have had the chance to use. “Some of the things we’ve gotten to use in the labs are just out of sight,” Eau Claire High School teacher, Les Knickerbocker, said. Participants gained familiarity with high-tech computer data acquisition equipment such as force sensors, motion sensors, and digital video capture equipment. They analyzed their data using several powerful graphical software packages.

While some lab demonstrations require expensive equipment, SmartLabs included many experiments that were “low-tech” and less expensive, but still taught the same lesson as more expensive aids. To illustrate the Rutherford Scattering Experiment, the experiment which discovered that atoms have a nucleus, common hackey sacks were thrown at styrofoam plates taped on the wall. The number of hits made compared to the number of misses can be used to determine the size of the plates in the same way that the number of hits by alpha particles determined the size of the atomic nucleus. There were eight demonstrations similar to this in which teachers were given the materials used so they could repeat the lab for their students at home.

Teachers and students who attended the workshops were enthusiastic about the time spent there. Carl Bandy, a teacher from Hinsdale Adventist Academy, was enthusiastic about his first year at SmartLabs. “The experience we have had here has been great; you just can’t beat it. We are able to visualize the concepts and then translate it to the young people we will be instructing. Rather than giving them formulas, I can now give them more experiments and hands-on material,” he said. Being able to present subject matter that is outside of the normal textbook material is a benefit to teachers and students. Jenna Garlenger, a junior at Countryside Charter School, who came with her teacher, Fred Frazee, also likes having the hands-on experience. “I can see what it is that I’m learning, rather than just read it in a book,” she said.

The Andrews University Physics Department and its faculty are dedicated to expanding the minds and learning opportunities of teachers and young people. They look forward to the third annual SmartLabs and the new material they can present.
Austen film makes campus debut

For four weeks during spring semester, Scott Moncrieff, professor of English, had the privilege of working with students in the Jane Austen and Film class to make a modern adaptation of Austen’s novel Pride and Prejudice. The result was First Impressions, a 23-minute romantic comedy set on a contemporary college campus.

In the film, Austen’s Elizabeth is now an English major, with her best friend and roommate, the practically minded Charlotte, pursuing a nursing degree. Mr. Collins, naturally, is a student at the Seminary, while Mr. Darcy is studying architecture, having just returned to campus from a semester in Florence with his pal, Mr. Bingley.

Students participated in all aspects of the film process, including writing the screenplay, acting, suggesting locations, and encouraging each other when the days got long. “I never realized how much work went into the process,” says Erika Piekarek, a senior business administration major. “I didn’t know one scene could be so long and tedious” to shoot, echoes junior English major Hopal Russell. “When I read The Making of Pride and Prejudice about how long it took to shoot a scene, it didn’t become real to me—until the class actually did it. . . . Now I know why [the stars] have their trailers.” Adds Kami Lizarraga, a junior English and math double major, “I now have infinite respect for film makers who adapt movies from novels.”

Local settings used for the film include the AU campus, Caitlin’s restaurant, the bluff, Silver Beach, the piers in St. Joseph, and the homes of President and Mrs. Andreasen and English professors Meredith Jones Gray and Gary Gray. The class also took advantage of shooting in April to make several versions of Mr. Collins’s signature daffodil bouquet.

Although the process was lengthy and complicated, Moncrieff was pleased with the result, and enjoyed what English master’s student Adrienne Redding cited when reflecting on the process: “The joy and creativity that can come from collaborating with a group of intelligent, amusing people.”

A limited number of DVD’s of the film are available from the English Department for $15 (personal pickup) or $20 (includes handling and shipping). The DVD includes the film, a director’s commentary track, and some bonus footage/outtakes. Money will be used to improve the English Department’s media lab equipment (checks should be made out to the Andrews University English Department and specify “First Impressions”).
Charles T. LaSata, State Representative, 79th District, Michigan House of Representatives, gave the commencement address at Andrews University’s summer graduation on Sunday, August 1, 2004. A total of 261 students received degrees at the combined graduate and undergraduate ceremony.

In his address, LaSata spoke on "Globalization Trends in the Age of Al-Qaeda," emphasizing the importance of intercultural exchange and its necessity in the fight against terrorism. LaSata complimented the diversity of Andrews University, whose student body represents 98 different countries.

Commencement Weekend also included a number of other significant programs. Professor of English Joseph Warren spoke at Friday night’s consecration service, treating graduates to his viewpoints in a speech entitled “The Last Piece of the Puzzle.” Humberto Rasi, a retired Education Director of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, delivered the baccalaureate sermon on Sabbath. His sermon was titled “The Aroma of Life.” Sabbath vespers included tributes by seminary professor Jo Ann Davidson, and graduating students Tunisia Peters, Sondang Sianturi, and Rochelle Browne.

During Sunday’s commencement ceremony, Andrews University president, Dr. Niels-Erik Andreasen, presented LaSata with the President’s Medallion for his work in the community and his state legislative service for the support of higher education/independent higher education. LaSata previously received the Michigan Association of Independent Colleges and Universities Award for Distinguished Service in 2001.

Also during the ceremony, Susan M. Willoughby received the honorary degree, Doctor of Pedagogy. President Andreasen presented Willoughby, who has served as a professor of social work, education and behavioral sciences at Atlantic Union College since 1972, with the honor. Willoughby has been active in local and state affairs, serving on the Board of Directors of the Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging, as an accreditation evaluator for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, and as chair of the Massachusetts Consumer Council Health Task Force. In 1974, Governor Michael Dukakis appointed her to the Massachusetts Public Health Council for a four-year term.
Staffing changes in Student Services

According to vice president for student services, Frances Faehner, a number of staffing changes have taken place over the summer, including the hiring of David Jardine, who will head the recently reconfigured area of social recreation and athletics. Faehner believes Jardine, who joined student services on July 19, has the “passion and understanding...to enrich the lives of our students by building community and character and by promoting balanced lifestyles.”

Another change in the division of student services will see both Patricia Stewart and Steve Yeagley become assistants to the vice president. Formerly, Stewart had served as director of career planning and placement, while Yeagley had worked as a local recruitment coordinator in enrollment management. “In addition to providing leadership in traditional student service areas,” according to Faehner, these two individuals “will develop a set of programs that will grow and enhance student life.”

Other appointments include the hiring of Willyta Wamack as director/coordinator of residence hall student housing and convention and guest services, and Alfredo Ruiz as director of university apartment life.

New appointment for Garcia-Marenko

Emilio Garcia-Marenko has recently been named associate vice president for academic administration. Garcia-Marenko has been university registrar since 1997 and will continue in this role. Garcia-Marenko’s new duties include the oversight of the distance education and the affiliation and extension programs. The position change has also required a reorganization of the office of academic records. Gary Williams, associate registrar, and Lois Forrester, assistant to the registrar, will be taking on larger responsibilities, and Charles Tidwell, director of affiliation and extension programs, will become an associate registrar, in charge of academic records for the affiliation, extension, and graduate programs.

Andrews University has played a significant role in the development of many Adventist institutions all over the world, providing support through affiliation and extension programs. Garcia-Marenko notes that the needs of these institutions are changing and desires for Andrews to continue in its role as a leader in their development. “We need to create new paradigms and models for partnerships with other Adventist institutions so we can continue to be relevant.”

Poole to direct Howard Center

R. Deborah Poole has been named the new manager of the Howard Performing Arts Center. Poole came to Andrews from American Express Financial Advisors in St. Joseph, Mich., where she was office manager and associate financial advisor. Previously she worked at The Boston Consulting Group, a leading consulting firm, and The Financial Relations Board, a major public relations company, both in Chicago, Ill.

Creating a partnership between the community and the Howard Performing Arts Center is Poole’s main goal in her new position.

"Andrews University wants to share this wonderful facility with people in the greater community," she said. Poole intends to make the building accessible to community, church, and school groups. She is planning to host an open house in the fall. Additionally, Poole hopes to increase the visibility of the Howard Center by joining local organizations.
New COT dean

Verlyn Benson joined the faculty of Andrews University in July 2004 as the Dean of the College of Technology. Benson comes to Andrews from Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., where he taught in the department of technology for sixteen years. From 2002-2004, Benson also served as chair of the department. Before coming to Pacific Union College, Benson was the director of the technical school at what is now Bolivia Adventist University from 1981-1987. Benson also taught five years at Platte Valley Academy in Nebraska.

Benson received his undergraduate degree in industrial technology from Pacific Union College. It took Benson only nine months to complete his master’s degree in industrial technology with an emphasis in graphics from California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo, Calif. in 1987. “I was motivated,” Benson comments.

During his time at PUC, Benson took a two-year study leave to complete his doctorate in industrial technology degree from the University of Northern Iowa, finishing in 1998. While studying for his doctorate, Benson worked as a graduate assistant doing research for John Deere’s engine division.

As dean, Benson wants to focus on how Andrews University can better communicate and relate with the community, helping the university grow to become a leader in technological education among Adventist institutions.

Benson joins the Andrews University community with his wife, Anita, a surgical nurse on the heart team at Memorial Hospital in South Bend, Ind. They have two children, Genaida, a senior piano-performance major at Pacific Union College, and Sedric, a senior at Fountain View Academy in British Columbia, Canada. Benson notes that “I’ve never been more warmly welcomed than here at Andrews University.”

News from Center for Adventist Research

On July 13, CAR hosted a retirement celebration for Pauline Maxwell and Lucille Haagenrud (pictured front). Back row, l-r: Merlin Burt, James Nix, and William Fagal

Last fall, Merlin Burt became director for the Center for Adventist Research, housing two formerly separate entities: the Ellen White Estate and the Adventist Heritage Center. While the two departments have been sharing space in the lower level of the James White Library since 2000, they were under separate directors until Burt’s arrival.

Burt, who holds a PhD in religion from Andrews, also has a teaching appointment in the church history department and will teach a course of the development of SDA theology.

Among the many changes underway, an endowment fund has been started with hopes to support future outreach programs, a new website has been created: http://www.andrews.edu/library/car/index.html, and a scholars program has been instituted, allowing registered scholars of Adventist history and Ellen White the chance to study at the Center.

Two other major personnel changes took place recently. Pauline Maxwell, who had been with the Ellen White Estate for 32 years, and Lucille Haagenrud, who had served for 20 years, retired in July.

Pauline is responsible for many areas of expanded access at the estate, including approving new portions of manuscripts, letters, and sermons. Along with conducting tours, helping students and running the office, Maxwell also played a major role in developing the E. G. White Periodical Index. Pauline worked through the sometimes turbulent 70s and 80s, a period that included controversies ignited by Ron Numbers and Desmond Ford, along with challenges to E. G. White’s authority.

Haagenrud arrived at the estate in March 1984, after having served as a secretary to the South American Division Secretary in Brazil. At the White Estate, Lucille, who speaks three languages, was responsible for leading groups on tours of the estate vault and for tracking incoming periodicals.

Colleagues at the estate appreciated Lucille’s ability to remember hundreds of important dates, including birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and even baptismal anniversaries.
It has been over a year since our neighbor eleven miles to the northwest suffered through the dramatic social upheaval that garnered national media attention in June 2003. After local community leaders and state politicians, including Governor Jennifer Granholm, took stock—attention that was long overdue—initiatives were passed that were intended to help the city move forward. In the last 14 months, Benton Harbor has become ever more hopeful of turning the corner on years of economic and social unrest. The following pages document some of the obstacles confronting the city and, further, how Andrews University can enlarge its already significant role in enhancing the social welfare of Benton Harbor. Long active in the city through a variety of volunteer programs, Andrews continues to partner with Benton Harbor as university students, faculty and staff find ways to share Christ’s love with residents.
Benton Harbor: Hope & Opportunity

by Desmond H. Murray

Like the Indians before them, the founders of present day Andrews University and the City of Benton Harbor found the natural beauty of the Saint Joseph River Valley full of promise and favorable for their purpose.

Shared History

When American novelist James Fenimore Cooper, author of *The Last of the Mohicans*, saw this valley he wrote, “it looked like a huge garden, one of the most beautiful in all of America.”

Located on the east side of the St. Joseph River, Benton Harbor was a thriving lake port in the early 1870s, when Andrews University, then called Battle Creek College (BCC), was founded in Battle Creek, Michigan. In 1901, ten years after Benton Harbor became incorporated as a city, sixteen boxcars moved the now-named Emmanuel Missionary College (EMC) to Berrien Springs along the banks of the St. Joseph River, about eleven miles south of Benton Harbor.

In 1960, EMC became a university and got a name change to Andrews University in honor of Adventist pioneer John Nevins Andrews’ unique combination of scholarship with faith and mission. This was also the decade that Benton Harbor began its unfortunate decline from being “the metropolis of the Michigan fruit belt” to what a July 21, 2002, *Detroit News* article described as “predominantly black and floundering,” with a downtown where “there’s hardly anything at all.” This was in stark contrast to the public image painted in *Chips Fell in the Valley*, a 1963 book written by Catherine Moulds and published by Andrews University Press.

I can still recall tears streaming from the eyes of gray-haired seniors for “what could have been,” as they reminisced about Benton Harbor back in its heyday. It was a deeply moving experience for me while conducting a local-history project in August 2001, Remembering The Flats, at Benton Harbor Public Library. This was not simply feeling nostalgic over old-folks’ tales. Those were tears for dreams deferred and lives unfulfilled. And they were not alone in hoping for more. In “Hopeful Harvest,” the final chapter of her book, Moulds begins with “The future looks very bright’ and ends with, ‘You ain’t seen nothin’ yet!”

Fast-forward to two summer nights in June 2003 when burning houses, overturned cars, stone-throwing youth and pepper-spraying, riot-clad cops brought Benton Harbor national and international notoriety. This was not the first time that Benton Harbor received such attention. In 1998, Alex Kotlowitz’s book, *The Other Side of the River*, spotlighted the unsolved 1991 death of a black 16-year-old Benton Harbor boy who was last seen alive in St. Joseph being chased by a white man. The “truth” of what is believed to have happened depends on which side of the St. Joseph River, that separates the Twin Cities, you live on.

“An essentially good people were being portrayed for decades by unfair and unbalanced images and words. It is persistent; it is pervasive.”

Princella Tobias

“We never condone violence. Yet, while some might classify the June 2003 events solely as the Benton Harbor riots, I see them partly as some young people demonstrating over unaddressed concerns that have plagued our beloved community for too long. For our youth, it has been a whole lifetime of pent-up neglect, frustration and being left behind.”

Dwight P. Mitchell
Who do You Say I Am?

Reflecting on common misperceptions of Benton Harbor, current City Manager Dwight P. Mitchell says, “we never condone violence. Yet, while some might classify the June 2003 events solely as the Benton Harbor riots, I see them partly as some young people demonstrating over unaddressed concerns that have plagued our beloved community for too long. For our youth, it has been a whole lifetime of pent-up neglect, frustration and being left behind.”

Princella Tobias, founding CEO and Publisher of the Benton Spirit, assesses the issue of Benton Harbor’s image: “I started the Benton Spirit Community Newspaper back in February 2002 to address important needs of the community that had been ignored for decades. An essentially good people were being portrayed for decades by unfair and unbalanced images and words. It is persistent; it is pervasive. Just ask yourself, what have I heard or seen about Benton Harbor? How do I feel and what do I think about Benton Harbor?”

Dr. Paula Dawning, Superintendent of Benton Harbor Area Schools, adds, “There is a perception that individuals do not care and do not want the same things as everyone else. This is not true. Parents want their children to have a great education and be successful. There are individuals who want help and not a handout. They would like to learn to fish rather than be given a fish. Benton Harbor is a proud community with a sense of destiny that we shall overcome and rise to greatness.”

Janeva Shaw, a 2002 graduate of Benton Harbor High School and a social-work major at Michigan State University, who recently conducted ten weeks of chemical research into Novel Flavyium Salts at Andrews University in my summer independent-research program, puts it more bluntly, “Because Benton Harbor is a predominantly black community, outsiders make many negative assumptions about us. They assume that we are unintelligent and incapable of succeeding. Well, I want them to know that everybody here is not a felon; just because we are black and from Benton Harbor does not mean we are going to cause a problem, it does not mean we are going to be violent, and it does not mean that we are uneducated. Urban does not translate into bad, negative, wild, uncivilized, stupid, or criminal. In fact, there is so much talent and potential in the youth of Benton Harbor, I know our future is bright and we will hold down our side of the bridge.” Janeva Shaw is also the director of public relations and sales for a recording company started and owned by several Benton Harbor teenagers.

Janeva’s sentiments are echoed by Laura E. Miles, a white female, and Epidemiologist for the Berrien County Health Department: “Never—not once in all of the hours and hours I have spent in the neighborhoods of Benton Harbor—have I felt threatened or treated poorly. A common misperception of Benton Harbor is that residents are unapproachable, dangerous, or criminals. In fact, the reality is the exact opposite. I have come across compassionate people who are sympathetic to the needs of the community. The residents have invited me into their homes, and have been friendly and openly honest. I always learn something through my conversations with the residents and usually leave laughing or smiling.

“If you are someone who drives straight through Benton Harbor, and have a tendency to avoid ‘certain’ areas, I can understand why you have this misperception. You only see people who loiter around stores and dilapidated houses, but there is something more—something that doesn’t have to do with clothes, education, race or living in a house with a white picket fence; its called character and it is owned by residents of Benton Harbor.”

Making Benton Harbor Better

Since June 2003, there has been an acceleration of positive changes in Benton Harbor. There is a sense that hope once dormant and futile is now emergent and fruitful. There is a long and growing list of achievements being made in housing, employment, education, recreation, health, and citizen engagement. At the one-year anniversary of the June 2003 events, over 60 persons: young and old, black and white, residents and nonresidents, responded to a Benton Spirit Urban Renewal survey on How To Make Benton Harbor Better.

Respondents identified things like: creating jobs, eliminating health disparities, cleaning neighborhoods, valuing education more, fixing schools, conflict resolution,
setting goals, increased health education, working hard, increased job opportunities, helping each other, greater youth involvement, graduating from high school and college, parenting-skills classes, hiring more policemen, building more houses, more caring adults, better qualified teachers, taking greater individual responsibility, closing liquor stores, improving the physical appearance of the city, encouraging peoples of all colors to unite, developing drug, violence and teen-pregnancy prevention programs, fixing up the parks, teaching youth about making right choices, tearing down old buildings, going to church, respecting each other, getting new books in our schools, developing relationships with people that are different than themselves, and eliminating poverty.

Many local individuals and organizations from Benton Harbor are actively involved in making Benton Harbor better. Some have been in the trenches all their lives; others are just coming onboard. Local churches offer after school- and summer-enrichment programs, college scholarships, and food-and-clothing donations. Neighborhood block clubs are being revived and energized. Community nonprofit organizations conduct homeownership seminars, credit-counseling workshops, health fairs, parenting classes, computer-literacy courses with ownership of a computer upon completion, small-business workshops and voter registration drives, among many other initiatives. Benton Harbor is pulling itself up by its bootstraps.

A significant development post-June 2003 was the formation of the Citizens for Progressive Change (CPC). This organization is responsible for the implementation of Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm’s Benton Harbor Task Force report (The full report is available at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/BH_final_report_76471_7.pdf). The 23-member Task Force was appointed by the Governor following the events of June 2003 to recommend specific “quality of life” improvements for the citizens of Benton Harbor. With well over 200 members, Citizens for Progressive Change served to broaden the involvement and input of Benton Harbor residents in prioritizing their own needs and in suggesting possible solutions. The October 15, 2003, Task Force report, “Benton Harbor, A Plan for Positive Change,” reflects the community wishes that came out of CPC workgroups on: economic development, housing, job-training, education, health, police-community relations, diversity with inclusion, parenting and family, criminal justice, recreation, arts and culture, communications and the faith-based community.

Rev. James Atterberry, cochair of the Benton Harbor Task Force, chairman of CPC and the first African American male appointed to the Michigan Parole Board, believes that the top areas of need in Benton Harbor are “improving economic conditions through adult and youth job-training and skills development programs, creating jobs by attracting new businesses and industries to Benton Harbor, downsizing welfare roles by training and putting recipients to work, improving the quality of education for children and youth, providing credit counseling and finance management training for adults, and increasing the homeownership rate in Benton Harbor.”

Rev. Yvonne Hester, executive director of Benton Harbor Street Ministry located right at the center of the June 2003 unrest, says: “For change to be truly effective we must provide a spiritual foundation based firmly on the Word of God. Benton Harbor is in need of financial resources but we all must be first willing to give of ourselves. Can money fix the hearts of neglected, uncared-for children in our community? Can money fix a teenage
mother who wants to do right but doesn’t know how?”

Prior to the events of June 2003, Rev. Hester played a central role in the establishment of the Benton Harbor Socrates Project, which involves Andrews University science, math and engineering faculty and students in mentoring Benton Harbor Area Schools students at three different sites in the city.

**What Can You Do?**

Andrews University has made and continues to make a significant impact on Benton Harbor. But challenges remain, more help is needed and alumni can become involved. Larry Ulery, director of the Andrews University Service Learning Center, believes that “a task force should be set up to determine how the Andrews community, including alumni, can be better neighbors not only in Benton Harbor but throughout southwest Michigan.” Further, Ulery states that “our efforts in Benton Harbor can become more effective by having some central coordinating structure, that at the very least can allow communication between groups currently involved or planning to be involved in our extended community.”

I support Ulery’s view as a step towards Andrews University intentionally embracing and institutionalizing the two-part legacy of J. N. Andrews—scholarship and mission. One creative way to blend scholarship with faith and mission might include assigning students research projects on issues involving Benton Harbor, with class bonus points awarded for actually serving in the city. Faculty and staff could also collaborate with agencies and individuals in Benton Harbor to write grants and develop programs to provide internship and service opportunities for Andrews students.

Faculty might also arrange for Benton Harbor community leaders and business people to attend relevant classes on leadership, educational administration, and business management. Also, the university could play a role in establishing an Urban Renewal Scholarship Fund that would provide financial aid to deserving Benton Harbor High School students.

What can you do? Serve with humility. Serve with one agenda: to love as God loves us, unconditionally. Our service to others, including Benton Harbor, is a feeble, faltering thank offering for God’s amazing grace. And as we set forth in generous service with a shared history and shared geography, Andrews University and Benton Harbor will also be inseparably united by the promise of a better day and a better place.

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Desmond Murray, PhD, is assistant professor of chemistry at Andrews University. He is also editor of the Benton Spirit Community Newspaper.

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**People and Organizations Helping Benton Harbor**

Support Citizens for Progressive Change, which addresses areas identified in the Task Force report. Contact Mrs. Rose Hunt-Redd, executive director, at (269) 925-2357.

Contact Larry Ulery, director of Andrews University Service Learning Center, at ulery@andrews.edu and (269) 471-3296, about potential community-service initiatives.

Support the Benton Spirit Community Newspaper through subscription, advertising, writing and submitting articles and news releases, volunteering your expertise and services in journalism, business, photography, and layout. Contact Princella Tobias at bentonspirit@aol.com and (269) 926-4241.

Support the Benton Harbor Socrates Project through donations of books, computers, science videos and funds to subsidize Andrews students’ transportation costs. Alumni and retired Andrews employees who live in the area can volunteer as mentors in this after-school program. Contact Desmond Murray at murrayd@andrews.edu and (269) 471-6087.

Contact City Commissioner Etta Harper, (269) 926-4063, who is involved in establishing a family institute to proactively address many of the social ills in Benton Harbor.
Community in Crisis
The Benton Harbor community is recognized, by some, as one of the more economically disadvantaged cities in Michigan. At times, this persistent systemic poverty has been blamed for the area’s infamously high murder per-capita and teenage-pregnancy rates. The endless cycle of social ills for this near all-Black community has seemed insolvable in light of the persistently low high-school graduation rates. Some respected observers believe that the larger Benton Harbor community is not developing and/or retaining the necessary numbers and quality of young citizens who can make productive long-term differences. Others point to another significant consideration: that the area has not attracted significant corporate investments and jobs after similar civil disturbances in the 1970s. Some local leaders see the absence of an expanding corporate and residential tax-base as the key missing component in a complex set of socioeconomic challenges that plagues this once thriving industrial and tourist community.

The renewed community commitment and promises of capital prompted Granholm, in June 2004, to say, “The Benton Harbor community has demonstrated that it has a vision of how it can become stronger and self-sustaining in the years to come.”

Prior to June 2003, the city was designated a Michigan Enterprise Zone. This covenanted title permits new businesses to set up shop in

Bright Lights in the Harbor
Three days after the disturbances of 2003, Governor Jennifer Granholm visited Benton Harbor to prove that “We [governor’s office] are paying attention” and to assure the entire southwestern Michigan community that “We will do it [the recovery] together.” By June 25, 2003, Governor Granholm appointed a Task Force for Benton Harbor to develop strategies for current renewal and future growth. Through community-wide debate and support, Benton Harbor leaders have generated nearly 50 million dollars in grants, loans and economic initiatives to fund new housing, pregnancy-prevention interventions, and a comprehensive range of school and community enrichment programs.

The postponed city council election forced Benton Harbor to undergo a two-step state takeover, which was followed by the creation of a Task Force to develop strategies for current renewal and future growth. Through community-wide debate and support, Benton Harbor leaders have generated nearly 50 million dollars in grants, loans and economic initiatives to fund new housing, pregnancy-prevention interventions, and a comprehensive range of school and community enrichment programs.

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Benton Harbor and qualify for a schedule of tax-relief, employer training compensations and other benefits. To meet the needs of new employers, Michigan Works, the state employment and training agency, has been restructured and enlarged.

Since June 2003, many private individuals and businesses have sought cooperation agreements with local civil and community leaders to develop recreational, family-related, economic and educational opportunities for Benton Harbor families. Traditionally, the largest area of current support is provided by the community’s 100-plus churches. Taken as a whole, these congregations provide a rich diversity of community programs and services that aid families, youth, and those with emergency needs.

Adding to the city’s positive outlook, Paula Downing, Superintendent for the Benton Harbor Area Schools, recently announced that elementary achievement test scores in math, English language arts, science and reading have increased significantly. This good news is coupled with the community’s passing a new millage that will generate 1.3 million dollars for school-building repairs and needed renovations.

The Andrews University Faith Community: A Tradition of Caring

Andrews University has a well-documented history of performing acts of practical mercy for Benton Harbor residents. Most popular is the Benton Harbor AU outreach program (formerly Benton Harbor Street Ministries) operated jointly by campus chaplains and students each academic year. Each Sabbath, busloads of students go door-to-door and recruit children for craft and recreational activities that often include some character-building instruction. Recently, members of this student-led group passed out chilled bottled water to families without electricity after a cycle of severe storms battered the area.

Since my 1976 adoption into the broader Andrews University faith community, I have met many individuals who practice “true religion” as described in James 1:27. Examples of positive personal involvement have included tutoring, mentoring, and information sharing. But there is no accurate way to tally the large number of health seminars, parenting and family classes or cash donations provided each year to Benton Harbor individuals and agencies by those associated with Andrews. Recently, one individual served as a four-year consultant to help an area school develop self-esteem and violence-prevention programs. During this summer, several individuals from the Andrews community committed to participate in Habitat for Humanity’s future construction projects in Benton Harbor.

After the Flames: Partnerships for the Future

As the Benton Harbor community moves forward in developing a positive image and agenda for future growth, the larger Andrews University faith community can be supportive in several ways. However, a major word of caution is necessary.

Jeff Noel, president of Cornerstone Alliance, the Twin Cities-Area economic development organization, warns that some Benton Harbor residents and leaders may have the “we don’t-need-outsiders-fixing-us” mentality. This misalignment of sincere faith-based support and locally perceived crisis and needs can only be prevented by the Andrews University faith community formally and consistently informing Benton Harbor leaders what this richly diverse and multicultural community can contribute in response to needs as prioritized by Benton Harbor policymakers.

Civic Partnerships

The first fixed principle of civic partnering is hospitality. From my nearly 30 years of close interaction within both communities, I know that few leaders in either community have developed cross-cultural personal relationships with each other. Leaders at Andrews can begin by systematically inviting Benton Harbor policy makers and leaders to the campus for tours, presentations, class-interviews and a permanent series of information exchange
sessions. Alternately, these sessions, presentations and interviews can be hosted in various venues within Benton Harbor’s city limits. The immediate positive outcome is that both sets of leaders can become better personal friends. These natural and easy-going cross-cultural/racial friendships form the bedrock of trust, sympathy and understanding that stands firm when philosophical and/or procedural differences arise. Historically stubborn racial, economic, cultural, and geographic barriers fall completely only when people agree to do things with and for people they personally know and genuinely like.

Faith-based Partnerships

Another open door for the Andrews University faith community to partner with Benton Harbor is to intentionally build partnerships with its many clergy, their congregations and social action leaders.

As a faith-based institution of higher learning with a theological seminary, Andrews has a ready-made opportunity to positively impact the single largest opinion-forming constituency in Benton Harbor—its many religious and social leaders. My close associations with many of them reveal that they have high regard for Seventh-day Adventist systematic theology, church funding methods, global mission work and the high personal and professional standards of Adventist clergy. Some pastors privately confess that the seventh-day Sabbath is God’s day of rest and that they see many practical family and social advantages for those who observe the “true Sabbath.”

I am often asked by Benton Harbor clergy how they can take introductory classes, mini-seminars or extension classes offered by the Adventist Theological Seminary. As spiritual shepherds, each laments the unfortunate circumstances that often reflect poorly on Benton Harbor’s many fine families and religious organizations. As a whole, I find these men and women to be sincere Christians who long for better ways to improve the lives of their congregations and the larger Benton Harbor community. As the university partners with Benton Harbor’s faith community and its leaders, it can expect long term and meaningful positive results.

Another ready path to building long-term positive partnerships includes developing more faith-based cross-cultural arts exchange programs. The predominately Black congregations of Benton Harbor are usually honored and blessed to share their worship services and religious programs with most guests from Andrews University’s culturally diverse community. Certainly, the return visit to campus by the New Paradise Baptist Mass Choir or the Gospel King Brothers would serve to diminish racial and cultural stereotypes in the guests and in the larger Andrews University faith community.

Educational Partnerships

Recently a Benton Harbor community leader compelled me to use all my influence to ensure that local Seventh-day Adventists always operate at least one elementary school in Benton Harbor. From his perspective, an Adventist school adds significant educational, moral and cultural value to the Black community. He added that Adventist educational philosophy and programs are simply the best for lifting disadvantaged Black children and their families above the perils and handicaps of transgenerational poverty.

As one of America’s model Christian multicultural faith-
...she believes that the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s contemporary worldwide programs for assisting the disadvantaged most accurately reflect the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Personal Partnerships

Mattie Roddy of the Whirlpool Corporation has set an excellent model of personal partnerships for those who want to make acceptable and valuable contributions to the Benton Harbor community. Roddy, a former Benton Harbor pastor, was recently baptized into the larger Andrews University faith community because she believes that the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s contemporary worldwide programs for assisting the disadvantaged most accurately reflect the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In response to the social unrest of June 2003, Roddy developed “Hearing Our Voices,” a multicultural religious media-training program for Benton Harbor’s youth. Young people compete for positions in classes that teach on-air announcing, music programming, script writing and audio editing. All students are instructed by on-air professionals and peer teachers. In a short time they graduate, co-hosting on the “Sunday Morning Religious Hour” and addressing many of the emotionally confusing issues that distract young people from God’s fixed standards of moral living.

Lessons from the Flames

The leaders and members of the Andrews University faith community can expect positive outcomes from future partnerships with Benton Harbor’s near 12,000 residents. Civic, faith-based, educational and youth-centered partnerships are but the beginning of what’s possible. More importantly, the Benton Harbor community can teach the larger Andrews University faith community many valuable lessons on how to better serve everyone in the dignified and humble spirit of Christ. These renewed and expanded cross-cultural, transnational, and spiritual partnerships can be as much of a healing undertaking for the entire Andrews University faith community as they can be for God’s children in Benton Harbor.

An English professor at Andrews University, Dr. Joseph W. Warren speaks, writes and consults on diversity and multicultural issues. He is also a specialist in racial and cultural conflict prevention, management and resolution. Currently, Warren is preparing a new class in African-American literature.
REACHing Out With Both Hands

by Bev Stout

A tattered piece of what was once a pair of Tommy Hilfiger jeans lies rejected on the sidewalk alongside candy-bar wrappers and an old, empty Styrofoam cup. My imagination goes wild trying to figure out what sort of event might have brought them there.

Empty liquor bottles, probably bought at the “party store” across the street, are scattered like lawn decorations throughout the grass, standing as remnants of last night’s, or maybe last week’s, bad habit.

The houses of the neighborhood appear as if they are shrinking into the ground, shingles crooked, shoulders sagging, as if they are losing the ability to carry their burdens.

This is what my eyes focus on as I step out of the vehicle that has taken me to downtown Benton Harbor, Mich. for my first trip with AU out-REACH (Andrews University out-Reviving, Empowering, and Changing Hearts). But that is only for a moment because before I know it, a child I have never seen before leaps onto my hip with a big smile spread across her face. It’s time to play.

AU out-REACH, formerly known as Benton Harbor Street Ministries, has been making a difference in the community of downtown Benton Harbor since the fall of 1996 when six students became determined to win the city for Christ. Inspired by a sermon on service given by Pastor Dwight Nelson at Pioneer Memorial Church, Heidi (Towar) Martin, William Hurtado, and four friends decided to meet together at 3:00 pm in the lobby of Lamson Hall. From there they drove the 12 miles to a town known for its drugs and violence and started knocking on doors, offering to pray with the people inside. The group had such an awesome experience that they decided to invite more people to come along the following week. The word spread all the way to Pastor Nelson, who decided to announce from the pulpit that there was a group meeting at 3:00 pm in Lamson Hall with the intention to minister to the people of Benton Harbor. The turnout was incredible, and AU out-REACH was born.

Since then, AU out-REACH has grown into something much bigger than just knocking on doors, even though that is still a major component of the ministry. An average of 100 volunteers meet every Sabbath at 3:00 pm in the Lamson Hall lobby, ready to get on the bus that will take them to Benton Harbor where they can choose from approximately seven different ministry opportunities.

There is a place for everyone in the ministry of AU out-REACH, whether you can give a Bible study, play the violin, or carry a child on your shoulders. The old-
The Street Ministry is one of the programs where volunteers choose a street and go knocking from door to door, giving Bible studies and praying with people. Usually those involved with this ministry will “adopt” a family that they befriend and visit regularly.

There are four different children’s ministries volunteers can pick from: Buddies Forever (the second oldest ministry), R.O.C.K. (Reaching Out Connecting Kids), El Ministerio de los Niños (a relatively new program tailored for Spanish-speaking children), and Trailer Park ministry, which reaches the children in the Orchard Grove trailer park. All of these programs provide volunteers with the opportunity to build positive friendships with the children of Benton Harbor through songs, stories, crafts, and games. In addition, a puppet ministry presents shows to the various children’s programs several times each semester.

One of the three original programs, the nursing home ministry, gives volunteers the opportunity to interact with over thirty elderly residents of a local nursing home.

“
We also want them to feel loved in a community of believers. I know that by God’s grace we will see this happen.”

A Caring Class

It’s hard to say who benefits more from their time spent together—the kids at Martin Luther King Elementary School or the Andrews elementary-education students enrolled in EDTE420: Literacy Intervention Strategies.

AU students taking the course spend a good part of their class time working one-on-one with selected students in Benton Harbor who need more structure and guidance in their reading development. Once the Andrews students learn to evaluate and assess reading problems in young children, they take their show on the road—to Martin Luther King Elementary School—to apply their learning in a real-school environment.

But it’s not just about the Andrews students. The primary-grade children selected to work with them receive close attention, develop friendships with their AU mentors, and improve their reading skills. Stephanie Rockette, MLK principal, says it’s a great relationship: “Our kids love the attention they get from the Andrews students, and their reading is improving. We’re so grateful to Andrews for working with us.”

Through the experience, AU students gain valuable practice in developing strategies that can improve literacy skills. They observe their students’ concepts about print, phonemic awareness, fluency, and comprehension, among other things.

Perhaps the greatest learning on the Andrews students’ part is something parallel to intellectual attainment. As Douglas Jones, professor of education, assured his EDTE420 students, “Just by spending that hour a day with the little kids, giving them your attention and friendship, you’re modeling your values, showing your concern, and letting the kids know that language and literacy are important. It may not seem like much—it’s never enough—but for now, you’ve done a lot.”
nursing home. Volunteers put on a worship program filled with singing and a short talk. Afterwards, they spend time interacting one-on-one with the residents.

Benton Harbor Community Change consists of two different components, the first of which is to help build community pride through clean-up and neighborhood beautification. The second focuses on connecting needy children with sponsors who can help provide them with warm clothing for the cold Michigan winters.

The Benton Harbor String Program is AU out-REACH’s newest program. Inspired by a story in Richard Davidson’s book, A Song for Sabbath, which told of a plumber who spent Sabbaths using his skills to help the less fortunate, Carla Trynchuk, professor of music at Andrews University, wanted to use her special talents as a violinist for service. Trynchuk got the idea to create a program that offered free music lessons to interested children who normally would not be able to afford them. The idea came to Trynchuk just a few months before the riots broke out in Benton Harbor last summer, but the program didn’t begin until just after they were over. This timing brought a lot of positive attention to the needs of the program. “God was ready for something like this to happen,” Trynchuk comments on the time frame in which the program developed. Benefit concerts helped raise money, and instruments in good condition were donated to the program. Every week during the school year one viola, one cello, and three violin students of Andrews University spend their Sabbath afternoons giving lessons to the talented children of Benton Harbor, sharing their love for music.

The community of Benton Harbor has responded positively to the program. Residents are familiar with Andrews University. Volunteers went out on the Sabbath just after the riots without any problems. During my visit, I noticed the ease with which volunteers interacted with the residents, who let them wander freely in and out of their homes. Marie Girven, senior accounting major and full-time accountant for the financial records office at Andrews...
University, says she has “gotten to see a lot of change” in Benton Harbor since she started working with the program four years ago. Girven was the director of AU out-REACH for the 2003-2004 school year. The change, however, hasn’t been instantaneous. While the residents of Benton Harbor are friendly, they are cautious. Girven emphasizes the importance of consistency and the building of relationships. “Most of the changes come through friendships and prayer. Probably the most frustrating thing can be that change doesn’t happen fast enough, but it isn’t about us. God is planting the seeds.”

The influence of AU out-REACH extends beyond just the weekly Sabbath afternoon outings. New Plant Seventh-day Adventist Church is a church plant that grew out of the ministry of AU out-REACH and will be sponsoring an evangelistic series in downtown Benton Harbor this fall along with Pioneer Memorial Church. Clara Alcantara and Andrew Roquiz are this year’s AU out-REACH directors, and they plan to make the evangelistic meetings and the church plant their focus for the year. “This year we want as many people as possible from Benton Harbor to come and form a part of this church, and thus grow more in the knowledge of Christ,” notes Alcantara. “We also want them to feel loved in a community of believers. I know that by God’s grace we will see this happen, and this church will be filled with all of our friends from Benton Harbor, including the children.”

The first thing I noticed when I entered downtown Benton Harbor may have been the trash on the sidewalks and the dilapidated state of the buildings. But as the afternoon wore on, and as child to child passed from my hip to my shoulders to my back, I realized that there is a lot more here than just sorrow and dirt. In each child’s smile, in each laugh and small hand, I saw the hope and beauty of God’s love.

Bev Stout (MA ’04) recently joined the staff of University Relations in charge of Media Relations. Bev was the director of Loaves & Fishes, an urban children’s ministry, at Columbia Union College and spent a year as a student missionary in Austria.

Join the Alumni Network

AU out-REACH (formerly known as Benton Harbor Street Ministry) would like to start an alumni network. If you were previously, or are currently, involved in this ministry in any capacity (volunteer, leader, etc.), please contact us at auoutreach@andrews.edu. We would like your full name, years involved and areas of involvement. Thank you. May God continue to bless!
Empowering Through Evangelism

by Karen Pearson

“Let your heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God.” These words, spoken by Pastor Dwight Nelson in a sermon at Pioneer Memorial Church six years ago, have profoundly impacted the lives of many AU students—and in turn, have resulted in an ongoing community outreach.

Following the sermon that Sabbath afternoon, a carload of students left campus, looking to see if they could find anything that would break the heart of God. They didn’t have to go far to find it. Economically depressed and burdened by crime, Benton Harbor provided unending opportunities for these committed young Christians to share Christ—opportunities that continue to this day.

I recently found myself sitting across from AU Chaplain Tim Nixon in his comfortably cluttered office, listening as he told me about the Benton Harbor evangelistic campaign slated for August 28 thru October 2. Initiated largely by AU students, this campaign will run five nights a week with Chaplain Tim as the speaker. The preparation for the campaign—begun many months ago—is impressive.

To date, 284 individual streets in Benton Harbor are being prayed for specifically by 146 students and members of the Pioneer Memorial Church. Homes on a third of these streets have been receiving visits for the past four months. Literature is shared, prayer is offered, and relationships are being formed. Teams of young people have been enrolling people in Bible studies, and maintaining contact for the past six weeks. Chaplain Tim says it has been a transforming experience for many of those involved. While there were some initial fears regarding racial and cultural differences, everyone has been cheered by the warm, welcoming reception they have received from the people of Benton Harbor.

Since the first of the year, Andrews seminary student Divine Ayivore has been meeting each Sabbath at New Plant—a new church plant—in Benton Harbor. He and his friends started with a group of about fifteen worshipers and have seen it grow to between 75 and 100 people who meet each week for Sabbath School, Church and a potluck lunch. New Plant will form the nucleus of the new church in Benton Harbor and will become a satellite of Pioneer Memorial Church, with Andrews seminary students providing staffing and leadership for the new church.

I ask Chaplain Tim about his own journey into the ministry, and specifically about his passion for evangelism. He laughs and tells me that originally he went to Oakwood College to study business administration. He had chosen to attend Oakwood, even though he had won a full scholarship to study business at Baruch College in New York.

After being at Oakwood for only one week, he found
himself questioning his choice of degree. “I decided I was going to fast and pray, and not quit until the Lord had shown me what He wanted me to do.” He smiles at the memory. Soon after, he switched to theology, and has never regretted it for a moment.

After graduating in 1981, he joined the Northeastern Conference and served as an associate pastor in New York for two and a half years. He studied for his MDiv while with the Northeastern Conference, and then in 1990 traveled across the country to work for the Southeastern California Conference. Like so many young people who sign up to be part of the great Advent movement, he moved again two years later, this time across the country to join the Allegheny East Conference, where he worked for four years in the Washington D.C. area.

Chaplain Tim has always been invigorated by spending time with young people. One of the things he finds the most attractive about working with youth is their “endless ability to surprise one.” So, when he received a call to serve as campus chaplain at Andrews University in 1998, he accepted without hesitation, and moved here with his wife, Sandria, and children, Michael and Camilla.

Today, he wears many hats. As administrative chaplain, he serves as campus pastor, leads out in premarital and couples counseling, is sponsor for the New Life Church, coordinates the student-missionary and task-forces ministries, is sponsor for BRANCH (a student spiritual-life organization), teaches in the Seminary and is on the staff of the Pioneer Memorial Church, where he participates in many areas, including small-group ministry.

I ask him to share his vision for the work he does here at Andrews. He speaks warmly of wanting to develop a multigenerational ministry. “Each generation is called to win their generation,” he explains. He wants to empower young people for this ministry, training them to intentionally focus on sharing the good news, the essence of evangelism.

There is one question I have been waiting to ask. “Who has had the greatest influence on you as an evangelist?” His answer takes me by surprise. While I expect to hear him recite the Evangelist’s Hall of Fame, he reflects for a moment before saying that “the single greatest impact that shaped my passion was growing up in a church that had an ‘evangelism mind-set.’ The local church elders consistently engaged in outreach.”

In closing, I ask Chaplain Tim what one thing he most wants to convey to the students he works with. Without hesitating he says, “Fall in love with Jesus. Once you do, your life is never the same again.” And students across the campus, through all disciplines, are doing just that.

This fall, our young people are on a mission. Not to a far-away foreign field, but somewhere closer to home. They have heard the cries of the broken in Benton Harbor, and along with the leadership of Pastor Skip MacCarty and the involvement of Pioneer Memorial Church members, they are moving ahead. With Chaplain Tim Nixon as speaker, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, they will work to bring the good news that in Christ, the lost are found, the homeless find shelter and the hurting are healed.

There is no telling what can happen when you allow your heart to be broken by the things that break the heart of God!

Karen Pearson works in the office of University Advancement. A pastor’s wife for over twenty years, she has a passion for prayer ministry. Her deepest interest is in the area of healing prayer.
A forest of hands, waving out the answers: three, alpha (fingers struggling to shape the Greek letter), and no! Eyes bright with the fun of the “guessing” game. Without even knowing it, young heads are learning to think big ideas.

Andrews University’s mathematics department brought distributive law and “manyadd” to Benton Harbor schools during the 1971–1972 school year. Five of the university’s mathematics professors joined Project SEED and taught conceptual mathematics for an hour four days a week at Calvin Britain and Martin Luther King Junior Elementary Schools. Ed Graff, Ted Hatcher, Harold Jones, Don Rhoads, and Ed Specht stepped out of the relative comfort of their college classrooms, drove the ten miles to Benton Harbor, and brought their expertise to a new and enthusiastic student population.1

The brainchild of California math teacher William F. Johntz, Project SEED enlists math professionals to teach advanced mathematics to elementary school students. Johntz’s goal was to boost confidence in students “who might be struggling against poverty, racism or other challenges.” By fostering success in the “high-status subject” of mathematics, SEED undertook to break a cycle of academic failure.2 Benton Harbor was a “marvelous laboratory” for SEED, according to Specht.3

Johntz and his followers use the Socratic method. When they received their training in the SEED methodology, the Andrews professors learned to teach their new students only by asking questions. “If we are caught lecturing, we get a lecture,” Jones observed.4 The methods of teaching, says Rhoads, were all about “self-discovery.”5 The teachers were even encouraged to make deliberate mistakes that could be corrected by their avid listeners.

To avoid the children’s “hang-ups” with traditional arithmetic, the teachers replaced familiar terms with new ones. Rhoads remembers, “… instead of doing multiplication or ‘times’ we did ‘manyadd.’ We developed all the properties of ‘manyadd’ based on the properties of addition, distributive law and all.”6

One day Rhoads walked into his classroom, and one of the boys raised his hand: “Mr. Rhoads, you know that ‘manyadd’ you’ve been talking about?” I said yes, of course, we’ve been studying manyadd.

“He said, ‘That’s just times.’

“I said, ‘Oh no, it’s manyadd. Don’t you know how we’ve developed all these properties…’ and I began stringing him quite a line, reviewing the properties of manyadd.

“He snapped back, ‘It’s times!’”

In no time the radical thinker had the whole class chanting in unison: “It’s times!! It’s times!!”

Rhoads says: “Well, I walked out of that room that day with a huge sense of accomplishment. These kids had been disarmed, they learned the rules of arithmetic, and finally they made a connection on their own—observed that this was ‘just times.’ It was great.”

The learning went both ways. One of the boys admiringly informed Jones that his new brown shoes were “bad.” A math teacher never known as a fashion-plate went home highly pleased with this stamp of approval and his new window on the current lingo. Specht says that for him, a 57-year-old teacher who had never taught young children before, the classroom in Benton Harbor was a “moving experience.”

Specht still talks about one student, a fourth-grader, who was all fired up by his math classes with the Andrews SEED teacher. By the end of the year, Mark was doing high-school level mathematics and asking for more. The young achiever went on to complete an engineering degree at Michigan State University—probably only one of the success stories to grow from the small SEED planted by five Andrews professors.


4 Bradley.


6 Donald H. Rhoads, e-mail message, 10 Aug. 2004.

Andrews historian and professor of English, Meredith Jones Gray (BA ’76, MA ’77), is author of As We Set Forth.
A truly “cool” camp meeting

It wasn’t just the sermons and the music that were refreshing this year at Michigan camp meeting. More than 350 alumni gathered for Sabbath lunch on June 19, and surprisingly they were looking for a place in the sunshine just to stay warm. Instead of the typically sweltering camp meeting heat, the food, the fellowship, the memories and the heartfelt appreciation for dinner kept everyone warm. More than 20 volunteers took on the “service towel” and efficiently fed the crowd with a smile. All alumni are invited to join us again next year.

Alumni meeting at NAD Retirees Convocation

Greg Porter, director of development, hosted the annual alumni gathering at the North American Division Retirees Convention held August 1, on the Columbia Union College campus. Our “deputized” alumni correspondents, HerB (BA ’52) and Judy Pritchard, ably assisted him. Greg was able to share the latest news from campus with these treasured alums, and provided a late-morning snack before the retirees attended the convention’s final session.

Florida gathering

Alumni from Florida assembled at the Markham Woods church for the annual gathering during Florida camp meeting on June 5. Alumni had the opportunity to view slides of the campus and meet the newest member of the Andrews development staff, Greg Porter. Dollis Bowman received a copy of As We Set Forth, the campus history book, for being the alumnus who had most recently visited the Andrews campus—she had attended services at Pioneer Memorial Church just the previous weekend. Prizes were also given to the most recent and the oldest graduates.

Changes for Homecoming Weekend?

Because the university adopted the semester system three years ago, a number of adjustments in the calendar for non-academic departments resulted. Among these changes, Alumni Homecoming Weekend was moved from the fourth to the third weekend in April. This means Homecoming Weekend falls two weeks before graduation, and that’s a lot of excitement to squeeze into two weeks!

Alumni Services, therefore, needs to consider another change in the timing of Alumni Homecoming Weekend, either earlier in April or perhaps to a weekend in early October. More than 500 alumni responded to the online survey, requesting input on the change. Soon focus groups will be conducted with on-campus entities about the proposed changes, and a final decision is targeted for this fall.

Look for an important announcement concerning the decision in the next issue of Focus.
1940s

Raymond C. Hill (BS ’49) and his wife, Geraldine (att.), moved to Tillamook, Ore., in May 2003, to be near their son. They are enjoying life on the Oregon coast and Ray still enjoys his vegetable garden. They both help at Community Services.

1960s

Beverly (BS ’60) and Louis Ivins (BA ’63) are retired and live in Avon Park, Fla. They are spending their retirement traveling as much as possible.

E. Lois Pratt (BS ’66) is a retired nurse and lives in Miamisburg, Ohio. She served as nursing instructor at Kettering College of Medical Arts from 1968-85. She and her husband, R.W. (MA ’51), now deceased, have two children.

1980s

Carole A. Rayburn (MDiv ’80) is a self-employed clinical consulting and research psychologist in Silver Spring, Md. She is a member of the editorial board for the International Journal of Ethics, Nova Science, coeditor of Springer series, Focus on Women. Carole is also presenting research on teaching morality in the workplace and university at the University of Oxford, England. She chairs the ethics committee for the Maryland Association of Counseling and Development. During 2004, she traveled to Romania and Bulgaria.

Claudette Harding (att.) is principal and teacher at Kirlew Junior Academy in Florida. She is also associate professor of teacher education and director of admissions for Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica. Her husband, Keith (MA ’83), is a pastor in the Florida Conference and a candidate for an EdD degree at Argosy University in Sarasota. The Hardings have two children, Keithia and Keith.

1990s

Lt. Alan Cameron (MDiv ’97) served as command chaplain for Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, United States Marine Corps during Operation Iraqi Freedom 2003. Cameron’s division lost 39 individuals. In Iraq, Cameron and his fellow troops “did a little rebuilding” at some “local schools within the community. Classrooms were painted, new desks were built, and electrical work was done.” Of the area’s biblical importance, Cameron wrote that he was able to “recall the events of the life of the prophet Daniel, who faithfully served God and country.” Cameron is currently serving aboard the USS Duluth in San Diego, Calif.

2000s

Melissa Kenney-Castrejon (BA ’01) received a master’s degree in Spanish pedagogy and linguistics in 2003 from Illinois State University, and is currently employed as community-outreach manager of Fort Bend County Libraries in Richmond, Tex. Melissa also teaches English as a second language at her church. She and her husband, Genaro, live in Houston.

Maureen K. Reiff-Mauzy (MSW ’04) graduated May 21 with an MDiv from the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Ind. She also received a master of social work degree from Andrews on May 2, as the first AMBS student to complete a dual-degree program administered by the two schools. Maureen plans to serve in a restorative-justice ministry of healing. She says, “To be a pastor and a social worker with my nursing background meant I would be able to help people where they were, and to do it with the authority of the Scriptures, a license to counsel, advocate and mentor, while serving in a holistically healing way.”
**Weddings**

KrisTeN JarNes (BS ’97) and Ed Browning were married March 21, 2004, in Spokane, Wash.

Sara Wood (BS ’02) and Dan Mortins (att.) were married June 6, 2004, in Waukesha, Wis., and now reside in Watertown, Wis.

Kathleen Shoemaker (BT ’01) and Nicklos Wolfer (BT ’03) were married May 30, 2004, in Berrien Springs, Mich.

RebekAh Widner (BS ’02) and Paul Pelley (BS ’00) were married July 1, 2004, in Berrien Springs, Mich., and now reside in San Francisco, Calif.

Trisha Ramel (BA ’02) and Brandt Hay (BArch ’03, MArch ’04) were married August 1, 2004, in Hinsdale, Ill., and now reside in St. Joseph, Mich.

Eileen Vega (BSCLS ’04) and Zach Spruill (att.) were married August 8, 2004, in Berrien Springs, Mich., and now reside in Orlando, Fla.

**Deaths**

HeleN Marie DOoLING chrisTeNsoN (Dip ’41) died May 2, 2004. She was born in Mecosta, Mich., on April 5, 1917, and grew up near Wayland, Mich. Helen attended Loma Linda University and Emmanuel Missionary College, graduating as a registered nurse in 1944.

She married Reo M. Christenson in 1944 and bore two children, Virginia and Brian.

Helen worked in a number of towns and cities in southern California, in Plainwell, Mich., and in Miamisburg, Ohio. She also volunteered her services at the Kettering SDA church in Kettering, Ohio.

She will be sorely missed by her husband and children. She was loved by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Margarete Louise (Ambs) Hilts (BA ’35) died on May 11, 2004, in Riverside, Calif., following a brief illness subsequent to a fall. She was born December 4, 1912, in Otsego, Mich.

A faculty member at La Sierra College for more than 50 years, teaching in the department of modern languages, Hilts was among the first faculty members at the college to earn a doctor of philos-
The CC is all about the pursuit of hilarity, but the CC also recognizes that some things just aren't funny. Like a riot. Or a disturbance. Or whatever it was that happened in Benton Harbor a little more than a year ago. Although clearly not funny, what was it that happened? Was it an aggrieved community begging to have its grievances addressed? Was it a small group of undisciplined troublemakers finding an excuse to make big trouble? The answer surely is some complex combination of things, but should it surprise anyone that an aggrieved community might have undisciplined troublemakers?

Schools, businesses and police departments cannot raise our children. But, isn’t it also true that parents cannot raise children alone? No matter how much parents matter (and they matter most), parents cannot be everything to their children. In Benton Harbor, as in most communities, there are committed parents, caring teachers, fair employers and honorable police officers. So, what else is needed?

No simple answer here. But the CC would like to suggest that the solution lies in the broader community, the community that includes Andrews University. The broader community must begin by making unacceptable the existence of factors that undermine peace and justice.

Out of Focus

From the Summer 1994 Issue: Focus commemorated President Niels-Erik Andreasen’s July arrival on campus in an article entitled “The Man Who Said YES to Andrews University.” In a separate piece that he contributed to the issue, Andreasen, a former religion professor, reflected on his administrative role. “Of course I miss teaching and remember fondly my years on the faculty. But I have also discovered that those incredibly creative, stimulating, committed and thoughtful faculty friends of mine are the most aggressive backseat drivers I have ever met!”

Campus Craze

St. Joseph River

Some view it as a dividing line. Poor maligned waterway. The river is a beautiful, accessible resource that many communities have the privilege of sharing.

Lumber business

Someone has to be sad to see all the boarded-up buildings disappearing in downtown BH.

Renaissance Zones

The CC has seen the tax breaks, but it is still looking for a DaVinci painting....

Whirlpool

Not only do they make fine appliances, but the CC thinks that the company also makes a fine neighbor.

Street Ministries

They can call it “AU out-REACH” all they want; the CC still likes the name with the solid cred.

Jimmy Carter

The entire region is looking forward to the former president’s big Habitat for Humanity project. Plus, the CC gets to dust off the old “Peanuts for Peanut Farmer” campaign signs.

Governor’s Task Force

Not that the CC got into trouble much, but a task force sounds like something you have to take part in against your will. “Governor’s Pleasure Posse”... now that’s a group’s report that the CC wants to read....

Soup Kitchen

There’s something misleading about the term. What, you need a whole kitchen to make soup? The CC also questions the overall role of soup, but since the soup lobby appears so formidable, the CC would like to suggest “Soupateria.”
A Frowsy Fallacy

Habitat for Humanity builds houses.
Houses are built on the earth.
Therefore, the earth is the habitat for humanity.

Flower Power

It’s allergy season again, and the CC has to wonder if the grounds department isn’t rubbing it in everybody’s noses with this red-letter signage.

Fun-da-mental Facts

BOY, THAT’S HISTORY! The Vienna Choir Boys will be performing at the Howard Center on November 7, 2004. The Vienna Choir Boys traces its roots to 1498. The CC seems to recall that something else memorable happened that decade....

JOBBED: AU’s Career Planning and Placement office no longer exists. The functions have been divided up (career planning to the Counseling and Testing Center and placement to the individual schools/colleges/divisions). The CC finds it ironic that working for the Career Planning and Placement Office was a...well, dead end job.

TABLE FOR TWO?: When the servers (AU administration, faculty and staff) showed up to the President’s Luncheon for new students and their families (held August 23, 2004), only one table did not have enough chairs for the number of table settings. Who was the server for that table? None other than Patricia Mutch, VP for Academic Administration. Hmmmm. The CC supposes it is not the first time that an academic administrator had a difficult time finding chairs....

A lot more.

Returning residents of Lamson Hall were pleased to see the dorm’s parking area repaved and expanded. Coincidently, Meier and Burman Hall males are also excited about the additional “parking” opportunities.
Being involved in the Benton Harbor AU out-REACH Program was by far the most fulfilling experience I had at Andrews University. It really made me feel as though I had a purpose at AU, bringing out character traits in me I thought I never had.

It all began my final year at school. I made a resolution that I would start going to AU out-REACH, and volunteered to lead the ROCK Ministry for the year. At first, this decision appeared to be one of the craziest I have ever made. I realized that participating in the program meant I had to be there every week, so I was no longer at liberty to sleep on Sabbath afternoons.

My first week as leader was overwhelming. I knew right away that I had a great task ahead of me when the other volunteers from AU sat down, looking to me to manage all sixty kids. There were so many things I wanted to do and change, so many goals, but so little time.

I prayed about the situation and my coleaders, Tammy Hiebert and Candice Hines, and I met to decide what would be the most efficient way to use our time during the ROCK Ministry. We came up with the idea of a “buddy system,” where each volunteer would be responsible for picking up and working with the same child every week. The system worked well for our volunteers, as I watched them develop really strong bonds with their Benton Harbor “buddies.” I know I developed one of the most amazing relationships with my buddy, Lashonda.

Lashonda and I both needed each other. She needed me to love her and give her a broader perspective on life, to value her and show her how much God values her. I needed Lashonda to show me that there is hope in places like Benton Harbor.

In the beginning, I remember how difficult it was for me to get her to come to the ministry program, and how tight-lipped she was on matters concerning herself. It took perseverance to get her to let me into her life, but I knew the barriers were broken when she started bringing me her report card from school, bringing me little gifts from home, and writing notes expressing herself to me.

One weekend, my roommate, Monique Kendall, and I hosted Lashonda at Andrews. During that time, I got to know Lashonda a lot better; she told me all her dreams and aspirations, how much she loved the AU campus, and how she hoped to be a student here one day. That Sabbath I took Lashonda to church with me and she loved it. At lunch, we were saying a few words about things we were thankful to God for, and Lashonda got up and said, “Lord, thank you for Kadene, and for letting me spend the weekend at her school.” I immediately realized how Lashonda’s eyes were now opened to new horizons and the opportunity for something far different from what she was used to in the Benton Harbor projects.

Lashonda is fourteen years old now and, by the grace of God, I will do whatever I can to help her make it to Andrews University.

My experience with the AU out-REACH Ministry this past year has inspired me to take my career in a new direction. Following graduation, I will be pursuing a joint degree in social work and law, and I hope to eventually devote my time and energy to helping juvenile delinquents and underprivileged kids. Having had an experience like the one I shared with Lashonda drives me toward wanting to make a career of helping these children. I believe if God can use me, He can use anyone—we only have to make ourselves available.

Kadene Miller graduated with a degree in English at this summer’s commencement.

“Lashonda is fourteen years old now and, by the grace of God, I will do whatever I can to help her make it to Andrews University.”
As is often the case, changing attitudes and beliefs begins with children. This artwork, which greets motorists near the bridge between Benton Harbor and St. Joseph, Michigan, is part of a larger project sponsored by the Berrien County Intermediate School District. Titled “Building Bridges with the Arts,” the venture taps the creative and unifying spirit of students in both the Benton Harbor and St. Joseph schools.